

Iron County Land Conservation Committee Meeting
Monday, April 23, 2012
Iron County Forestry Board Room

DRAFT

1.) Call to Order: Gingras called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M.

Present: **Gerald Luke, William Thomas, Tom Popko, Dale Wehmas, Vernon Moore, MaryJo Gingras, Larry Youngs, Gary Haughn (NRCS)**

Absent: Dennis DeRosso, Dave Schultz (Wildlife Damage)

2.) **Public Comment:** none.

3.) **Minutes:** Motion to approve December 14, 2011 draft minutes Thomas/Youngs. MC.

4.) **Election of LCC Chairman:** Gingras called for nominations for Chairman. Motion to nominate Luke for chairman Youngs/Popko. Gingras called for other nominations 3 times. None were heard. Motion to close nominations Popko/Youngs. MC.

5.) **Election of Vice-chair:** Luke called for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Motion to nominate Thomas for vice-chairman Popko/Youngs. Luke called for other nominations 3 times. None were heard. Motion to close nominations Popko/Youngs. MC.

6.) **Appointments:**

Citizen LCC representative: statutory makeup of the LCC allow for two voting citizen representatives. Popko and Moore will remain as the 2 voting citizen representations.

Pri-Ru-Ta: Luke discussed Pri-Ru-Ta is formally suspended due to lack of funding. It will resume if one of the counties receives a grant that will fund the organization. Counties will still appoint a representative but there will no longer be regular meetings. Luke has been appointed as the representative by DeRosso. Moore will continue to serve as Farm Service Agency representative. Motion to formalize representative appointments Thomas/Youngs. MC.

NWLCA: Motion to nominate Thomas as NWLCA representative and grant Gingras voting privilege in the event Thomas cannot attend Popko/Youngs. MC. Gingras attends most NWLCA meetings in place of the Iron County representative.

7.) **Review of 2013 DATCP Staff Request:** Gingras reviewed 2012 Staff and Funding Request for \$112,505 from DATCP. Gingras contacted DATCP in July 2011 to find out how much Iron County would receive in 2012 so she could use that in preparing the draft 2012 Land Conservation Budget. \$92,000 from DATCP was expected. DATCP was faced with additional funding cuts late in 2011 and when the final allocation was released in March 2012 the final amount for Iron County was down to \$85,373 for 2012. All counties received an approximately 20% cut in funding. Gingras also reviewed the 2013 DATCP Staff and Support requested which was submitted on April 3, 2012.

8.) **WLWCA/ WALCE** Gingras updated LCC on merge and new WLWCA board to be appointed. One LCC and one staff representative from each of the 8 WLWCA regions will be appointed by the area associations to the new WLWCA Board. The Northwest area will make the appointments at their next meeting on May 18, 2012.

9.) HACH WQ Probe: Gingras reviewed HACH policy. LCC requested a seasonal rental fee to be paid by the lake association for seasonal use of the probe. The fee would cover maintenance and replacement costs. Discussion about how much to charge. Gingras suggested that Palmquist could ask Lake Associations about this issue at next Lakes Alliance meeting.

10.) AIS Strategic Plan: Gingras distributed AIS plan and reviewed goals. Plan was approved by IC Board on February 29, 2012 and distributed to DNR to complete AIS grant requirement.

11.) Conservation Camp: Gingras reviewed camp details and promotion.

12.) Staff/ Conservation Reports:

NRCS: Haughn discussed that Farm bill is currently on hold because the government is not working on the program right now. Due to tight budgets Federal government is looking at merging programs that handle related conservation issues from current 38 programs down to approximately 13 programs. Discussed Forest management fund opportunity. A few farm management requests were requested but not funded due to requests from large feedlot operations that out-competed local requests. Funding is available for Seasonal High Tunnels practice. How can we get more requests here for this type of practice? Wehmas suggested getting material to the farmers market. In order to be eligible, they have to be able to demonstrate that land is capable of producing \$1,000 in crops per year.

Wildlife Damage (Schultz): Provided written report. We will be reviewing the 5 year Plan of Administration at the next meeting.

Staff Reports: Gingras and Palmquist provided written conservation reports that were distributed with agenda. Gingras provided brief discussion about current project designs, Envirothon, and Conservation Camp.

13.) Next Meeting Date: TBD.

14.) Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 3:30 pm Popko/Thomas. MC.