

Iron County Land & Water Conservation Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 22, 2024
4:00pm
Forestry & Hwy Board Room

1. Meeting called to order by Chair Haeger @ 4:00 pm.

Role Call – Present: Roy Haeger, William Thomas, Karl Krall, Kurt Wolff, Joe Pinardi, Dale Wemas (Citizen Rep), Matt Bolen (Agriculture Technician), Michael Blount (NRCS), Seth Zesiger (APHIS), Ethan Rossing (APHIS), Zach Wilson, Heather Palmquist

2. Verify the meeting was properly posted. – It was.

3. Public Comment – None

4. Minutes- Motion to approve minutes made by Krall/Thomas; MC.

5. Wildlife Damage Program – Palmquist explained recently there has been a change in the wildlife damage program. She attended Ashland County’s LCC meeting in January where DNR Wildlife Damage Specialist Brad Koele presented that there needs to be a change in the wildlife damage budget. The program can’t pay for a staff full-time. The position had been split, however, due to workload the Ag Tech position and Wildlife Damage position needed to be separated, wildlife damage couldn’t be funded at full-time. Palmquist shared a handout with three options for wildlife damage program. Bolen discussed pros and cons of each with Seth Zesiger from APHIS offering insight from the USDA’s program side.

6. Approve the 2024 APHIS Contract – After hearing the presentation on wildlife damage and agriculture tech position, the LCC looked at the new 2024 budget from APHIS/Wildlife Services. **Motion to approve/sign the 2024 APHIS Contract and Budget made by Wolff/Krall; MC.**

7. Set the Corn Price for 2023 Bear Damage – Bolen had a handout on the appraisal methods and amounts to set the corn price. **Motion to approve the set the 2023 corn price at \$5.15/bushel by Thomas/Wolff; MC.**

8. Approve the 2023 Wildlife Damage Claims – Bolen shared the single claim for Iron County. **Motion to approve the 2023 Wildlife Claims made by Wolff/Thomas; MC.**

9. Approve & Sign MOU with Ashland County for Agriculture Technician – Palmquist handed out the MOU for the members to view, this outlines the \$1,343.55 that Iron County will contribute towards the position which will largely be funded by the administration fees they will receive from the wildlife damage

program. The MOU also shows what Ashland County is responsible for providing Iron County through the Ag Tech position. This is not a new position, rather it is restructured. **Motion to approve and sign the MOU with Ashland County for the Ag Tech position made by Wolff/Thomas; MC.**

10. **Grant Resolution** – Palmquist reported this is the same resolution passed every year enabling her as the department administrator to apply for grants on behalf of the department to complete the work laid out in their Land & Water Resource Management Plan. **Motion to approve the resolution and forward on to the full county board made by Thomas/Wolff; MC.**
11. **DNR Grant Resolution** – Palmquist handed out the resolution specific to the DNR Surface Water Grant program that is required for their grant programs. **Motion to approve the DNR resolution and forward to the full county board made by Wolff/Thomas; MC.**
12. **2023 Accomplishment Reports** – Palmquist, Wilson, and Bolen each went through their portions of the 2023 Accomplishment report. Blount briefly talked about NRCS being close to fully staffed again and rebuilding its program presence in the 4-county area. **Motion to forward the LWCD 2023 Accomplishment Report to the full county board made by Thomas/Krall; MC.**
13. **Next meeting date – TBD.**
14. **Adjourn- Haeger adjourned meeting at 5:07 pm.**