

RACINE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION
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RACINE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Also Known as a Subcommittee of
THE RACINE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE PLANNING COMMITTEE
Ives Grove Office Complex Auditorium – 14200 Washington Avenue
Monday, 5:15 p.m., October 15, 2018

SUMMARY MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee Members Present: D. Cooke, T. Pringle, K. Buske, M. Osterman, R. Grove
T. Roanhouse, T. Greil

Committee Members Absent: T. Hincz

Youth in Governance Present: H. Stoltenberg, E. Schlicht

Staff Present: C. Sampson, Josh Holden – USDA Wildlife Services

Supervisor D. Cooke called the October 15, 2018 Racine County Land Conservation Committee meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

1. A motion by T. Pringle/M. Osterman to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2018 meeting. The motion was approved (2-0) by Youth in Governance and (7-0) by the Committee.
2. Review, discussion, and possible approval of the 2019 Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) budget. C. Sampson stated that Racine County makes payments to USDA Wildlife Services for administering the program, but Racine County is reimbursed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for a neutral budget impact to Racine County. R. Grove stated that much of the cropland is rented, and often the owner will not agree to hunting rights and was asking if a change can be made to the program. C. Sampson stated that public comments can be made if the DNR Administrative Rule for this program is opened for review. M. Osterman stated there is WI Land and Water Legislative Committee meeting tomorrow, and this topic could be discussed. A motion to T. Pringle/M. Osterman to approve the 2019 WDACP Budget. Approved (2-0) by Youth in Governance and (7-0) by the Committee.
3. Review, discussion, and possible approval of the 2018 Wildlife Damage crop price proposal. J. Holden stated that the prices are a moving average recorded around the State. R. Grove stated that 10 to 20 cents could be added to the corn price to make it \$3.48 for corn and add to the wheat price up to \$4.41 based on prices in this area. T. Greil agreed to that statement. R. Grove also stated harvest is looking to be later this year given the current weather conditions and suggested a 90% harvest date of December 15, 2018. A motion by M. Osterman/T. Pringle to approve the 2018 Wildlife Damage and 90% harvest date. Approved (2-0) by Youth in Governance and (7-0) by the Committee.
4. Review, discussion and possible recommendation on a resolution to enter into a new five-year cooperative agreement with the Department of Natural Resources and United States Department

of Agriculture for the Wildlife Crop Damage Abatement Program. K. Buske asked why black bears being on the resolution when there aren't any in Racine County. C. Sampson said it is a state-wide language used in the resolution and the list includes all eligible animals. J. Holden said there were two reports of black bears in Milwaukee County, but the reports turned out to be racoons. A motion by T. Pringle/R. Grove to forward the resolution to the Economic Development and Land Use Planning committee. Approved (2-0) by Youth in Governance and (7-0) by the Committee.

5. Review, discussion and possible approval of a \$12,000 transfer from Kenosha County's Soil and Water Resource Management Grant to Racine County's grant allocation. M. Osterman asked why Kenosha County doesn't have some type of erosion control or stormwater management practices to utilize this money. C. Sampson stated that this is SEG funding or money for "soft practices" which is usually spent on nutrient management. Apparently, there were no sign-ups in Kenosha County. A motion by M. Osterman/K. Buske to accept the transfer of \$12,000 from Kenosha County to Racine County. Approved (2-0) by Youth in Governance and (7-0) by the Committee.
6. Information only: The Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County held a Field Day on September 6th at Tom Greil's farm. T. Greil stated that 45 farmers were in attendance and overall the field day was well-received. T. Greil continued that he attended a soil health meeting in Walworth County sponsored by the Delavan Lakes Association. After attending this and other meetings as they relate to soil health, that no-till alone is not the answer. Cover crops needs to be used to receive the full soil health benefit. T. Roanhouse asked why some of the farmers were shocked with the information provided at the field day. T. Greil said a traditional field is prepared to plant with no weeds or residue. Now, we're trying to explain that it is better to plant your crop into a cover crop that is green and growing. It's a difficult change in a farming mindset. M. Osterman asked what percentage yield loss occurred due to using cover crops. T. Greil stated the cover crops are not causing the yield loss, but the unfamiliar problems such as slugs or other pests that may come with cover crops can cause yield loss if not identified and dealt with accordingly.
7. Information only: C. Sampson gave an update on construction projects built for the purpose of erosion control and conservation in 2018. T. Pringle stated to receive and file.
8. Information only: C. Sampson distributed the 2019 tree order form. T. Pringle stated to receive and file.
9. USDA Reports: The Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service reports were distributed to the Committee. T. Pringle stated to receive and file.
10. Other Business: M. Osterman stated the NACD Regional meeting was being held in Racine on January 7 and 8.
11. A motion by T. Pringle, seconded by R. Grove to adjourn at 5:52 p.m. Motion approved (2-0) by Youth in Governance and (7-0) by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Roanhouse, Secretary
Land Conservation Committee

Chad Sampson, Recorder