

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., November 18, 2019

SUMMARY MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Committee Members Excused: T. Greil, R. Grove, T. Hincz

Youth in Governance Excused: V. Pulice, J. Janes

Staff Present: C. Sampson, J. Holden from USDA

Supervisor D. Cooke called the November 18, 2019 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 for the September 16, 2019 meeting. The motion was approved (5-0) by the Committee.
2. Review, discussion, and possible approval of the 2020 Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) budget. J. Holden explained the WI DNR pays USDA to administer the program through Racine County. The program is budget neutral for Racine County. No Racine County producers enrolled in the program in 2020, but administrative and travel costs occur for inspections of non-qualifying sites. J. Holden does offer technical advice to producers that do contact him with crop damage. M. Osterman asked about damage over \$5,000. J. Holden answered that the minimum claim is \$5,000 and the maximum claim is \$10,000. C. Sampson mentioned the empty line items for the Deer Donation program. This program allowed deer to be dropped off at a processor and donated to local food pantries. Three licensed Racine County processors were contacted by Laurie Koeck, USDA, but none of them opted to participate in the donation program. J. Holden said processors are dropping out of the program due to CWD, but if we could add a few processors that it would help the program. A motion by T. Pringle/ M. Osterman to approve the 2020 WDACP Budget. Approved (5-0).
3. Review, discussion, and possible approval of the 2019 Wildlife Damage crop price proposal. T. Pringle motioned to amend the soybean price from \$8.08 to \$8.80 and the wheat price from \$4.20 to \$4.85. The motion was seconded by K. Buske. M. Osterman asked about the changes. T. Pringle stated that he had conversations with staff regarding suggested changes by R. Grove based on today's crop prices. The changes were Approved (5-0). Finally, a 90% harvest date needed to be decided by the Committee. J. Holden stated that many counties have this date moved into early 2020 due to the weather conditions this fall. It was decided to use January 1, 2020 as the 90% harvest date. A motion by T. Pringle / M. Osterman to approve the entire 2019 Wildlife Damage crop price proposal. Approved (5-0).

4. Review, discussion, and possible approval of two transfers of the 2019 Soil and Water Resource Management grant to Racine County. C. Sampson stated that Rusk County and Ozaukee County had offered to transfer SEG funds to other counties. C. Sampson stated that only 10% to 15% of cropland in Racine County have certified nutrient management plans in place, and this money can be used to develop more plans. D. Cooke asked what the amount was in our original budget. C. Sampson believed it was about \$50,000. C. Sampson added that he is in the process of completing an agreement with Kenosha County as well. T. Pringle / M. Osterman motioned to accept the \$45,000 from Rusk County, \$22,000 from Ozaukee County and the additional transfer from Kenosha County. Approved (5-0).
5. Information only: An update on the Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County. C. Sampson stated the group has utilized their \$40,000 grant allocation for 2019 and has receive a letter stating they will receive another \$40,000 for 2020. In 2019, the allocation was used primarily for cover crops and buffers, but also training events, apparel and signs. C. Sampson stated that the groups membership has increased from the original 6 farmers up to 13 farmers on the 2020 grant application.
6. Information only: C. Sampson distributed a list of projects since the last LCC meeting along with photos and descriptions of the projects. T. Pringle stated to receive and file.
7. Information only: C. Sampson stated there is a County Conservationist meeting on December 12 and 13 in Steven's Point. M. Osterman said he will be there to attend the Board of Directors meeting.
8. USDA Reports: The Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service reports were distributed to the Committee. C. Sampson spoke about a few highlights within the reports. T. Pringle stated to receive and file.
9. Other Business: M. Osterman mentioned the development of a Land Conservation Committee Supervisor's training program. M. Osterman stated the training can show a crossover between conservation and parks, highways as well as other aspects of government.
10. A motion by T. Pringle, seconded by T. Roanhouse to adjourn at 5:45 p.m. Approved (5-0) by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Grove, Secretary
Land Conservation Committee

Chad Sampson, Recorder