

## **Buffalo County Minutes**

**Committee/Board:** Land Conservation & Ag and Extension Committee

**Date of Meeting:** Monday, February 7, 2022

Chair Mr. Dwight Ruff called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Board Members Present:** Mr. Dwight Ruff, Mr. Steve Nelson, Mr. John Sendelbach, Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht, Mr. William Bruegger.

**Others Present for All or Portions of the Meeting:**

Mr. and Mrs. John Behling, Mr. Joe Krumrie, Mr. Cale Severson, Ms. Matison Hackensmith, Mr. Carl Duley, Steve and Beth Segerstrom appeared in person. Ms. Candy Anderson, Ms. Mary Wood, Mr. Nels Anderson, Alan Olsen appeared remotely.

**Minutes:** Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht made a motion seconded by Mr. John Sendelbach to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 as sent after adding Carl Duley to the list of present. Motion Carried.

**Public Comments Regarding Posted Agenda Items:**

Ms. Beth Segerstrom read a statement regarding the family's wishes to have mining operations keep going on their property. Mr. John Behling (Buffalo White Sands Attorney) echoed the Segerstroms sentiment.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding an Update on the Buffalo White Sands Project:**

Mr. John Behling held discussion about the future of BWS and the pending "stock" sale of Buffalo White Sands to Mr. Tim Barth. Barth would retain one hundred percent (100%) ownership of the body of the company while the permit and reclamation bond would remain under the name Buffalo White Sands. Mr. Behling stated that an engineering firm had been contracted to start work on bringing BWS into compliance. Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht made a motion seconded by Mr. William Bruegger to allow thirty (30) days to allow BWS to bring forth a map of mining operations and boundary of interested parties to the Land Conservation Office. Motion Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding an Update on iPad Purchase proposal from NMM Funding for Administration of the Program**

Land Conservationist Cale Severson presented information on the proposed purchase two (2) iPads and accessories for administering the non-metallic mining program. Mr. Steve Nelson made a motion to allow a purchase not to exceed seven thousand, one hundred (\$7,100) dollars for the purchase. Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht seconded the motion. Roll call vote-all yes.

### **Review/Discussion/Action ~ Tell Farms Promissory Note**

Mr. Cale Severson led discussion on the Tell farms promissory note and repayment of the approximately six thousand (~\$6,000) and the moneys owed to them for nutrient management cost share from the LCD. Committee agreed to get the situation cleared up and follow up with an email report.

### **Review/Discussion ~ PL-566 Structures and Future Funding Needs**

Mr. Cale Severson led discussion on how the LCD is losing the engineering assistance of NRCS to do inspections. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requires professional inspections on low hazard dams every ten (10) years. This will incur costs almost every year in perpetuity getting professional engineering firms to inspect the county owned dams, as the county owns twelve (12) structures. Future conversations will be held.

### **Review/Discussion/Action ~ Land and Water Board Elections**

Mr. William Bruegger made a motion to vote for Rebecca Clarke, Russell Rindsig, and Robert Thome. Mr. Brad Schmidt knecht seconded, motion carried.

### **Land Conservationist Report:**

Mr. Cale Severson discussed having Matison Hackensmith on board as the new Resource Management Specialist. He also discussed participating in a lot of training sessions with staff of the LCD, getting the office organized, looking for efficiencies. He is looking forward to DATCP coming for an intensive training session.

**Review/Discussion/Action ~ Extension Summer Ag Intern** Mr. Duley described a brief history of summer interns and research projects. Mr. Bruegger motioned to approve hiring of a 2022 summer intern; second by Mr. Sendelbach. Motion carried.

### **Review/Discussion ~ Wisconsin Extension Association (WEXA) Meeting Update**

Mr. Ruff and Mr. Nelson attended the meeting and both shared that overall, they were dissatisfied. Much of the meeting time was taken by the Dean talking about financial issues and the Ag program restructuring model, which would provide specialists covering 3-5 county areas. Specialists will not travel within the counties. They reported that time was not allowed for asking questions, as they had understood to be part of the agenda. They are going to look into whether or not to pay dues and be part of the WEXA organization.

**Educator Reports** Ms. Campbell Wood reported briefly on the Veterans and Justice Systems special project, which she leads. Trainings were given in January to the Buffalo County Law Enforcement staff and the Buffalo-Pepin Criminal Justice Collaborating Council membership. Initial evaluation responses are that the training is "very valuable." She is continuing to see an increase in families who are divorcing and has held three sets of A Better Beginning court-ordered course since the January meeting. She is finalizing development of the Parenting Inside Out-Literacy Link curriculum in her state role on the Literacy Link team. This curriculum will be piloted in the spring. Mr. Ruff asked if there has been any progress in the Buffalo County Jail

resistance to educational programs. Ms. Wood answered there has not, yet she continues to be hopeful.

Mr. Duley shared that he has been awarded a Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) \$40,000.00 two-year grant for a Fiber Hemp research project that will be on three farms in three counties. He also reported that he and Cale Severson are meeting about Hazelnut trials on three farms. He invited the committee members to a Hazelnut Conference to be held in La Crosse in March. He will send the information. Mr. Duley also invited the committee members to attend a Hop Conference on February 26, which will be held in person and virtually.

**Review/Discussion/Action ~ Purchase Order for New Laptop System** The laptop system is part of a planned rotation and will be used by Ms. Annie Lisowski, 4-H and Youth Development Educator. Mr. Bruegger motioned to approve purchase of the laptop system for \$2,257.94. Second by Mr. Schmidtknecht. Roll call vote unanimously in favor.

**Chairperson's Report:**

Mr. Ruff reported that it is still up in the air if a Farm Service Agency (FSA) representative will be on the committee or not. He is pleased to have Ms. Maddie Hackensmith on board and looks forward to her getting trained and started. Stephanie Hoff of the Midwest Farm Report did a story on the Town of Montana and the Agriculture Enterprise Area.

Mr. Ruff asked Mr. Cale Severson why Attorney Bilski was not at tonight's meeting. Mr. Severson answered that he hadn't heard back from Attorney Behling and therefore assumed that he would not be at tonight's meeting, so Attorney Bilski's presence wasn't needed. Mr. Ruff and Mr. Nelson stated that Attorney Bilski should be on all teams and meetings. They want to be sure he is present at next month's committee meeting, when there will be discussion/decision about the fate of Buffalo White Sands.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Next Meeting Date and Time:**

March 7, 2022, at 6:00PM

**Public Comments Not Related to Agenda Items:**

None

**Adjournment:** Mr. William Bruegger made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Sendelbach. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cale Severson  
Mary Campbell Wood  
Recording Secretaries