

## **Buffalo County Minutes**

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

**Date of Meeting:** Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

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

**Board Members Present:** Mr. Dwight Ruff, Mr. John Sendelbach, Mr. Gary Stanton, Farmer Representative Mr. Joe Bragger

**Others Present for All or Portions of the Meeting:** Mr. Cale Severson, Ms. Patricia Malone, Mr. Carl Duley, Mr. Ryan VanDeWalle, Mr. Alan Olson and Ms. Candy Anderson from Milestone Materials, Ms. Annie Lisowski

**Minutes:** Mr. Gary Stanton made a motion seconded by Mr. John Sendelbach to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion Carried.

**Public Comments Regarding Posted Agenda Items:** None

### **Ag and Extension Portion**

#### **Review/Discussion/Action ~ 2023 Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) Budget – Alec Sundelius**

Alec Sundelius introduced himself to the committee. He presented the wildlife abatement budget. These are pass through dollars from the state. The increase from the 2021 budget was \$1338. The committee had no questions. Motion by Mr. Sendelbach with a second by Mr. Stanton to approve the Wildlife Claims Abatement budget. Carried.

#### **Review/Discussion/Action ~ 2023 136 Contract between University of Wisconsin Madison Division of Extension and Buffalo County**

Malone presented the 2023 136 Contract between Buffalo County and University of Wisconsin Division of Extension. Motion by Mr. Sendelbach with a second by Mr. Stanton to approve the contract as presented. Carried.

#### **Review/Discussion/Action ~ 4-H/Youth Development Position**

Malone provided a brief update on the Pepin County 4-H youth development position. The timeline is about the first of the year.

#### **Review/Discussion/Action ~ Additional purchases (key controls, standing desk, projector screen, laptop)**

Malone and Lisowski provided a brief update on additional purchases. These include key controls, a standing desk, and a projector screen. There will also be a laptop purchase, but the quotes haven't been received yet. The total cost will be about \$7500

and will come from department surplus. These purchases are intended to support the move to the new office space.

### **Reports:**

#### **1. FoodWise Educator position update**

The FoodWise position is expected to be filled after the first of the first of the year. There is some re-organization that will occur, but there will still be an educator assigned to Pepin and Buffalo Counties

#### **2. Educator reports**

Mary Wood is ill. She will provide a detailed report at the next meeting.

Annie Lisowski presented her educator report. October is national 4-H month. Much of her focus this month will be on STEM education including Battle Bots, Solar and Wind power, as well as other activities. She will be presenting information on Restorative Justice at the National 4-H Meeting. She is also receiving a national award. She answered a follow-up question on record books for 4-H and FFA. Bianca Chesang will introduce herself at a later meeting.

Carl Duley presented his report. Harvest data from the test plots is being evaluated. He shared more detailed information on the poultry litter research that is starting. Please see attached summary. It has been about 20 years since any extensive research was done on poultry litter, and management practices have changed significantly.

#### **3. Fair Review**

It was a good fair. There are still some management issues that need to be discussed. There have been a number of management changes, so it is still a learning experience.

#### **4. Roles & Responsibilities of Oversight Committee and AED - Roles and Responsibilities discussion will be deferred until a later meeting to save time tonight.**

#### **5. Office Move update - The office move has been completed. The final internet and phone connections were made last Monday. Itechra needed to contact their wiring contractor to complete the job. The space is smaller, and the staff is adjusting.**

### **Land Conservation Portion**

#### **Review/Discussion ~ BWS update**

Cale Severson spoke on this topic. He had spoken to Mr. John Behling and Mr. Behling stated that most of the agreements were in place as far as the transfer of Buffalo White Sands to the new owner. He spoke to Mr. Tim Barth and Mr. Barth stated the same. They will come to the November meeting and relay information regarding the transfer status.

#### **Review/Discussion/Action ~ A Resolution to Establish the Reclamation Plan Review Fee and Annual Fees for Nonmetallic Mines in Buffalo County**

Severson spoke on the topic. He laid out the estimated costs of the Non-Metallic Mining administration in the county and that approximately \$150/ unreclaimed active acre will cover those costs. Ms. Anderson discussed the large swings in annual fees over the last few years. Severson spoke that the wishes of the Land Conservation Department are to amend the ordinance in the coming year to be able to adjust the fees on an annual basis to account for expenditures and keep fees in line with actual costs. Mr. Joe Bragger made a motion to accept the resolution with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Sendelbach. Roll call vote- all in favor. Resolution passed.

### **Review/Discussion/Action ~ Regional Cooperative Agreement with Beaver Creek Reserve**

Severson spoke that Beaver Creek Reserve and Buffalo County along with several other counties have been in an aquatic invasive species agreement since 2019. He spoke of the great work they do and what a great asset this is to the county. Mr. Bragger motioned to continue the agreement, with a second by Mr. Stanton. Motion carried.

### **Land Conservationist Report:**

Mr. Severson spoke on attending an inspection day with the NRCS for PL-566 dams (Alma mill 2, 3, 5). Land Conservation did a field trip talk to Alma 5<sup>th</sup> graders about conservation and showed them some recent work. Lots of work was put into the budget recently. Severson recently participated in a Town of Montana AEA discussion with several landowners and DATCP. The older Land Conservation truck had some maintenance done and is showing its age and the transmission is acting up and shifting very slow.

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

**Monday November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

### **Chairperson's Report:**

Chair Ruff spoke on the hazelnut project and assisted in picking them up in Ashland and the planting of some of the bushes for the DATCP Innovation alternative cropping project through Land Conservation. Mr. Ruff spoke of the desire to see some action on the BWS topic at next meeting.

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

**Adjournment:** Mr. Joe Bragger made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m., Seconded by Mr. Gary Stanton, Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cale Severson  
County Conservationist