

EXTENSION-LCC COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 8:30 a.m.

Room 2151

Members present: Kirsten Huth, Jerry McRoberts, Gary Nelson, Jim Gores, Fran Langman and Audrey Kusilek. Staff present: Tyler Gruetzmacher, Justin Everson, Lori Baltrusis, Sara Waldron, Kelsey Hyland and Kim Collins. Other: Cody Knoop, USDA APHIS.

Absent: Randy Cook.

McRoberts called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and Collins confirmed proper posting of the meeting. No public comment.

Motion: (Nelson/Langman) to approve the agenda; carried. **Motion: (Gores/Huth)** to approve the minutes of December 6, 2022 meeting; carried with Kusilek abstaining. Questions on edit lists answered. Under Announcements, Nelson recommended committee members and staff read an article in February 'Counties' magazine about the multiple land service agencies serving their communities.

Item #5. Wildlife Damage: Knoop presented the finalized apiary prices for approval. **Motion: (Kusilek/Nelson)** to approve the prices as presented; carried. Knoop then presented the three claims; after committee questions, **motion: (Nelson/Gores)** to approve the Wildlife Damage claims as presented. Motion carried.

Item #6. Gruetzmacher presented information on the WI Land & Water Conservation Association (WLWCA), highlighting the proposed increase in staffing grants and raising the tax credit for FPP participants. He then presented the WLWCA Annual Dues request, which includes additional requests for funding for the Envirothon and the Standards oversight Council. Gruetzmacher explained the value of supporting both and asked the committee to include these as expenses in the annual budget going forward. After committee questions, **motion: (Kusilek/Langman)** to approve these expenses and include them in the annual budget; motion carried.

Item #7. West Central Summer Tour – Gruetzmacher discussed the upcoming tour to be held in Barron County, stating it will start at the Kusilek farm, visit the Church Road mine site and possibly visit the WTE facility. He also proposed adding a Towns Association Tour that evening to visit the same sites. After discussion, Gruetzmacher will reach out to Don Putman regarding the Towns Association.

Item #8. Staff Reports –

NRCS – No NRCS report.

FSA – Huth provided sign-up and deadline information for FSA programs.

SWCD – Gruetzmacher discussed annual AIS funds and the 2nd year of the groundwater study.

UWEX – Baltrusis introduced Kelsey Hyland, Ag Water Quality Outreach Specialist, who gave a brief overview of her responsibilities. Sara Waldron gave an update on 4-H activities, noting the large percentage of participants who are the first in their families to join the program.

The next meeting is set for March 7, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

Motion: (Gores/Kusilek) to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Russell-Collins

Administrative Secretary, Land Services

Minutes are not official until approved by the Extension/LCC Committee at the next meeting.