

DOUGLAS COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 7, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

Government Center, Boardroom 201

1316 N. 14th Street, Superior, Wisconsin

Meeting called to order by Chair Sue Hendrickson.

ROLL CALL: Present – Sue Hendrickson, Larry Luostari, Jim Soyering, Mark Liebaert (made quorum). Absent – Mary Lou Bergman, Wendy Bong, Kathryn McKenzie (remote). Others present – Shelley Nelson (remote), Eric Fromm, Dave Ruid, Megan Hogfeldt, Ashley Vande Voort, Kaci Lundgren, Committee Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Luostari, second Soyering, to approve minutes from the May 18, 2021, meeting. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS:

Wildlife Damage and Abatement Program, 2021 – Cooperative Service Agreement with Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services: Due to retirement new provider necessary to manage program; all costs reimbursed by state.

ACTION: Motion by Luostari, second Liebaert, to approve 2021 Cooperative Service Agreement with Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services. Motion carried.

Budget Amendment: Slight budget increase with new provider.

ACTION: Motion by Liebaert, second Soyering, to approve 2021 budget amendment. Motion carried.

2022 – Cooperative Service Agreement with Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: To continue agreement with Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service through 2022 until Ashland County hires new staff to provide program services; will review agreement at that time for future services.

Budget: Included with agenda; reviewed.

ACTION: Motion by Soyering, second Luostari, to approve 2022 Cooperative Service Agreement with Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services and 2022 budget. Motion carried.

Environmental Reserve Fund Requests - 2022 Rain Barrel Project: Rain barrel projects have been successful with a long waitlist of those interested.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by Luostari, second Soyering, to approve \$600 funding request from Environmental Reserve Fund for the 2022 Rain Barrel Project and refer to Administration Committee. Motion carried.

Stop Spiny Prevention Campaign: Funds will be used to supplement grant match to spread awareness of the Spiny Water Flea Aquatic Invasive Species.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by Liebaert, second Soyring, to approve \$1,000 funding request from Environmental Reserve Fund for the Stop Spiny Prevention Campaign and refer to Administration Committee. Motion carried.

2022 Proposed Land Conservation Budget: Revenue increase due to additional grants; personnel increase due to full-time AIS Specialist position (100% grant funded). Vande Voort to meet with County Administrator to review.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by Luostari, second Soyring, to approve proposed 2022 Land Conservation budget as presented and refer to Zoning Committee, County Administrator, and Administration Committee. Motion carried.

Grant Applications:

2022 Lake Monitoring and Protection Network: Grant to assist funding AIS Specialist position.

ACTION: Motion by Liebaert, second Soyring, to approve grant application. Motion carried.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters – Lake Superior: Grant to fund staffing of Clean Boats, Clean Waters personnel at Loon’s Foot Landing and/or Arrowhead Landing; grant requires match and will be done with in-kind services.

ACTION: Motion by Luostari, second Liebaert, to approve grant application. Motion carried.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters – St. Croix Flowage: Grant to fund staffing of Clean Boats, Clean Waters personnel at St. Croix Flowage. Grant requires match; seeking opportunities.

ACTION: Motion by Liebaert, second Luostari, to approve grant application. Motion carried.

Brule Aquatic Plant Management Planning: Grant to fund costs for creation of a comprehensive Aquatic Plant Management Plan for long-term control and management of Aquatic Invasive Species.

ACTION: Motion by Luostari, second Soyring, to approve grant application. Motion carried.

2022 Stop Spiny Regional Prevention Campaign – C.D. Besadny: Grant to fund campaign to stop spread of Spiny Water Flea.

ACTION: Motion by Liebaert, second Luostari, to approve grant application. Motion carried.

2022 Stop Spiny Multi-County Prevention Campaign – Surface Water: Grant to fund campaign to stop spread of Spiny Water Flea.

ACTION: Motion by Luostari, second Liebaert, to approve grant application. Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Environmental Reserve Fund Application Revision: Addition of checkbox was to ensure non-discrimination of applicants. Douglas County does not consider application based on applicant, but rather the content and eligibility of what is being requested. Consensus of committee not to include checkbox.

Budgetary Transfers – Record Funding:

\$4,995 Annually Through December 1, 2023, for Clough Island, St. Louis River, Superior: Grant received.

\$886.29 Through December 31, 2022, for AIS Cleaning Station Project: Grant received.

\$600 for 2021 Rain Barrel Project (Additional Funding): Grant received.

\$24,995.83 Brule River Yellow Flag Iris Project and \$7,000 in Donations: Grant received.

Manure Storage Ordinance: Department currently unable to enforce ordinance; to review language to make enforcement possible.

Staff Report: Due to contractor unavailability, many projects are not complete. 9-key Element Plan will not be pursued due to lack of interest from City of Superior. Agriculture Enterprise Area in final stages to be approved by state.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Manure Storage Ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Liebaert, second Luostari, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Submitted by,

Kaci Lundgren, Committee Clerk