



MINUTES

October 9th, 2020 (to be approved)

Present: Fred Strand-Chairperson; Marty Milanowski-Vice-chairperson (via telephone); David Zepczyk; Ben Dufford-Co. Conservationist; Melissa Kraft-LWCD Asst; Andrew Teal-AIS Coord.; Travis Tulowitzky-Cons. Tech.

Absent: Gary Haughn-NRCS; Charly Ray-Co Board of Supervisors; Melissa Netz-FSA Rep; Ted Kohler-USFWS; Ramona Shackelford-NCWMA Coordinator; Dave Schultz-Wildlife Damage Specialist

At 9:00 am, Fred Strand, Chairperson, noted that no quorum is present therefore he can't call the meeting to order and that no official business or motions may be made.

Agency Staff/Partners Reports:

- a. NRCS Update: Gary Haughn was unable to attend the meeting, however he provided an update report which is on file for committee members to review.
- b. USFWS Update: Working on habitat/wetland projects with USFWS biologist Ted Koehler. They are still working remotely.
- c. WDNR Update: Todd Naas retired Sept. 4th, 2020. Patrick Beringer is the current contact. A new warden replaced Matt McKenzie's position.
- d. WDAP Update: Dave Schultz was unable to attend the meeting, however he provided an update report which is on file for committee members to review.

Discussion- Deer Farm Inspection Report:

Ben discussed the follow-up inspection done on Oct. 1st of the Antler Ridge deer farm regarding the repairs to fencing that the owner was to have repaired by mid-September. Ben reported that the farm still has needed repairs. DNR will determine this year if they will renew the game farm license.

Discussion- CWD Report/Update for fall of 2020:

Ben noted that Matt Bolen is working on CWD outreach education regarding the upcoming deer season. DNR is conducting testing a little different this year. One will be in Northern part of county, Ashland Co, and Bayfield Co. Dumpsters for disposal of deer carcasses will be ordered and placed at various locations, however, all specific locations have not been finalized yet. The general dumpster locations will be in Ashland, Iron River, PJ's Cabin Store and Grandview. Information on dumpster and testing sites will be provided to the community through his outreach education efforts. Cost-sharing for dumpsters can be reimbursed by 50% through DNR funding. We reapplied for the same grant we received last year for \$1000, however, we didn't get awarded the grant for this year. Bayfield Co Land & Water Conservation recently set up a Facebook page and CWD information will be posted to the site and brochures will be distributed similar to last year.

Discussion- South Fish Creek Targeted Watershed Assessment Comments:

Ben summarized the status of the South Fish Creek Watershed issue and written comments were provided for committee member review for discussion on how they would like to proceed with the issue and 2018 ordinance regarding the matter. DNR news report reported that it has been impaired with high phosphorus levels and is listed as an impaired watershed from the assessment.

Discussion- South Fish Creek Manure Storage Ordinance:

The committee received the 2018 Ordinance for their review and discussion along with draft comments that were prepared on the DNR's South Fish Creek Targeted Watershed Assessment and Recommendations.

Approximately 3 years ago the County passed and submitted this ordinance to the WDNR for approval. Eventually in court, we were told that the ordinance is not valid. The county now is reconsidering submitting the ordinance again, since South Fish is still impaired. Discussion on how to proceed with the ordinance and whether changes are needed and if it should be revised and resubmitted to the DNR for approval. Committee members discussed some needed changes to the current ordinance. Particularly, the amount of manure storage. Fred noted the watershed became impaired under the current regulations so it would make sense to try and change practices for a better outcome.

Committee determined the comments section they were given for review and ordinance be revised, as discussed, and forwarded to the county board for review and decision. Comments and ordinance (at Sec. 5-7-7) should be changed to read that the animal manure storage facilities shall be properly designed to provide a minimum of 270 days of manure storage, not 540 days of manure storage capacity.

Virtual Fall Tour Presentation:

A power point was presented and discussed in detail for the committee regarding the 2020 Land Conservation cost-share projects that our department worked on.

Next tentative meeting date: February 19th, 2021, at 9:00 AM.

Meeting ended at 11:00 a.m.

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