

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 18.94 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Land Conservation Subcommittee** was held on Monday, September 22, 2014 at the Duck Creek Public Works Department, 2198 Glendale Avenue, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Present: Chairman Dantine, Supervisor Bernie Erickson, Supervisor Landwehr, Supervisor Tom Sieber, Supervisor Dave Kaster, Norb VandeHei
Also Present: Jim Jolly, Jon Bechle, Executive Streckenbach, Chad Weininger and other interested parties.

I. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dantine at 6:00 p.m.

II. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by N. Vande Hei to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. Approve/Modify Minutes of August 25, 2014.

Motion made by Supervisor Sieber, seconded by Supervisor Landwehr to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Comments from the Public None.

1. Monthly Budget update – August.

Motion made by Supervisor Erickson, seconded by Supervisor Sieber to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Demonstration Farm field day and update.

The Soil Health and Cover Crop Field Day agenda was handed out and provided (attached). Land Conservation Director Jim Jolly wanted the committee to be aware of this event, this will be their first field day for the demonstration farms that they had approved last year and started this year. The agenda will showcase soil health and cover crops.

Update on Demo Farms - They hired UWGB to do some preliminary testing for the soil health protocol and they took the same soil type in two different locations, a prairie type setting, which was under grass for about 30 years and the other was crop field. They calculated the amount of infiltration, how much water could go through the soil profile in an hour. The prairie got 15 inches of water through the soil profile. The crop field was 1.3 inches. That was because their soils really lacked organic matter and lacked some of the things that they were trying to build with cover crops and various conservation practices they were putting on the land. What they were trying to do over the five year period was prove that they could increase those rates because if they did, they would decrease runoff by significant volumes.

3. Silver Creek Adaptive Management Pilot project.

Jolly informed that NEW Water had an adaptive management (AM) pilot project that they wanted to try and implement to prove that they could get these in stream water results, lower phosphorus levels over five year. Brown County was partnering with them. There had been some speculation that they weren't doing enough as a conservation department. They had been doing more now than they had done in the history of land conservation. He will be putting a packet of information together so that in the future people knew exactly what they were doing, who they were working with, etc.

Erickson questioned if these two projects were hand in hand. Jolly stated yes, one was to specifically try to prove that in-stream phosphorus levels could go down which was the Silver Creek Project. The other was to try to promote innovative conservation practices so that landowners around the whole area could start adopting these. With the demo farms, they were doing edge of field monitoring so that once they put these practices in place they could quantify the results fairly readily. They will be able to provide scientific proof that what they were doing was working. Both projects will be able to be utilized by NEW Water to determine whether they were going to have to do infrastructure upgrades in the future.

4. Directors report.

Jolly informed that he had finally got the revised contract amendment for the Demonstration Farms today in the mail. \$565,000 is what Brown County will be able to spend over the next four years to do these kinds of demonstrations and innovative practices.

Bechle informed that the City of Green Bay and the county were entering into an intergovernmental agreement for a deer management program in the City of Green Bay. It had made its way through the process and both the county and city had signed it. The properties at the former Mental Health Center, the CTC, the jail and the shared joint property in the Baird Creek parkway will be under the agreement. As it had been handled over the years, the city had a program and a manual document that was included as part of this agreement. Erickson questioned if their shooting stations were far enough away from the area where the veteran's complex was being constructed. He believed there was going to be quite a bit of human activity going on there all winter. Bechle informed that the hunters that will be out there will be authorized and approved through the program and they will be instructed as to where their areas are supposed to be, it was all controlled. He knew there were some concerns in the Baird Creek area. He had talked with a contact person at the wildlife sanctuary, who was the contact for the city and Bechle was listed as the contact person for the county for that program.

Norb Vande Hei questioned if they had heard of much damage from the sandhill cranes. Bechle informed that last year there were a lot of complaints, this year they were starting to mount up. He had kept track of those complaints as they came in. The state was looking at it, there was currently no season in the State of Wisconsin. The way the wildlife damage program worked, they had to be species that had a hunting season or some mechanism through the state to approve whichever species or animals that were in the program. Wisconsin had not done that yet with sandhill cranes. Because they were not hunt-able they were protected. They can't even issue a shooting permit and have been hesitant. There was a repellent that could be put on the land. Vande Hei informed that they used the repellent on the fields where they had the problem and it took care of it; he added it was not supposed to hurt the bird. Bechle informed that if the cranes were put in the program, the repellent would be something a farmer could be compensated for.

Bechle informed that there were problems outside of Brown County with regard to the cranes, he wasn't sure if it was statewide but heard of other reports where they were causing quite a few problems.

Lastly, Bechle reported that the state had established County Deer Advisory Councils (CDAC), which met all over the state. Brown County was meeting at 7pm at Barkhausen. As information came out on that, Bechle will bring it forward to the committee.

Other

5. **Such other matters as authorized by law.**

6. **Adjourn.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Landwehr, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to adjourn at 6:15 p.m.
Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia A. Loehlein
Recording Secretary

Soil Health & Cover Crop field Day (Demonstration Farm Network)

Oct 2nd 2014 at VanWychen Farms near DePere, WI

Field Day Location: 600 South Overland Dr. DePere, WI

Topics Include:

- 9:00 a.m. **Brent Petersen – Brown County LWCD (Farm Demo Manager)** –Talk about the Farm Demo Project (Participants, why started, goals “soil health”, and explain producer/regulator bottom up approach.
- 9:10 a.m. **George VanWychen – Demo Farm Participant/Producer** – Talk about project and why he got involved. George will also have his aerway unit there potential for manure incorporation.
- 9:20 a.m. **Barry Bubolz - District Conservationist NRCS and Jason Firster Soil Conservationist NRCS** – Demonstrate infiltration on the demo field, headland, and adjacent meadow.
- 9:40 a.m. **Mike Haedt – President of Biomass Sales & Consulting LLC (Formerly with PIP Seeds)**. What species to plant in our area, why these species, and herbicide interactions. Cover Crop Plot mixtures will be on display.
- 10:10 a.m. **Jamie Patton U.W. Ext Shawano County Ag Agent and Francisco Arriaga U.W. Madison Soil Science**. Understanding soil infiltration, and biology

Topics include:

- A) How do cover crops influence our soils?
 - a. Physical Properties - Francisco
 - b. Structure – Francisco
 - c. Nutrient Cycling – Jamie
 - d. Biology - Jamie
 - B) Multi-Species importance – Jamie
 - C) Soil Health Measurements
 - a. Slovia Test, Nebraska Soil Health Card, Haney Test, Cornell Test and Penetrometer Test.
 - b. Preferential vs. Capillary Flow
 - D) Macro vs Micro pores
- 11:10 a.m. **Kevin Fermanich UWGB & Andrew Doctor UWGB Grad Student** - Initial infiltration tests results
- 11:20 a.m. **Riesterer & Schnell and Service Motors (Keith Rohm)** - Planting Equip. and Seed closerEquip.
- 11:50 a.m. **Barry Bubolz - District Conservationist NRCS and Jason Firster Soil Conservationist NRCS** – Infiltration Results
- 12:00 p.m. End of field day