

Ashland County Land Conservation Committee
July 26, 2023
Ashland County Board Room

Minutes Approved 9/28/23

LCC Present: George Mika, George Bussey, Pat Kinney, Gerald Richardson, Charles Ortman, & John Weiner (Phone)

Others: Dan Grady, Michael Blount, Mike Pero, MaryJo, Scott Caven, Matt Bolen, Seth Hackbarth, Keresha Flint, Hunter Zecca, and Aurora Wier

1. Call to order: Meeting called to order by GM at 9:01 A.M.
2. Introductions: Staff and LCC introduced themselves.
3. Public Comments: None.
4. **Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve March 29, 2023 minutes by Gerry Richardson, second by John Wiener. MC.**
5. **Approval of WDP 2024 Budget: Motion to approve WDP 2024 Budget by John Wiener, second by Charles Ortman. MC.**
6. Land and Water Conservation Department 2024 Budget Review: Gingras reviewed the budget. George Bussey pointed out a couple minor errors with calculations to the health insurance and retirement. Discussion occurred in regards to the No-Till budget, and Pat Kinney recommended that a new No-Till machine should be added to a future county capital purchase budget.
7. Update on ACT 157: Gingras discussed challenges with ACT 157 grant, project amendment filed with the state, and plans made to transfer grant money to Todd Berweger's project. The department has received confirmation from DNR to move ahead with Todd Berweger.
8. Climate Change Adaptation Discussion: This was tabled at last meeting. Bussey recommended an Assessing Weather & Risk Opportunities proposal be added to the comprehensive plan, and that a sub-group of the Ashland County Comprehensive Plan Ad Hoc Committee be established. Grady stated that the executive committee approved creating an Ad Hoc Committee and will be discussed at the next county board meeting.
9. Other Business: Staff Reports
Seth Hackbarth, Mike Pero, Scott Caven, Matt Bolen, & Gingras provided written and oral reports.
Interns: Aurora Wier & Hunter Zecca- provided written and oral report
Michael Blount (NRCS Conservationist)- gave verbal updates on his program
10. Next Meeting: September 28, 2023. Following LCC Meeting, Mike Pero's retirement party will be held. **Motion to adjourn at 11:40 by Richardson, second by Kinney. MC.**