



1370 N. Water Street, Suite 3
P.O. Box 753
Platteville, WI 53818
p: 608.348.7110
e: swbadger@swbadger.org
www.swbadger.com

Full Council Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2016 - 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

USDA Service Center, 26136 Executive Ln., Richland Center, WI 53581

Members Present: Ela Kakde (Grant), Bill Grover (Iowa), John Dietz (Sauk), Leon Wolfe (Lafayette), Pete Flesch (Crawford), Dennis Kirschbaum (Crawford), Betty Grotophorst (Green), Gary Peters (Richland), Dale Hood (Grant), Adrian Amelse (Vernon), Marilyn Pedretti (La Crosse), Linda Lynch (Iowa). Staff present: Wendy Warren, Don Barrette, Ben Wegleitner, Robert Bauer. Gene Hausner (Sauk) was excused.

Call to Order: Ela Kakde, Vice President called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. with everybody introducing themselves.

Agenda Approval: The Agenda was approved with no additional items added.

- Motion by Bill Grover, second by Pete Flesch to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

Minutes Approval: Minutes from the previous meeting had not been sent out prior to the meeting, so this item was tabled till next meeting.

Financial Reports: Wendy Warren reviewed the Financial Statement ending 03/15/16 noting that the checking account was in a much better position than last meeting as a result of many grant reimbursement requests being submitted and deposited. Warren noted that the two Aquatic Invasive Species Grants were awarded for 2016 as well as a Clean Boats Clean Waters grant that includes 7 mini-grants within it. *Linda Lynch asked to have historic data presented for comparisons at the next meeting to include income & expense statements by quarter, for current and previous year. Also balance and profit & loss year to date and previous year as well as an end of year balance sheet and income and expense statement for the year ending 2015.* Linda also asked to see where are we compared with five years ago. Adrian Amelse asked what is our (financial) goal? Warren stated that we would certainly like to be sustainable – which is why we need to begin a fundraising campaign.

- Motion by Pete Flesch, second by Bill Grover to approve the financial report as provided. Motion passed.

Executive Director's Report:

Staff Evaluations: Warren reported that all staff had been evaluated including herself (by the Executive board) and that all received excellent reviews, and that most staff would be receiving pay increases as a result of increased salaries budgeted in the new grants and a couple current grants that were not being used up fast enough.

Grant Submission Requests: Warren requested approval from the Board to apply for the following new grants: Farm Service Agency Grant July 2016, Turkey Stamp Program (Acre for Oak) April 10, Citizen Based Monitoring (May \$5K), NRCS Contract Services.

- Motion by Leon Wolfe to approve grant applications to the aforementioned agencies for future funding, seconded by Dennis Kirschbaum. Motion passed.

Fundraising – Annual Campaign: Warren noted that the fundraising development was not going well as a result of time constraints, and that a strategic planning session was recommended by the Executive Board in order to ensure the mission statement was still accurate and aligned with the Council's intentions. *Ela Kakde suggested that we take a look at the strategic planning process through the Program Development committee and that we consider looking into a Capacity Building grant through the WI Economic Development Corporation. Don Barrette reminded us that we had discussed development of a menu of services that each staff member is able to offer as a fee for service.*

Executive Committee Report: Secretary Bill Grover reported out on what the Executive Committee had discussed at their March 4, 2016 meeting in Dodgeville. Those points included: New quarterly meeting dates to be after the qtr end, on 2nd Fridays to allow for more accurate end of quarter financial and project reporting; Request for Finance Committee to meet to address overhead budget,

indirect cost plan review, investment vehicles, community foundations; Discussed the possibility of having Orientation for New Council Members. *Suggestions included providing new members with an organizational chart, a list of contacts, and having an internal page on the website for members to go for more information about the organization (Handbook, By-Laws, etc.)* In response to this request Warren handed out a packet of information to all the new council members present and added that to avoid having to create additional meetings, some piece of an orientation could be presented at each council meeting.

Staff Reports:

Highlight on Grazing Broker/Beginning Farmer Projects

Staff member Robert Bauer reported on current activities and status of Grazing Broker and how it relates to the Beginning Farmer Mentorship program. He highlighted his mentorship application packet that helped him to identify mutual interests between mentors and mentees. He added that he would provide each mentor and each mentee with several different potential “matches” which they were then asked to follow up on their own and choose who they would like to work with. In response to the presentation, Gary Peters noted that he was happy to see a veterans to farmers program and *suggested we meet with Karen Knock, Veteran Services Agency in Richland County* who was also very enthusiastic. *Council members made the following suggestions; In preparation for requesting membership dues, Counties should be presented with case studies of successful projects whether or not they are in that county, and workshop evaluation comments would also be beneficial. Cost/benefit analysis of a couple projects were also suggested.*

Aquatic Invasive Species Projects: Don Barrette and Ben Wegleitner reported that they had been meeting with county and municipal road crews to discuss smart mowing activities – a window of time when they could target specific or the maximum number of invasive species along roadsides. They also reported that they were working with law enforcement to make them aware of the enforcement potential to help avoid the transfer of aquatic invasive plants. Both the road crews and law enforcement officials were very receptive. *Marilyn Pedretti suggested that presentations could be made at the County township meetings in each County. A meeting was being planned for La Crosse County in the near future.*

County Assistance Requests (Round Robin);

Richland County: Gary Peters noted that a group of Eagle Scouts were a great resource in Richland County having designed and built a pier for boat landings on a small lake in the area. He noted they want to do projects that benefit the Community.

Lafayette County: Leon Wolfe noted that Lafayette County could use help with grazing projects.

Vernon County: An awards banquet was held and a presentation was made to *500 students (about ???)* Adrian Amelse reported that they were having a lot of discussion and concerns over dam repairs and responsibilities also the county had received 1000 acres of forest land recently.

Crawford County: Dennis Kirschbaum suggested that Rod & Gun Clubs were excellent avenues for raising awareness of conservation issues.

Iowa County: Idea of removing dams with grant money did not pass as landowners want to keep the dams. The law does not currently allow dams to be owned by individual landowners. Iowa County is looking into trying to add that option as they have potential landowners wanting to buy the dams.

Grant County: FFA Alumni are starting a bee raising business. Cassville township is doing some redevelopment along the Mississippi River in hopes of attracting more tourism.

Green County: Todd Jensen is working with SW Badger RC&D, staff member, Don Barrette, on bio-control of Purple Loosestrife.

Adjourn:

➤ A motion to adjourn and move over to the Pine River Food Co-op for a tour and lunch was made by Dale Hood, seconded by Leon Wolfe. Motion passed.

Summary of Action Items:

1. For next meeting: Provide historic data for comparisons to include income & expense statements by quarter, for current and previous year. Also balance and profit & loss year to date and previous year as well as an end of year balance sheet and income and expense statement for the year ending 2015.
2. Take a look at the strategic planning process through the Program Development committee.
3. Consider looking into a Capacity Building grant through the WI Economic Development Corporation.
4. Consider developing of a menu of services that each staff member is able to offer as a fee for service.
5. Provide new members with an organizational chart, a list of contacts, and

6. Develop an internal page on the website for members to go for more information about the organization (Handbook, By-Laws, etc.)
7. Suggest Robert/Wendy meet with Karen Knock, Veteran Services Agency in Richland County
8. Present Counties with case studies of successful projects whether or not they are in that county, workshop evaluation comments, and cost/benefit analysis of a couple projects were also suggested
9. Suggest to staff that presentations could be made at County township Association meetings in each County.

**Southwest Badger RC&D
2016 Full Council Quarterly Meeting Schedule**

2 nd Quarter	July 8, 2016
3 rd Quarter	October 10, 2016
4 th Quarter	January 13, 2016