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Full Council 4th Qtr Meeting Minutes January 13, 2017 – 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.

The Phoenix Center, 100 S. Orange St., Richland Center, WI 53581

Members Present: Pete Flesch (Crawford), Patrick Dayton (La Crosse), John Dietz (Sauk), Betty Grotophorst (Green), Bill Grover (Iowa), Gene Hausner (Sauk), Dale Hood (Grant), Dennis Kirschbaum (Crawford), Marilyn Pedretti (La Crosse), Gary Peters (Richland), Leon Wolfe (Lafayette). **Guests Present:** John Medinger (Senator Tammy Baldwin's Rep.), Melissa Keenan (Sauk), Karen Knock (Richland VA), Maureen Rowe (WDNR), Jake Elder (Richland DNR). **Staff Present:** Don Barrette, Brandon Bleuer, Neil Slifka, Robert Bauer, Wendy Warren, Dennis Rooney was excused.

1. **Introductions and Agenda** - President, Gene Hausner called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

The Agenda was reviewed and, noting the wrong date for the previous meeting minutes to be changed;

- A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Hood, seconded by Wolfe, motion passed.

Welcome and introductions were made around the room and several noteworthy guests were in attendance, such as John Medinger, Representative of Senator Tammy Baldwin, and guest speaker, Jim VandenBrook, President of WI Land & Water Association.

2. **Minutes from October 14, 2016**, 3rd Qtr meeting were reviewed.

- Hausner entertained a motion to approve the minutes, motion made by Kirschbaum, seconded by Grover, motion passed.

3. **Financial Statement** – Treasurer, Pete Flesch reviewed the items on the financial statement dated 01/03/2017. Warren explained what grants were expected to be awarded yet in 2017.

- Motion by Dayton to accept the financial statement, seconded by Flesch, motion carried.

The board next reviewed the Year-end Profit and Loss comparison to 2015. Warren brought attention to line item 4500 Revenue from Govt grants pointing out that the amount was nearly doubled from 2015. Warren also pointed out the very last line item Net Income that was -71,054 in 2015 and only -18,575 in 2016. Warren attributed some of these differences to her being new in 2015 and having to “catch up” on reimbursements, however, some of the increase in revenue was due to new sources of funding being brought into the pipeline. Dayton asked if this report could be condensed and Warren replied that she spent some time working on that, but that it would take more time than it was worth.

- Motion to approve the Profit and Loss Statement by Flesche, seconded by Dayton, motion carried.

4. **Finance Committee Report** – Flesch reported that the Finance Committee had discussed the 2017 budget in detail and had made several adjustments accordingly. Warren noted that the 2017 draft budget in front of the board at this time included an administrative and overhead budget that was rolled into the total budget, also that she had caught a mistake in which two items were counted twice under the expenses which would cause the budget to be balanced. Warren also noted that there was \$2000 in the

budget under fundraising, but that was expected to be much higher as a draft fundraising plan had been sent to the Executive Committee and was expected to be rolled out in February. Dayton asked if the budget could be more detailed and if it was made up of real numbers. Warren noted that more details were in the Administrative and overhead budget that had been reviewed by the Finance Committee and that the numbers were taken from the actual QuickBooks end of the year reports.

5. **Executive Director's Report** – Director, Wendy Warren discussed some of the new grants that had been awarded and needed approval to accept contracts. She noted two that had been awarded and sent to the Executive Board for approval to sign the contracts. These were the DATCP – Producer-Led Watershed Improvement, and Urban Forestry 2017 – Smart Ash Reuse & Replacement Assistance to Communities. Grants awarded but not yet approved for signature included:
 - i. Clean Boats Clean Waters (WDNR).
 - ii. NFWF – Conservation Partners in the Kickapoo (Valley Stewardship Network & Kickapoo Grazing Initiative)
 - iii. AIS South and AIS North and NUZUM were expected to come in during February.

➤ A motion was made to approve the two new grants and the expected three additional grants if awarded and for authorization for Warren to sign all 5 grants as needed. Motion by Flesch, second by Grover, motion passed.
6. **Guest Speaker – Jim VandenBrook, President, WI Land & Water Association**

Warren explained that SW Badger RC&D and the State WI RC&D Association were trying to build better relationships with the County LCD staff and that working with the WI Land & Water Conservation Association was part of that plan. Board member Hood had made the invitation to Jim to speak at our annual meeting and Jim accepted. After a brief introduction, VandenBrook discussed a large project undertaken by the Land & Water Association that involved getting stakeholders to talk to each other about a sustainable Wisconsin and to discuss the intersection of agriculture and land and water resources. The project brought together producers and environmentalists, local officials, and private property owners. The project had planned to host 4 stakeholder working group meetings with four separate working groups targeting 4 different issues relating to sustainability. Also three steering committee meetings were planned over an 18 month period. The results of the work would be summarized in a draft comprehensive report and a Conference to be held on October 16-17, 2017.
7. **Year End Program Highlights presentation by Staff (5 min/each)**

Warren began the 2016 Highlights by sharing a few financial statistics with the group. Warren began by noting that in 2016 administrative costs had been decreased by about 20% due to cutbacks in rent, storage, telephone, cell phones and insurance). She also noted that she had filled three vacancies (two for the same position). She noted that our win rate for grant proposals was approximately 75% at this time. Warren discussed how much each staff had contributed to the increased awareness and visibility that our organization was enjoying. Don Barrette and Brandon Bleuer presented slides that described their work and highlighted their achievements, and Bauer showed two videos that described the results of his work through the words of his clients. All of the presentations were well received.
8. **Adjourn for Social Hour & Appetizers** – A motion to adjourn was made by Grotophorst and seconded by Hood, motion carried.