

CENTRAL WISCONSIN WINDSHED PARTNERS BOARD MEETING
HANCOCK AG RESEARCH STATION

April 5, 2011

Board Members present: Cathy Guth, Steve Bradley, Jerry Storke, Ed Hernandez, Glenn Licitar, Joe Piechowski

Staff/Advisors/Others present: Bill Ebert, Stan Ewan, Shannon Rohde, Patty Benedict

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Piechowski.
2. **Introductions** – Introductions were not necessary.
3. **Review/Approval – Minutes of December 20, 2010** – Motion by Guth, second by Hernandez to approve the minutes. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. **Correspondence** – Bradley received a letter from John White and Ty Larson, Assistant State Conservationists, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). They would like to meet with Rohde, the State Forester, and NRCS Area Resource Conservationist to review windbreak planning and installation requirements related to the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and NRCS Technical Standards. Rohde will call to arrange a meeting.
5. **Review/Approval - Vouchers, Purchases, Reimbursements** – Motion by Bradley, second by Licitar to approve the vouchers, purchases, and reimbursements. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. **Staff Reports – Rohde** reported Ewan has returned to work. Rohde said he has been finalizing windbreak plans. There are currently 16.9 miles, broken down as follows: Portage County – 9.1 miles; Adams County – three miles +/-; Waushara County – three miles +/-; a site in Antigo, Langlade County – one mile +/- . Rohde said a number of windbreaks have been approved for EQIP funding. Rohde said he attended a DNR hearing regarding the Milksource Dairy. He met two of the main owners. Construction should start later this year. Rohde will stay in contact with them. Licitar mentioned there is another farm proposed in Richfield. Rohde said there are also a couple of fall seeding projects in Portage County, and the Fish and Wildlife Service may have additional seeding projects. Rohde attended the Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE) Conference in Wisconsin Rapids, the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association (WPVGA) Conference in Stevens Point, a cooperative meeting in Wautoma, and an interagency meeting in Marquette County. Rohde stated the possible large tree planting project in Portage County fell through. Rohde said HARS will begin charging a \$25 fee for ½ day for the meeting room. Rohde researched the value of the old cameras and will try to sell them on EBay. Rohde said the trees and shrubs are scheduled to arrive next week. Because there is still snow on the ground and frost in the ground, planting may be delayed. H. O. Wolding does not have a refrigerated trailer available. Rohde contacted Moodie, who charges by the day rather than the month. The cost should end up about the same. Hernandez suggested checking into a trucking firm in Wautoma in the future. Rohde stated he asked Louie if he plans to come back as an LTE this year, but has not heard back from him yet. Hernandez reminded Rohde

to develop long range windbreak plans for customers. Rohde also mentioned they have a couple of hand planting sites.

Piechowski read the PUBLIC NOTICE: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. No one registered to speak.

7. **Discussion/Possible Action – RC&D Agreement** – The contract for LTE consulting services was presented in the amount of \$30,000. If necessary, the amount can be increased at a future meeting based on the workload. Motion by Bradley, second by Hernandez to approve the RC&D Agreement. Motion carried by voice vote.
8. **Discussion/Possible Action – CWWP Cost Share Recipients** – Rohde said there are two customers that did not qualify for other sources of cost sharing. The CWWP Board approved up to \$7,000 from the interest account for cost sharing. Rohde estimates Jerry Miller will receive \$6,000 and Lynn Lawless will receive \$585 of cost sharing at a rate of 50%. Motion by Bradley, second by Guth to approve the CWWP cost share recipients. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. **Addition to Staff Report:** Rohde noted the Ford F250 needs new rear tires and one front tire needs to be patched. A tire on the small trailer needs to be replaced. The tractors, planter, and fabric layers are in good condition. In addition to Stan, Louie will help with planting, and they will add Marty for about a month to lay the 10 foot fabric. Ewan asked if the \$2,000 Conservation on the Land Internship grant is available for 2011. Bradley replied he applied, but the funding is no longer available. Rohde will be submitting a grant to DATCP as he does yearly. Bradley noted the State budget includes funding for highways and suggested Rohde get in touch with his DOT contacts and ask if the funds can be used for living snow fences. Rohde asked to give Louie a \$.25 an hour raise. A recommendation will be made to the Golden Sands RC&D Council. Rohde said the magnetic signs for the trucks need to be replaced. Hernandez will send contact information for a business that makes signs and decals.
9. **Next Meeting Date** – The next meeting is scheduled for June 20 at 9:30 a.m. at the Hancock Ag Research Station.
10. **Adjournment** – Motion by Licitar, second by Hernandez to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

CENTRAL WISCONSIN WINDSHED PARTNERS BOARD MEETING
HANCOCK AG RESEARCH STATION
June 20, 2011

Board Members present: Steve Bradley, Chuck Sibilsky, Richard Colby, Glenn Licitar, Hugh O'Donnell, Joe Piechowski, Cathy Guth, Greg Lowe, Mary LeMere, Ed Hernandez

Staff/Advisors/Others present: Shannon Rohde, Stan Ewan, Ken Williams, Tim Karcheski, Patty Benedict

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by President Piechowski.
2. **Introductions** – Introductions were made.
3. **Review/Approval – Minutes of April 5, 2011** – Motion by Licitar, second by Sibilsky to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. **Correspondence** – Bradley stated that Bill Ebert is no longer with the RC&D office and therefore can no longer be an advisor on the Board. Piechowski suggested sending meeting information to Amy Thorstenson and Jennifer Glad in the RC&D office.
5. **Review/Approval - Vouchers, Purchases, Reimbursements** – Rohde explained the need for tire repairs/replacements for the trailers. There appears to be an excessive amount for a battery purchase for the Kubota tractor. Rohde and Ewan will investigate. (Result: An error was made on the voucher report. The amount for Central Sands NAPA for a battery should have been \$114.45. The amount of \$465.50 shown for NAPA should have been for Fox Oil for fuel for the refrigerated truck.) Motion by Colby, second by O'Donnell to approve vouchers, purchases, and reimbursements. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. **Staff Reports – Ewan** reported Louie started on April 25 to help with planting and Marty started on May 23 to help with fabric laying. They got a late start on machine planting, May 10. Due to a wet spring, landowners were unable to get sites prepared. Prior to starting the machine planting, hand planting was done on the 2009 and 2010 sites. The first fabric installation took place on May 19. The last planting and fabric was installed on June 17. A portion of two sites were inadvertently tilled up by customers. The areas will be replanted and charged to the customer. There has not been much deer damage overall, but it was necessary to spray deer repellent on an Adams County Highway site. Ewan stated fabric was ripped away on a site north of Bancroft due to tornado damage. Fabric that is not salvageable will be replaced. Rohde said the shrubs are growing well. Ewan said they started hand weeding and mowing on June 15 and will continue. A seeding project is lined up in Adams County. Approximately four acres will be seeded with annual rye on July 25 and prairie grass on October 15. Another seeding site is near Amherst. Ewan stated the 10' fabric layer is weakening and not working properly on perimeter sites. Louie has the ability to fabricate the piece of equipment, with an estimated cost of \$4,000-4,500. Bradley said the request will be put on the next meeting agenda. Piechowski asked to have a sketch and potential costs provided for the meeting. Rohde said it may be possible for Louie to rebuild the current machine. Bradley suggested checking on costs of new versus used for

comparison. Ewan added some of the equipment is getting old and will require more maintenance. Rohde said Ewan will be measuring windbreaks for customer invoicing. He estimated a total of 16.5+ miles were installed. Piechowski asked if Rohde has heard from the dairy farms (referring to Central Sands Dairy), and Rohde replied he has not. Ewan noted they installed a windbreak for the Hancock Agricultural Research Station (HARS). A previous verbal agreement allows HARS to pay only for materials, but not labor for installation or maintenance in exchange for various services HARS provides for the CWWP. Rohde was asked to compare the amounts for waiving windbreak installation and maintenance fees versus the value of services HARS provides. An agenda item will be included for the next meeting.

Rohde added he has been working with Greg Hamilton, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, on the nine acre seeding project near Amherst. Hamilton may refer other seeding projects to the CWWP. Rohde explained H.O. Wolding was not able to supply a refrigerated trailer this year. Rohde called around and ended up renting from Moodie Inc. in Plover, and the cost was approximately \$1,100 more than last year. There was discussion on researching other options, such as purchasing a trailer, and LeMere agreed to look into the possibility of sharing space with HARS. Prior to the planting season, Rohde and Ewan had a discussion with Greg Rebman, NRCS State Forester, and other NRCS representatives who have concerns regarding the species and planting methods used by the CWWP. Rebman prefers having single species rows, while the CWWP uses multiple species. Because windbreak plans were complete and stock was already ordered, Rebman allowed the windbreak installations as planned this year. He will come back to look at past windbreak plantings and do an overall evaluation on their effectiveness on wind erosion compared with using the wind erosion equation. Rohde said Rebman agreed planting multiple species is good from the standpoint of pests and diseases. Bradley suggested documenting the positive points of multiple species windbreaks, and find experts that agree. Rohde said they will be doing windbreak maintenance, mowing and weeding sites. Final counts will be done and invoices prepared and sent. Piechowski asked Rohde to let counties know the final counts. Rohde said a customer is interested in having fabric installed around trees he planted. Piechowski mentioned the salt damage to the trees along Interstate 39. Rohde said the pines are affected, but spruce are more hardy, which is what they mainly use.

Piechowski read the PUBLIC NOTICE: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. No one registered to speak.

- 7. Review Final 2010 Budget/Current 2011 Budget** – Copies of the 2010 final budget figures, 2011 figures to date, and the CWWP financial planning spreadsheet were distributed. Bradley explained the financial planning spreadsheet, noting the figures are for windbreaks only; seedings are considered bonus revenues. He estimates net revenue of just under \$5,000 in 2011. He said the interest account will be nearly depleted after 2011 due to using the funds for cost sharing windbreaks which were not eligible for other sources of cost sharing.

Rohde said they may have a one mile living snow fence project for the DOT and a possible project for the Adams County Highway Department lined up for 2012. Piechowski suggested Rohde get in contact with Waupaca County LCD as they have a new County

Conservationist. Licitar stated there is a DNR hearing scheduled on July 18 at the Adams Community Center for Richfield Dairy.

8. **Next Meeting Date** – The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 15 at 1:30 p.m.
9. **Adjournment** – Motion by Bradley, second by Guth to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

CENTRAL WISCONSIN WINDSHED PARTNERS BOARD MEETING
HANCOCK AG RESEARCH STATION
August 15, 2011

Board Members present: Glen Licitar, Richard Colby, Steve Bradley, Joe Piechowski

Staff/Advisors/Others present: Shannon Rohde, Stan Ewan, Jennifer Glad, Patty Benedict

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by President Piechowski.
2. **Introductions** – Introductions were made.
3. **Review/Approval – Minutes of June 20, 2011** – Motion by Colby, second by Bradley to approve the minutes as presented.
4. **Correspondence** – None presented.
5. **Review/Approval - Vouchers, Purchases, Reimbursements** – Motion by Bradley, second by Colby to approve vouchers. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. **Staff Reports – Ewan** reported he has been off for the last month to conserve LTE funds. They will continue to work on windbreak maintenance, hand weeding, site evaluations, tree counts for replants for the spring, equipment and vehicle maintenance. A replanting project will be done for Plover River Farms, as well as two seeding sites. Glad estimates \$4,500 is left in the LTE staff line item. Louie is due a \$2/hour bonus for completing the season. Glad will calculate the amount of the bonus. Rohde believes they will be within \$1,000-\$2,000 of the budgeted amount. If an amendment to the agreement is needed, an agenda item will be included for the next meeting.

Rohde reported he has been working on maintenance, mowing, and weeding. The official installation amount is 87,975 feet, or 16.66 miles, of windbreaks installed. Colby asked for a breakdown per county, which Rohde will send. Rain amounts have been good and the stock was good quality, so they anticipate a high survival rate. The rain and heat have also contributed to the need for constant mowing and weeding. Rohde put up the display for the potato field day at the Hancock Agricultural Research Station (HARS) on July 26. He reported a DNR hearing was held recently for Milksource Dairy. Licitar said a decision is expected September 1. Rohde will contact Milksource. Evaluations will be done in the fall to determine survival rate. He will continue with windbreak sales. He has a possible DOT site for 2012. He is in the process of invoicing 2011 customers. He is meeting with NRCS representatives to determine Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) figures. Two sites used CWWP cost share funds for a total of \$6,616, which was authorized from the interest account. Regarding the Milksource Dairy, Rohde added their construction plans include windbreaks. He spoke with the owners, and they are aware of the work the CWWP does. Piechowski suggested contacting them once again with the 2012 fee schedule. Bradley suggested providing aerial photos with potential windbreak sites marked. Glad said a Marathon County LCD staff member inquired about CWWP projects. Rohde will contact them. Bradley informed

Rohde of the Central Wisconsin Groundwater Initiative meeting will be held on August 25 from 3:00-7:00 p.m. at HARS. The WPVGA is a sponsor. He suggested putting up the display.

Piechowski read the PUBLIC NOTICE: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.

7. Discussion/Possible Action – RC&D Advisor Vacancy – Piechowski said Hugh O'Donnell is a RC&D Council member and also on the CWWP Board; however if Glad wishes, she can attend meetings. Glad stated she can attend meetings when there are agenda items pertaining to RC&D. She will ask for a recommendation at the September 8 RC&D Council meeting. No action taken. She also offered to promote the CWWP at trade shows and events they attend. Rohde will provide brochures and business cards. Benedict asked Rohde to review the brochure for updates if necessary. Piechowski noted the RC&D Regional Conference is at the Ramada Inn September 14-16, 2011.

8. Discussion/Possible Action – Authorize Funding to Build 10' Fabric Layer – Rohde said construction of a 10 foot fabric layer would be based on the design of the six foot currently being used, which is more heavy duty. Rohde said Louie can do the construction. Rohde and Ewan estimated cost between \$4,000 - \$5,000 for labor and materials. Motion by Colby, second by Licitar to approve up to \$5,000 to construct a 10 foot fabric layer with funds to be taken from the Equipment Replacement fund. Motion carried by voice vote.

9. Discussion/Possible Action – Hancock Agricultural Research Station Windbreak Installation/Maintenance Costs – Rohde reported he spoke with Mary LeMere, HARS Interim Superintendent. She indicated storage should be available to store stock next spring. Rohde said he does not believe there will be a charge for use of the refrigerated storage, in exchange for the CWWP providing labor for windbreak installation at HARS. Piechowski suggested getting a written agreement. Motion by Bradley to approve an agreement for refrigerated storage between the CWWP and HARS in 2012 in exchange for labor costs for windbreak installation and maintenance. Motion carried by voice vote.

10. Discussion/Possible Action – 2012 Fee Schedule – Rohde suggested keeping the same fee schedule as 2011. Bradley referred to the CWWP financial planning sheet distributed, explaining the figures include windbreaks only, not miscellaneous revenues. Based on the figures, Bradley feels the current fees are adequate. Motion by Colby, second by Licitar to approve the 2012 Fee Schedule. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. Review 2011 6 Month Budget Projections and 12. Discussion/Possible Action – 2012 Proposed Budget – Bradley explained the budget handout. Benedict pointed out the retirement and disability line items decreased. Bradley explained the balances for the equipment replacement, windbreak maintenance, and interest accounts. The \$5,000 expenditure authorized for the 10 foot tree planter will be added to the 2011 budget. Motion by Licitar, second by Piechowski to approve the budgets as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.

13. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 19 at 1:30 p.m.

Piechowski suggested checking prices for a sign advertising the CWWP and a holder for brochures to be placed along the road. It was also suggested that Rohde put together a folder with pictures of windbreaks to show potential customers.

14. Adjournment – Motion by Bradley, second by Licitar to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

CENTRAL WISCONSIN WINDSHED PARTNERS BOARD MEETING
HANCOCK AG RESEARCH STATION
December 19, 2011

Board Members present: Steve Bradley, Cathy Guth, Glenn Licitar, Hugh O'Donnell, Greg Lowe, Ed Hernandez, Joe Piechowski, Mary LeMere

Staff/Advisors/Others present: Shannon Rohde, Stan Ewan, Patty Benedict

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m. by President Piechowski.
2. **Introductions** – Introductions were made.
3. **Review/Approval – Minutes of August 15, 2011** – Motion by Piechowski, second by Bradley to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. **Correspondence** – Benedict passed around two quotes to replace the sign outside the CWWP office. Samples of the sign materials were requested. Benedict will contact the two companies that provided quotes, in addition to requesting quotes from other companies and report at the next meeting. Bradley read a note from Dorothy Sankey, complimenting and thanking Rohde for the windbreak installed on her property.
5. **Review/Approval - Vouchers, Purchases, Reimbursements** – Motion by Bradley, second by Guth to approve the vouchers. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. **Staff Reports – Ewan** completed site evaluations for 2009, 2010, and 2011 installations. He stated 10,689 trees and shrubs were planted in 2010 windbreaks, and 1,061 plants were replaced for a 90.1% survival rate. For 2011 windbreaks, 13,867 trees and shrubs were planted, and 747 plants were replaced for a 94.7% survival rate. Ewan credited good weather and quality stock for the success. Deer are causing problems on a site planted in 2009 for the Adams County Highway Department. Ewan said they will continue maintenance next year, possibly trying deer repellent. Piechowski asked if Golden Sands RC&D has any tree shelters. Bradley will check. Ewan said they were concerned about the site preparation done by the customer at the Antigo site, but the trees and shrubs did very well, with a success rate over 99%.

Rohde reported 16.6 miles of windbreaks were planted, broken down as follows: Adams – 10,576 feet; Langlade – 4,959 feet; Portage – 48,762 feet; Waushara – 23,550 feet; for a total of 87,847 feet. Other projects included: a 1,528 foot windbreak renovation in Portage County, fabric installation on existing customer planted trees with additional fabric sold to the customer, miscellaneous tree and shrub sales, a small tree planting, seeder rental, and seeding projects. Rohde is working on windbreak sales for 2012 and collecting final payments from landowners for 2011 windbreaks. He set up the display at the WLWCA Conference in Wisconsin Dells in early December. He will attend the WALCE Conference in February/March 2012. Licitar mentioned a living snow fence near Arkdale that was cut back. Rohde said the shrubs were planted by the CWWP in 1997. He met with the Adams County Highway Commissioner and was told the landowner cut the windbreak back from 10-

12 feet high to five feet because it was interfering with the irrigation system. Rohde said the shrubs will grow back. Rohde said Louie built up the 10 foot fabric layer, making it much sturdier. They did a trial run and feel it will work well. Parts for the repairs cost \$638.68 and labor was \$1,220.50 for a total of \$1,859.18.

Piechowski read the PUBLIC NOTICE: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.

7. **Discussion/Possible Action – Amend RC&D LTE Agreement** – The agreement amount is being increased from \$30,000 to \$36,000. The labor costs for Louie's work on the fabric layer will be transferred to the machinery account, and funds transferred from the equipment replacement account to cover the costs. Motion by Lowe, second by Hernandez to approve the amended agreement. Motion carried by voice vote. Ewan plans to return for the 2012 season and Rohde said Louie and Marty are also planning on coming back.
8. **Discussion/Possible Action – Storage Agreement with Hancock Ag Research Station** LeMere presented a letter offering storage space for tree and shrub stock, contingent upon available space. She could not guarantee availability, but is fairly certain there will be sufficient space. Guth may have access to a trailer if necessary. Motion by O'Donnell, second by Guth to approve the storage agreement. Motion carried by voice vote. The letter was signed by LeMere and Piechowski.
9. **Discussion/Possible Action – Revised Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment Practice 380** – Bradley said there are issues with NRCS standards and planting multi-species rows in windbreaks. He questions whether a request should be made to amend the standard. Rohde said the standard allows eight to 20 feet spacing between plants. He said the CWWP plants trees/shrubs eight feet apart, alternating species, resulting in each species being spaced at least 16 feet apart, which meets NRCS requirements. Rohde spoke with Greg Rebman, NRCS, who indicated there should not be a problem and the windbreaks will be eligible for cost sharing. Rohde added species being used that are not on NRCS' list must be approved. No action taken. There was discussion regarding salt damage on the trees along Interstate 39. Ewan said the white pine will not grow to full size. He added they no longer plant white or red pine along roads; spruce is being used.
10. **Discussion/Possible Action – Business Plan** – Benedict said amendments to the text were made, along with updating budget figures. Bradley stated this is an opportunity for the Board to make additions or changes. Langlade was added as a county working with the CWWP. Piechowski asked if more interest has been expressed in Langlade County. Rohde said the windbreak they installed gives more exposure to the CWWP. The soils and terrain are similar to Portage County, and the County Conservationist is willing to cost share projects for interested landowners. Hernandez questioned the reference to cost-benefit analysis on page four. Bradley said this is something that could be looked into. The benefit of reduced erosion can be calculated, but it is difficult to put a value on other benefits, such as reducing blowing sand on neighboring properties. Motion by Licitar, second by O'Donnell to approve the amendments to the Business Plan. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. Discussion/Possible Action – 2011 Plan of Work Accomplishments – Rohde reviewed 2011 accomplishments. Under Action Item B-1, Rohde said he received an email from A.J. Bussan and offered to forward to Board members. Under C-4, Benedict will replace Chuck Kostichka's name with Mary LeMere. Under C-5, a suggestion was made to send out a notice in spring announcing a late summer/early fall tour. LeMere offered to combine a tour with the water conservation event at HARS, which was held in August in 2011. Under D-4, Rohde said Jennifer Glad, RC&D, is researching possible grant funding and donations. Under E-2 and 3, Rohde stated he met with Ron Chamberlain, former Adams County Highway Commissioner, prior to his leaving the position. Rohde summarized the process Chamberlain shared for acquiring easements for living snow fences. Guth suggested making note of where snow fences are put up, especially in non cropped fields. Piechowski suggested doing a demo project.

12. Discussion/Possible Action – 2012 Plan of Work – Under D-1 and D-2, the year will be changed to 2013. Under D-5, Langlade County will be added. Motion by Guth, second by Bradley to approve the 2012 Plan of Work as amended.

13. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at the Hancock Ag Research Station.

14. Adjournment – Motion by Bradley, second by Hernandez to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary