

Tri-Creeks Land Use Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 4, 2018 – 1:00 PM
Monroe County Land Conservation Department, Sparta, WI

Those in attendance were: Eric Epstein, Dick Thiel, Bob Micheel, Inese Strazdins Epstein, Abbie Church and Ron Luethe.

Agenda items were reviewed. Use and cost of a plan writer was discussed. A rough estimate of between 10K and 15K was determined. Costs will be contingent on how complete the topics are in the plan when given to the plan writer.

Bob Micheel noted the proposed Land Use Planner position in Monroe County could apply for grants to help fund The Tri-Creeks Land Use Plan. He also stated the Monroe County Board at its November 7, 2018 meeting will approve and fund the Land Use Planner position. Everyone is encouraged to contact their Monroe County Board Supervisor and/or attend the meeting and express their support for this very important position.

We reviewed the topics/categories and individuals provided the following updates:

Archeology - Inese Strazdins Epstein – Retired Professor Ray Raser who conducted part of the archeological studies in the Tri-Creeks area has offered to locate and provide the data from the studies.

Emergency Management Services – Ron Luethe – Contacted Jim Stoikes and Chad Marti from the local Fire Department and First Responders to review the local emergency contact information and map the emergency access points for Tri-Creeks. This information will be coordinated with the Monroe County Emergency Services and other officials/jurisdictions as needed.

Existing Land Use Agreements – Bob Micheel – Dam and crop rental agreements will be reviewed early 2019. The cropland agreements are 5-year terms and to be completed February 2019 timeframe.

Recreation-Public Access Management – Ron Luethe – No updates.

Background – History – Dick Thiel and Bob Micheel – Dick has reviewed the history within the 3-ring binder provided by land conservation. Dick provided information (email attachment) of the PL-566 program. Currently trying to nail down the date(s) when the land was transferred from the federal government to the county.

Plant Communities – Eric Epstein – Eric will provide a draft of this section and provide electronic copy to Armund Bartz and Abbie Church for review. He noted plant community information could be made available through citations and links within the plan.

Wood Turtles – Dick Thiel and Eric Epstein – Carly Lappen, NW WI DNR is leading a group to continue studies of the wood Turtle.

Geophysical – Eric Epstein – Most information is available and can be compiled for use in our plan.

Bob Micheel suggested we add another category to the plan. It will be named Tri-Creek Budget. This information will be used to manage the property to include:

- Dam Management
- Cropland Management
- Invasive Species Control
- Forestry Management

Eric Epstein suggested a category named Water Systems to describe water types and water body classification. Kirk Olsen from WI DNR would be able to provide information on this topic.

Dick Thiel will provide a mammal species list of expected species found within Tri-Creeks. He noted Ben Johnston did a bat survey within the Tri-Creeks property and found many bat species.

Abbie Church stated there is a limnologist based in the Viroqua area that is currently looking for a project. Abbie will contact her to see if she would be interested in Tri-Creeks. Abbie also noted there are Old Growth Forest grants available that may be applicable within Tri-Creeks.

The next meeting of the Tri-Creek Land Use Planning Committee is scheduled for **Thursday, January 10, 2019 beginning at 1:00 PM** in the conference room at the Monroe County Land Conservation Department, 820 Industrial Drive, Suite 3, Sparta, WI.

At the next meeting we will provide updates on plan category development for the Tri-Creek Master Plan Topics/Categories, additional assignments as needed, and review of existing agreements the county has within the lands of Tri-Creeks.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ron Luethe