

Land

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because, with all of their children and family, it was now 34 people dividing 320 acres.

Heisinger said Fish & Wildlife owns 4,300 acres of land in Douglas County, with 35 percent of that land being wetlands. In Joubert Township, he said, 34 percent of what is owned is wetlands. Later in the meeting Chair Karen Blume noted that money received from the federal government was for 4,401.5 acres in Douglas County, and for 2,105 acres in Joubert Township.

Heisinger admitted that controlling Canada thistles is "a continual problem."

Heisinger said the land is not managed for geese or deer, but only for ducks. "The geese and deer and pheasants are coat-tails" who find conditions favorable.

Commissioner Merlin Van Zee said he didn't consider the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to be very good neighbors, as "in 35 years they have never fixed a fence." Also, he noted the lack of attention to Canada thistles and ditches are not mowed.

Heisinger said fencing materials are offered to the owner, but that the service does not do the work.

He added that there had been no complaints in recent years, which brought angry comments from three people in the 40-member crowd, including: "There have been no complaints because we have given up."

"Don't give up," said Heisinger, noting that he thought the thistles were "reasonably controlled."

Van Zee said while the main issue was loss of tax revenue, there are other issues, such as the increase in trouble with pheasants and deer, and that it was costing him a lot of money to treat his fields on two sides

with chemical to dissuade the birds from eating his crops.

Van Zee said the federal government pays \$1.76 per acre in taxes in Joubert Township and he pays \$10.

Also, the amount received varies by year as Congress approves the amount. From 2003-08 the amount varied from \$4,230 up to \$4,923. In 2009, it was \$11,679 and has decreased again in 2011 to \$7,733.

Jim Groppers of Fish & Wildlife, Huron, again noted that \$70,400 was offered at the time of closing in excess of the sale price. That could be invested, but does not have to be put in a trust. There are no stipulations, he said.

Blume said that money has to be paid to the schools, cities, fire districts and ambulance service.

"We're not a bank," Blume said, adding the money belongs to those other entities besides the county.

"It is a hardship to every one of these farmers," said Van Zee,

indicating the people in the room.

"It's not just Joubert Township," said former commissioner Glenn Stern. "It's the whole county. We've got expenses."

Gary Boltje agreed, noting, "It's all about tax dollars" to keep the roads open and maintained.

Commissioner Sue Denning said the county was "in dire need of tax dollars," adding that a choice between one dollar and \$10 to be brought in from the land was an easy choice.

She said it appeared that there were enough WPA acres in Joubert Township.

Valentine brought the discussion back to the Ringling family's reasons for selling the land. She said the only reason her parents left the land and moved to Omaha, Neb., back in the 1960s was due to four years of bad crops and the desire of her parents to be able to take care of their children.

LaVonne Harrom, Norfolk, Neb., also owns land in the area.

She said she owns property with her brother, Vernon Hubers, which is "sandwiched between the Federal Fish and Wildlife property and the Ringling property." She said both she and her brother favored the sale.

Valentine said she was asking the commissioners to change their negative vote to a neutral recommendation to the governor.

Commissioner Floyd Muntefering made a motion to rescind the commissioners' previous motion to oppose, noting that "we owe the Ringlings that consideration," but that died for lack of a second.

The motion to oppose made at the Aug. 16 meeting was a surprise even to Groppers, who said "this has never happened," that it would be turned down even before there was a chance to discuss it with the commissioners.

Apparently the form that had been sent to the commissioners had asked for their motion to favor, oppose or be neutral be

made at the Sept. 6 meeting. That date was not observed by the commissioners, indicating they thought they were supposed to submit it before the appearance.

The matter now goes to the governor for his consideration. Several of the commissioners had indicated during the discussion that it was unfair that they should be asked to contribute their decision to the sale.

Later, Valentine said she had been surprised at the depth of resistance and dislike of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife, noting the family had thought they were doing a good thing selling the land to the agency.

Van Zee said recently he had been assured the governor would not override the county's recommendation. At that time, he said, there was no application to override from the Ringling family.

"Evidently, we must be the first to turn the Fish & Wildlife down. He'd never heard of it before," said Van Zee.

Out On The Town

Celebrate Oktoberfest

Everyone Welcome! At The 504 W. 27th Yankton

Saturday, October 1st • 4pm-11pm

Social Hour 4:00-5:00 • Dinner 5:00-7:00
Dance 6:30-10:30 **The Bumble Bees**
Adults \$15.00 • Children: \$5.00 (under 12)

Authentic German Food
German Sausage, Pork Roast, German Potato Salad, Red Cabbage, Black Forest & German Chocolate Cupcakes

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September 29th • 6:30-9:30
Open To The Public

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- Roulette Wheel • Texas Hold-Em
- Hors D'oeuvres • Prizes
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\$10 Entry Fee Includes Chips

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Don't Miss This!!

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At Tabor ~ St. Wenceslaus Parish
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Chicken • Dressings • Dumplings • Sauerkraut
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy • Vegetable & Fruit Salad
Rolls • Kolaches • Desserts

SERVING 2:30-7:30PM
BESEDA HALL (Air Conditioned)

Raffle Prizes • Games • Concessions • Country Store
Fish Pond • Cake Walk • Sweet Shop • Many More!

Model Train Show

Sat., Oct. 1 • 10am-5pm
Sun., Oct. 2 • 10am-3pm

4-H Grounds
901 Whiting Dr., Yankton

Adults: \$4 • Children 5-12: \$1

For info, contact Francis Serr (605) 660-4237

TUESDAY STITCHERS ANNUAL BAZAAR

Peace Presbyterian Church
206 East 31st, Yankton

October 1, 2011 • 8AM-2PM

You Will Find...QUILTS, COLLECTIBLES, SPECIAL HANDMADE ITEMS AND HOMEMADE GOODIES ETC.

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Saturday, October 1st
Nebraska VS Wisconsin
7:00pm Kickoff

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\$1.75 Bottles
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Every **Wednesday 5 to 9pm**

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\$6.00 All You Can Eat
Children 4-10 \$3.00 • Under 3 free

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8AM-12:30PM

VFW Post 791
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Rural Lesterville • 605-364-7414

VFW Post 791

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Wednesday & Sunday
5-7pm - Cooks Choice
Thursday
6-7pm - Domestic Beers \$1.50
5-7pm - Hamburger/Pizza Burger & Fries \$5.00

Friday
Swedish Meatballs w/Noodles or Menu
Serving 5:30-8:00

Saturday
Verly Hahn
Serving from Menu 5:30-8:00

Bingo Wed. at 7:00pm
Sunday at 6:30pm
Happy Hour M-F 4:30-7:30

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October 1st \$25 Pays \$150
Warm-Ups 6pm, Reg. Session 6:30pm
Mgmt. has the right to make changes at any given time.

Avera Yankton Care Center

Soup Kitchen

Moose Lodge
Wed., October 5th • 11am-7pm

Serving Soups, Taverns, Hotdogs, Pies
Proceeds will go towards decorating the neighborhood for the residents.

Avera Yankton Care Center 50/50 Raffle
1 for \$1.00 6 for \$5.00
Tickets on sale October 5th - Drawing November 4th
Tickets may be purchased from any Care Center staff member

Celebrate Oktoberfest with **ESSEN, TRINKEN UND GEMÜTLICHKEIT**
[Eating, drinking, and a warm, wonderful time]

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[BEER!]

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