

**Agriculture & Extension Education/Land & Water Conservation Committee
February 14, 2011
Minutes**

Committee members present: Chairman Tom Rudolph, Bob Evsich, Romelle Vandervest, Greg Berard and Carol Pederson. Absent: Paul Dean (excused).

Others present: Dan Kuzlik, Nancy Hollands, Kari Lazars, Jim Winkler, Jean Hansen, Erica Brewster, Mike Romportl, Brian Desmond, Jim Kumbera, Tina Werres, Susan Hunter and Kerri Ison.

Gerald Luedke, Ginger and John Bowman, Shirley Ament, Nancy Smith, Leonard Osborne, David Nycz, James Kuharske, Tim Dassow and Gary Baier.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chairman Rudolph noting the meeting has been properly posted and the facility is handicap accessible.

Approve agenda: Motion by Vandervest/Evsich to approve the agenda for today's meeting with the order of items at discretion of the Chair. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve minutes: Motion by Pederson/Vandervest to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2011 minutes as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Date(s) of future meetings:

March 14, 2011	1:30 pm	Extension meeting room
April 11, 2011	1:30 pm	Extension meeting room

Lake Nokomis proposed Lake District recommendation/resolution: Romportl briefly reviewed results of the petition focusing on Exhibits #7 and #8. It was determined only 47.3% signatures were received. When the petition was initially submitted petitioners felt they received signatures from 57% (Oneida County) and 48% (Lincoln County) for total of 53%. After signatures were reviewed by Oneida County staff it was determined only 54% (Oneida County) and 37% (Lincoln County) signatures were received. Romportl indicated he spoke with the Geographic Systems Analyst in Lincoln County regarding the signature issue and believes data provided to the petitioners was from the GIS database which only carries two names. The Lincoln County tax roll is approximately 50 parcels and has more than two names listed. Oneida County staff used the tax roll data, which is what increased the number of eligible signatures.

However, the petition does qualify under land area. When looked at from the land area standpoint, signatures are used to make a determination as to whether their property makes up 51% of area. Exhibit 8 shows roughly 66% of area would be included. There has been an issue regarding the inclusion of WVIC property. Staff only included WVIC lands that are listed on the tax roll.

Pederson understands State Statutes must be followed but noted the petitioners met 51% of signatures needed according to their numbers. She questioned what other lake districts charge

their members. Rudolph indicated the Horsehead Lake total levy is approximately \$15,000 which is below the allowed ceiling.

David Nycz, President of LNCC, stated this year's project expenses would be \$88,000 (depending upon grant funding). There are approximately 1,000 property owners on Lake Nokomis. This would be the largest undertaking thus far and would cost less than \$100 per property owner. On average (he is a proponent of a flat fee not mil rate) a fee of \$50 per property owner, on an annual basis, would supply sufficient funds to take care of projects and get ahead on milfoil control.

Chairman Rudolph opened the floor to public comment, reminding the audience this is not a public hearing and a debate will not be allowed. Comments will be limited to three minutes. He also acknowledged receipt of numerous letters regarding the issue.

Public comment: John Bowman lives on Lake Nokomis and is part of LNCC. He stated the legislative process to manage lakes was setup in 1974. A lake district can reach across county boundaries and have everyone contribute to the lake. Most of the members with LNCC are getting old and tired. It takes a lot of effort to manage AIS and LNCC needs help from the county to setup a Lake District. The Ag & Extension/LWC Committee will have a supervisor assigned to the District.

Ginger Bowman stated letters are sent to property owners each year requesting donations to LNCC for milfoil control. Some donate, some don't -- this would be a way for everyone to contribute.

Jim Kuharske lives on Woodsmoke Drive. He believes if you take away the WVIC acreage, the petition would not meet qualifications. He stated that WVIC doesn't pay taxes. He believes WVIC acreage should be removed and include only property owners who actually pay taxes.

Leonard Osborne doesn't live on the lake, doesn't have access to the lake and doesn't use the lake. He feels it's unfair to be included.

Romportl clarified that part of the subdivision (30-40 parcels) west of Boomba is included in the petition and the proposed Lake District boundaries were set by the petitioners.

Gerald Luedke stated that many laws are Statutes that have unintended consequences. WVIC carries the weight to make the petition pass. They are tax exempt and he believes WVIC will not pay one penny towards the district that will affect the rest of the taxpayers. He hopes this Committee does what is right and fair and reject the petition.

Tim Dassow opposes the petition. WVIC is tax exempt and should not sway the vote. This is a highly controversial issue and believes the Lake District can be dissolved with a 2/3 vote.

Gary Baier stated milfoil has had a big effect on Lake Nokomis and the LNCC has worked hard in managing the waters. Milfoil is becoming a bigger problem and more assistance is needed. Baier, as Town Chair, signed a letter of support in order for the LNCC to apply for grant funding.

The Town of Nokomis has donated matching funds to help them apply for grant funding because LNCC is not a Lake District. He believes WVIC should be the biggest player in lake quality. If County Board approves the petition, he will fight to see that WVIC does become a part of LNCC and supports the idea of a flat fee for all lake property owners. Hopefully an annual payment from WVIC can be established although most of the lake frontage they are claiming is under water. Town officials are there to help whichever way the vote goes.

David Nycz, President of LNCC, stated no one here is above the law. LNCC has met the requirements of the WI State Statute and, whether it seems fair or not, WVIC has the right to sign the petition. No one from the Ag & Extension/LWC Committee or any other boards or any opponents of the petition have attended the LNCC meetings (which are held the second Saturday of each month) to discuss the issue.

Nancy Smith has been a member of LNCC for 15 years. The LNCC is only there to protect the lake and to make it a beautiful place to live -- not to get a big amount of money out of anyone.

Public comment closed.

Desmond indicated this Committee must approve or deny this as a viable petition and forward a resolution to County Board for consideration. Either way reasons must be included in the resolution for approval or denial. This Committee may forward the petition to County Board without a recommendation; however, he noted it would not be well received. Resolutions have been drafted to approve or deny for Committee consideration.

Pederson questioned if a Lake District is approved, can the Lake District Board decide not to charge residents in the district that do not have lake access. Desmond noted County Board can remove or add parcels to the map but if properties are added another public hearing must be held. Committee discussion followed.

Motion by Pederson/Vandervest to approve the petition for the Lake Nokomis Lake District and forward the resolution on to County Board for approval. Discussion followed. Desmond noted that in order to have an official written order on file this resolution must go to County Board in March (in case this resolution fails at the County Board level). Vandervest believes it will be a highly debated issue on the County Board floor. Baier noted the petitioners have met the requirements of State Statute.

Berard voiced his hope that if this petition passes, opponents will get involved in their lake. Baier invited Berard to tour Lake Nokomis with him. He also noted it is hard to vote in favor of a new tax in these economic times and hopes we will be able to come back as a community.

Roll call vote: Berard-aye; Pederson-aye; Vandervest-aye; Rudolph-aye; Evsich-aye. Motion carried. Rudolph noted the absence of Dean due to illness.

Monthly budget report(s): Motion by Vandervest/Berard to approve the monthly budget reports for the periods ending 12/31/10 (Close 1 report) and 1/31/2011 for UWEX. All ayes; motion carried.

Hollands reviewed the LWC budget reports in detail noting line item transfers are necessary. Motion by Pederson/Vandervest to approve the budget reports for the periods ending 12/31/10 (Close 1 report) and 1/31/11. All ayes; motion carried.

Monthly invoices: Motion by Vandervest/Evsich to approve the UWEX monthly invoices as presented. Discussion followed. All ayes; motion carried.

Motion by Vandervest/Berard to approve the Oneida County Fair monthly invoices as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Hollands reviewed list of invoices in detail for LWC. She noted the DNR has extended the 2010 AIS grant to 12/31/11. Motion by Pederson/Evsich to approve the monthly invoices as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Fair update: Werres noted a two-year carnival contract with KM Amusements has been received. Members are also working on contracts for lead bands. Two additional applications have been received for committee membership. If approved today, all positions will be filled. Fair Secretary, Melanie Ostermann took first place at State Convention for the scrapbook she made for the 2010 Oneida County Fair. The Fair Committee is now meeting the first Thursday of the month at the Curran Building. Their meeting date was changed to coincide better with the Ag & Extension/LWC Committee meetings. The Fair Committee is currently negotiating a vending contract with the Rhinelander Area Chamber of Commerce.

Approve fair committee members: Motion by Vandervest/Evsich to approve the application of Jim Perlberg and Mark Pelletier pending proper background checks. All ayes; motion carried.

Line item transfers: Motion by Vandervest/Pederson to approve the 2010 line item transfers for UWEX presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Motion by Vandervest/Berard to approve the 2010 line items transfers for the Oneida County Fair as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Hollands reviewed line item transfers in detail for LWC and AIS. Motion by Pederson/Vandervest to approve the 2010 line item transfers for LWC/AIS as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

AIS Coordinator vacancy: Kuzlik noted we are about 1½ months into the six-month mandatory vacancy period for the AIS Coordinator. Kuzlik indicated Potters is unwilling to waive the entire six-month vacancy period and suggested that Potters attend the next meeting to discuss the issue. Rudolph felt that action needs to be taken on this vacancy otherwise we will be into the summer season before the hiring process can begin. Rudolph reminded Committee members that Oneida County has received a DNR grant and we don't have a staff member to fulfill the deliverables. If objectives cannot be fulfilled, additional grant monies may not be awarded in the future. Rudolph is unhappy with the progress thus far. Discussion followed.

4H Secretary vacancy: Kuzlik reported the 4-H Secretary position has been vacant since the beginning of October. He felt a waiver of the six-month mandatory vacancy period was not attainable. Potters will be asked to discuss this issue at the next meeting as well.

County cost share program update/approval: Hansen has been working with the DATCP engineer. She has also begun working with Frito Lay but needs further contact with them. She has met with the contractor for a project on Lake Tomahawk to bring in rock now and begin work in the spring. All of the cost share reimbursements have been submitted to DATCP. Hansen has received job approval status from DATCP.

LWRM Plan: Hollands noted LWC is working with North Central WI Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) and developing committees to work on the Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) plan. The Technical Advisory Committee will be made up of representatives from the same departments as last time. A Citizens Advisory Committee, made up of 5-6 people (i.e. farm owner, representative from the Lakes and Rivers Association, representative from Northwoods Land Trust, a county board supervisor and two citizen members), will also be formed. The Citizens Advisory Committee members will need to attend a few meetings and review chapters of the proposed LWRM plan. Kuzlik will facilitate the meetings. Discussion followed. Motion by Vandervest/Berard for Hollands to offer positions on the LWRM Citizens Advisory Committee to Guy Hansen, Matt Matteson, and Tom Rulesh. The LWRM plan is due in October but NCWRPC would like to have it completed in August for DATCP review. Rudolph noted past LWRM plans have been on a five-year cycle but most counties are now switching to a 10-year cycle with a review after five years.

State WACEC Conference: The Annual State WACEC Conference will be held 3/28-30/11 in Madison. Rudolph urged all committee members to attend. This is an excellent time to gain information about the entire Cooperative Extension program. It also gives committee members an opportunity to meet with legislators to discuss Extension and other issues. Appointments have been set up with Holperin, Meyer and Tiffany. Registrations should be turned into Ison by the end of the week. Registration deadline is 3/6/11.

Agent reports:

Hansen has been working with WHIP, data mapping of terrestrial invasives, worked with Pete Wegner from zoning regarding NR115, and worked with Vilas County on a native vegetation list.

Hollands has been working on year-end reimbursements for cost share grants and noted Oneida County will receive \$113,000 in staffing reimbursements from DATCP. She has also spent time on the Lake Nokomis project and draft resolutions and has worked with NCWRPC to get the LWRM plan project underway. Hollands received notification from WLWCA that Cael Steinmetz's poster received a first place award in the K-1 Division at the NACD national poster contest. The poster should be returned in mid-March and a press release will be done. Hollands also circulated an article announcing Kevin Gauthier has been selected as employee of the year. He is the local DNR employee who reviews grants submitted for DNR funding. She also provided statistics regarding deer donations over the past years.

Winkler asked for Committee support in the filling of the 4-H Secretary position, noting he is behind on programming due to the vacancy. He recently attended an energy conference and is working to implement STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math curriculum) in the Lakeland area schools. Teen Court had three cases in January with none scheduled for February. Winkler is working with the School District of Rhinelander to obtain a \$3 million mental health grant. The goal would be to have one of the local clinics set up a mental health unit at the school.

Pederson noted she is a charter mentor of MOCK (Mentoring Oneida County Kids) and is still working with it four years later. There are 70+ mentors that are currently working with 4th-9th grade students and a waiting list of 15 more youth. Kids are excited to meet with their mentors. Winkler noted his goal is for every school district in the county to have a K-12 mentoring program.

Hansen was excused at 3:32 p.m.

Brewster provided statistics from the Key Ingredients Smithsonian exhibit noting it was a phenomenal success. Over 2,000 visitors signed the guest book representing 40 Wisconsin cities, 21 states and Canada. She is currently teaching "Raising a Thinking Child" parenting classes in Three Lakes and is working with Family Resource Connection and MHLT School to train some trainers to offer parenting classes for parents of children ages 3-8. Committee members commended Brewster for her work on the Smithsonian Exhibit.

Kuzlik invited Committee members to attend the 4th Annual Business Expo sponsored by the Northwoods I&E Club at the Northwoods Banquet Center on 2/16/11 from 5-8 p.m. Admission and hors d'oeuvres are free. The event is a good opportunity for businesses to network with each other and for the public to see what vendors have to offer. The 4th Annual Research Summit will be held 03/03/11 at Treehaven. This event showcases area research facilities/issues and lets the community and policy makers know what is happening in the research arena. This year's theme is "It's Not Easy Being Green".

Out-of-county travel requests:

Hansen:

Date TBD	Work on native vegetation list	Vilas County*
3/21/11	2011 DATCP training	Wausau*

Hollands:

3/2-4/11	WALCE Conference	WI Rapids*
3/21/11	2011 DATCP training	Wausau*

Kuzlik:

3/9-11/11	UWEX Dept. Head meetings	Stevens Point*
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Winkler:

Dates TBD	Visit Lac du Flambeau/AVW Schools for summer Science Academy	Vilas County*
3/15/11	Northern/Western District 4H meeting	Eau Claire*

Ison:
3/17/11 Administrative Assistant's Conference Wausau*

Committee:
2/4/11 WACEC District 4 meeting Ashland*
3/28-30/11 WACEC State Conference Madison*

*county expense
**district/state expense

Motion by Evsich/Berard to approve the out-of-county travel requests as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Vandervest excused at 3:42 p.m.

Agency reports:

FSA: Susan Hunter reviewed written report. The FSA program is operating on a continuing resolution which expires in March, but she expects it to be continued until the 2012 budget if finalized. Hunter expects that agriculture will be cut significantly at that time.

LWCB: Rudolph reported on the 2/1/11 meeting where there was considerable discussion on potential legislative concerns. Election of officers was also held and he was re-elected as Vice Chair. LWCB is sponsoring a forum on the implementation of NR115 at the county level and the revision of shoreland protection ordinances. The forum will be held in Wausau on 04/04/11 at 1 p.m. The agenda is currently being developed. Presenters include Karl Jennrich (Oneida County Zoning Administrator), Rebecca Frisch (Langlade County Zoning Administrator), and Bob Martini (Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association). Rudolph urged committee members to attend the forum if possible.

WLWCA: Rudolph attended the NACD Conference in Nashville, TN as the Wisconsin delegate of WLWCA. A resolution from Wisconsin regarding Asian carp was approved.

OCEDC: Jim Kumbera reported the sewer is being dug today for Speedy Delivery facility with the hopes for a certificate of occupancy by the end of the week. An open house will be held soon and all county board members will be invited. ABX is about 45 days behind in construction due to dirt removal issues. The new target date to pour the floor is 3/15/11 if frost is gone. The roof is partially complete but side walls have not been put up.

Canadian National appears to be looking at abandonment of rail from Rhinelander to Goodman. This section has not been used for almost five years because rail is undersized and the rail and bed are in poor condition. They are also exploring discontinuing use of rail from Prentice to Cameron as some of line is down to 5 mph per some sources. This puts Rhinelander in a precarious position as the CN has already made an attempt to have a short line railroad service

the line to Rhinelander. Having a short line service Rhinelander may increase prices and make the line less complete. Wausau Paper, Northwoods Distribution, ABX, NEX/American Plastics and Oldenburg Group are very dependent on this line. This could have dire effects on about 750 local jobs if this line is no longer complete. One of the profitability issues on the Rhinelander Line is no backhaul from Rhinelander and the railroads are required to simply reposition cars at their cost. Railroads typically work under the premises if rail isn't used and a profit is not being made there is a chance of losing it. Alternatives will need to be investigated to help support regional transportation issues.

Kumbera is looking at developing a super yard for logging and has spoken with the Timber Producers Association regarding the issue. The best site would be east of Rhinelander but would need a rail siding and rail upgrade. Total cost is approximately \$6 million. Federal and state monies are not available and local elected officials will have to make a difficult decision in order to keep jobs in the region.

Advertising will begin for Kumbera's position in March. He will retire on 10/7/11. He has enjoyed his time with OCEDC but it's time to move on. He believes it will be difficult to fill the position with an experienced individual at the pay rate.

The DRI storefront renovation projects are progressing well and the Corporation has referred several business loans and microloans for approval. Wausau Paper and Oldenburg Group are hiring; Printpack continues to do well as most all other manufacturers in the county.

Oneida County's niche for further growth will be its sustainable business park. Kumbera believes we are seeing a slight recovery in the County's economy and the County must place themselves in a position for new growth potentials in the next two to three years.

Public comment: No additional comments.

Items for next agenda: AIS Coordinator and 4-H secretary vacancies (invite John Potters), line item transfers.

Adjournment: Motion by Evsich/Berard at 4:25 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Submitted by,

Kerri Ison, Recording Secretary

Romelle Vandervest, Vice Chair