

Agriculture & Extension Education/Land & Water Committee
Minutes
April 9, 2012

Committee members present: Chair Tom Rudolph, Paul Dean, Carol Pederson, Greg Berard, Clint Zimbeck and Romelle Vandervest.

Others present: Jean Hansen, Michele Sadauskas, Erica Brewster, Tina Werres, Roger Luce (OCEDC), Phil Puestow (DNR), Marcus Neseemann (River News) and Kerri Ison.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 1 p.m. by Chairman Rudolph noting the meeting was posted according to the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law and the facility is handicap accessible.

Approve agenda: Motion Dean/Vandervest to approve the agenda as presented with the order of agenda items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve minutes: Motion by Dean/Vandervest to approve the minutes of 3/12/12 as presented. All aye; motion carried.

Date(s) of future meetings:

5/7/12 1:30 p.m. Extension meeting room

DNR Tree shipping/tree planter rental: Phil Puestow reported they have received orders for 52,705 trees (mostly red/white pine) to be planted in Oneida County this year. If they are able to combine the order with the Northern Highland Forest, shipping costs may be reduced. Trees will arrive 4/24/12. Two landowners may be interested in renting the tree planter.

Fair update: Tina Werres thanked Brewster in helping secure a laptop from the County, old copier from the UWEX office and assisting with a rewrite of the small entertainment contract and operational guidelines. Currently there are four openings on the Fair Planning Team. Kim Swisher is helping by sending out an electronic newsletter, *Fairly Good News*. Vendor letters will be mailed this week; sponsor letters will be mailed next week. Discussion followed. Brewster reminded Committee members that a liaison to the Fair Planning Team will need to be appointed once Committees are reorganized.

Agency reports:

- Lake Districts: Rudolph reported the Horsehead Lake District meeting will be 4/12/12 in Lake Tomahawk.
- FSA: A printed report was provided. It was noted the FSA will be down to one or no permanent employees in the Rhinelander office.
- OCEDC: Luce reported OCEDC is the administrator for the Oneida County revolving loan program. WEDC wants to have only 10 programs in the state, following the regional planning boundaries. All funds will eventually be put into a regional fund. DOA is seeking administrators for the Housing portion of the block grant program. Luce will be proposing that OCEDC becoming the program administrator for the fund in a consortium of 12 counties as it could be a profit center for OCEDC. There is a party interested in the former Solon building and work continues on project Top Hat. A decision is expected by the end of

the month. The County Board Chair appointed two supervisors to the Northwoods Rail. Four new counties have joined and four counties from the Upper Peninsula are also interested in being involved.

- LWCB: Rudolph attended LWCB meeting in Madison last week. Three LWRM plans were approved and discussion focused on the county allocations. They plan to develop a working group and bring in stakeholders to discuss county allocations, how funds should be allocated and how to generate more support.
- WLWCA: Rudolph reported Jim VandenBrook has been hired as the new director and starts 5/7/12. He plans is currently the Resource Planning and Water Quality Section Chief at DATCP and is a former county conservationist.
- RC&D: Rudolph reported RC&D will be reviewing additional project proposals at the 4/20/12 meeting. The current RC&D President has been elected to the Lincoln County Board; however, an elected official is unable to serve on RC&D as a member at large. This issue will need to be addressed.

Monthly staff reports:

- Brewster indicated the Sheriff's Department experienced budget cuts for 2012 and are unable to fund inmate education. She recently completed a four-session life skills training at the Oneida County Jail noting participants are very respectful and engaging. Evaluation results were discussed. Brewster is hoping to recruit additional facilitators and is also working with her state liaison to offer high impact classes for inmates.

Pederson was excused at 2:35 p.m.

- Hansen noted the cost-share program is gearing up. LWC/UWEX staff will host an Earth Day Celebration at the Courthouse on 4/19/12. Booths/displays will be set up in the County Board Room from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a tree planting ceremony on the Courthouse Lawn at noon.
- Sadauskas began working with NCSS students on the Manson Lake project which includes mapping curly leaf pondweed and water quality. She shared three posters that will be on display at the WI Lakes Conference in Green Bay this week.
- Vandervest noted the CANTastic event will be held at the Trig's Riverwalk Center beginning on 4/14/12. Theme this year is "Shine a Light on Hunger" and all food is donated to RAFF.

Out-of-county travel requests:

Brewster:

4/25-5/14/12	Leadership Academy	Milwaukee**
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Hansen:

4/20/12	Lumberjack RC&D meeting	Forest County*
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Winkler:

4/11-12/12	JCEP Conference	Stevens Point*
7/7-15/12	Citizenship Washington Focus (mileage to/from Wausau, meals to/from DC)	Washington, DC*

Verres:

4/19/12 District Fair Meeting Oconto*

Committee:

4/20/12 Lumberjack RC&D meeting Forest County*

*county expense

**district/state expense

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

Approve monthly budget reports:

- Motion by Vandervest/Dean to approve the UWEX budget report for the period ending 12/31/11-Close 3 Report as presented. All ayes; motion carried.
- Motion by Vandervest/Dean to approve the LWC budget reports for the period ending 12/31/11-Close 3 Reports as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve monthly invoices:

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

DATCP Grant Application for Calendar Year 2013: Hansen noted the cost-share grant is due 4/15/12. Discussion followed regarding funding history. Motion by Vandervest/Zimbeck to request \$100,000 in cost share grant funding. All ayes; motion carried.

The staffing grant is also due 4/15/12. Hansen noted the initial request for staffing grants will be submitted using 2011 budget figures. If necessary the request can be amended prior to 6/30/12. Rudolph voiced concern that a commitment to fill the County Conservationist needs to be made to avoid loss of funding. Discussion followed. Committee members voiced their desire to have a full-time conservationist on board since it is a funded 100% by DATCP. Motion by Vandervest/Berard to reaffirm the Committee's intent to hire a full-time County Conservationist. Four ayes/one abstained; motion carried.

Motion by Vandervest/Zimbeck to approve the 2013 DATCP grant application and appoint Committee Chair as signatory. All ayes; motion carried.

Environmental Education Scholarships:

Motion by Vandervest/Berard to approve the environmental scholarships grant for youth and teachers. All ayes; motion carried.

County Conservationist/CNRED Agent positions update: County Conservationist position was discussed previously.

Brewster received salary figures for the CNRED position from the District Director and plans to meet with the HR Director to discuss hiring options. She also wishes to assess community needs to assist with hiring preferences. Motion by Berard/Vandervest noting it is the Committee's desire to pursue hiring a CNRED agent and that Brewster work with UWEX regarding time commitment. All ayes; motion carried.

WI Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative grant: During 2011, LWC assisted with two managed grazing plans. Hansen discussed the opportunity to apply for funding from the WI Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative grant to assist in future projects. This an opportunity to reach out to small scale farmers to offer grazing plans which are environmentally friendly and a benefit to the farmers and animals. The educational outreach scope will include Oneida and Vilas Counties, relying on each specific LWC Department for technical assistance. Hansen provided a draft of the 2012 application for the period of July 2012 to October 2014. Applications are due 4/23/12. Motion by Vandervest/Berard to approve the submission of the WI Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative grant. All ayes; motion carried.

County-cost share program update/approval: Cost share estimates for the McClaren grazing plan were provided. Motion by Vandevest/Berard to approve the low-cost estimate of \$34,658 (50% cost share) for Bruce McClaren as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Public comment: Brewster provided registration information for the Annual WACEC Convention scheduled for 6/25-26/12 in Green Bay.

Items for next agenda: Fair update, County Conservationist and CNRED position updates.

Adjournment: Motion by Vandervest/Berard to adjourn at 3:53 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Ison, Recording Secretary

Tom Rudolph, Chair