

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
September 10, 2012
Minutes

Committee present: Chair Tom Rudolph, Jim Intrepidi, Bob Martini, Bob Mott and Clint Zimbeck. Excused: Greg Berard.

Others present: Jean Hansen, Michele Sadauskas, Roger Luce (OCEDC), Holly Schepp, Michael Stinebrink (NRCS), Erica Brewster, Kari Lazars and Kerri Ison.

Call to order: Rudolph called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Approve agenda: Motion by Martini/Mott to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve minutes: Motion by Martini/Mott to approve the minutes of 8/13/12 as corrected and the Joint LRES/CUW Committee meeting minutes of 7/25/12. All ayes; motion carried.

Date(s) of future meetings:

10/8/12	1:30 pm	Extension meeting room
11/12/12	1:30 pm	Extension meeting room

Fair update: Brewster reported Tina Werres has retired; leadership will be revised at the October Fair Planning Team meeting. Although wristband sales increased and attendance was good this year, the Fair overspent their budget allocation. After speaking with the Finance Director, a line item transfer from the UWEX budget can be used to cover the overage as the Fair is considered a project.

Agency reports:

- OCEDC: Luce reported the County Board approved the loan for the expansion at ABX allowing them to add a new machine and double the size of their workforce over the next 12-18 months. He will be working with the County Clerk's office regarding the drawdown schedule. It is expected the land transfer for Printpack will take place Wednesday morning with construction beginning that afternoon. The City purchased access off Hwy. 17. Property transfers for the landowner, Printpack and Oneida County will be done via quit claim deed. OCEDC is working with two other packaging manufacturers regarding relocation to Oneida County. An agreement has been reached regarding the sale of the former Solon Manufacturing facility. Luce thanked everyone for their well wishes during his medical leave.
- Lake Districts: Intrepidi noted the Lake Nokomis Lake District group met with almost 200 in attendance. Three commissioners were elected and a \$56 annual fee per land owner was approved. Another meeting will be held next week. Rudolph noted the Horsehead Lake District met on 8/13/12. Weed harvesting was completed

under budget and largemouth bass have been planted. The District's tax levy remains relatively the same as in 2011.

- NRCS: Stinebrink provided written report dated August 2012 and reviewed available programs. The NRCS office remains open five days per week with full staff; FSA has reduced their hours to Monday and Tuesday. There is a local working group meeting on 9/11/12 at 10 a.m. to provide recommendations on local natural resource priorities and criteria for conservation activities and programs.
- FSA: Zimbeck noted this month's meeting has been cancelled and rescheduled for the end of October.
- LWCB: Rudolph reported an officer's conference call will be held on 9/11/12 to discuss the agenda, allocation issues and future forums. The next meeting is scheduled for 10/2/12.
- WLWCA: Rudolph reported a full board meeting was held 8/27/12 in Stevens Point. Committee structure for the newly merged organization and plans for the annual meeting in October were discussed.
- RC&D: Rudolph reported the next Council meeting is scheduled for 10/17/12 in Lincoln County. State Association meeting is scheduled for 10/25/12 in Stevens Point. The Lumberjack Executive Committee met recently to review policy and funding of grants for the coming year as well as budget. Interviews were held for a part-time office assistant (eight hours/week) to fill in for the Executive Director.

Monthly staff reports:

- Hansen has been working on cost-share designs and has been meeting weekly with the roadside survey LTE. LWCD plans to apply for another RC&D grant through WHIP for a terrestrial invasive management plan.
- Sadauskas attended a court case for an AIS violation on Manson Lake; a penalty of approximately \$175 was enforced. Staff will be working with the CHAMPS Afterschool Program for six weeks. Staff monitored Lonestone Lake for Eurasian water milfoil last week. They were pleased with results following the weed pulling project done earlier this year.
- Lazars shared the Backpack Program survey results/statistics including families/children served and pounds of food distributed. Donations are made to the RAFP specifically for this program.
- Schepp reported the 4H clubs voted to merge into one club in an effort to grow the local program. A brainstorming meeting was held 9/9/12. The first official meeting will be held 9/23/12. The 2012 plat books were distributed to resellers throughout the County.
- Brewster piloted a grant writing class and hopes to build on this topic and offer a workshop in the future.

C.O.O.L. (Cleaning Our Oneida Lakes) sponsorship: Martini reported the Lenard family and friends have been cleaning up Oneida County lakeshores each summer for several years. These students are now in college and unable to continue. Martini suggested this would be a good community service project for 4H youth or other high

school-age youth in the community. Schepp and Brewster will do some investigating and Schepp will discuss it with the new 4H club. Mott suggested soliciting area summer camps for assistance.

Out-of-county travel requests:

Brewster:

9/7/12	Nutrition Ed program for Special Olympics	St. Germain
9/18-21/12	Leadership Academy III	Superior*

Hansen:

10/4-5/12	County Conservationist Meeting	WI Rapids
10/17/12	Lumberjack RC&D	Lincoln County

Committee:

10/4-5/12	WLWCA Annual meeting	WI Rapids
10/17/12	Lumberjack RC&D	Lincoln County
10/26/12	Regional Speaking/Poster Contest	Marathon County

*district/state expense

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

Approve monthly budget reports:

- Motion by Intrepidi/Mott to approve the LWCD monthly budget report for the period ending 7/31/12 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.
- Motion by Martini/Intrepidi to approve the UWEX monthly budget reports for the periods ending 7/31/12 and 8/31/12 as presented. All ayes; motion carried

Approve monthly invoices:

- Motion by Mott/Martini to approve the LWCD invoices as presented. All ayes; motion carried.
- Motion by Martini/Intrepidi to approve the invoices for the Oneida County Fair as presented. All ayes; motion carried.
- Motion by Mott/Intrepidi to approve the UWEX invoices as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

2013 staffing requests:

- Discussion was held regarding staffing issues and budgetary concerns for the Fair. Brewster requested a revision to the Fair Secretary LTE request approved last month, changing the position to Fair Treasurer LTE to maintain project accounting. The request is for 400 hours/year at \$8.92/hour. The Fair Planning Team has a volunteer recording secretary who records meeting minutes; much of the paperwork is set needing only minor updates each year. Discussion followed. Motion by

Mott/Intrepidi to approve the revised staffing request for the Fair Treasurer LTE and forward to LRES for approval. All ayes; motion carried.

- Brewster requested a wage reduction for the Fair Manager LTE position approved last month in order to meet the 2013 budget request. She noted much of the framework for the event is in place and additional delegation of duties could be done. Discussion followed. Motion by Mott/Intrepidi to approve the Fair Manager LTE position at a pay rate of \$12/hour for 400 hours and forward to LRES for approval. All ayes; motion carried.
- Northwoods Saves (NWS), the non-profit financial counseling program housed within UWEX, provides mandated counseling for the Tri-County Foreclosure Mediation program and homebuyer education program. The financial education component of the program also assists the Family Living Program in Oneida County, allowing Brewster to focus programming in other areas. NWS is housed in the UWEX office and is funded by donations and grants. The program is hitting a tipping point between fundraising and providing services. Brewster requested 400 hours of funding to help support this program. UWEX is coming in under budget as 40% of the Secretary III position is now part of LWCD budget and reimbursed through DATCP funding. Brewster also presented a request for a 400 hour secretarial LTE to assist both departments during busy times. Motion by Martini/Intrepidi to approve both LTE requests as presented and forward to LRES for approval. All ayes; motion carried.

County Conservationist position: Brewster presented resolution appointing Jean Hansen as the County Conservationist effective 12/3/12 and placing her at Step 2, Grade Level 11 on the Non-represented Classification and Pay Plan. Motion by Martini/Mott to approve the resolution and forward to LRES for approval. All ayes; motion carried.

Update on CRD agent position: Brewster reported preliminary interviews for the CRD agent position were held last Friday. All four candidates were invited to participate in final interviews which are scheduled for 10/2/12 beginning at 9:30 a.m. Jim Intrepidi and Bob Martini will be participating in the interview process.

Clint Zimbeck was excused at 3:58 p.m.

Approve 2013 budgets:

- Hansen reviewed the LWC proposed 2013 budgets in detail. Sadauskas reviewed the AIS portion in detail. Discussion followed. Motion by Intrepidi/Martini to approve the 2013 proposed budget as presented. All ayes; motion carried.
- Brewster reviewed the UWEX and Fair 2013 proposed budgets in detail, noting the budget was prepared based on the office remaining at the Airport. Lengthy discussion followed. Martini noted it is important to communicate to the Fair Planning Team to take a major look at the mission of the fair and accomplishment of

goals. Motion by Martini/Intrepidi to approve the UWEX and Oneida County Fair 2013 budgets as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

LWCD membership dues: Hansen noted the only dues not paid in 2012 were the SOC dues. Those are included in the 2013 proposed budget.

County cost-share program change order authorization: Hansen noted sometimes changes are made to cost-share contracts affecting the final cost. In such cases, both the landowner and the County must sign each change order. Currently the Committee Chair is authorized as county signatory. Hansen requested authorization to sign change orders to help expedite the process. Discussion followed. It was agreed to leave the current process in place.

County cost-share program update/approval: Hansen requested the Chair be authorized to approve low-cost estimates for county cost-share projects for the period 09/01-12/31/12 to help expedite the process of allocating cost share dollars. Motion by Martini/Intrepidi to authorize the chair to sign the low-cost estimates through the end of the year. All ayes; motion carried.

Public comment: Hansen provided nomination information on the awards from WI Conservation Board. Deadline is 12/31/12.

Items for next agenda: Update on positions, WI Conservation board nominations.

Adjournment: Motion by Intrepidi/Mott to adjourn at 5 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Ison, Recording Secretary

Thomas Rudolph, Chair