

**MINUTES OF THE  
LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
February 20, 2008**

**Members Present:** Chairman Tom Rudolph, Wilbur Petroskey, Matt Matteson, Jack Martinson, Guy Hansen, and Rod Kuczmariski

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Nancy Hollands (County Conservationist); Jean Hansen (Conservation Specialist); Tom Melnarik (NRCS Soil Conservation Technician); Bill Ludwig (Wildlife Damage Consultant); Jeff Maxted (Research Specialist UW-Madison)

***Call to Order***

Chairman Rudolph called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room #1 of the Oneida County Courthouse. He noted that the meeting of the Land and Water Conservation Committee has been properly noticed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law and meets the Americans with Disabilities Act.

***Approve Agenda/Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings***

Motion by Guy Hansen, second by Petroskey to approve the current agenda and minutes from the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting as amended with the order of agenda items at the discretion of the Chairman. Motion carried, all ayes.

***Set date for next meeting***

Chairman Rudolph noted the next meeting dates would be Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. and Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

***Public Comments***

None

***Wildlife Damage Program***

***a. Wildlife Damage Consultant Contract for 2008***

Hollands reported the LRES Committee approved the Wildlife Damage Consultant contract at their January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting contingent upon Corporation Counsel review and approval of the contract. Brian Desmond, Corporate Counsel, is in the process of reviewing and updating the contract with Bill Ludwig, Wildlife Damage Consultant.

***b. Wildlife Damage Claim for Kuczmariski Farms***

Ludwig reported about 23% of Kuczmariski's acreage has been affected by deer damage. Ludwig stated that the price of potatoes has gone up. The final claim payment was \$11,518.37. Hollands reported that Ron Eckstein stated that Kuczmariski Farms has met the deer shooting permit requirement. The deer herd numbers are down. Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey to approve the Wildlife Damage claim payment for Kuczmariski Farms in the amount of \$11,518.37. Motion carried, all ayes. (Rod Kuczmariski abstained from voting on his claim.) The wildlife damage claim will be submitted to DNR for payment.

Hollands reported that DNR approved Oneida County's Wildlife Damage Program Budget for calendar year 2008.

***County Cost Share Program***

Jean Hansen reported the Paul Ebert project would be eligible for a DNR – Targeted Resource Management (TRM) Grant. The project would have additional benefit if his neighbor were also included in this project. Ebert will discuss the project with his neighbor. Jean stated that we would recommend stream barbs for this project - three if the neighbor participates, or two if only Ebert participates. The water would be diverted to the center of the stream rather than along the shoreline. This project would cost a minimum of \$50,000.00.

The Wiznerowicz project is on Lake Nokomis. Rock would be put out in early March or April. Jean is working on a planting plan for the Mason project. This project will be rebid this spring. It was bid last fall, but there was a 60-day limit on the bid cost.

Jean gave an update on the Upper Post Lake Project for Pat Broukal. They have a DNR permit to place rock on the shore. The landowner needs to replace or fix the rock that is there. Jean will check with the DNR on what they will allow. The viewing area was clear cut and caused erosion. There was previous flood damage on this site.

Jean stated that she would like to get the word out that we have cost-sharing funds available for planting plans. We could work with the Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association to advertise for planting plans. Jean indicated that we would do a variety of rockwork projects and planting plans. Jean also reported on the Conservation Planning Certification Training she recently attended.

### ***County Conservation Youth Camp***

Hollands reported that plans are being made to hold a summer conservation camp at the North Lakeland Discovery Center in Manitowish Waters. Hollands stated that she received a call from Maggie Ortlieb, Program Director. They wanted to know if Oneida County would be interested in assisting with the camp. Motion by Guy Hansen, second by Matteson to sponsor two students to attend the conservation camp. Motion carried, all ayes.

### ***Report on AIS Research Wisconsin Idea Project Grant (Jeff Maxted)***

Jeff Maxted, Research Specialist at the Center for Limnology at UW-Madison, reported they have been approved for a three-year grant project, which is funded under the Ira and Ineva Reilly Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Endowment. They will partner with Oneida County, UW-EXT and DNR on this project. They will be hiring a graduate student to work on this project. The goal of the project is to develop avenues for effectively applying recent research from the Center for Limnology to on-the ground invasive species management. They will study and identify which Oneida County lakes are vulnerable to aquatic invasive species, share this information with lake associations and districts, and look at prevention measures. They will create a web-based tool for citizens to gain access to lake vulnerability information.

### ***Soil & Water Stewardship Week, April 27 – May 4, 2008***

Hollands reported that Soil and Water Stewardship Week would be observed during the week of April 27 – May 4. In the past, we had ordered 5,000 bulletin inserts, 2,500 bookmarks, and an informational packet. Rudolph and Petroskey expressed their support for the purchase of the Stewardship materials for 2008. Motion by Rudolph, second by Matteson to authorize the purchase of Stewardship materials for 2008. Motion carried. Guy Hansen voted no. Guy Hansen stated we should purchase AIS placemats. Hollands reported that we plan to order AIS placemats at a late date.

### ***Lumberjack RC&D Project – Farm Fresh Atlas***

Matteson reported that ten counties are involved with Lumberjack RC&D. They are in the process of developing an atlas of farm producers, forest products companies, food related businesses, and individuals selling locally produced products. The purpose of this atlas is to provide a method of advertising for individuals wanting to market their locally grown or locally made products. The deadline for placing advertisements in the Farm Fresh Atlas is May 31<sup>st</sup>. Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey to approve sending letters to perspective businesses interested in being included in the Farm Fresh Atlas, and a press release modeled after Langlade County's example. Motion carried, all ayes.

### ***Update on AIS Coordinator Position Vacancy***

Hollands reported that the LRES Committee authorized proceeding with filling the AIS Coordinator position at their January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. It was posted on the union bulletin board at the courthouse for five days. Two employees signed the posting for this position. The LRES Department determined these employees didn't meet the job qualifications for the AIS Coordinator position. The position will be opened up to the general public. An ad will be placed in the local newspapers advertising the availability of this position. The deadline for applying for this position is February 27<sup>th</sup>. The LRES Department will screen the applications, and select the top five applicants for interviews.

### ***Update on Aquatic Invasive Species Grant – 2/08***

Hollands reported that with Radley Watkins assistance, the County was able to submit a grant application to DNR in the amount of \$25,000.00 by the February 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. The DNR ranks the applications and informs the county of their grant status within two months.

***AIS Account Balance for 2007/Carryover of Funds to 2008***

Hollands reported there are funds remaining in the 2007 AIS budget. Hollands requested that \$15,000.00 be carried over from the 2007 AIS budget to fund two LTE boat inspectors in 2008. Hollands stated that DNR grants are for more than one calendar year. It becomes a challenge as county budgets are only for one year, and unspent funds go back to the general fund. The Committee stated that we should check with other counties to determine how they handle budgeting for DNR grants that encompass more than one year. Motion by Martinson, second by Guy Hansen to approve the request and submit it to the Finance Committee for their consideration. Motion carried, all ayes.

***Lake Districts/Agency Reports (FSA, NRCS, LWCD, UWEX, DNR, LWCB, WLWCA, & RC&D)***

***Mid Lake District*** – Petroskey had nothing new to report.

***Thunder Lake District*** – Guy Hansen had nothing new to report.

***Bear Lake District*** – Jack Martinson reported Bear Lake met recently. Martinson stated the Board of Adjustment ruled against establishing a resort on the lake.

***Horsehead Lake District*** – Rudolph reported a dog fell through the thin ice on Horsehead Lake. Rudolph reported the thin ice is caused by the aeration system that is running in the winter. Thin ice warning signs have been posted making the public aware of this potential hazard.

***FSA*** – Rod Kuczmariski reported there is a continued sign-up for crop and grazing losses due to drought conditions occurring in 2005, 2006, and 2007. The Farm Bill hasn't passed yet.

***NRCS*** – Tom Melnarik, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician, reported his agency has been busy working on EQIP contracts. They are in the process of finalizing contracts from last fall and are ready for construction of projects. Melnarik reported that \$380,000 has been committed in the four counties, with approximately \$80,000 of those dollars being allocated for Oneida County. The NRCS has two WHIP program contracts for \$36,000 in Vilas and Forest County counties. A RC&D grazing workshop will be held on February 28 at The Taj Mahall in Rhinelander.

***LCD*** – Hollands stated that her office has been busy working on the DNR - AIS grant, year-end budget and grant reporting, and recruitment for an AIS Coordinator.

***UWEX*** – No one present.

***DNR*** – No one present.

***LWCB*** – Rudolph reported he had attended the LWCB meeting that was held in Madison on February 5<sup>th</sup>. The Board reviewed the LWRM plan for Rusk County. He stated the Board is considering changing the term of the LWRM plans from 5 to 10 years. Rudolph stated there was discussion on the future role of the LWCB. Rudolph reported the Executive Committee would be holding a conference call regarding the Farmland Preservation Program options, changes, and updates.

***WLWCA*** – Rudolph reported he recently attended the NACD meeting in Reno, Nevada. Three Wisconsin resolutions that were forwarded are: Disposal of Pharmaceuticals, the endorsement of a Great Lakes Compact, and the Statewide ban against the transport of AIS materials. There were a total of forty resolutions. Rudolph stated the resolution on Disposal of Pharmaceuticals was approved. The Great Lakes Compact resolution was withdrawn. The resolution banning the transportation of AIS material was turned down in the Committee Hearings. Rudolph will be attending the board meeting in Madison tomorrow. They will discuss water issues, budget issues, and plan training for the coming year.

***RC&D*** – Rudolph reported Marinette County voted against continuing with the Lumberjack RC&D.

***Monthly Budget Review***

Motion by Petroskey, second by Matteson to approve the monthly budget summary for December 2007– Adjustment I for the Land & Water Conservation Department, Wildlife Damage Program, and AIS Program. Motion carried, all ayes.

Motion by Matteson, second by Martinson to approve the monthly budget for January 2008 for the Land & Water Conservation Department, Wildlife Damage Program, and AIS Program. Motion carried, all ayes.

***Travel Authorization***

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|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| • March 11      | WDP Deer Management Meeting | Oneida County Airport |
| • April 17 – 19 | Wisconsin Lakes Convention  | Green Bay             |

Motion by Matteson, second by Guy Hansen to approve attendance at these meetings. Motion carried, all ayes.

***Approval of invoices, purchase orders, and line item transfers***

Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey to approve the invoices as presented. Motion carried, all ayes.  
A list of the approved bills is attached to the minutes.

Hollands presented the line item transfers needed to cover overdrawn line item expenses for calendar year 2007. Motion by Petroskey, second by Martinson to approve the line item transfers needed to cover the overdrawn expenses for calendar year 2007. Motion carried, all ayes.

Motion by Petroskey, second by Guy Hansen to authorize the Chairman or Vice Chairman to approve any additional line items transfers needed for 2007. Motion carried, all ayes.

Matt Matteson left the meeting at 10:30 a.m. to attend an Oneida County Emergency Management Meeting, and returned to the LWCC meeting at 11:05 a.m.

***Items for the next meeting agenda***

Agenda items will be determined at a later date.

***Adjourn***

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey. Motion carried, all ayes.

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Thomas Rudolph  
Chairman

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Nancy Hollands  
County Conservationist