

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
August 11, 2014
Minutes

Committee members present: Chair Tom Rudolph, Jim Intrepidi, Bob Mott, Scott Holewinski, and Clint Zimbeck. Excused: Robb Jensen.

Others present: Lynn Feldman, Jean Hansen, and Merry Lehner.

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

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

Approve minutes: Motion by Intrepidi /Mott to approve the minutes of 7/8/14 as amended. All ayes; motion carried.

Dates of future meetings:

9/8/14	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room
10/20/14	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room

Agency reports were received in packets before meeting as discussed in last meeting. It was noted that future packets mailed out in advance shall also contain summary list of vouchers to be signed.

Staffing Requests-Land & Water conservation:

2015 Staffing Requests presented. Jean Hansen stated AIS program is asking for 3 LTE's as project assistants. There have been three in the past as well. A DNR grant pays 75% and Michele, as AIS Coordinator is other 25% match. Two positions are at 600 hours and one at 800 hours. The 800 hour position starts in April through fall; the other two are for June, July and August. Motion made by Holewinski/Mott to approve the LTE's. All ayes; motion carried.

Program Assistant is a new position which was previously a 40% position as Secretary III and now will add to 60% to make it a full time position. It will now function as a Program Assistant at 100%. Committee decided in June not to make this change in 2014 but present it at 2015 budget time. It will consist of 60% secretarial duties, 25% technical support and the remaining percentage will cover the Invasive Species Program, Forest Rental Equipment, and Wildlife Damage programs. Further discussion on county/state portion of wages, percentages in past and how it will be paid as it relates to support staff /technical background of the job. Motion moved to approve the position by Mott/Intrepidi. All ayes; motion carried.

Farmland Preservation Plan Update:

This past July 29th a Farmland Preservation Citizen's Input meeting took place at Courthouse on the Farmland Preservation Program. News releases and information was on Listserve; but attendance was small only two attended but were very interested. Presentation was by Fred

expense vouchers now. Discussion was held that in future meetings the Committee members will sign summary report and not the separate vouchers. A motion to approve the consent agenda items was made by Holewinski/Mott. All ayes; motion carried.

Agency reports:

Lake Districts: Nokomis Lake District Annual meeting met on Saturday; 100 people attended and all were happy. Horsehead Lake Annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 16th. Canceled weed harvest this summer due to low amount of weeds. Fish kill in shallow lakes from severe winter as noted in last meeting; Thunder Lake also had severe fish kill. Fish came up in the open water where aerators were and the eagles lined up and ate many fish. DNR stocked large-mouth bass. May purchase additional stock with money saved from no weed harvest.

USDA: Jim Tharman could not attend; if anyone has questions on handout from last month, Jean Hansen has his phone number.

FSA: Farm Bill implemented and some of it being re-written. One of the concerns of the Farm Bill right now is the Clean Water Act and what it interprets as waters of the USA. The EPA considers almost all waters as public water which can be regulated. So the NACD is active in the input to the EPA and the USDA on how they are interpreting what water conditions of US are for regulation purposes. This impacts farming and cranberry growers as well.

NRCS: No one present to report.

OCEDC: Print Pak had their grand opening promoting their state of the art technology in their new facility. This is a great event for Rhinelander.

LWCD: 2013 Annual Progress Report was shared. Final allocations for staffing grant/cost shares should be available before October meeting.

WLWCA: Rudolph is no longer on this board, but he is on the National Association of Conservation Districts. Attended a meeting of the NACD Board in Indianapolis that addressed soil health forum, which is a high interest area right now. Toured conservation works, saw the large scale operations of soy and corn fields. No till improves soils, water retention, nutrients in soil, organic matter and aids crop yields. Less money spent in cultivation and irrigation. NACD putting a lot of time into the clean water act and the Army Corps of Engineers are looking at rules.

RC&D: Lumberjack hired a new office manager, Tracy Beckman, to replace Brenda Wigglesworth. The former Executive Director has agreed to stay on to train new individual. Lumberjack received renewal for 5 years and contracts with the DNR.

WACEC: Teleconference for Northern Region next week. Will report at next meeting.

Jean Hansen was excused at 2:50 p.m.

2015 LTE Staffing Requests:

UW Extension-Summer Horticultural Assistant position is for the summer months only when the demand is high at 280 hours. Two Support positions for the Oneida County Fair for secretary and treasurer will be 400 hours each. Kim Swisher co-coordinator position eliminated with her resignation from Fair. Discussion followed. Motion to approve the 2015 staffing requests was made by Holewinski/Intrepidi. All ayes; motion carried.

Oneida County Fair Update:

It was agreed that a summary of the 2014 Fair will be addressed by Nancy Gehrig after they their Fair meeting on August 19th. She will report at the September 8th Committee Meeting.

Department Head – Division of Duties

A hand out was distributed before meeting detailing the specific duties Lynn Feldman and Tim Brown will perform. Both will work collaboratively on creating and presenting annual department budgets, reviewing monthly/quarterly budget reports and department expenditures. Both will interview, hire and provide orientation to new colleagues. A question was raised on whether the future Family Living Educator would take over as department head. It could be eligible as Department Head, if qualified. The posting for Family Living Educator currently does not include this duty. At this time Feldman and Brown will continue in this function.

Monthly Staff Report:

Lynn Feldman outlined her duties for past year emphasizing the 4H function of her position involves. She works with youth, but also with adults and organizations for the fostering of positive youth development. A PowerPoint presentation outlined these efforts reporting on numbers of 4H youth, volunteers, and details on the CHAMPS program, Teen Court, TAG, and Diversity Club. Highlighted events and special interest was taken in the Astronomy project mentioned. It was suggested that a 4H presentation be made for the County Board in the future. All departments should keep County Board updated on their activities.

Office Space:

Update on the office space and air quality has been given to Building and Grounds. No action has been taken yet. Correspondence presented with plan for concerns and issues but has not been approved. Duct work is scheduled for October 1st. The duct work has not been cleaned since 1979. It is the goal that the back area will be shut off from the Extension office by October 15th. Level of carbon monoxide for office space was high versus an industrial setting.

Public comment:

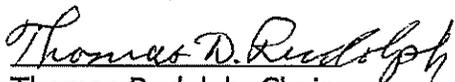
Family Living Agent interviews will be held in October. Selected dates include 10/1, 10/3, 10/9 and 10/10. Need two people from the Committee to serve on the panel. It was decided that 10/1/14 is first choice with 10/3/14 second choice.

Items for next agenda: Fair update, Office Space/Air Quality, Extension phone system.

Adjournment: Motion by Intrepidi/Mott to adjourn at 4:01 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Merry J Lehner, Recording Secretary


Thomas Rudolph, Chair