

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
January 12, 2015
Minutes

Committee members present: Chairman Tom Rudolph, Bob Mott, Jim Intrepidi, Robb Jensen, and Scott Holewinski.

Others present: Tom Schmitz, Lisa Charbarneau, Jean Hansen, Lynn Feldman, Sara Richie, Kim Simac, Matt Peplinski, Jim Tharman, and Merry Lehner.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rudolph at 1:30 p.m. noting the meeting has been properly posted and the facility is handicap accessible. Tom Rudolph made comment that agenda is lengthy today. If the NCWRPC arrives, that item will be moved forward so they can present.

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

Approve Minutes: Motion by Jensen/Intrepidi to approve the minutes of 12/08/14. All ayes; motion was carried.

Date(s) of future meetings:

February 9, 2015	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room
March 16, 2015	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room

Crop Price Approval: Jim Tharman USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services discussed how claims are made by landowners who incur wildlife damage. A handout was given to the committee members and the committee will need to approve the crop prices for any claims related to the crop damage program in the county. They had one participant in the county that had crop damage due to deer. He did the appraisal and now he needs the crop price approved by the committee. Then the crop price is used to file a claim. There is a \$500 deductible with a \$10,000 maximum. Right now he does not think claimant will exceed the deductible; if they do not meet the deductible, Tharman will send a letter notifying them the deductible was not met. If the deductible is met then Tharman will come back to the committee next month to have the county sign and approve the claim based on his appraisal. This report represents 2014 crop prices. The only crops involved are soy beans and corn for this county. A motion was made by Jensen/Holewinski to approve the 2014 crop prices for corn at \$4.10 a bushel and soy beans at \$10.04 a bushel. All ayes; motion was carried.

Introductions: Kim Simac will replace Clint Zimbeck FSA agency representative.

FSA Representative Announcement: The committee was notified last Friday that Kim accepted position. Simac will be a new representative for both Vilas and Oneida counties. Jean Hansen brought up two questions/concerns. Land Water Conservation is required to have a FSA member as representative. Normally in the past, representatives are from the same county; now Simac will represent two counties; will there be any conflict of interest? Simac commented that she lives just north of the boarder of Vilas and Oneida counties, so she does have a vested interest in this county. She did not see any conflict of interest in her appointment. Hansen stated that the FSA representative in the past has been able to vote on the committee; will she be the fourth person needed (quorum need 4) to pass a motion on the committee? Will this new representative full voting

power? Matt Peplinski, County Executive Director that covers Oneida County, commented that this would not be a FSA concern, as they do not look at county boundaries. Hansen posed the question if there a conflict of interest or competition by her representing two counties per the county code. She
ist wants to be sure this is acceptable. The committee did not feel this would be an issue. Rudolph asked that the committee recommend approval of this position and bring it to the county board. It was commented that if Kim ever sees a conflict of interest she would state it to the committee. A motion was made by Intrepidi to accept the appointment of the Farm Service Agent, and it will be brought to the County Board and added the consent agenda. Mott seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

Land & Water Conservation Department Long-Range Plan:

Jean Hansen presented Resource Management Plan 2012-2016 Work Plan. Hanson commented on an updated sheet on the Long Range Plan where it was suggested that another column was added to show accomplishments made. This update shows the accomplishments of 2014. The Yellow shaded activities are completed items, the Blue are not completed and the Tan designated as partially completed projects. This represents plans currently being worked on and into 2015. The Blue designates long term plans. The Annual report, in spring of the year, shows items that have been completed.

The Goals are arranged according to priority. Many of the activities are done annually, AIS for example, has grants which occur annually but some projects might take five years to complete the total plan. Blue items would move up in priority if additional staff were added to the department. It is a quantitative tool used to provide an update on activities. This plan is the umbrella for the land-water report. Do the colors represent 2014 and 2015? Yes and Blue still has work pending. This was an update; no motion was necessary.

Length of Meetings: A time study report produced to see where time is spent at the committee meetings. It separates Land Water Conservation agenda items from UW-Extension items and agenda items in common. Such reports will continue for the next several meetings to analyze where time is being spent in order to see if it is necessary to split the two department meetings.

Consent Agenda Items: Motion made by Holewinski/Jensen to approve the out of county travel reports, monthly budget reports, invoices and purchase orders, and line item transfers. A comment was made that the telephone bill seems expensive; the cost of the lines and voice mail was explained. The upgrade may be less expensive once UW-Extension is on new system, pending the results of the NCWPC study. All ayes; motion approved.

Agency reports:

Lake Districts: No new reports on Lake Nokomis, Mid Lake, Thunder, and Horsehead. Bear Lake will have their commissioner's meeting tomorrow and Supervisor Fried will be there and Jensen will be there as well.

USDA, APHIS: Already reported earlier.

FSA: Matt Peplinski announced they are holding producer meetings for their new commodity program ARC/PLC Program on January 15th at 2:00PM at the AG Research Station in Rhinelander. They hope they will get some participation from the Oneida County producers. Peplinski was excused at this time.

NRCS, DNR: No report.

UCEDC: Announcement by the Chairman that Roger Luce's son is very ill and Roger is currently away visiting him. Our thoughts and prayers should go out to him and his family during this trying time.

LWCB: Dale Hood from Grant County is the new representative for this board; he replaced Rudolph.

WI Land+Water: Formerly WLWCA. Rudolph is not on this board anymore. He represents Wisconsin on the NACD, and will provide information updates as needed. They had their Regional Meeting in Chicago last Friday. He gave an update on terrestrial invasives where a resolution was drafted last year on dealing with invasives in general, including aquatic and marine. That was adopted by the North Central Region last year and adopted by the national organization, NACD who will secure funding for invasives, including marine invasives and wild cattle in Alaska. The progress that has been made from the original resolution has become national policy as a result. It is hoped that this will apply and override previous policies that were in place. Wisconsin is a strong supporter of the national organization. The Annual meeting will be on February 1st in New Orleans. New Officers were elected: Kent Stuckey from Ohio and Ken Lovelace from Missouri.

RC&D: The Executive meeting, this morning, went over all the proposals presented from the last meeting. Twelve Grant Proposals were reviewed. The Bike and Pedestrian Coordinator and the Financial Assistance for the Oneida County Fair were not brought to the office. The other ones were approved by the Executive Committee and will move onto the Full Council Meeting on Jan 23rd, in Langlade County. There are nine counties involved in this process, not just our county. The Bat Monitoring Project was accepted. The bat white nose disease, if it becomes an endangered species, will affect the timber industry. The program manager, Tracy Beckman, has implemented a new way to run the grant proposals for 2016 to be more streamlined.

WACEC: (WI Association of County Extension Committees) Tom Schmitz announced the North Central Region meeting on March 19th in Minocqua, at the Waters from 9:00 am to 2:30pm. It will be an opportunity to learn and meet other county board members that do Extension committee work. It will focus on how we communicate the message of our values. It is a joint meeting with WACEC members, our County Extension professionals, and our support professionals. He looks forward to having the committee attend this meeting; there may be phone access to part of the meeting.

Update on NCWRPC Study:

Lisa Charbarneau spoke with Dennis Lawrence who reported that they are behind in getting the survey out to the committee members; it was decided he not attend today, as there was not anything to report. They are looking at January 23-24th for a preliminary draft on the study. Charbarneau promised to e-mail committee members those results once received. Lawrence will report on the study results at this committee's February 9th meeting. LRES meets on Wednesdays on February 11th and the 25th and the CUW committee meets next on Monday, February 9th. Charbarneau suggested having a joint meeting with a presentation by the NCWRPC. It was decided that February 5th will be the date of the joint meeting with LRES and CUW committee members to address any questions. The meeting time will be at 12:30pm at Committee Room 2 at the Courthouse. Jean Hansen was excused at 2:45pm.

Agent Reports: Sara Richie presented a report on the eParenting Pilot Project through UW-Extension of Oneida County that she will be offering at James Williams Middle School. It will target parents of children nine to fourteen years in age. This is the second year of the pilot project, but the first year for the project in Rhinelander. It involves about 20 schools in the state. The goal is to provide parents with tips on how to positively use digital media with their children. It promotes parents in monitoring children and to clearly communicate to them their expectations. Emails will go out to parents providing them with a link to the full UW-Extension eParenting blog site with tips on how to use digital media in a positive way and strengthen family relationships. The program runs from January through May. Parents will be able to evaluate the project at the end of the semester. This will help Extension educators determine the impact of the program and how to make further improvements. Newsletters and links will be used to instruct parents how to work with technology as a better way to connect between schools and local parents. Emailing information to parents will be

new for the parent involved in this project. It is School District approved. A discussion continued on the value of this program to the community and teens. Teen court is as an example where both good and bad kids become involved and it can transform a youth's life in a positive way. The UW-Extension Newsletter was an informational effort brought forth to make the public and county board members aware of accomplishments that have been achieved. If people are interested in more information about eParenting they may access the following link from the UW-Extension website: fyi.uwex.edu/eparenting/blog.

Air Quality: At 3:15pm the Committee broke away from the conference room to witness first-hand the presence of diesel fumes at the UW-Extension offices. Upon returning to the committee meeting all committee members and others in attendance, with the exception of one person, commented of strong diesel fumes present either in the front office or in the back storage area. Others present including Tom Schmitz, Lisa Charbarneau, and Kim Simac all commented that there were fumes present in the office and storage areas. Two people commented on the smell even before leaving the conference room and entering the office area.

CNRED Agent - Next Steps: Tom Schmitz spoke to the committee about where they would like to go from here regarding the CNRED position; what are the next steps. Tom Rudolph had spoken with Tim Brown prior to his leaving and shared a list of items that are urgent and need to be continued in a timely manner. Broadband development in the town of Lynn needs to continue forward. The infrastructure needs to be in place and evaluations need to continue. Those users will need to be surveyed so data can be gathered because their responses will be the basis of how the rest of the broadband will develop in Northern Wisconsin. A second item is the Bike and Pedestrian initiative where grant money to pursue this project will be expiring very soon. The stake holders need to be brought together because it is a very time dependent project. These issues need to be completed properly and attended to shortly. Brown had proposed an interim person as a possible option. Rudolph is concerned about the lengthy time involved to fill this position and asked Tom Schmitz for his input.

Schmitz stated he definitely wants to meet these obligations and have these projects attended to in a timely manner. If we are going to fill position we should go ahead and fill the position. He suggested that an educator from another county (perhaps from Iron Co) who could assist in these two priority areas. Schmitz said he knows several people qualified to help out in the next couple of months. It would be a lending of resources on a short term basis of people who have those skill sets. It is a lengthy process to fill the CNRED position. If they posted position today, it takes two months to post, screen, and complete preliminary interviews and another two months to conduct background checks and schedule second interviews. In summary, it will take four to five months to fill the vacancy to completion.

Rudolph asked what the LRES involvement is as far as the 40% contribution from the county for this position. Charboneau replied that LRES will ask this committee to bring forward a Vacancy Review and request to waive the appeal process of the six month mandatory requirement. It will take six months anyway to have the position up and running. Labor Relations meets next on January 21, 2015 where it can be addressed; if this committee wishes to fill that position and request to waive the six month mandatory.

The question of whether an LTE person could fill the position was asked by the committee. Schmitz stated they were not looking at an LTE position, just an educator from another county to step in only as necessary to address timely matters. Extension agents, at times, work over county lines as needed; this is part of the job description of all UW-Extension agents. Rudolph asked if LRES is able to move the position forward faster than six months, so that they are not losing ground on urgent matters. Jensen asked if others in county are able to work on these critical projects. Schmitz

reiterated that if key meetings need facilitations to keep a project going they will find someone for this. Charbarneau stated that LRES probably will not approve filling the position since the NCWRPC study is so close to being completed. Rudolph asked that regardless of time taken, can LRES agree to fill the position. Charbarneau replied that there is a waiting period per the county code that could be waived so they can move forward sooner to fill the position.

Schmitz had two questions: One, if this position is already in the budget and is a contracted service, what is the goal of LRES looking at this contracted service already in place. Both Charbarneau and Rudolph agreed that this is a good question, as this is not a county position. This is a 100% state position where county funds 40%. Schmitz' second question was whether the six month waiting period is for financial saving or is it to give time to evaluate the position? Charbarneau replied that it is to evaluate the position to see if there are other ways to complete the work by the county.

Schmitz wants to be sure they are supplying their local partner, the county, with a qualified agent. Brown, as the CNRED agent, was involved in broadband which is tied to economic development, and covers community issues and natural resources. The CNRED agent is a set position to administer professional development in the community. He wants to be sure that we have a talented person like Brown who can address all aspects of the job. The state's Human Resources can only fill so many positions in a given week so he will put in a request promptly.

Charbarneau promised a preliminary report from NCWRPC; it will be emailed out to the committee members as soon as she receives it. Then they should have a joint meeting with LRES. The goal is to have a final draft at the joint meeting. Rudolph asked if we are looking at submitting the waiver request at the joint meeting. Charbarneau replied that Brian Desmond will review that ordinance amendment on the vacancy review and make certain that this position actually should be dealt with under that ordinance amendment. She knows that previous agent positions were done this way but as it was pointed out, this is a contracted position; it may not have to go through LRES to replace the position.

Rudolph asked if as a committee they will approve submitting this contingent on a review by Corporate Counsel. Mott made motion to take this to Corporate Counsel to review as to whether it is contracted services and it does not fall under the vacancy review processes. It was seconded by Intrepid. All ayes; the motion was approved.

A second decision is whether to request an LTE person to be assigned for four or five months. Charbarneau stated that if they use the dollars that are already budgeted she can, by county code in her position, approve an interim person to work in the office up to 90 working days or the equivalent in hours as long as money is in the budget to cover it. If the committee wants to get started with an interim, this is an option, as the money is already there. This will give 90 working days and extra time without going through Labor Relations for an LTE position. By then, the NCWRPC study findings will be in place. If the committee wants this, Lisa has the power to approve an interim position. At the February 9th meeting they will decide on an interim person.

Lynn Feldman will give the committee a document showing exit review, which outlines all the projects that Brown was working for the interim position. Rudolph prefers to find someone for the interim position. Schmitz will have someone to assist on major projects in the meantime.

A motion was made by Jensen/Holewinski to have an LTE interim position where there will be 720 working hours available for an LTE to work the CNRED position until the regular position is filled.

(This will not cover department head duties) Per Tom Schmitz, Feldman will continue to cover department head duties. All were in favor, all ayes; motion approved.

Charbarneau excused at 4:10pm.

Office Space/Air Quality:

An update regarding signs was received from LuAnn Brunette on January 7, 2015. The exterior signs, contracted through Cleveland Sign, were reviewed by corporation counsel, with changes recommended; if Mr. Cleveland is receptive to the changes in the contract the contract will be executed and the signs made and installed.

Further comment was made by Lynn Feldman regarding Air Quality. An Air Quality report will be provided on a monthly basis where staff reports presence of fumes.

For the month of December the following reports were made:

Five reports between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m.

27 reports between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Nine reports of cigarette smoke

Cigarette smoke may be due to people smoking by the fresh air intakes outside the building.

Feldman will speak to Brauer for further direction on the cigarette smokers. For now the monthly report will give an update on all fumes, both cigarette and diesel fumes.

Feldman gave an update on construction of the wall. Per Joe Brauer, recent work completed is at the west end of the conveyor room where there is now a more complete separation between the work room at that end of the storage space and the conveyor room. The result is a solid wall with just a small gap left to be filled, approximately 2 inch x 2 foot, located next to the ductwork. The blocks are sitting in the conveyor belt room. They will be used to construct a wall between the conveyor belt and the rest of the conveyor belt room. This wall will have both a vertical and horizontal component to it. Completion depends on the availability of county staff but action will be taken on this as soon as possible. New ductwork will eventually be installed that would make the storage room past the copy room usable for office space. Rudolph commented that the corrugated duct work could not be cleaned when the rest of ductwork was cleaned and must be replaced. The rest of ductwork was cleaned earlier this autumn. A comment was that an engineer needs to come in and find a way to get more clean air to come inside the building.

Further discussion took place as to why the wall has not yet been completed. Feldman said work is being done; it just has not been completed. The Committee suggested that a deadline must be met. Currently the airport staff is working on it; the work has not been contracted out to anyone else. The completion date was originally supposed to at the end of October according to information given to Feldman. The Committee would like action taken to have this wall completed as soon as possible without further delay.

Motion was made by Jensen/ Holewinski that if wall is not completed by January 31, 2015, we are asking that Building and Grounds please review other methods to complete the wall and have the wall completed by February 28, 2015. All ayes; motion carried.

Strategic Planning Update: There were 42 attendees at the Strategic Planning Update Meeting. It is clear that more volunteers will have to come forward to make the Fair work in the long run. There are four visions and five steps involved in this Strategic Planning. Additional volunteers and meeting attendees that have come forward since the first meeting and they will attend the Fair meeting tomorrow.

Through Leadership Oneida County, Gehrig said they identified the number one step to take: Increase number of Fair Committee members. They will develop a frame work for next year and for the next 5 years. They will look at sustaining members and raising money. The Committee will have to approve this. With more resources, the county will not be involved in providing more money. The goal is how to develop a structure. If more people are involved there will be more resources available to bring funding. Nancy Gehrig had proposed a grant to RC&D requesting more permanent

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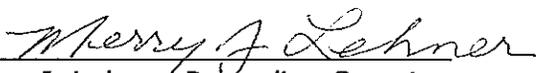
Public comment:

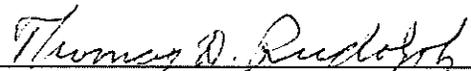
Tom Schmitz thanked committee for giving the time. He knows a couple of people who have a strong interest in coming to area to fill position.

Items for next agenda: Updates on pending issues: NCWRPC Study Results, 2015 Fair Strategic Planning, CNRED Next Steps, and Air Quality/Office Space.

Adjournment: Motion by Holewinski/Intrepidi to adjourn at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary


Thomas Rudolph, Committee Chair