

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
August 10, 2015
Minutes

Committee members present: Tom Rudolph, Bob Mott, Robb Jensen, Scott Holewinski, Jim Intrepidi. Kim Simac was excused and noted that she shall have no further conflicts attending the meetings.

Others present: Tom Schmitz, Lisa Charbarneau, Karl Jennrich, Jean Hansen, Ben Jeffrey, Sara Richie, and Merry Lehner.

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

The new Land and Water Conservation LTE, Ben Jeffrey, was introduced. Roundtable introductions were held.

Approve Agenda: A motion was made by Jensen/Mott to approve today's amended agenda with the order of the items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve Minutes:

The detail of the agent report was too much and records should reflect a balance on what was done not what was said. A motion was made by Jensen/Intrepidi to approve the 7/1/15 minutes as amended. All ayes; motion carried.

Date(s) of future meetings:

September 14, 2015	8:30 a.m.	Extension meeting room
October 12, 2015	1:30 p.m.	Tentative Date -Extension meeting room

Closed Session:

A motion was made to enter into a closed session by Holewinski/Intrepidi. A Roll call vote was made; all ayes. The Committee entered into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Stats. Sec. 19.85(1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which this body has jurisdiction or responsibility (Topic: CNRED Agent Position).

Motion to return to open session was made by Holewinski/Jensen. A Roll call vote was made; all ayes. The Committee returned to open session where Jensen submitted to the recording secretary the following: There was discussion regarding the employment, compensation or performance evaluation of a contracted employee.

Land Water Conservation/Planning and Zoning Merge Report:

Lisa Charbarneau distributed a report on the merge. There had been discussion about changing the dates at the last meeting. Charbarneau, Hansen, and Jennrich decided to just go ahead and put together an organizational flow chart for the two departments outlining chain of command. She reviewed how other internal office functions would flow as well. Staff meetings will include transitional meetings to discuss how Land and Water operates and their priorities and how to address them. Karl Jennrich will report to Conservation and UW-Extension Education Committee. The Land and Water Office Support LTE will remain in the budget at 40% until a final decision can be made on what that position should be. It will be included in the budget for next year. The Land Water Conservation LTE will continue to produce meeting agendas and the minutes will be recorded by UW-Extension staff. Both the agenda and minutes will be submitted to the Committee Chair. Rudolph would like to go over some of these matters in further detail with Jennrich. Mott would like to see emphasis on Conservation priorities, as they relate to previous staff shortages, will be addressed. This will be included on the agenda again for next month. Charbarneau was excused at 2:30p.m.

Approval of Farmland Preservation Plan Joint Resolution:

Jean Hansen and Karl Jennrich met with Brian Desmond last week. It was suggested by Desmond to incorporate into the countywide Comprehensive Plan and get it approved at the same time by the full County Board. The language was adjusted to accommodate this to approve the plan and get it incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan. This will accomplish both resolutions. It will first have to go through the Planning and Zoning Department next Wednesday before going to the County Board. Jennrich explained that there was a resolution from Land Water Conservation that was to go before the County Board but that will need to be withdrawn. Rudolph will make a motion to postpone it until the September meeting, so it will be a joint resolution as reflected in the packets. A motion was made by Mott to forward the resolution offer by Conservation/UW-Extension Education Committee and the Planning and Development Committee to the County Board. It was seconded by Intrepid. All ayes; motion carried. The Resolution was signed by the Committee Members and forwarded to Jennrich, who will take it to his Committee.

Phone System Update:

Rudolph attempted to contact Lynn Grube both by phone and email for an update on the phone system installation, but he did not receive any reply. Richie informed committee that Grube is on vacation. Grube had requested to conference call her to Committee for an update but the Extension Conference room does not have the means to do so due to poor connectivity. Richie tried to call Grube during the Closed Session portion of the meeting but could not reach her. The update Feldman left with Richie is that the wiring has been installed this past two weeks, however, due to vacation schedules nothing else will occur for the next two weeks for approval from Grube, when she returns. Richie commented that she currently is not receiving voice messages from her phone, so this project must come to completion soon. This will be put on agenda for next month to ensure proper follow up.

CNRED Position: Approval of Candidate:

There has been a verbal approval of a candidate. The name cannot be disclosed at this time because negotiations will be continuing, but this top candidate will need a formal approval by this Committee. A motion was made to approve the CNRED position to the top candidate, by Jensen and seconded by Intrepid. All ayes; motion carried.

Lumberjack RC & D Project:

If the Pollinator Habitat Project is to be submitted for a grant, the Committee will need to know a cost estimate. Hansen will first need to determine the size of the area that will be involved. Jeffrey currently is assisting Hansen in determining the locations and area size. Applying to Lumberjack RC & D for a grant will need approval of this Committee before the application is submitted. The deadline is October 15, 2015. Hansen was asked to present this information to the Committee by the September meeting. A motion was made by Rudolph for Hansen to prepare a proposal for the Lumberjack grant application for the Pollinator Habitat Project and to have it ready by the September Committee meeting. Mott seconded the motion. All ayes; the motion carried.

Rudolph was excused at 3:00 p.m.

Staffing Requests Land Water Conservation Department:

The staffing request for the 40% Secretary Position was finalized after the packets were sent out. Hansen had met with Charbarneau and it is being presented today. This position will remain open for 2016. The budgeted amount for 2016 is \$11,921 giving the LTE approximately 1113 hours. Mott made a motion to approve the Secretary II position at \$10.71 an hour. Intrepid seconded the motion. All ayes; the motion was carried. Hansen reviewed the two AIS LTE positions at 600 hours and one Lead AIS LTE position at 1000 hours with the committee. A motion was made by Jensen/Intrepid to approve the two LTEs at 600 hours for \$12.00 an hour. All ayes; the motion carried. A motion was also made by Intrepid/Jensen for the Lead AIS LTE at 1000 hours at \$14.00 an hour. All ayes; the motion carried.

Joint Forestry/LWCD Project:

Hansen was approached by John Bilogan of Forestry regarding invasive species. He is in need of the surveying of forest roads, parks, trails and beaches. He has Forestry grant money available but he does not have anyone in his department who has the time or is qualified to identify invasive species. The Forestry Committee has approved applying for this position with a grant. He offered to provide the financial backing of an LTE position of 600 hours if LWCD will house person, hire them, and oversee the training of a person to fill this position. Since the LWCD department is very familiar with both land and water invasive species, it makes sense for Land and Water to oversee this project. The identification of invasives comes with experience and then they will have to use GPS to survey the areas. There were questions on the pay rate for this position and there was a discussion if there could be training of high school students to be involved as part of this project. Mott asked for a motion to approve this position in concept and to look further into the pay rate to be consistent with that of Land and Water. Intrepidi seconded the motion. All Ayes; motion carried. This grant will have to come through and would be 100% funded.

Wisconsin Counties Association Conference: September 20-22, 2015:

The conference will be held at the La Crosse Center & Radisson Hotel in La Crosse, WI. Reservations are required. Please let Lisa Charbarneau know if you are attending this conference. Jensen stated he is planning on attending the conference.

Consent Agenda Items for Land and Water:

Discussion took place on Land and Water consent items. USDA payments were questioned; Land and Water does not pay for these expenses as the money comes from the DNR. A question regarding the Line Item Transfer from AIS asked regarding \$1,300 related to the WEEB grant. This is related to an AIS grant. WEEB is the Wisconsin Environmental Educational Board, an educational grant and the line items are related to it. A motion was made to approve the consent agenda items by Holewinski/Intrepidi. All ayes; the motion was approved.

Additional discussion related to the Cost Share Program. No money has been spent and will most likely carry over to the next year. Hansen has projects in place but is waiting for approval from the landowners. By the end of year, the Committee will want to know if the allotted money is covering the needs of the Cost Share Program, due to cuts that have occurred.

Hansen, Jennrich, and Jeffrey were excused at 3:45

Consent Agenda Items: UW-Extension:

A motion was made by Jensen/Mott to approve the UW-Extension Consent Agenda as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Agency Reports as Needed:

Lake Districts: Mott had no report from Mid Lake. Holewinski had no report for Thunder Lake. Intrepidi has nothing from Nokomis.

No other agencies were present to report with the exception of Rudolph who provided a report for the Committee on the 2015 NACD Meeting he attended in July. He was the NACD Board member representing Wisconsin for the NACD Summer Board Meeting and Conservation Tour in Spokane, WA.

Broadband Update:

Roger Luce stopped into the meeting to give an update to the Committee. The town of Lynne tower will have climbers arriving to hang up equipment on Wednesday, August 19, 2015. Luce, Otis, and Noel, and possibly Knutson as well will go door to door to survey residents. In some of the areas the broadband from Northwoods connect is doing very well. The cost is \$49.95 a month. The town of Three Lakes plans on Wheaton University contracting with Northwoods to use this technology. For spots where there is not coverage, they will apply for another grant to put up additional towers. They need shorter towers for certain places like Squirrel Hill and Lake. The signal then can reach those dense areas. WiMax uses LTE which is supposed to be the highest level of speed. The committee is meeting again on August 19, 2015 in Sugar Camp Town Hall at 3 p.m. Right now

they want to solidify the grant proposal. They also will want to survey the Minocqua area to hear their response on the service they are now receiving. Luce was excused.

LTE Staffing Requests:

Positions for proposed Fair LTEs including Fair Secretary at 300 hours at \$10.71, Fair Treasurer at 300 hours at \$9.90, and Fair Coordinator at \$14,000 were presented to the Committee. The LTE Horticulture Assistant is proposed at 280 hours with the wage range of \$9.37 to \$10.71. Holewinski asked about if Fair did well and if it would cover these LTE wages. The financial report on the Fair is still pending but Intrepidi said the last numbers he had showed the Fair to be in the black. Holewinski made a motion to approve the four LTE positions. It was seconded by Intrepidi. All ayes; the motion carried.

Air Quality Update:

The duct replacements have been completed except for in the Extension Office conference room. They are scheduled to be completed by the end of this week. The negative pressure fans are to be completed by the end of August. The air quality report for June reported two cigarette smoke incidents and one for diesel fumes. Debris falling out of vents was reported for June but those vents have now been replaced for the affected area. One report of diesel fumes was logged for July. There has been a sewer fly problem in the basement this past month with several attempts at eradicating them.

Oneida County Fair Update:

Intrepidi reported that the Fair attendance was up this year and he felt that the Fair budget was in the black. Further bills continue to come in and financials will be updated at the next Fair meeting. It was advised to put this on the agenda for next month where a more complete report can be made.

Public Comments:

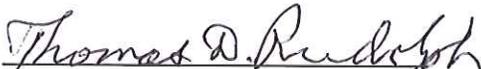
None

Items to include on next agenda

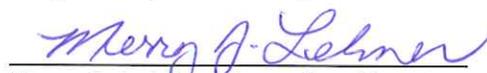
County Fair, Merger of LWC/ P&Z, Farmland Preservation Plan, and Proposed Lumberjack RC&D project, and Office Space/Air Quality, Broadband Update from Luce. Add an item to schedule a special meeting to set priorities for the new CNRED agent. Set up separate consent agendas for the two departments.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Jensen and seconded by Mott. All ayes and meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.


Thomas Rudolph, Committee Chair

Respectfully Submitted,


Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary