

**Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee**  
**January 11, 2016**  
**Amended Minutes**

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

**Others present:** Lynn Feldman, Myles Alexander, Michele Sadauskas, Matt Peplinski, Karl Jennrich, 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.

**Approve Agenda:** Motion by Mott/Intrepidi 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 12/14/15 Meeting minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

**Approve Minutes:** Motion by Jensen/Intrepidi to approve the CNRED Meeting Minutes of 12/16/15. All ayes; motion carried.

**Date(s) of future meetings:**

February 8, 2016	1:30 p.m.	UWEX Conference room
March 14, 2016	1:30 p.m.	UWEX Conference room

**Venison Donation Totals-Jim Tharman/APHIS**

The Wisconsin Deer Donation Program is funded by Wisconsin's Wildlife Damage Program and hunter donation. Any legally harvested deer can be dropped off at a participating processor by January 31, 2016. Four deer were donated this year. The number was low for Oneida County due to a bucks only season. The food pantry aid option is very useful so deer meat can be utilized by others when there is a surplus of deer beyond what family members and friends can use. The DNR allows shooting permits on a very limited basis for circumstances where there is wildlife damage. Enrollment for the abatement program was up for 2015 with 15 people enrolled where last year there were 11 enrolled. There is an annual inspection of a fence constructed through the abatement program that will continue to ensure it stays within compliance. Bear and wolf incidents are considered a nuisance, not wildlife damage. Tharman will need to know who his county contact will be; Karl Jennrich said he will be the county contact person for now.

**LWCD and P & Z Department Merger Update:**

No update on the merger. Jennrich will be meeting with Sadauskas to update her on management meetings from September to the present. They will address what is needed in Land and Water Conservation as of the first of the year. Sadauskas, Jonna Jewell and Stephanie Boismenu have worked well to produce some grant applications into DATCP. She also completed the AIS end-of-year reporting. Pending, is the five year Land and Water Conservation plan, which is due this year.

### **County Conservationist Job Vacancy:**

Jennrich clearly recognizes the need for a Land and Water Conservationist position. He has broached the subject with Sadauskas if she would be interested in filling this position. The County needs this position as well as the AIS position. The Committee will need to recommend filling this position. Jennrich will schedule an appointment to discuss this vacancy with Charbarneau in LRES. Discussion on whether the position should be posted internally first before posting the vacancy took place. As Department Head, Jennrich has the option to post the position internally first. All felt that this action should be moved on as quickly as possible. There will also be a renewal of the County Land Water Resources Management plan. AIS will have enough of their own duties with summer approaching. An external posting can take 30-90 days. If they post for both internal and external candidates; it takes about 60 days. The Committee commended Sadauskas on a job well done during this period from September to the present, including working on the budget. The Committee felt she should consider applying for the Conservationist position and could oversee a new employee for the AIS position. It is a logical premise to follow. The Committee opted to request a waiver on the six month waiting period for this position. Motion was made by Jensen/Holewinski with the recommendation to LRES to request the waiver of the six month vacancy review for the County Conservationist job vacancy. All ayes; motion carried.

### **UW Extension Reorganization Update:**

The Re-organization Draft was presented by Feldman. The recommended grouping or cluster of counties would be Oneida, Forest, Vilas, and Florence Counties. An Area Leader over the four counties will work with budgets and oversee the four counties. This position will go through an application process. Educators will have a local presence. The Area Educator positions will work in all counties in the area. Rudolph and Jensen attended the WACEC meeting, where this was discussed. Attendees were urged to comment and agree or disagree with the model of grouped counties. It was stressed that the model is only a draft. The Committee is expected to give some input on this model. Page six of the Recommendation states that the Chancellor will provide the feedback on this draft and it will take six months to put it into place. The Committee will schedule a special meeting provide input and express concerns. For example, how would travel expenses between counties be handled by each county; some fine tuning will be required. There will positions that will be eliminated over the next one and a half years. There will be downsizing where approximately 80 positions statewide will be eliminated. Some will be eliminated through attrition. How many actual positions for these four counties would be eliminated? It is not known if full time versus part time positions will be involved. The State Extension wants to create a package of services to offer each county. The Committee will have to approve whether they are in favor of it or not. A negotiation process will determine which county pays what portion of services. There will be a package that each county will have to pay. The State will have to come up with a formula to set an equitable standard. The Committee will have to present this to the County Board. They will need a structural formula to provide for the differences amongst the counties. It was suggested by Rudolph that they read this over and get some comments and questions together before January 25th. A meeting to review Extension Reorganization Recommendations was agreed to be held on January 20 at 8:30 a.m. The Extension staff should give input on January 20 too. Simac is meeting with Vilas County regarding the reorganization on January 14 and she will share the points covered with the Committee. One size does not fit all for each county in our proposed cluster. The four counties will have to coordinate with one another to find the best programming and staffing. There will be pending meetings regarding

each county's expectations. This should not impact the 2016 budget but it will affect the 2017 budget.

**Staff and Committee Attendance to WI Land & Water Conference:**

The conference will be held on March 2-4, 2016, in Elkhart Lake, WI. One staff person will be scheduled to attend and Jennrich stated that it will most likely be Sadauskas. The WHIP annual meeting is scheduled for the same Wednesday. The date of the WHIP meeting will possibly have to be changed. Mott may attend the conference on Thursday and Friday. Jonna Jewell in Land and Water will do all the paperwork related to this. It is recommended that the Committee attend this conference. Please let Jewell know if you will be attending by January 25. A motion was made by Jensen/Intrepidi to approve a staff member and Committee members to attend the WI Land and Water Conference at Elkhart Lake, WI, on March 2-4. All ayes; motion carried.

**Cost Share Update:**

Michele Sadauskas gave Cost Share updates to the Committee. Everything is in and money has been taken care of and all contracts were signed. She is working on some pending permits this week.

**Consent Agenda Items-Land and Water:**

The Consent Agenda Items were presented to the Committee. A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda items a, b, c, and d by Jensen/Mott for Land and Water. All Ayes; motion carried.

**Consent Agenda Items – UW-Extension:**

Agenda items were presented to the Committee. A Motion made by Intrepidi/Mott to approve the UW-Extension Consent agenda items a, b, c, and d by Jensen/Intrepidi. All ayes; motion approved.

Scott Holewinski was excused at 2:35 p.m. Karl Jennrich and Michele Sadauskas were excused at 2:55 p.m.

**Broadband:**

Alexander stated that there is really nothing new to report on now that the State of Wisconsin grant cycle has passed. The Three Lakes project is progressing where private funding is being considered to construct a tower; Luce is monitoring that. Money for the low interest loan fund is hung up with other dealings of the Commission. Large companies are not interested in construction due to the costs involved. Satellite as another broadband option is very expensive.

**Agency Reports:**

FSA: Simac does not have any information for now but will be having the first meeting of the year with USDA on Wednesday, January 13.

Lake Districts: No new reports for Bear Lake, Mid Lake, and Horse Head Lake. Nokomis will have a meeting in February.

WACEC: Rudolph and Jensen attended the regional meeting in Minocqua last Friday. It was a good meeting. Rudolph was re-elected as 2nd Vice President of the North Central Region and thus a WACEC State Board Member. Mott was re-elected as the Resource Management Team official.

**Air Quality:**

As of the November meeting, an air testing appointment was to be set up with the Fire Department. Daniel Karamanski with the State is to schedule a test with state equipment, which he said is superior to what the Fire Department had available. Holewinski had asked specifically what the testing equipment was that the fire department used. Feldman contacted the Rhinelander Fire Department and their equipment is not sensitive enough to detect what is needed here. Lynn asked Karamanski to do the testing as soon as possible while the cold temperatures exist. Earlier, an air quality study was tentatively set for the last week of January. For December, ten incidents were logged for diesel fumes. On Dec 29, both Feldman and Alexander went upstairs to investigate why fumes were so strong. They learned that fumes came in the building from the start-up generator used on the airplanes as well as from the luggage tug. These fumes superseded the capacity of the negative pressure fan. Alexander learned from the TSA department that even if the airplane engine is not running, the source of the fumes is from their on board generator. As the building is situated a breeze brought in the fumes to the building air intake on that particular day. The concern is that testing must be done while the weather is cold. The State Risk Management team will pay for testing. Feldman was asked to request Joe Brauer and Tom Schmitz also contact Karamanski to get the testing started.

**Fair Update:**

There is very little Fair money left. The Fair Planning Team cancelled attending a conference in the Dells next month. Eight people from the Fair Team will attend the Chamber of Commerce annual dinner banquet at Holiday Acres. The Team did not approve an admission charge for the Fair. They feel that they will not have qualified volunteers with cash handling experience in adequate numbers to staff the gates. Additional fencing would be required if admission were charged. The carry-over from 2014 to last year was \$5,400. The Fair broke even last year. An invoice from McNaughton Correctional for next summer's services for \$329.00 will be paid this month. A Fair Strategies meeting had the assignment to look for additional sources of money. The CNRED agent will look for possible funding that might be available. The electrical upgrade grant did not go through and this still will be an additional expense this year. The Committee feels the budget is questionable for this year. Wages were paid to Gehrig for the last two years. Gehrig paid for Workers Compensation the last two years and should not have been charged for this as the only contracted employee. She did not have any staff working under her. The Planning team voted for Gehrig to be reimbursed. The Committee will need to report to the County who ultimately determines if the Fair will continue. The Fair Planning Team approved Nancy's contract but she has not signed it. The Committee would like to revisit charging \$1.00 admission for 2016. The Fair Team determined that 105 volunteer hours of gate time will be needed. The County should be investing something because there is a return. It is of value to the community. The Committee needs a recommendation on the sources of money.

**Continuation of the 133 Contract Monies for 2016:**

The established contracted services would have been approximately \$43,000 if the Extension Program areas were fully staffed. The amount being paid is approximately \$19,000 due to past vacancies. Within 30 days of a full contract the first invoice to the County is issued. A second invoice is sent approximately six months later. Billings for January through December contracts are typically issued in the Spring and September. The correct sequence for our two payments will be July and October. The second payment for January through June is paid in April. Therefore, Finance will need a line item transfer for Other Professional Services of \$19,430 to be paid in April, for the County

Budget to reflect the correct expenditure. This is why money needs to be moved over into 2016. The bottom line is that Other Professional Services currently shows \$19,430 extra on the County budget. It has to be paid and if it isn't it would go to the general fund per Margie Sorensen in Finance. A motion to continue professional services variance money for Continuation of 133 Contract Money into 2016 was made by Intrepidi/Mott. All ayes; motion approved.

**UW-Extension Long Range Plan:**

The Long Range plan presented on the 8 x 14 sheet needs to be approved for the separate program areas. Individual work plans of each program area are more comprehensive than this long sheet which is a more general description. Jensen made motion to approve the UW-Extension Long Range Plan, Intrepidi seconded it. All ayes; motion carried.

**Agent Report:** Lynn Feldman – AAS Conference

Feldman attended the American Astronomical Society conference in Orlando, FL last week. It is the largest astronomical conference in the nation. The conference has existed for 200 years and over 2000 astronomers attended this year. A grant through the National Science Foundation paid for two Extension staff, Feldman and Zastrow, to be trained to teach a national 4-H youth an astronomy program through a web-based telescope resource called Skynet. The grant also paid for their attendance to the conference. A poster was created and displayed to reflect 4-H principles. The value to Feldman is that she gained knowledge about astronomy. The program develops math and science skills and STEM education skills for students. The dark skies here are a free resource available to youth. Most atmospheres are affected due to light reflections from cities. She believes an increased appreciation of our natural resources will encourage youth to remain in the Northwoods. The Space Program helped with the advancement of the Hubble telescope which has influenced how we will go forward from here. Feldman connected with two graduate students from UW-Madison who are going to State Parks in Wisconsin this summer to teach people about astronomy. Skynet on-line Training is available for 4-H volunteers.

**Public Comment:**

None

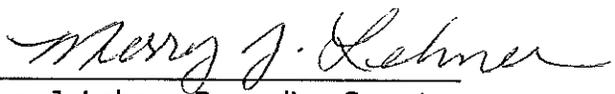
**Items to include on next agenda:**

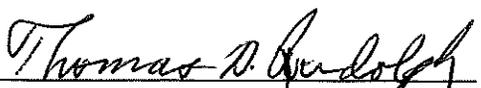
Fair Planning Committee Update, Cost Share, Air Quality, LWC /P&Z, and Broadband.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn by Jensen/Intrepidi was made at 4:15 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary

  
Thomas Rudolph, Committee Chair