

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
March 14, 2016
Minutes

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

Others present: Lynn Feldman, Sara Richie, Myles Alexander, Michele Sadauskas, Karl Jennrich, Michael Stinebrink, Celie Borndal, and Merry Lehner.

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

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

Approve Minutes: Motion by Intrepidi/Holewinski to approve the Meeting Minutes of 2/8/16. All ayes; motion carried.

Date(s) of future meetings:

April 6, 2016	2:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference room
April 11, 2016	1:30 p.m.	UWEX Conference room

Pollinator Project Update:

Sadauskas announced that they have hired Baerbel Ehrig for the Pollinator project. She previously participated in the roadside monitoring of invasive species in Three Lakes. She started three weeks ago and is assigned 200 hours for the Pollinator project. There may be more possible hours available through a donation that was made by the Three Lakes Winery; this could be allotted to other areas of the project and no determination has been made yet. A news release about Ehrig's hire and the project to the community will go out shortly. A grant just under \$10,000 was received from Lumberjack RC&D grant and will improve pollinator habitat along the roadside. There are four sites in the Three Lakes area: County A, near the Winery, Military Road and near Thunder Lake. Most of the grant will go towards plantings and seeding to improve habitat to increase bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. Michael Stinebrink, with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, NRCS, said their department has funds available to do pollinator habitat on private lands and there could be an opportunity to work in concert with Land and Water. Plantings could be augmented by contacting neighboring property owners that are adjacent to the road side project, which would increase the amount of land devoted to pollinator habitat improvement. There may be some possible cooperation with the road department in Three Lakes. The County Highway Department may donate some time regarding how the mowing and watering is accomplished.

Cost Share Update – Michele Sadauskas

There are five possible 2016 projects pending for the Cost Share Program A couple of new projects may be added due to some interested parties at the recent Land and Water Annual Conference. One of the new projects already have their deposit in. Effort will be made to get decisions in early this year.

Discontinue Malby Lake Road Notice:

The Town of Minocqua will discontinue a portion of Malby Lake Road and relocate it. Land and Water had

to be notified of this based on statutes. It does not impact Land and Water department, but if this Committee were to object to it, they would have to attend a public meeting in Minocqua. No decision needs to be made as it is an information only notice to the department.

Speaker/Poster Contest Update:

Oneida County was very fortunate in being able to send down one speaker and two posters to the WI Land+Water North Central Area Conservation Speaking and Poster Contest state competition held in Stevens Point on February 12. Ellie Lurvey took 3rd place as a speaker at the competition and Mallory Meyer took second place for the poster contest with in the state. They have asked Dave Hintz to have the speakers and poster contest winners be present at the May 17th County Board meeting. An invitation letter will be sent out and a News release will go out to congratulate the contest winners.

LWCD and P & Z Department Merger Update:

Jennrich reported they have one meeting on the merger since the last board meeting. The posting for the County Conservationist position closes on Thursday. They hope to have some good applications come through. He has been in contact with Jennifer Lueneburg in LRES on applicants and he will be in touch with her on interviews. He is asking for decision to be made as soon as possible as this is a busy time for L&W and P&Z.

Oneida County Land & Water Resource Management Plan

Jennrich said the plan is due April 15, 2016. They opted for the DATCP application with a three year extension on the work plan. The work plan will be changing as it has to be curtailed down from nine pages to four pages.

Consent Agenda Items-Land and Water:

For Out of county travel, the Lakes Partnership meeting in Stevens Point will have to be cancelled as none in the department are able to attend due to busy schedules. It was asked if any Committee members could attend. Jensen made motion that any Committee member that can attend the State Lakes convention should do so, Intrepidi seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried. The rest of consent agenda items were reviewed including the Land and Water Line 2015 item transfers. A motion was made by Jensen/Intrepidi to approve the out of county travel requests, accept monthly budget reports, monthly invoices/purchase orders and line item transfers as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Agency Reports:

Districts: Bear Lake had a meeting on March 5 and reviewed the management plan. It is a muck lake and there was discussion about removing the muck. An April meeting is scheduled for Horse Head Lake and Nokomis Lake. Thunder Lake has an annual meeting. Mid Lake met Wednesday night, and discussed weed harvesting and are considering a new harvesting machine.

NRCS: USDA Conservationist, Michael Stinebrink came to the meeting and introduced a new colleague Celie Borndal to the Committee. She has a Forest Management degree and has been here for over a year but they have not attended our meeting recently. NRCS will now have three conservationists with the addition of Borndal. NRCS has partnership with the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) who brought in two additional staff to work on the improving forest habitat for the golden-winged warbler and also improving habitat for ruffed grouse, woodcock and other species. By cutting out 5 acre swaths of young forest habitat of alder stands and managing aspen stands on private lands, they can create forest openings to provide better habitat for wildlife. They have completed a dozen projects in Oneida County. Also, the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a rewards program for private land owners for being good steward of the land where an annual payment is received according to the type of land. One other

program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a conservation program for private land owners to fixing natural resource problems; it is similar to the Cost Share program. A chart was in handout listing all eligible practices and payment rates that are available.

Stinebrink and Borndal excused at 2:25pm.

APHIS, FSA, OCEDC, LWCB, DNR, NCLWCA : no report.

WLWCA: Mott attended the Land and Water Annual conference at the Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake, WI. He attended six breakout sessions: Forestry Programs and Issues, Aquatic Invasive Species, DNR's New Wetland Screening and Delineation Procedure, Modeling for Prioritizing Conservation Efforts: WDNR and County Case Studies, WI CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) Update, and UAV's (Drones) for Conservation Work. Points of interest shared are that now there is an option to draw down water on lakes instead of chemical treatment to rid it of Eurasian Milfoil. This method works on flowages where water can be drained out. Public has to be convinced that this option will work. Mott commented that many young people attended and were enthusiastic and positive about new approaches. An interesting presentation was on UAVs, commonly called drones, for conservation work. UAVs are being used in agriculture and bridge construction. They can go up to 50 mph and can run for 30 minutes. An aviation license is needed to operate UAV's.

RC&D: Did not meet. Next one is in April in Vilas County.

WACEC: The State Convention is in Wausau in June.

Consent Agenda Items - UW-Extension:

Agenda items were presented to the Committee. Out of county travel requests were approved and the monthly budget reports, monthly invoices/purchase orders and line item transfers as presented were accepted. All ayes; motion carried.

Sadauskas and Jennrich were excused at 2:30 p.m.

Broadband:

Alexander reported that the private funding of towers in two locations is pending. Governor was to push funding of building of towers, there was concern that Northern Wisconsin was receiving too much funding, however, there is a need in this area of the state more so than in other areas. Rural broadband funding has recently been offered with federal money; Mott would like a report on this development for next meeting.

Air Quality:

The Air Quality Study took place on Tuesday, February 9 through Friday, February 12. The worst conditions were the day prior and the day after the study. Feldman commented that the State hygienist, who writes up the report, said that most likely the data will come back within standards. Since this is a dual use building, the standards are set too high for airport luggage handlers but too low for office workers who will be people impacted by the fumes. The people affected have filed reports on sore throats, allergy symptoms, and headaches. Daniel Karamanski felt that the data sampled would be sufficient. He recommended no further testing. As long as people are impacted this will be an issue within itself. The state is currently paying for the filter on the air purifier Alexander uses. Holewinski would like to see any state policy in writing regarding any sensitivity policy verbiage. An air exchanger has been installed. Daniel feels the air is coming from the luggage carrier area through the intake on that side of the wall. An engineer would be needed to analyze why fumes are still present. The results of the report will be coming in sometime after March 15. The bottom line is that people are being impacted, even if the results come within standards. The report will be not reviewed until the April 6th meeting when the Building and Grounds Committee and this Committee will review the results. When the report comes in

Jensen asks that it not be shared ahead of time. The moment the report is received, it becomes a public document. We will also have to see how Buildings and Grounds want to receive the report. The Committee would like to receive it ahead of time as an information packet when they receive the agenda. It was decided to send out the report to both Committees at the same time.

Technology Update:

We are experiencing some outages with ShoreTel. The phone system will go down for 30 seconds and will come back up. The office has and will continue to document and make a list of when it happens and contact Jack Flint in ITS. Voicemail is not always coming through consistently; there have been several reports by callers who did not have the option to go to voicemail. The number of rings has been reduced to remedy this occurrence. Our computers are still very slow. Williams received a computer due to the lag time in opening programs and to accommodate the graphics programs used to do her job. The County computers with Windows XP operating system will soon be unable to access UW-Extension content on Google Plus, used by the State. Richie was able to acquire new laptops for the agents last June 2015 due to continued poor access of documents from their County desktop computers. The Committee is aware that rest of county will be getting upgrades, and Extension office should be included in these upgrades. It is especially important for UW-Extension who uses Google Chrome through State. Flint from IT has performed an overview of the entire county. He has a timeline set and how he will address this XP expiration issue.

Fair Update:

Intrepid reported that the Fair Committee has announced that there will be two Brat Sales scheduled as fund raisers. The next Fair meeting will be April 6th. Blues and Barbeque is a new entertainment venue they would like to explore. The McNaughton crafted furniture items will be available this year as auction items. Gehrig is knocking on doors and bringing in funding. A larger way to finance the fair is still needed. Big prizes will be \$500 from Wal-Mart.

Staff Report:

Sara Richie presented Parents Forever, which is an educational program for families in transition. If divorcing parents are able to co-parent with limited conflict and maintain appropriate parent-child boundaries, their children tend to experience fewer negative outcomes. Self Care, Parent/Child Relationships, and Parent/Parent Relationships are the three main components of the program. Richie is working with the department of Social Services and Children and Families, Child Support and Economic Support for recruitment. The first session will be on April 26th and May 3rd. The 4-hour program will be split into two sessions and held in the evening at the Oneida County Senior Center. Parents Forever was developed by the University of Minnesota-Extension in 1994 and has been used by UW-Extension Family Living Educators for several years. The 4-hour program will cost participants \$20, but if there is a financial inability to pay for the program, the fee will be waived. In court ordered divorces, parents are often required to take a course such as this. Currently, in Oneida County, a co-parenting program is mandated for divorcing parents but not followed up on too strictly. In the past, there has not been an educational co-parenting program available in the county that focuses on the entire family unit. Mott mentioned that Richie should be in contact with coordinated services that she is offering this program.

UW Extension Reorganization Update:

There have been some deviations from the original plan. This is might be due to some counties who felt the re-organization was adding to administration and wondered how this would reduce cost. Educational programming is a very important part of Extension services. There will be two administration planning groups. The groups working on this will not have anything significant to report until late 2016 early 2017.

The area Area Leader concept has been questioned and may be changed to some degree. We will hold on to the current six month contract figures in June. Currently, there will not be a yearly contract due to the budget cut. Remember that this is year two of the budget cut. There will have to be changes made and we will not be able to depend on money that the Extension has in reserve get through to the next session. The state and county fiscal budget are not the same and this causes confusion and a planning challenge. For example, some line item transfers had to be made to match funding. The goal is still to have an Extension offices in all of the counties. Holewinski asked if Vilas County would not be a more central location to offer services. Counties will be buying packages of services rather than employees. If they wish, Counties will be able to fund additional positions. The state may cut certain programs rather than the County cutting programs. For example, a Lincoln county resident wanted to take a Master Food Preserver but that is not a program the state offers anymore. The state will have to make cuts in some areas where services were offered in the past.

Public Comment: Feldman announced she will need some judges for the Teen Court program and asked if any of the Committee members would be interested. The time commitment will be two hours. Robb Jensen will offer his time. Mott could as well, if need be.

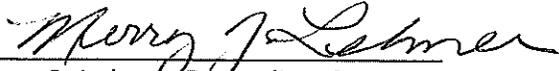
Items to include on next agenda:

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

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn by Intrepidi/Jensen was made at 3:45 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,


Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary


Thomas Rudolph, Committee Chair