

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee

July 11, 2016

Minutes

Committee members present: Chairman Bob Mott, Robb Jensen, Alan Van Raalte, Mitchell Ives, Jim Winkler and Kim Simac.

Others present: Michele Sadauskas, Karl Jennrich, Stephanie Boismenu, Will Andresen, Lynn Feldman, Myles Alexander, Sara Richie, Terri Lindner, Kevin Boneske, Daleth Mountjoy, and Merry Lehner.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mott at 1:00 p.m. noting the meeting has been properly posted and the facility is handicap accessible.

Approve Amended Agenda: Motion by Van Raalte and Jensen to approve today's amended agenda with the order of the items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve Minutes: Motion by Jensen and Van Raalte to approve the 6/13/16 meeting with one amendment per Van Raalte, on page four under WHIP Update/ Memorandum of Understanding Renewal, the word "Chair" should be inserted after County Board. All ayes; motion carried.

Date(s) of future meetings:

Aug 8, 2016	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference
Sept 12, 2016	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference

Cost Share Update:

Blue Waters has decided to go with the program and their \$1000.00 deposit is on its way. They hope to have the payment in by July 18. They have three more besides Blue Waters and Sadauskas and the DATCP engineer will be out on the sites next Monday to look at the possible projects.

The Roger James farm and well project was approved by DATCP and NRCS where Land and Water is now able to fund the well. James had one estimate come in at \$15,724 of which NRCS will help fund approximately \$7,500.00, which is their cap. Two more estimates will be coming in. James will make a \$500.00 deposit towards the well project for next summer. The 2016 project money will carry over to 2017. They will be right where they should be with the figures discussed last meeting.

The Rebholz project pulled out, which left some additional funding available. The department would be able to use that money on two other projects. Sadauskas asked the Committee if they could go up to the 70% cost share amount on those two projects. That would help the department out so that money would not be lost. They can go up to a 70% cost share with the type of projects these are; it is called a 50.69 practice with this 2015 money. It was noted that Rebholz was agreeable to the 75/25 refund due to the work already put into the project. Jensen made the motion to cost share up to 70% on the 2015 eligible projects, Winkler seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

2016 Soil & Water Resource Management Grant Contract:

This is funding for positions. Corporation Counsel reviewed the contract and we are in compliance with the DATCP policy for personnel issues. Van Raalte moved to approve the 2016 Soil & Water Resource Management Grant Contract as is. Winkler seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

LWC/P & Z Merger Update:

Sadauskas, as part of the management team of the department, will be back up Jennrich as department head in his absence. Jennrich is happy to have her on board and in the next two months will start to work on what needs to be done integrating the two departments. The approval was given by the County Board to extend the merger another year.

Efficiency Report:

The report needs approval from this Committee of Jurisdiction before moving it on to the Efficiency Team. The last Efficiency Team was from 2011. Jensen gave a review on how the Administration Committee wanted to update the efficiency study. A committee was formed consisting of Jensen and department heads that looked at the old survey and updated it. Then each department had to rate all their programs 1 to 10, where one is the highest priority, for the Efficiency Team who will review the prioritization decided upon by the Committee of Jurisdiction. The purpose is that it gives each department a chance to evaluate all their programs. Secondly, budgets are tight and continuing to have percentage cuts across the board, like last year, is not best course. For 2017, the focus will be to look at cutting programs that are not necessary. It gives insight on what various departments do and makes them prioritize how they use their budgets. Sadauskas shared the project description and a spreadsheet showing a total of eleven programs. The programs stayed the same since 2011 with the only additional program being Farmland Preservation. The number of FTE's dropped down to 3.73 employees. The C & D shows gross costs for each program and the revenues that were budgeted. Some are static numbers where amount money going in is same as amount going out. The numbers are ranked according to whether the program is mandated or of primary importance. The Committee has to accept efficiency report and then it will move on to Administration. Van Raalte made motion to approve the report as presented and Ives seconded it. All Ayes; motion carried.

LTE Staffing Requests for 2017:

This will be tabled until the next Committee meeting for both departments.

Discontinue Moen Lake Road Notice:

To vacate or eliminate a road, it has to go through a formal process where the adjoining property owners must be notified as to how this will impact them. This is an informational process per the statutes, where Committee needs to be notified of the event. From a zoning perspective, it is just a portion of the road. The road is located near Birchwood resort. It is more for a right-of-way than an elimination of the road. No approval or denial is needed but just a notification. The details are handled by Mike Romportl in the Land Information Office.

AIS Coordinator:

Stephanie Boismenu is the new Oneida County Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator. She has been involved with the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program for three years so she offers good insight and experience to the position. Congratulations go out to Stephanie.

Consent Agenda Items – Land & Water

There were no out-of-county travel requests or line item transfers. Jensen made a motion to approve consent agenda for items B and C for Land and Water. Winkler seconded motion. All ayes; motion carried.

Agency Reports:

Lake Districts: Mid Lake held their annual meeting on July 2 and Mott will provide an update at our next month. Van Raalte reported last month. Bear Lake's annual meeting will be July 23 per Jensen. Ives attended the Horsehead Lake meeting and commented that weed growth is down. Their annual meeting is coming up. Winkler reported on Thunder Lake last month.

FSA: Simac said that the quarterly meeting reported that crops are doing well. Apple crops were damaged from the early frosts and some orchards will be impacted. There was discussion about moving around some offices in Rhinelander and Merrill. Langlade County will host some FSA offices out of Antigo.

WLWCA: A County Conservation meeting is being held July 21-22 in Wisconsin Rapids.

RC&D: July 28 is the next Lumberjack meeting where Mott, Van Raalte, and Sadauskas will attend.

NCLWCA: August 11 meeting will be held in Marathon County where Mott will attend. Sadauskas provided a sign-up sheet for any who wish to attend at Stoney Acres Farm, Athens, WI.

WACEC: June Conference was held and the Extension office supplied a County gift. Richie attended and presented at the conference.

Consent Agenda Items – UW-Extension:

Agenda items were presented to the Committee. There were no line item transfers. A Motion made by Winkler to approve the UW-Extension Consent agenda items A through C, seconded by Van Raalte. All ayes; motion carried.

Jennrich, Sadauskus, and Boismenu were excused at 2:00 p.m.

Pioneer Park/Oneida County Fair/Building & Grounds Committee- City of Rhinelander:

A letter was distributed by Mott from the City requesting a commitment for the ongoing operations of the Fair at Pioneer Park. A 5-year Commitment to the Fair at Pioneer Park in written form from the County will provide confidence that any additional infrastructure added for the primary purpose of serving the Fair will be utilized. Aschenbrenner wants assurances that County will support the Fair starting 2017, running through 2021. That is when the expansion of the electrical infrastructure will begin for the Fair. The Oversight Committee will have to be an advisor to the Board of Supervisors on how to progress. Myles Alexander has worked on a survey asking county residents for input. He has also worked on what makes a Fair successful. Mott would like to see this report in by August. These finding can be reported to the Fair through Jim Winkler on what has made others Fairs successful throughout the State and nation. Many fairs have changed their venues from the past. Mott is asking the Committee come up with a way that this issue can be addressed with the County. How can we at a County level give the assurance that is requested in the letter? Do we draft a resolution as a Committee and say we support this and ask the County Board for funding? Do we ask for a specific amount of funding? Will there be stable funding over time? Are there ways to increase revenue for the Fair? Most people would pay admission even though there is not a physical gate. There is a staffing issue for the gates. Resources are limited. In the past \$25,000 was put forth and this amount has decreased every year, urging the Fair to be self-sustaining. Mott asked this to be kept in mind for discussion or reflection by the County Board members. Mott requested Winkler to forward ideas the Fair Board has to support the Fair. Include how the electrical improvements benefit the Fair and would make a difference in revenue. Alexander asked for a definition of a successful Fair. Per Mott, attendance of 15,000 last year shows success. Entertainment is important and attendance by youth matters. Participation by different organizations and areas of the county where not just Rhinelander is involved would have impact on the success of the Fair. Winkler worked in two different states as a youth and adult judge where every county fair was held in the County Seat. It is critical to have support by the County. It is felt that the County should pay the Fair Coordinator position. The Secretary and Treasurer are paid positions by the County which prevents the Fair from becoming a

non-profit entity. Could the Fair become incorporated? We should investigate further if becoming incorporated as a non-profit is possible. Another valid point is that Oneida County does not have fairgrounds. Winkler is not convinced that the current location is the best place the Fair could be. At one time it was housed at Hodag Park in the eighties before Country Fest grounds location. The Fair looked very small at that location.

Winkler prefers donation buckets versus admission. Fiscal independence is important. Is it a County Fair or a Rhinelander Carnival? Feedback from the public is needed to determine who attends. Is the Fair populated by residents of Rhinelander or from surrounding areas and tourists? Are we overly dependent on the organizers to raise funds? Everyone in community asks the same businesses over and over for funding. Success does include a sustainable infrastructure per Feldman. It does not make sense to continue hiring out additional services instead of improving the Pioneer Park. Per Van Raalte, the amount of money being paid out for temporary electricity would pay for permanent increased electrical services in a few years. The petting zoo is impacted by lack of electricity. Alexander suggested an exit or entrance survey. We are not prepared to do it this year. We could send out a County Survey. He distributed a letter from River Falls where it would cost \$7000.00 but where would this money come from? The question remains does the County support the Fair. Most fairgrounds make their money by charging services year round where they charge people to store stuff during the year, etc. Mott asked the Committee to be prepared at the next meeting to present their ideas. The City will want to hear from the County.

Workplace Environment:

Daniel Karamanski has not yet responded regarding an engineering study; therefore no more information is available per Feldman. Karamanski is struggling to find who can perform such a study, per Will Andresen. Mott said it is important to find someone who will perform the proper study. Then there is the question of cost. We do not know what the cost would be or if it would be prohibitive. Administration is looking for a recommendation of where UW-Extension should be housed, regardless of an engineering study. We do not have enough information to make this important decision yet.

Approval to Seek Off-Site Space for Staff:

As we approach winter, a decision needs to be made for temporary housing for UW- Extension staff. Last year the Committee decided to allow staff to leave the building when fumes were present. There was limited space at the Courthouse provided for staff to use during the time of fumes. It was difficult to have support staff to go to courthouse due to most of their job functions being loaded on desktops. A protocol was devised to follow if support staff left. State educators were allowed to work remotely. It is against the mission of the Extension to split up the staff permanently. Feldman asked if employees wanted to have an alternate office temporarily. One or two rooms are still available, for time being, at the Courthouse. If a decision is made to move out permanently Feldman will need permission to look at alternate sites. It will hinge on the nEXT generation decision. Mott would like both temporary and permanent sites to be looked into and will ask the Committee to move on this request. All staff is permitted to search for alternate sites. The motion was made that one, the Committee approve that the Extension office to seek temporary off-site office space and two, that the Extension office will at sites for permanent re-location with a cost exploration included. Jensen seconded the motion.

It was questioned if other areas of the building are affected by fumes. Two points of entry have been identified in the HVAC system where fumes were present but the paths of entry are unknown. Jensen and Ives asked about Nicolet as an alternate site. If Karaminski is having difficulty finding an engineering study, asked Richie, how much more time should be given. Ives commented that he is against temporary fixes and spending more money. How long has this issue been going on? Get it over with and just

relocate the Extension offices. If a third study does not find anything it will just prolong staff remaining here; it makes sense to relocate. Temporary office space can be provided for this winter, but the need to relocate permanently seems logical. Permanent re-location depends on the results of UW re-organization decisions.

A meeting date of August 22 at 1:00 p.m. at the UW Conference room was scheduled to discuss UW-Extension housing options.

Mott asked to vote on the motion already made. All ayes; motion carried.

It was moved by Ives and seconded by Van Raalte that no further study be completed at this time. No vote was made. We know where the air is coming in, but the paths of entry are unknown. The study would involve looking at the air flow in the building and if anything can be done to resolve it. If the study can then identify the paths of air flow then it remains to be seen if it can be corrected. Feldman clarified that the University would pay for half of the study only if the County would move forward to correct the problem at the Extension office. There is not a guarantee it can be corrected.

Technology Update:

There was a report from one caller who could not get through to the office. Slow access has continued in the past few weeks. The XP computers at the Extension office no longer support updates. This is the case in other offices in the County as well. The agents are using their State issued lap tops that have Windows 7 and they still have some issues. Agents do not even use the desktop computers from the County because they will not handle the State technology.

Efficiency Report:

Feldman spoke with Sorenson in Finance about how to report on some of the numbers for this report. The administration costs for Land and Water were deleted and the Fair costs were inserted, per her advice. Feldman stated the ranking is difficult as all educators are equal to her. It was suggested by Finance that the Committee perform the ranking on this report. Feldman asked each staff member to complete their areas, and she compiled and tweaked the numbers. The number is low for one agent due to him being new. Last time the Efficiency Report was completed the ranking was as follows: WNEP 1, CNRED 2, Family Living 3, 4-H Youth Development 4, Customer Service 5. The number One is the highest in the ranking. WNEP was ranked highest and it is a separate entity where Federal dollars are being funneled through Extension. Discussion over how to rank the agents was difficult as each one functions separately. The County contract with UW-Extension is a flexible partnership. Andresen said in relation to agents, that all four wheels will be kept on the bus, because of the partnership of County and the State. Mott moved that keep the ranking as they were for last year and rank the Fair as 6, as they do not provide a service. Van Raalte seconded the motion. All ayes, except Jim Winker, who opposed.

Re-Org Update:

The nEXT Generation Project for the County groups of Florence, Forest, Oneida, Vilas and Lac du Flambeau Bank of Lake Superior Chippewa meeting will take place on July 13 at 1:00 p.m. at the Prince of Peace Church in Eagle River. Mott, Van Raalte and Winkler will attend.

Will Andresen gave an up-date on the re-organization. The cuts have been made and the county model will go through. Since it was important for the counties to be involved the process the goal of when everything will be complete has been pushed back. No real changes will take place with the re-organization until February. What is certain so far is that, first, there will be a multi-county model consisting of either four or five counties in each unit. Our model includes Vilas, Forest, and Florence Counties with Oneida County and will prevail as presented earlier in the year. Second, the units have been selected and we know who is in our county group. It will be unlikely that they will change. Third,

there will be a local presence. As far as structure and programs areas, that is still all on the table. Committees were created for each program area and they will go through the rest of the process from now into 2017 for each program area. Then all other ideas will be looked at by additional committees to tie everything together. By May, June, July, 2017 we will have major decisions in place. The new structure will start in 2018. So there is much process to go through with implementation starting in about a year. This coming meeting is billed as listening session, where the Extension will listen to you, the Committee members. They want to hear from our Committee.

County offices will be quite similar. Some positions will be multi-county where some will stay one county only. Area educators will remain with the county they are originally housed in. There will be an analysis of needs. When will this happen? They are still working on structure of re-organization and between by July 2017 and January 2018 they will have the specifics of the agent structure. One thing to advocate for is to develop dialogs with the multi-county relationships. The County Board and this Committee are urged to attend as interested stakeholders.

Broadband:

Roger Luce reviewed the agreement between OCEDC and Northwoods Connect where they put in an application to Wisconsin Public Service Commission. He showed a map where red circles designate where the equipment will be located on either new towers or existing towers. The total project cost was \$403,236.00 and they had matching funds of \$220,670.00. OCEDC requested \$180,566.00. There were over 30 applications made where over three million dollars in requests applied for the 1.5 million dollars in funding. There are two towers in the town of Cassian that will be put in place by a neighborhood LLC who will own the two towers and lease back to Northwoods Connect. It will be a \$60,000 cash outlay to put those two towers up. The town of Crescent is putting \$23,000 of cash as a contribution to go toward the location of a new tower. Newbold will put up \$33,000 cash towards a new higher tower. There are three existing towers where two are in Sugar Camp and one in Three Lakes located in the NE corner of the lake where there currently is no service. The grey areas of the map represent the existing projects they have done in the past with Northwoods Connect. The town of Nokomis also did a project as well where they just went on line and will start hooking up customers soon. Our goal is not to be an end all, but can we as an economic development project to impact all these areas for people who want to have access from home whether it is seasonal or year round. The Public Service closed their application process. The commission staff should have their decisions out to applicants by mid-August.

Oneida County government gave \$13,670 that was left in the fund for broadband. Last time they came back to applicants asking if they would settle for lesser amounts. Oneida County is one of the larger requesters. One other update is the Joint Review Committee of the Legislature has created a task force with legislators and private sector individuals. Phil Hetjmanek, from the town of Cassian, who was involved in putting up money for their two towers, was appointed as a representative by the Governor and the Joint Legislative Committee on Rural Broadband for the State of Wisconsin. He will begin his service in August. OCEDC present on September 7 before that entire Committee and review a list of things that could be changed or improved upon. More money would be one of those requests. The timeline, if the grant is awarded, is that the contracts will be signed and process will start immediately. Easily by this time next year things will be started. If equipment is installed on existing towers, it does not take long. We will know by mid-August if we get the grant.

Will Andresen was excused at 3:50 p.m.

Terri Lindner was excused at 4:00 p.m.

Fair Planning Committee Update:

Winkler stated the Committee has been meeting every two weeks. They wanted to elect a president and two people came forward. There was a delay due to pending background checks. A new President came

forward from within and a different vice president may be elected as a result. If this occurs it will be a lateral change. A member will have to serve for at least one year to qualify. They will change the by-laws to reflect this. Anyone in the community can apply to be a board member. There was discussion about how to raise the funds. The small fund raisers do not have the needed impact on finances, where larger amounts are required to make a difference in the Fair budget. There were raffle tickets distributed to the County Board Member's mailboxes. Five were returned. Raffle sales were up this year and ahead of last year's figures. The County is urged to invest in the Fair. It was suggested to give the Fair a set amount of cash each year instead of cutting the amount back. Feldman is excited about the energy with Committee right now. The Fair lost their previous Treasurer and President as key people involved in the past. New people are in bringing new ideas.

Fair Planning Committee Contract/Invoice Action:

The Contract invoices were presented and now are required to meet risk management approval, and if approved no longer need to go to Administration for approval. A motion will be required to move forward. A motion was made to approve payment of the invoices by Van Raalte and seconded by Winker. All ayes motion approved. A second motion was by Jansen to approve the invoices for contracts that are yet to come to Risk Management occurring now through the next meeting. It was seconded by Van Raalte. All ayes; motion carried.

The Native American Dancers will need a contract waiver due to each dancer requiring a contract. Feldman will ask Administration to waive liability insurance. W-9's will be requested for each dancer.

Fair Survey options and Action

Alexander said he conduct the survey late September early October on a random sample survey for County residents using the property tax address. Mott asked if a survey could be used at the election. This would not be statistically valid to do so at an election per Alexander. This would not include out of town residents or people that vote. The survey cost could range from \$7,000.00 to as much as \$14,000.00 to \$21,000.00.

The questions have not been posed yet for the survey. There was an intercept survey that Lincoln and other Counties could share that shows questions asked. One of the questions will ask "Will the County support the Fair". Another question will pose what people do when they go to Fair and how much money they spend at the Fair. They wonder where the County will find money in order to support the Fair. Alexander can complete the data analysis which would reduce the cost by \$1,500.00. The Committee will have to go to the County to budget this survey. This topic will be discussed again next month. Another discussion involved whether the County and City can split costs. Further discussion on how the survey would pose questions, and how people would respond to the questions took place. Alexander is working with the City already regarding Pioneer Park. Mott would like to see how the city will respond for next month.

Agent Report – Lynn Feldman:

Feldman presented a project on Teen Workforce Readiness Workshop. It was presented last year to the County Board. Feldman worked with Partners in Education in Rhinelander and they had an afternoon workshop at the high school for one class of seniors. The class covered mock interviews, resume building, and first impressions at an interview, all done in a lecture format. The students took their resumes and had mock interviews. Out of her work with Partners in Education Feldman came up with the idea to conduct a workshop in a similar fashion but included input from the local business owners as to what their needs were for teen help in the summertime. This time the students would receive a certificate once they completed the workshop. This spring the program started with Three Lakes with a two-fold purpose. First, try to build skills with teens where it is recognized that these first jobs are where this is needed. Second,

with a tourist climate, they need on the spot skills for six week period of time in the summer. Established skills are needed upon entering a job in the spring. Businesses need employees to build skills during winter if they can. It would be beneficial to both youth and businesses. She described how to make the workshop happen though networking that was already in place. Through connections with Three Lakes School where Feldman participated in the afterschool program, she found out that the library was working on a mini workshop on mock interviewing and skill building. Business people held an assembly at the school. She set up an agenda and a three hour workshop, arranged advertising for the event, and gathered seven business leaders to participate. It was held on June 7 after school had ended for the season. A preparatory workshop was held at Demmer Library where six youth attended, six business leaders, a school guidance counselor and social worker participated. This was a first time effort. The agenda covered knowing strengths, job attitude, first impressions, interview questions, communication skills, job expectations, problem solving scenarios, mock interviews, resources, evaluation and certificates. Self- esteem building took place to examine how they feel about themselves and readiness training for a job. One business owner asked what if kids had questions afterwards, so they formed a Google community connection for an interchange of questions and answers. This helped in keeping in touch with kids as they grew in experience. It was economically beneficial to the community as well as being retail focused. The youth can take these skills with them where ever they go. The school will have the course next year as a pilot program.

Public Comment:

None

Items to include on next agenda:

Update on: Cost Share, LWC /P&Z Update, LTE Staffing Requests, Pioneer Park/Oneida County Fair/Building & Grounds Committee- City of Rhinelander. Fair Planning Committee Update, Fair Survey options and Action, Air Quality, and UW-Extension Re-org update and alternate site update.

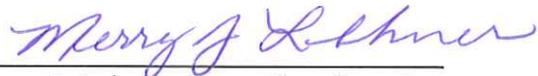
Adjournment

A motion to adjourn by Jensen/Van Raalte was made at 4:51 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bob Mott, Committee Chair



Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary