

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
September 14, 2015
Minutes

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

Others present: Karl Jennrich, Fred Heider, Matt Peplinski, Jean Hansen, Michele Sadauskus, Baerbel Ehrig, Ben Jeffrey, Sara Richie, Lynn Feldman, Nancy Gehrig, and Merry Lehner.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rudolph at 8:30 a.m. noting the meeting has been properly posted and the facility is handicap accessible.

Approve Agenda: Motion by Jensen/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 Intrepidi/Jensen to approve the minutes of 08/10/15. All ayes; motion was carried.

Date(s) of future meetings:

Oct 12, 2015	1:30 p.m.	UWEX Conference room
Nov 9, 2015	1:30 p.m.	UWEX Conference room

Farmland Preservation Plan Resolution:

Heider gave an update regarding some text changes on the Farmland Preservation Plan. On page 32 the wording under Farmland Preservation Income Tax Credits was made clearer. Participating landowners have the opportunity to claim farmland preservation income tax credits that are applied against their tax liability. The tax credit is \$5.00/acre if the land-owner is in an AEA (Agricultural Enterprise Area), and has a farmland preservation agreement with DATCP signed after 2009. Several other corrections were made as well and Committee Members received copies outlining these edits. Heider was excused at 8:49 a.m.

2105 Oneida County Fair Update:

Gehrig reported that the Fair had some great results. Weather was awesome. Attendance was up where the total was 18,000 people. She is grateful for the community support in setting up the Fair and for helping afterwards. For the budget, there is a little bit of cushion. Donation boxes totaled about \$1,200. The Fair received \$13,000 in donations from businesses. Gehrig stated she did not know what she would do without these donations. In-kind donations from local businesses must be recognized as well where \$10,000 in services and raffle prizes were given. For example, all advertising was given in-kind this year. Schroeder donated the use of trailer for the Fair office. She pointed out the Fair booklet highlights all the businesses and individuals who offered their time, products, or services. Gehrig said that they could not have the Fair without the help of the McNaughton crew, who also were "Gold Level" sponsors of the Fair. We should all thank these groups for their efforts.

The Committee commended Gehrig for the amount of donations she received from the community. Jensen stated that the 2016 Fair will have some difficult budget decisions to make. Will it be possible for the Fair to be self-sustaining? A suggestion was posed that raffles could be started six months in

advance to bring in more income. Wristband sales helped the Fair this year but which carnival will be used could be explored. Charging a one dollar admission and admitting children for free, was suggested by Mott and this could add to sustainability. Could this be brought up to the Fair Committee? One area of improvement that would be very helpful is to increase the electrical structure. Vendors were turned away due to not having enough sites that offered electricity. Gehrig intends to apply for the Lumberjack grant for increasing the electrical needs of Pioneer Park. Rudolph stressed that if a grant is proposed to Lumberjack RC & D, Gehrig would have to have grant proposal approved by the next Committee meeting.

FSA Update:

Matt Peplinski informed the group that the sign up for Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) program deadline is September 30, 2015. The New Dairy Program sign up deadline is also September 30 for the 2016 year. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign up will be starting in December. Elections start in November through December 2, 2015. It is a voluntary program that helps agricultural producers use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. The Wisconsin Farm Service Agency fiscal year begins in October. Due to possible budget constraints, Peplinski may have to forego Committee meeting attendance, but will keep us up to date through written notification. Peplinski was excused at 9:13 p.m.

2016 LWC Department Budget:

Hansen presented 2016 budget to Committee and the main points were discussed. Health insurance totals remain to be determined due to the 12% increase, which they are working on getting lowered. The AIS line item transfers listed are separate from the 2016 Budget. This is due to the AIS grant date being changed from August to December and the grant will have to be written up in December 2015. Money is being transferred within the categories. Estimates have to be made as best as they can for December. Line item transfers are estimated corrections from last year's budget. A motion was made to approve the 2016 LWC budget by Mott and Intrepidi. All ayes; motion carried.

LWCD and P & Z Merger:

Jennrich stated there are no updates at this time. It was asked if the organizational flow chart might be completed and to address Land and Water priorities. Follow-up will be sometime in next few months when they have more information put together. There is a land use specialist on staff where Land and Water will be working with Planning & Zoning for use of this staff member. The merged department will be a tough budget.

Cost Share Update:

Mott had requested at last meeting for an update on this program. Hansen has signed up one person so far, but her cost estimate is not in yet. She has a list and completed surveys of people who are interested in the program, but who have not yet given their final go-ahead. There are several people pending on Nokomis Lake regarding shoreland erosion, and one on Snowden Lake. They have \$29,000 left after the one person who is already signed up. That will leave a maximum of \$7,500 each for the other interested parties. Many are pending surveys and site visits. Closure of abandonment of open wells is another area the program covers, which is important to prevent contamination. Half of the cost is paid for closures by DATCP. This service is available to anybody. They have notified well drillers of this service as well. Available Cost Share money will be

promoted; it has been presented in the past and the website is up to date. There could be model projects presented to lake groups so that grant money is put to good use. The Committee wants to be sure all the money is allocated. The landowners could be given a deadline. This will be kept on the agenda for an update next month.

Proposed Lumberjack RC&D Pollinator Project:

Hansen submitted the Roadside Pollinator Habitat Improvement proposal that needs to be approved by the Committee to apply for a grant to Lumberjack RC&D. The grant proposal has to be in by October 15. Ben Jeffrey contributed many hours of work into this proposal. Baerbel Ehrig was introduced representing Three Lakes. Oneida County Land and Water, in partnership with the town of Three Lakes will oversee the project. A coordinator will be appointed to meet project goals. The Oneida County Highway Department will assist in preparing sites. The project timetable will start this Fall and go through the Fall of 2016. Total cost estimate requested is \$10,000. Financial assistance will be needed for preparing habitat sites, seeding, plug development, and hiring a coordinator. Various volunteer groups were suggested to participate. A motion to apply for a grant by the 15th of October will be needed today. Mott made a motion to pass this project on to Lumberjack RC&D, Intrepid seconded the motion. All ayes; motion passed. Jennrich, Sadauskus, Jeffrey, and Ehrig were excused at 10:15 a.m.

Consent Agenda Items-Land and Water:

Information was reviewed and no further questions were presented. Jensen moved to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Intrepid seconded motion. All ayes; motion approved. Hansen was excused at 10:25 a.m.

Agency Reports:

For Lake Districts, Bear Lake will meet on September 16 and a report will be provided next time. No other districts had news. FSA was addressed above. For USDA and APHIS, Jim Tharman had sent Wisconsin Deer Donation Program for 2015 and wants to know if our committee wants to go with this donation program as it relates to the APHIS deer and wildlife damage program. The Committee would like to have this item put on the October Agenda for approval. Next month Jim Tharman will be at Committee meeting to discuss USDA 2016 budget.

The WACEC conference will be coupled with the Wisconsin Counties Association meeting in La Crosse on September 20-22. There will be some presentations regarding UW-Extension and a WACEC board meeting as well. The RC&D will have a council meeting the last Friday in October. No other agency reports had information.

Broadband Update from Roger Luce, OCEDC:

Luce reported on the broadband survey results. Forty surveys were sent to the Town of Lynne and part of the Town of Little Rice. The respondents were contacted afterwards. Out of the forty respondents, 27 sent back their survey or spoken with afterwards. Seven people were happy with their current service and not interested in any other service. Three of the 27 were not interested in any internet. Currently, Centurylink offers DSL over the phone line for email, but one cannot stream or download data with this service. Most residents receive service under one mega-byte. Seventeen people were very interested in a faster, cost competitive service. Most prefer the range of 3 to 5 mega-bytes which would be in the price range of \$30 to \$50. An average of \$60 per month is paid by residents now. The next step will be to contact all the property owners within a five mile radius,

minus the 40 people surveyed. As agreed, the grant through the State of Wisconsin will be given the survey data on the 40 people. The state wanted to gauge this group and go back to them next year to measure the economic impact of broadband.

Now the rest of the people in the area will be surveyed. A survey was just sent to the Town of Three Lakes where data will be gathered on the out-of-state property owners or people with a second residence in the area. Summertime residents are the ones who really want and need broadband; they might stay all season at their summer homes if they had good service. Some could run a business out of their home. This would be a good group to measure the economic impact upon later.

It is assumed that Rhinelander, Three Lakes and Minocqua would have good service, but this is not the case, according to surveys. People are responding in volumes about their current service and the need for broadband. It was asked what the break-even point was with the investment from the county. Wireless is the only way these areas can be served. It costs approximately 1.5 million per mile to lay wire down, as has been done on Highway 17.

The county and towns will have to decide if it is worth it to have internet service. The big companies are not interested in this investment, so the small companies are trying to make things go and are seeking investors.

Phone system Update:

The new telephone system will be installed on Monday, October 26 through Wednesday, October 28. Charter will be coming this Wednesday afternoon, September 16 to complete the wiring. The phones have been ordered and we are looking forward to the new system.

Air Quality Update:

The new fan has been installed. Brauer informed Feldman that the company who installed the fan will be stopping in to tweak the set up so it will be set to operate as the auxiliary ventilation system.

2016 UW-Extension budget draft approval:

Feldman reviewed Fair budget first. The numbers are as exact as possible given that there are some wages still outstanding. They could look at the possibility of a new carnival, but the wristband sales made it work this year. The Fair Planning Team will be looking into it. It is essential to apply for the additional electrical. Partial electrical improvements would cost \$10,000 to \$12,000. Gehrig will apply for the grant proposal through RC & D or another grant. Fairs need to stay progressive in order to be sustainable. Intrepid made motion to approve the Fair budget as presented, Mott seconded the motion. All ayes; motion was approved.

UW Extension budget was reviewed by the Committee. The budget is less due to the vacancy of Tim Brown and Erica Brewster. The county will be receiving a rebate from the state due to the vacancy. The following year will show an increase when the Extension Office is fully up to staff. A motion was made to approve the UW Extension budget as presented by Mott and seconded by Intrepid. All ayes; motion approved.

Schedule special meeting: Discussion of Priorities for New CNRED Agent.

Prefer a special meeting for this. The new agent will start November 1, 2016. They will schedule it for Monday, October 26, at 8:30 a.m. in Airport Conference Room.

UW Report to Committee:

Anne Williams's presentation was postponed.

Consent Agenda Items UW-Ext:

A motion was made to approve the Extension Consent Agenda Items as approved by Mott and was seconded by Intrepidi as presented. All ayes; motion approved.

Public Comments

None

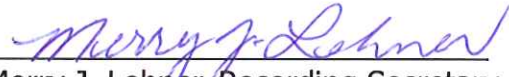
Items to include on next agenda

APHIS-2015 Wisconsin Deer Donation Program, Department Merger, Cost Share update, RC & D Pollinator Project, Phone Update, Air Quality.

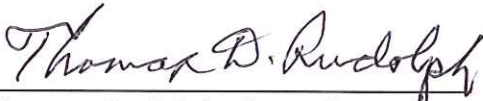
Adjournment

A motion was made by Intrepidi/Mott to adjourn meeting. All Ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary



Thomas Rudolph, Committee Chair