

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
July 17, 2015
Amended Minutes

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

Others present: Jean Hansen, Lynn Feldman, Sara Richie, Joel Knutson, and Merry Lehner.

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

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

Approve Minutes of 5/12/15 joint LRES & Conservation/UWEX meeting:

A motion was made by Jensen/Holewinski to approve the minutes of the 5/12/15 joint meeting of LRES and CUW. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve Minutes:

Motion by Holewinski/Intrepidi to approve the 6/08/15 minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

Date(s) of future meetings:

August 10, 2015	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room
Sept 14, 2015	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room

NCWRPC Study:

No date has been established where both LRES and the CUW Committee could meet where there would be a quorum between the two committees. Both departments have sent out Doodles, again, to get all people concerned together for this joint meeting. At this point, the meeting is scheduled out to the first week in September, pending confirmation from LRES.

Consent Agenda Items: UW-Extension:

Out of county travel requests were reviewed.

The County Conservationist Meeting was held July 14 and 15 and was approved, after the fact. It was discussed in the previous meeting but was not recorded in the minutes. Committee requested that all out of county travel should be presented prior to approval. It was recognized that there are times when events cannot be requested ahead of time.

A motion by Jensen/Mott to approve the UW-Extension Consent Agenda as presented. All ayes; motion carried. A separate motion will be made for Land Water Conservation.

Jean Hansen arrived to the Committee Meeting at 1:30pm

Farmland Preservation Plan Update/FPP Resolution:

Jean Hansen stated that the plan was certified by DATCP. The Committee has to approve the resolution and then it will go to the full county board for the approval of FFP. Then Karl Jennrich and Hansen will speak to Brian Desmond as to how to proceed from there. The Comprehensive plan will fall under the Planning and Zoning jurisdiction. The reason Planning and Zoning is now involved is because their Committee works on the Comprehensive Plan. It must be submitted to DATCP by December 1, 2015. There were some minor tweaks that were made before the plan was certified by DATCP. This Committee needs to approve the plan and sign the resolution to be forwarded. A motion was made to move the Farmland Preservation Plan Resolution on to the County Board by Jensen/Mott. All ayes; motion carried.

Implications of LWCD merger with Planning & Zoning Department:

There was lengthy discussion on this subject at the last meeting. It was asked if there are any further comments. Hansen stated she would still like to see them remain a stand-alone department. The trial period is supposed to be from August 2015 to August 2016. It was proposed that since it is a very busy time of year for all departments involved, it was suggested that the date be adjusted. Perhaps they could propose to set it back to the next election as it is a change in the committee structure. Could they go back to the county board with this? A motion was made that Hansen meet with Charbarneau and Jennrich to set back the date from August 2015 to a later date by Holewinski/ Intrepidi. Jensen suggested this should not be delayed. Hansen should discuss with Charbarneau and Jennrich before the next Committee meeting. Holewinski amended his motion and the second was withdrawn, to bring back the resolution to extend the date of August 2015 or come back with implementations of the Land Water Conservation merger with Planning and Zoning. This amended motion was seconded by Intrepidi. All ayes; motion carried.

Further comment was made that Karl Jennrich, Planning and Zoning should be included on the agenda distribution list for this Committee Meeting.

Proposed Lumberjack RC& D Project:

Jean Hansen presented a Pollinator Habitat Project to promote pollinators and ascetically pleasing plants, and to keep down invasive plants. Cranberry marshes would benefit from this project. Roadsides are a perfect setting to implement this project for several reasons. First, it would be pleasing to travelers to see flowers growing along the side of roads. Second, it serves the community well to have conservation practices in place that will preserve native plants and species. The site will be Highway A in the right of way on the outskirts of town. The mowing of these habitat areas would only occur once or twice a season. This site would be a demonstration test site to see how well the concept will work. There currently are organizations that are in support of such projects. Hanson would like approval of the proposed project. Holewinski requested more information on the cost of such a project. It was further commented that it sounds like a good plan if wild bees will not be harmful to honey bees. Mott suggested Jean please come back to the Committee with more information.

Consent Agenda Items for Land and Water:

Hansen reviewed line item transfers. Out of county travel was approved by the Committee and was noted today for the County Conservationist Meeting held on July 15 and 16, 2015. A motion was made to approve the consent agenda items of Land and Water by Holewinski/Intrepidi. All Ayes; motion approved.

Approval of UW-Extension Contracts:

Lynn Feldman stated that the contract is the same as the previous contract with one exception. Item 4, Section E is the only difference from the previous contract. Since discussion has not been finalized on the NCWRPC Study, they did not want to proceed until that had been finalized. A motion by Holewinski/Jensen to approve the contract with changes as approved by the LRES Committee. All ayes; motion was approved.

Air Quality:

A negative pressure fan will be installed this fall to help alleviate the condition of the air in the lower level of the airport. Corrugated venting was replaced over the WNEP office area and it has rectified the problem with debris falling on the educator's desk. Holewinski suggest that all the corrugated duct work be replaced with brand new duct work. He suggested that Feldman and LuAnn Brunette discuss and propose it to Joe Brauer.

Phone System Update:

Feldman has contacted Lynn Grube for an update and the wiring is to be initiated in the next two weeks. Richie commented the current system does affect the technology of the department. The question was asked why there is still a delay. Rudolph said that he will contact Grube and request an update at the request of the Committee.

Interim CNRED Position Update:

August 4, 2014 is the final interview which will be scheduled in the morning. Seventeen applicants were screened in to the state. Four people will have preliminary interviews. Rudolph, Mott, Holewinski, Intrepidi, and Jensen are confirmed to be present for the interview. The Committee requested that they receive the questions used at the interview. Feldman does not have them available yet; as soon as the questions are received they would be sent to the members. The Committee will meet together and review the questions and the protocol involved ahead of time.

Oneida County Fair Update:

Sponsorships are helping to keep the fair budget in the black. The Trigs brat sale brought in additional income. Intrepidi reported that the Fair Judges and Entertainment contracts were approved by the Fair Board.

Agency Reports:

Robb Jensen submitted minutes from the Bear Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District. Mott attended the Mid Lake Annual Meeting on 7/4/15. They are purchasing a weed harvesting machine. Horsehead Lake had their meeting on 7/6/15. They cancelled their contract this year due to a shortage of weeds. Some milfoil was found which cannot be eradicated but can be kept under control. They have contracted divers to pull out the weed. They have \$17,000 rolled over into next year's budget. The levy next year will be to the tax payer's advantage. No other agencies had reports.

Agent Report – Joel Knutson:

Knutson presented a new model of community engagement that is a pilot project initiated in Three Lakes last April. It is called the Three Lakes Community Fund and it is a community development project being worked on in concert with the Wisconsin Towns Association and the Statewide Associational Leaders organization. It has been a pilot in other areas of Wisconsin and Knutson initiated the concept in our county. They are looking for a mechanism to bring new people to the table for possible community development projects. Change traditionally involves transaction costs and how much time will people put into a project. The project will look at the opportunity costs to relationships in a community when change takes place. One thing that happens is that many different organizations, institutions and actors will work at the same goal but are not really communicating with one another. The other scenario is where there are tight relationships between different actors and they worry about the change will fray those bonds.

Participants went out into the community to speak with people one on one to find out where people congregate, eat, play, go to church etc. They came up with about 25 groups and organizations.

The questions asked were: Why Three Lakes? What draws you here, what keeps you here, what resonates and why. They held three meetings of diverse participants and asked a total of about 85 people those questions. Individuals were given an opportunity to think about this question on their own and then discuss it in groups. Where they ended up was quite different from their initial thoughts.

It was significant that even in a seasonal community, such as Three Lakes, many participants commented on the "feel" of Three Lakes. It is a family vacation environment, but people from elsewhere have moved to the area based on that feeling of local pride. The town has attracted younger people who have chosen to work and live in Three Lakes. The second question asked what things you would like to see in 10 to 20 years. The answers were to keep it a vibrant town with a good economy and good schools. It was interesting they wanted a clean community and clean lakes. The groups identified the assets they already have and "nature" was the common asset where people's relationship with the environment was the connection, regardless of specific activity. Finally, the groups were asked what things are getting in the way. Broadband was the only infrastructure phrase that came up. All the rest were attitude adjustments that involved why groups of people only talk or associate with certain groups. Why don't they talk with people they do not know? It then becomes a refinement process of competing attitudes. The goal is to get all personality types to talk with one another. This will result in finding new individuals and talents to invest in this future, where leaders and contributors can work together to bring about the desired changes. The whole process is to get changes to happen in community. All have different goals and will get involved at different times.

Phase Two will give the community a chance to self-select things they feel passionate about. The members had to sell concepts. The final outcome will be to have a consensus. They want people to feel vested with their community. This is a model that small communities could use. There are so many problems facing rural communities that WTA feels that this pilot program should not hesitate to get this project going.

A question regarding an update on Broadband was addressed. Three of the four towers are up. There is a capacity issue. A lengthy discussion took place and it was agreed that this subject will be put on the agenda for next month.

Public Comments

Wednesday Night at the Lab (Northern Lights Tour) will be held at Nicolet College Auditorium on Wednesday, July 29, 2015. These presentations are broadcast on PBS. This is a wonderful opportunity to promote science in the County.

Items to include on next agenda


Broadband Update, Merger of Departments before next Committee meeting, Farmland Preservation Plan, and Proposed Lumberjack RC&D project, and Office Space/Air Quality. Committee asked that packets be mailed at least 5 days before the meeting. The information will also be emailed. Can two departments mail out as one document?

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn made by Jensen and was seconded by Mott. All ayes and meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,


Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary


Thomas Rudolph, Committee Chair