

**Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee  
December 16, 2015  
Minutes**

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

**Others present:** Lynn Feldman, Myles Alexander, and Merry Lehner.

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rudolph at 1:12 p.m. noting the meeting has been properly posted and the facility is handicap accessible.

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

**Approve Minutes:**

Minutes were approved at the December 14 CUW Committee meeting where Jensen/Intrepidi made a motion on the 10/26/15 CNRED position minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

**Review job description for CNRED Position:**

The committee asked Alexander to review what he perceives is the vision for this position with the committee. He stated that he will function as being a person available for the community. He recognizes that working with different groups such as the Chambers of Commerce, Tourism, and the OCEDC on topics will be part of his role. He will approach all organizations to offer support and assistance to bring the strengths of different groups together. His goal for the next six months is to bring to the table all the groups that need to be together to start a shared vision. Then there will be some agreement to know where they want to put their resources. From the Extension side he will have to write a plan of work and to set goals in some areas. Each year the plan of work will have to show progression in his accomplishments. He will have to meet tenure in year six as well. He also will have to document how he is adding scholarship as an expectation of the Extension vision.

At 1:40 p.m. Tom Schmitz conference called in to the meeting. Schmitz reviewed the points taken from the Visioning Sessions and what priorities had been set. By now all have taken notes on the things that Alexander should be involved with and recognize the key needs of the positions. His perspective is that the initial statements are broad and the community needs and local context of things will be important.

Discussion Trail Development

It was discussed that Alexander should participate in the planning of trail development. He recognizes the priority of addressing balance between Silent and Motorized sport trails. The next of two groups involved meeting is Tuesday, 12/22/15 at 7:00 p.m. at the Northwoods Golf Course Clubhouse. The groups are the Northwoods Nordic Ski Club and RASTA (Rhineland Area Silent Trails Association). The sale of the land is now complete. The Committee urged the CNRED agent to meet Dr. Chris Koepl who is president of Nordic Ski Club, Dr. Swank has donated use of 400 acres that he has opened up to recreational development to tie into the Heal Creek project, and Virgil Davis is president of the Sports Club, which operates a shooting range on land adjacent to the property. Heal Creek is perfect timing for Alexander to become involved in at this stage of the plans. Strategies will be to oversee how to merge common interests of the Silent Sports Group, which is more

cohesive, with the more factionalized Motor Sport Group. They seem not to see the importance of getting their interests together. There is a county wide ATV Association. Rudolph asked if the Forestry Department is to open up county forest roads where trails will have open access for ATV clubs. The agent will need to meet with these groups to hear their concerns. The trails development is through the Forestry Department, but it becomes complicated when they cross or use any portion of a county road. At this point the Highway Department becomes involved as county roads are their jurisdiction. Towns have a role in the development of trails as well.

Schmitz asked if the county comprehensive plan provides a perspective for trail development in the county. Will they work on a more comprehensive approach versus a piece-meal approach? Negotiation and Extension facilitation will be needed to get these groups working together for a common goal.

Motorized sports must have a strong lobby support; Jensen's fear is that Madison might not understand the local consequences. Alexander asked if environmental dispute resolution might be available in Madison. Schmitz commented that for Alexander to be used as a resource, the groups will have to come together. Part of that reason to come together might be action on the part of the county to ask for the groups to jointly develop a comprehensive plan so that they can have the best trails network possible. From the county perspective it certainly would be helpful to understand the long term effect. A comprehensive plan is important to public works. Outcomes are few right now. The two interest groups need to get together for the county to work with them.

### Contacts

Simac shared that in Vilas County, two different committees serve as ad hoc representatives all trail sports groups. They include bike, equestrian, ATV users. There is also a DNR and police trail safety representative. Their shared goal is to do all they can do to promote safety and tourism. She advised to reach out to all groups. They should come together as a cooperative operation. It is not the responsibility of the CNRED position only but should be a county sponsored commitment. The two committees are Recreational Trails and the Trail Ad hoc Committee. Their Forestry Department is the oversight committee. Simac said economic development outreach to smaller communities is vital. Alexander should reach out to these groups. Tourism could be the oversight committee that will be good for Alexander to meet with as well. Another group recommended to contact is Oneida Biking and Walking Trails Council; they meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays of each month at the Department of Health and Aging near Trigs.

### Priorities

- Continue to meet with all the county board members. Alexander will meet with them and listen to their concerns. He will not ask them what he can do. He initially would just like to gather information. He is here for the county and then reaches into university and county extension for resources. In six months he would like to present to the board what his vision is at that point. He then can use his expertise and begin to network with the community from there. He will continue to educate the board about the Extension. A date will be scheduled with the oversight committee to review and then go onto speak County Board in June or July.
- Establish a Plan of Work deadline. Schmitz advised Alexander to contact Will Andresen. The goal will be to come back in May to share with the Committee what he has learned. He will state the education goal and direction he plans to present. Each program area within the

Extension does this a little differently. Schmitz advised to come back and comment in May 2016, as target date to report and also to check into his program area.

- The broadband issue has changed with grant money shifting for 2016 and entrepreneurship interests popping up within certain populations within the county.
- Local government education on what the Extension does will continue.
- Attracting young people involves better schools, employment, the arts, and a sense of place and promoting local food and restaurants. Tapping into the young people groups for feedback will be helpful. The North Central Wisconsin Work Board projects the future employment needs are and what labor shortages will look like. Most young people plan to go elsewhere and not stay in the community. Yet, this area will need more workers. Welders and health care are two known shortages. Workforce Development Board is another resource.
- The county has a Comprehensive Plan. Rudolph suggested that Alexander read the plan as all towns have input into and use it as a resource. Alexander mentioned the NCRPC (North Central Regional Planning Commission) that offers a livability plan and addresses housing issues. It will provide some good background information per Rudolph.
- Demographics of counties indicate that populations are becoming older and older. Young people are leaving. So many young people want to be a physician or nurse and they could stay here. They just have to be educated that those opportunities are available here. They can be educated here and stay here as a "hub".
- Civic Groups- Expand and maintain memberships. Adapt to cultural shifts.

Schmitz said with all these issues, there now has to be an environmental scan that will need to be done. Go back to the visioning session people and give an up-date. It will help to think about the connections made then. There will be issue to report on but he will have to lay the ground work first. Jensen agreed they need the lay of the land. He asked if it is a viable position. Since it is a non-mandated position Alexander will have to report on some accomplishments before six months. As he develops his program or work, Rudolph said he will need to demonstrate progress in his position before six months. Alexander asked to define an accomplishment. The Committee agreed that meeting with the discussed groups would be one accomplishment; another would be building a broadband tower for the town of Crescent. An example of something checked off a "To Do" list would be the needs of Heal Creek. This would involve providing resources and leading the parties involved to a solution where they initially did not want it. Alexander can help them administratively.

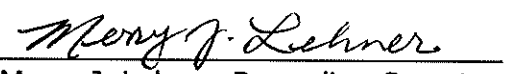
#### **Public Comments: Final Plea:**

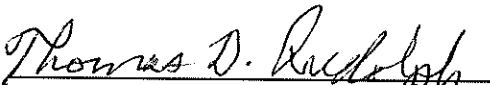
A Final Plea by Alexander is a request for more reliable technology. It is not working. It is taking too long to open the internet and to access to network files. His computer is out-dated.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion by Jensen/Simac to adjourn at 2:35 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary

  
Thomas Rudolph, Committee Chair