

**Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
December 11, 2017
Minutes**

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

Others present: Lynn Feldman, Sara Richie, Myles Alexander, Steve Nelson, Karl Jennrich, Michele Sadauskas, Fred Andrist, Beckie Gaskill, and Merry Lehner.

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

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

Approve Minutes: Jensen/Winkler made a motion to approve the 11/6/17 minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

Date(s) of future meetings:

January 8, 2018	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room
February 12, 2018	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room

Consent Agenda Items – UW Extension:

- a. Approve out-of-county travel requests as presented.
- b. Approve monthly budget reports – December
- c. Approve Monthly invoices/purchase orders.
- d. No Line-Item transfers

Feldman stated that Fair related expenses will no longer be approved by the department head as that position is retired at month end. Steve Nelson, as the Area Extension Director, will not sign the Fair Expense sheets due to UW-Extension is to no longer be involved as the overseers of the Fair. The Oversight Committee will now sign the approval form for the Fair Vouchers and the vouchers themselves. Mott requested that the Fair Expense sheet, approved and signed by the Fair Committee President, be included with the information packets sent out to the Oversight Committee starting in January 2018. Van Raalte/Jensen made a motion to approve line items a, b and c. All ayes; motion approved.

UW-Extension Office Air Environment Update:

There were no reports for November, but there had been several in October and one so far in December.

Resolution Approval on Change to Support Staff Position Percentages:

Last December the LRES Committee opted to not to hire a person to replace the 80% permanent part time support staff position left vacant from the previous employee's departure until more information was available on the UW-Extension reorganization. The position was filled by Tillmann. In May, 2017, Tillmann requested to work 20 hours instead of the established 29.75 due health insurance costs. That request was granted. For the 2018 budget, the position was approved for permanent part time status at 29.75 hours. For 2018, Tillmann requested to continue working 20 hours a week instead of 29.75 hours and at a lower wage than the current part-time employee wage scale. Lehner, who currently is part time at 29.75 hours, requested to work full time. Per Lisa Charbarneau, the proposed arrangement sounded acceptable and would need the CUW Committee to accept it and forward to LRES, and then on to the County Board for approval. It will cost the County more if the position changes are made at the current wage scale. The end result is a cost savings due to reduced wages. If both positions were at 29.75 with new staff, it would be an increase costs by \$2,894.00. As is, the County saves money. The resolution for the proposed change in percentage will be brought to LRES on December 20. If both positions were at 29.75 with new staff, it would be an increase of cost b \$2,894. As is, the

County saves money. Van Raalte/Jensen made a motion to approve the resolution on Change of Support Staff Position Percentages and send on to LRES, Administration, and the full County Board for approval. All ayes; motion carried.

Approval of 2018 UW-Extension 138 Contract:

Steve Nelson had presented the contract between Oneida County and the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System to Corporation Counsel for review. Brian Desmond proposed some changes in wording on the contract and MOU. The State would prefer all the 138 contracts to look similar for all counties. The corporation counsels among the counties are working together to try to standardize these contracts. Most of the contract is a matter of the legal wording between the County and the State. Revisions will be made and then the contract will go to LRES to be signed on December 20, 2017. The Committee would like it sent back to Desmond to suggest any changes related to county involvement under Item Two for interviewing or hiring. A clarification on Item Four-C related to billing is that the Cooperative Extension bills go to the Extension office, and then the expenses are approved by this Committee and the vouchers are sent to the County for payment. The most important issue is Item Three, where the Committee accepts the dollar amounts as presented. Jensen/Winkler made a motion to forward the said contract onto LRES "as is" for consideration with the understanding that there may be some wording changes, none of which will affect Item Three dollar amounts. All Ayes; motion carried.

Mott moved that a discussion on Item Two, Cooperative Extension Responsibilities, be made to Legal Counsel, Brian Desmond. Mott will present his written request at the LRES meeting regarding contract Item Two-a. Mott/Jensen made a motion to address to Legal Counsel that the CUW Committee should be integrally involved in the hiring and managing of Extension staff and this includes input into the approval of the annual work plans for staff. All Ayes; motion carried.

Oneida County Fair:

- a. Fair Officer Update
The Fair Committee President is Fred Andrist and the Vice President is Winkler. Bill Freudenberg was elected as Treasurer. The Secretary position continues to be held by Theresa Seabloom who is a county paid LTE.
- b. Winkler asked for approval to change Fair Treasurer position from a county paid limited term position (LTE) to Volunteer position. Since Bill Freudenberg was elected as Treasurer, it can no longer be a county paid LTE position because Freudenberg holds a position as a County Board member and cannot receive payment as such. Feldman said that this was clarified by Charbarneau in LRES. The president and vice president positions are not are not paid positions. Jensen/Winkler made motion to change the Fair Treasurer from a county paid LTE when that treasurer is an Oneida County board member. All ayes; motion carried.
- c. Coordinator Update: Five applications were received and three people will be interviewed on Thursday, Dec 14. Winkler asked if any of the CUW Committee members wanted to be present at the interviews and it was decided Winkler would oversee the interviews. Following the interviews, Winkler will review Coordinator hiring processes.
- d. Carnival Contract: The Fair Committee will update and approve the K& M Contract at their next meeting and then forward it for approval at the January 8 CUW Committee meeting.
- e. Documentation of the Five year Commitment to City of Rhinelander with the County:
Bob Mott read a letter addressed to Dave Hintz, Oneida County Board and to Mott as Chairman of Conservation-UW Extension Committee, received from Keith Kost, Interim City Administrator. The Rhinelander Parks, Buildings and Grounds Committee did not want to see an admission charge at the Fair. They request a long term commitment, of at least five years, and that the Oneida County Fair will remain at Pioneer Park. The City has made significant investments into lighting for the park specifically for the Fair. They are not asking for financial commitment but that County will continue to hold the Fair at Pioneer Park in the on-going years. The City asked to have Keith Kost attend the next CUW Committee meeting; Mott asked the Committee if they shall invite him. Jensen agreed they should invite Kost but a letter to the City should go out ahead of the meeting regarding the existing lease. Article one defines usage and article two as a ten year term between the County and the City. The lease was last signed on January 31, 2011. Lease renewal dates back to the May 9, 2016 Minutes. There had been discussion about keeping the Fair at Pioneer Park but no documents or a new lease were ever produced. This occurred while the former City Administrator was still in office. No updated documents were produced or received by the County. It is unclear if the signed lease goes through 2019 or 2020 because updates from 2010 to 2011 were not complete. A question regarding the start of any five year agreement remains as well. It is unclear if two years of that five year commitment have been completed. The Committee proposed that a letter be sent to the Interim City Administrator about the signed 2011 lease. Van Raalte had a copy of the lease, which will be included with letter.

Andrist asked to be copied on the letter regarding City of Rhinelander and would like to be involved in open lines of communication with the city.

Program Presentation – Karly Johnson: FoodWise

Johnson was the Coordinator two years ago for Langlade and Oneida Counties. As of October 1, she is the Four County Coordinator for FoodWise. Which includes Oneida, forest, Vilas, and Florence Counties. Forest County is her home office. Johnson is devoted to the four county area; she was born and raised in Crandon and now lives in Laona. She distributed literature developed by the State, for the FoodWise program, used to share with their program partners in the area. It outlines what FoodWise does as a program and who they serve, net results from the program, their mission, FoodWise is federally funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed), which offers nutrition assistance to eligible, low-income individuals and families. Their fiscal year is October to September and are currently working on their 2018 year. The program has reached out to a total of 749 unduplicated contacts for 2017. The demographics do not show statistics for the less than five years old and the 60+ populations. This was due to an educator being out for part of the past year, there not being a coordinator in the county, and adjusting to changes in the SNAP-Ed program. Most youth are addressed in the school systems. For 2018, a goal is to work with those two populations where the less than five year old youth will be reached through Head Start, and adults through the Senior Farmers Market program and senior meal sites. Parenting education will be an area of concentration for this year. They will participate in mapping workshops to target adult education in the four counties. Johnson will be working with the Commission on Aging beginning in February to address this population. Yearly meetings with contacts are made through their area partners, some of which have been involved since the 1970's. The new Policy, Systems and Environmental program work is in progress. Johnson and Richie will continue to partner with the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry to promote the Food Safety and Eat Well programs along with the Safe and Healthy Food Pantries program.

UW-Extension staff excused 2:40 p.m.

Land and Water Conservation Announcements – Michele Sadauskas:

- a. Speaking/Poster Contest – Will be held on Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. They are looking to see CUW Committee members attend and they will be looking for judges. Winkler volunteered to judge again. The area contest will be in Wisconsin Rapids in February.

Proposal for removal of “Approve Monthly Budget Reports” from Consent Agenda – Sadauskas

Monthly summaries from Finance are not always available and Sadauskas questions whether they need physical copies. Could electronic copies be an alternative? The wording to accept the report instead of signed approval is what would be proposed. Sadauskas is happy to provide the information but felt it is not necessary for all the copies to be distributed. It was decided that an email be sent for review and a physical copy no longer needs to be presented for signature. The committee should be familiar with budget reports, revenues and expenditures. Sadauskas asked for direction if a quarterly physical report could be presented. The county code will be checked by Jennrich who will report back.

State Proposed Changes to Ferrous & Nonferrous Mining – Alan Van Raalte

Governor Scott Walker signed the “Mining in America” Bill 499 into law at the airport in Rhinelander today. The bill changes the laws relating to regulation and permitting of nonferrous metallic mineral prospecting and mining.

- a. Van Raalte brought up the recent involvement of Taylor and Marathon counties regarding proposed changes to mining laws. Taylor County is opposing Senate Bill 395 and Assembly Bill 499 that roll back protection of both ground and surface water from sulfide pollution. Marathon County is considering a local mining ordinance to protect scenic areas. As of August 21, 2012, mining is no longer a policy goal for Oneida County, but policies can change. He is not sure if the policy covers anything other than county owned land. If mining were to occur on privately owned land, then zoning would have to change from manufacturing and industrial. That would require agreement by the affected town. His other concern is whether or not conditional use permits (CUP) to non-metallic mining can be denied. Since the County Conservation Committees in Taylor and Marathon Counties have taken the lead on this issue, Van Raalte felt that our Committee should address the subject locally. He wonders if parameters should be put in place if mining were to occur in our county. In the past, the Lynne deposit in Oneida County, only had three Canadian exploration companies that showed interest and none of them ever made a profit. The companies were publically traded and did not have assets and only had money or leases for exploration. Van Raalte feels we need to do something to ensure that the ground water supply is protected in watershed

areas of any mining activity. He believes that mining companies must be able to show that they are financially viable and have the resources to mitigate any environmental mishap. This affects property values as well. An example is the Lynne mineral deposits are upstream from the Willow River, the Willow Flowage, the Tomahawk River, and Lake Nokomis, all of which could have devastating impacts on the community. The Taylor County ordinance is a good start, but Van Raalte would like to see a hold put on mining and exploration companies to what the State statutes were before they were modified. The question is what options are now available for the county with the new bill that was passed. The County Code states that Forestry Land and Recreation Committee has a role in that jurisdiction.

- b. What specific process will be followed if one were to open up a metallic mine here? Does the bill signed today override any local ordinance? Ours was placed long before the two mentioned counties. Opening a mine would have to go through Planning and Zoning and would have to be re-zoned to manufacturing. What was signed today will not start for six months. In our current zoning ordinance, we will have liability insurances for 25 million dollars and other financial insurances. There is a need to review ordinance in light of this new legislation. An examination of the right for a county to write an ordinance or rewrite an ordinance should be considered. Mott contacted the Wisconsin Land and Water Association to ask their position on the new mining bill. Executive Director Jim VandenBrook responded by saying that the association was against the bill as were most other conservation groups. He referred Mott to Paul Daigle, Marathon County conservationist. Mr. Daigle read a letter of opposition to the bill when public hearings were held in Madison. Marathon County is considering developing an ordinance regarding metallic mining. Mott said that Dan Butkus, who was a senior account manager for a company that makes zinc oxide, stated he does not oppose mining but wants local control. We need to keep the local ambience and clean lakes, rivers and forests. Butkus provided two mining examples of mining where one depicts mining before regulation and the other post regulation. The nickel mine in Sudsbury is a very dirty place with stunted vegetation and contaminated water was developed before mining regulation. The other, the Idaho moly mine had to meet new regulations. It has boundaries with national forest land and it has not negatively impacted its surroundings. Minerals are needed in today's world and it may be worth it if mining follows strict regulation.

With the bill signed, the County will need to know any recourse and must find out what the legislation is in place regarding the Lynne deposit. Jennrich would like the Committee to allow Planning & Zoning to review and see if changes need to be made and give recommendation as Committee. Winkler/Van Raalte made motion recommending Planning and Development and/or Oneida County review Chapter 9.61, Metallic Mineral Exploration-Prospecting and Mining, of our ordinance to see if changes should be made, as a result of this recently passed legislation and to review the draft letter from Andy Phillips of WCA. All Ayes; motion carried

LWCD Long-Range Plan – Sadauskas and Karl Jennrich

The LWCD Annual Work Plan (Long Range Plan) was presented to the Committee for acceptance to forward to the County. Last year they sent their work plan as the long range plan and this new document is the most current work plan. The format allows LWCD to locally identify their needs over the standard agriculture focused format. Acronyms defined are: HUC- are watershed designations and FPP is Farmland Preservation Plan. Long Range Planning reports are placed in the County ALLSHARE file from each department. Sadauskas stated their Land and Water Resource plan and the annual work plan are posted on the Land Water Website. Motion to approve the Long Range Plan from LWCD by Van Raalte/Winkler. All Ayes; motion approved.

Lake Protection Grant Approval/Resolution - Sadauskas

Last year LWCD applied for a lake classification grant but they scored low and did not receive it. They wish to try this year for a lake protection grant. This would assist in follow up on past projects of Cost Share work. Money could be applied to shoreline restoration work as well. WVIC (WI Valley Improvement Company) asked Sadauskas about cost Share funds that might be available for multiple properties on Willow flowage. She will see if this could be worked into a DNR grant. The application would be due on February 10 where the cap for a two year grant will be at \$100,000. L&W is asking for a 1,200 hour LTE and also cost share funding for plants and erosion control supplies. The fiscal impact numbers will need to be updated and corrected for County Board in January. Jensen/Van Raalte made motion to approve the Lake Protection Grant approval resolution as discussed and forward it onto the full county Board for their consideration. All ayes; motion carried.

Cost Share Update:

- a. Project Approval

- i. Minocqua Shores-No deposit was received but Sadauskas asked for approval on 300 ft. shoreline on the lake in Minocqua for a buffer zone. She is expecting deposit. Van Raalte/Winkler accepted the said project subject to the statistics to be provided. All ayes; motion carried.
- ii. Ebert- The deposit is on its way. The property is on Bearskin Lake where there will be a seawall removal and rock rip rap and plantings installed. A motion from Winker/Van Raalte moved to accept the Ebert property as presented. All ayes; motion carried.
- iii. Eshelman deposit reimbursement – Only one contractor bid on the culvert replacement and it was a very high estimate. The project was to be postponed to 2018, but the landowner decided to back off and work on it privately. He will check back with LWCD. Van Raalte/Winkler made a motion to approve the deposit reimbursement. All Ayes; Motion Carried.

Consent Agenda Items- Land and Water:

- a. Approve out of county travel requests as presented.
- b. Approve Monthly Budget Reports –December (if available)
- c. Approve Monthly invoices/purchase orders.
- d. Line Item Transfers - none

Van Raalte/Winkler made a motion to approve a, b & c, as presented. All Ayes; motion approved.

Oneida County Broadband Update (Economic Development Project)

Roger Luce was not available for an update.

Public Comment:

Winkler commended Stephanie Boismenu on Citizen Monitoring project activities. Sara Richie announced that she is expecting a baby.

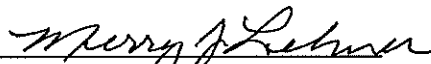
Items to Include on next Agenda: Cost Share, Grants, UW Staffing and Re-organization, Air environment, Broadband and PACE-Property Assessment Clean Energy. New Fair Coordinator update, K& M contract, Invitation to Interim City Administrator to attend meeting for discussion of Fair admission charge, City lease for Pioneer Park, and public communication for the Fair.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Van Raalte/Winkler at 3:58 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bob Mott Committee Chair


Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary

