

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
December 12, 2016
Minutes

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

Others present: Karl Jennrich, Michele Sadauskas, Jim Tharman, Lynn Feldman, Myles Alexander, Sara Richie, Roger Luce, Daleth Mountjoy, Craig Zarley, and Merry Lehner.

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

Approve Amended 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: Motion by Van Raalte/Winkler to approve the 11/07/16 meeting minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

Date(s) of future meetings:

January 9, 2016	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room
February 13, 2017	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room

Squash Lake District Petition Public Hearing Update

The last meeting was on December 3. Mott extended a thank you to the Committee for attending the meeting. On January 9, this Committee will see the draft report. The Committee will see the final report on February 13 and the entire County Board will see it on February 21. March will be the final vote date for the Oneida County Board. These dates are tentative for discussion of the district. The district needs to determine their budget. Craig Zarley spoke from the Squash Lake Association and said they are moving quickly. They cannot go any further for now because they are out of money from the DNR grants. They will need to wait for the next tax roll. For the Association to continue to control Eurasian Milfoil the cost is up to \$20,000. They have treated it in the past but are now at the maintenance phase, which is at 50%, instead of the 75% when actually treating Milfoil. They have used DNR grant money since 2010. They have to have a lake management plan in place to continue to receive grants. The maintenance phase gives a smaller contribution. Forming a lake district is a way to fund these costs. It costs \$25,000 to have divers pull the Eurasian Milfoil and chemical treatment is approximately \$1000 per acre, which is typically for large weed concentrations only. They are very pleased with the pace of the accomplishments this fall. Compliments to Chairperson Mott for his well-organized preparation for the meeting and the Land Water staff are commended for their hard work as well.

Cost Share Update:

They will have two contracts for the Chairman to sign. Sadauskas said they have one outstanding contract needing a signature, where the person is out of town. Everyone is on board for 2017. There are seven total contracts.

Land & Water Department Report – Michele Sadauskas

Sadauskas did not have a report. They had many deadlines they had to meet last week with grants, grant reports, and re-imburements. They will report next month. Mott mentioned that they received a letter about the grant application for the lake classification grant. Sadauskas commented that the application is in and now they will have to wait and see.

Consent Agenda Items – Land & Water

There were no line item transfers or out of county travel. Van Raalte/Winkler made motion to approve items B and C. All ayes; motion carried. In March 2017, The Land and Water Annual conference is at Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake, WI. Registration just opened.

Crop Price Approval:

Jim Tharman had a claim for strawberry damage this year. He is asking the Committee to approve the crop price on strawberries, which is \$2.00 a pound. Once the crop price is approved today, the claim form will come back for approval next month. The claim will be denied because the farmer's shooting schedule did not meet compliance. To file a claim participants are required to shoot 50% of the deer within 45 days and 80% by the end of the hunting season. The property owner only shot one deer this year. Tharman still has to follow protocol on the price approved before denying the claim. The farmer is aware that the claim will be denied for the 34 hundred pounds of strawberries. The proposal for 2017 is to build a fence where the cost share ratio of 75/25 where the State will provide 75 and the farmer will pay 25 percent of the cost. If a fence costs \$40,000 and farmer is only losing \$200 per year then that will not be cost effective. In that case, they will just continue to pay out for the loss per pound. Jansen/Simac made a motion to approve the crop price as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Simac, Tharman, Zarley, Jennrich, and Sadauskas excused at 1:45 p.m.

Agency Report:

Lake Districts: No update for this month.

FSA: Next Friday there is a meeting.

RC&D: Lumberjack meeting will be in January 26, 2016.

WACEC: Next meeting is January 20, 2017

Consent Agenda Items – UW-Extension:

Richie updated Committee that her January travel is County paid and she will combine the two trips so it is less mileage. The Fair ended in the year in the black. The final figure will not be available until February 2017. The Committee would like to see Fair revenue and expenses monthly. The Committee requests a few simple figures on what money is left and what will carry over for the Fair. A motion by Jensen /Van Raalte to approve the UW-Extension agenda items A, B, and C was made with the one correction on Richie's travel. No line item transfers. All ayes; motion passed.

Vacancy Review:

The Program Support position will be vacant as of December 21. Anne Williams will be leaving UW-Extension going in a different direction. Feldman outlined the job description and duties where this position covers communication and program support for all agents. It includes producing two newsletters and updating the website and customer service. Program support must update the 4-H national database on a regular basis. It is a complicated database to use. Compiling certificates and flyers takes many hours to complete. Feldman is asking for a waiver on the six-month vacancy review. Jensen approved waiving the vacancy review but asked if they could staff the position with a LTE. Mott feels it is ok to staff as LTE and understands that LRES will probably make the same decision on Wednesday. The office will have no support staff on Fridays because both positions are at 29.75 hours or 80%. The Fair is the other concern. The Extension office is very busy helping support the fair. Feldman suggested a Fair volunteer work at the Extension office to help with Fair related duties. Early in the spring, the Fair book open and junior exhibitions must be published. Then the entries begin to come in and will continue into June. Feldman cannot train a new person later in the year for Fair entries. We need a LTE that is committed to train and learn. It is too late by June to train permanent employee on this process. Winkler agreed that we need a competent person immediately. Winkler recognizes what is involved in the position. Lehner commented that a large percentage of office support time is committed to working on the fair for 5 months out of the year, where July and August are heavily committed to the Fair. Mott said the best scenario is if the LTE applied for the permanent position. Mott would like a report how much work is used for Extension and Fair for duties performed. Winkler/ Van Raalte made a motion waive the 6- month Vacancy Review and to go forward with the job description for a permanent employee at 80% instead of the LTE. All ayes, except one nay from Jensen.

Work place Environment:

Building and Grounds approved an office space in the courthouse for Extension staff to use on a temporary basis. It will be available for six months. It will not be a full office. A permanent office will be located at the staff member's home. The State and County will provide proper office equipment and supplies for home use. We will need approval for our paper and ink budget will provide for home printer use. Administration discussed and agreed on this today. Completion of large projects will use the Extension office laminator and printer. Jensen/ Winkler made

motion that Extension will make necessary supplies out of UW-Extension budget for use out a staff member's home site office. All ayes; motion carried.

Alternate Site Update:

Mott shared what he said at the Administration meeting today. He wanted it noted that it appeared that hurdles were being placed in our path to find a suitable location for staff at UW-Extension due to bias of Chairperson Fried. The word bias might not be the correct word per Hintz. We should be able to look at properties without a letter asking permission from Buildings and Grounds. The environment problem has been going on for over a year. Employees should not have to work out of their home. Mott does not want to see hindrances to the overall goal of providing suitable work environment for the UW-Extension staff.

Feldman said that State appointed Electrical Engineer, R.E. "Bear" Daniel, with ISG came to look at the ductwork in the basement of the Airport. He has some recommendations but his formal report is pending. Bear said there is one general fix that would help. Brauer will wait for the report before taking any action but said earlier that the Airport would make necessary adjustments. The walk through was paid for by the State. Van Raalte reported that the Human Services building is not an option due to water issues. The walls had to be removed due to flooding and final repairs will not be completed until after spring. Many different opinions and discussions about office space have gone on for over two years and it would be nice to see it resolved.

UW-Extension Reorganization Update:

The newspaper was incorrect stating that reorganization details will available in February 2017. A basic structure will be in place by late February- early March to present to the Chancellor. Then the Chancellor will look at County input. The State is aware of the timeline to complete contracts by beginning of June. Some uncertainty exists about our four county model and tribal inclusion. Both the Lac du Flambeau and the Potawatomi tribes will total six partners in our cluster. There may be questions regarding it because Florence County has a different structure. They do not have any full time agents. Florence County pays more for their services than any other county in the State due to their tax base. A new tribal Extension office will open in January 2017 for Forest County. The goal is to have a program person in every county. Agents may be working between counties.

Mott reviewed his notes from the recent Webinar sponsored by Wisconsin Counties Association. Mott was happy that Dean Karl Martin followed up with his questions he emailed. A total budget cut of \$250 million to the full University of WI system occurred, with a 3.2 million cut to UW-Extension. The counties pay \$20 million into the Extension annually. Changes in demographics and technology are part of the future. The four county cluster will prevail as the model for the future. Mark O'Connell from Wisconsin Counties Association said that counties love UW-Extension and its people who are very smart. The preliminary report in February will show the options. In July, the results of the nine task groups will report and make their recommendations. Then they will ferret out best procedures and implement the plan. Mott asked how they will share costs between counties and how they will get responses to their needs. A new promotion called Tap into it asks the public to help share our story by sharing yours. It taps into positive things about what UW-Extension does. Mott submitted a question if the contracts will be issued in June. Yes, their intention is to issue them in June. Would you sign a contract if you did not know if you work in one county or four? Yes, the agents of our county confirmed that will be what they will have to do. The intention is that job descriptions will use a multicounty concept. The February/ March option timeline is being met by the Integrated Work Groups. They are working 30 hours a week over their regular jobs to get Extension where it needs to be. The mission of UW- Extension is to provide un-biased, evidence based, and objective information. That is the goal of Extension.

Broadband Update:

Luce said the Broadband Committee meets this Friday. Work on a countywide broadband final plan is in progress. The distributed handout lists existing towers and proposed towers. The top four towers are already in operation. It lists the owners of each tower. Luce gave updates. The Newbold tower is up and the equipment is operational. They had to find a new location for the Crescent tower. It will be owned by Northwoods connect. There are 30 people using the new Sugar Camp South tower. Sugar Camp north needed to find a different location; it was too expensive. Sowinski property offered to house a tower this spring. Horsehead, Harshaw/Bearskin invested in two towers. They found a sight for Horsehead Lake. The Bearskin property owner decided against erecting a tower and they are searching for a new location. Vertical Bridge owns the towers in Three Lakes and they are a good company. The rest of the handout-listed projects that do not have funding until next grant go through. Ten towers still need to be erected after this program year. Squaw Lake has a deserted tower available. We have done well in

the State with the funding received. Cap2 funds are for the existing telecommunication companies who cannot apply for the funding we receive. Northwoods connect is not a utility. We are the alternative that the AT&T and Google are turning to for high-speed wireless broadband. Federal funds are for upgrading the service. The main trunks are fiber, but from there to houses is still copper wire. Users will not receive any better service, because fiber does not reach their home. Keep in mind that high-speed broadband technology changes often.

Fair Planning Committee:

Winkler reported on the December 1 meeting. With Anne Williams' departure, there will be a pronounced lack of support for the Fair. More volunteers will have to help during this vacancy. Tom Peterson is keeping the Fair agenda on track. They are looking at funding options. They are actively addressing the admission fee concept. One idea is a mandatory donation box at the entrance gates. They are trying to hire someone to manage the 100 plus fair volunteers. They may hire a company to collect admission money. Currently clickers are tracking fair admission at the entrances. This is not accurate if people go in and out several times during their visit. Attendance might be off a few thousand people at the Fair. They are looking at the by-laws that will change how Fair works. Money is the greatest issue and admission, even if only adults were charged, would be \$6,000 additional income. Even if they outsource someone to collect admission, it will be worth it. The Fair will address the pending baseball diamond and electrical needs at the next City Council meeting. The electrical is off the City budget for this year but will be in their long-range plan.

Coordinator Contract Approval:

The approval of Gehrig's contract was postponed due to some requested changes that were forwarded to Brian Desmond.

Public Comment:

None

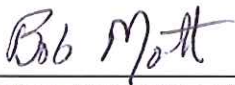
Items to include on next agenda:

Updates: Fair Coordinator Contract deadline, Fair Planning Committee, Workplace environment/alternate site, Re-org. Denial of crop claim. Any other LWC updates.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn by Winkler/Van Raalte at 3:15 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bob Mott, Committee Chair



Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary