

**Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee**

**February 13, 2017**

**Amended Minutes**

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

**Others present:** Lynn Feldman, Myles Alexander, Sara Richie, Michele Sadauskas, Karl Jennrich, Dan Butkus, Gary Sparling, Susan Sparling, Bill Freudenberg for Fair agenda item only, and Merry Lehner.

**Call to order:** Chairman Mott called the meeting to order by at 1:00 p.m. noting 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:**

Van Raalte/Winkler made motion to approve the 1/9/17 minutes. All Ayes; motion carried.

**Date(s) of future meetings:**

March 13, 2017	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room
April 10, 2017	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room

**Grants Update:**

Sadauskas reported that they did not get the Pollinator Grant from Lumberjack RC&D for 2017. She thought it might be due to this being Phase II of the grant money received for Phase I last year. Next year there will be a new grant policy in effect where their Phase II application may be more easily accepted. Mott commented that Lumberjack had more limitations on funding this year. Another grant, the Lake Class Grant, was not received from the DNR. There was more competition around the state for this grant in 2017. Sadauskas has been in touch with the DNR about how to approach this particular grant for next year. They did receive the AIS grant, where they scored very high, and they are very happy with that. Another positive outcome was a different grant application for the Pollinator Project they applied for through the UW-Extension Small Sustainable Agriculture grant last Friday, February 10 in the amount of \$3,000. The emphasis is on farmers for this grant and it will help move the Three Lakes Pollinator Phase II project forward.

**Squash Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Petition:**

- a. **Final report:** Changes requested by the CUW Committee were reviewed. On p. 2 of the Public Hearing section, the county clerk email correction was made and a second mailing allowed the public additional time to submit comments or withdraw. The phrase "At least 51%" was made consistent throughout the report to avoid any confusion. A summary statement was added on page three including both methods of establishing a lake district. Review of staff report was added to page three as well. With two members of the Committee absent today it was noted that there were no prior objections at the previous meeting. There will be an opportunity at the County Board Meeting to address any objections. A motion by Winkler/Van Raalte to recommend the approval of the final report for the formation of the Squash Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District, with inclusions reported by Sadauskas, and recommendation to the County Board to accept the final report. All ayes; motion carried.
- b. **Resolution:** The resolution is for review at this meeting. It is up to the Committee to recommend the County Board to review it in February, where it will take up the resolution in March. Per the tax role data, the total number of eligible landowners in the proposed boundary of the Lake District was 280 with 51% of the required signatures being 143. Line 25 notes that 156 signatures or 55.7% of land owners were deemed acceptable on the petition to pass. A motion by Winkler/Van Raalte to recommend the County Board review the resolution for any update and where questions can be raised until the March County Board meeting where approval will take place. All ayes; motion approved.

**Consent Agenda Items- Land and Water:**

The line item transfers include Wildlife damage 2017, LWCD Year End 2016, and Contingency Fund, Squash Lake Expenses. Van Raalte/Winkler made motion to approve Items a-d. All ayes; motion carried.

### **LWCD Poster/Speaking Contest Update:**

There were a total of 79 posters submitted and they were judged on January 31. The theme was Healthy Soils are Full of Life. First place in the 2-3 grades was Micah Gilbert, Creative Minds/MHLT who went on to the Area competition. First place for the 4-6 graders went to Abigale Johnson, James Williams Middle School, who went to Area competition. For grades 7-9 Carley Schmidt, James Williams Middle School took first place and went to Area competition. For the local Speaking Contest, Loleta Cole took second place and Kaya Szews took third place; both from Sugar Camp School. First place went to Ellie Lurvey, Sugar Camp School who advanced to the Area competition in Eagle River, where she, for the second year, placed first.

### **Agency reports:**

Lake Districts: No Thunder Lake meeting; if a district is not holding meeting we can inform the State of them being out of compliance if meetings are not held as required. Horsehead Lake will have a meeting in June.

FSA: Next meeting is on Thursday, February 16. Deb Esselman is new County Executive Director.

NCLWCA: Mott gave update on state level agency reports.

RC&D: Had a meeting last month; Lumberjack's 2017 Sustainable Forestry Awards included the Chairman's Special Achievement Award to Dennis Schoeneck and Friend of Forestry to Jane Severt.

WHIP: Annual meeting is March 9, County Board Room in Rhineland at 1:00 p.m. Flyers will go out to Board Members.

WLWCA: Land and Water Conference Mar 15 -17, Contact Jonna Jewell at 715 369-7835.

Simac, Sadauskas, Jennrich and Butkus excused.

### **Fair Planning Committee:**

*At this point, Jim Winkler stepped out of the room to avoid a quorum of the Social Services/Veterans Services Committee on which he, Alan Van Raalte and Bill Freudenberg all serve.*

Update: Bill Freudenberg has been placed in charge of updating by-laws. The Fair Board will go over the language and resolve any issues in the wording. He spoke with Darcy Smith in Finance and Fair Treasurer, Kathy Silbernagel, regarding what the correct beginning balance is for the 2017 Fair. A carryover balance of \$5,610.35 from 2014 and 2015 existed and \$7,538.63 from 2016, totaling \$13,148.98 for the 2017 carryover balance. Feldman clarified that this amount is brought over into 2016, but it should be viewed as a savings account. The money is there to use only if you need it, but it is not part of the daily running balance, as in a checking account. This was discussed at Administration meeting last October, where an amount of money was carried over. If the Fair working balance was negative in any given year, then the money from carryover can be available to give the Fair a positive balance. If the Fair is to become self-sustainable, this money has to be in reserve for a bad income year. Income cannot be predicted whereas expenses usually can. If it rained every day during the Fair, the income from the carnival could not be guaranteed. Gehrig had asked if the savings account money could be used to upgrade the electrical at Pioneer Park or buy more tents. It is a possibility but it would be important to keep some of that money as a reserve. It would need approval from this Committee and then to the County Board for approval. The carryover amount is separate from the \$16,000 budgeted for the 2017 Fair. A five year rolling cost of the Fair budget should be calculated and presented back to the Committee. Year to date expenses for 2016 were \$39,512.60 excluding payroll and \$42,015.73 including all cash payouts. Feldman stated that the final expenses will be higher this year due to the restructuring of the UW Extension re-organization. This will affect Feldman's involvement with the Fair and the amount of hours support staff devotes to fair-related work. Additional services will be charged out to the Fair in the future where Extension provided those services and costs up to this point. The Extension office will provide a list of all duties performed from Feldman and support staff. The Fair needs to function like a business with a budget they must follow. Alexander suggested having someone from Minocqua Winter Park attend a fair meeting and describe what it is like to develop as an organization. In summary, this group needs to decide what dollar amount should be set aside for the Fair as carryover.

*Bill Freudenberg was excused from the meeting and Jim Winkler returned for the duration of the meeting.*

Contract approval procedure: Corporation Counsel reviewed the contract language. There was time spent to be sure that the wording was correct. The question arose whether the contract is approved at time this Committee pre-approves them or when the signatures are completed. Vendor and entertainment contracts will need the signatures from both the Committee Chair and Dave Hintz. If this Committee needs to verify anything it will need pre-approval or if another representative signature be accepted. Mott felt that the representative should be named, such as the Vice Chair of this Committee and Vice Chair of the County Board to be alternates. It was requested that a resolution be typed up to include these alternate signatures.

UW Extension Office Time: The logged time for Fair related work in January totaled 25 hours.

Cassadys Critters contract: The concern over having monkeys at the Fair is based on the possibility that one might bite somebody. Tom Wiensch thought that monkeys had not been allowed for some years. Cassadys Critters has made a \$150.00 down payment, turned in their contract, and insurance as of December, 2016. Their insurance is double the amount that the County customarily requires. Per Tom Wiensch, it is up to this oversight committee to make the decision. The Fair Committee is asking for the approval of Cassadys Critters as a vendor, who has been at the Fair for four years without incident. Winkler/Van Raalte made motion to accept Cassadys Critters contract for the Fair. All ayes; motion carried.

**Consent Agenda Items - UW Extension:**

The Out of County Travel summary sheet was updated with one additional item and the UW Extension Expense Summary Sheet was also updated with additional information. Alexander gave an explanation of his upcoming travel expenditures that are paid through other sources, where he is a board member of an organization. Van Raalte/Winkler approved items a-c and e. All ayes; motion carried.

**Introduction of Bonnie Tillmann:**

Bonnie Tillmann is our LTE for the next six months until staffing needs will be reviewed again in relation to the re-organization. She works Tuesday through Friday. We will encourage Bonnie to apply for the permanent position pending training and her interest to do so.

**Air Environment:**

Bear Daniel made three recommendations that will overcome the vast majority of fumes infiltrating the Airport basement UW-Extension offices. This would include sealing all heating and cooling ducts in specified areas, installing a pressurized air curtain, and installing an air filtration system to the affected areas. The estimated cost is \$20,000 where there was an agreement between the Airport Commission and the County to split the expenses involved. At the Administration Committee meeting last Friday, they voted to have the County contribute up to \$10,000 toward completion of the project where the rest will be paid by the airport commission. It will be a transfer from the contingency fund. R-CAD, Refrigeration Control and Design, of Rhinelander, will perform the improvements according to the specifications recommended by Bear Daniel. There will be times when atmospheric conditions will prevail and fumes will still enter the building. Mott said that Fried commented at the Administration meeting, that it may not be the end of all the fumes issues, but these improvements will enable someone else to move into the improved space if Extension were to leave the airport. The timeline for completion is by the end of March. It will take three weeks to complete.

**Re-organization update:**

A report was sent out to the Committee on the recommendations released by the planning and focus groups for county offices in the future. A survey was sent to all County Supervisors requesting a response by February 23. Now is the time for the County Board to respond to the survey and provide any feedback. A Webinar on the re-organization was held at 10 a.m. today to give an update. There are six recommendations about the structure and staffing of the county offices. The recommendations will be subject to feedback received. One, there will be an Extension office in every county; an office will remain here. Two, a restructuring of geographic administration will take place. Three, the counties and tribes will connect with regional and statewide resources. Four, is the differentiation of county/tribes on educational positions. Five, is sharing education positions across the counties/tribes. Six, will be establishing new agreements between counties and Cooperative Extensions. A final report will be out in April.

Three types of university staff will be available to the counties. One position will be responsible for running programs provided by the State and taught at the County level. This position requires a high school diploma and will conduct 4-H related programs or a Strong Bones class. Another level requires a bachelor's or master's degree and will take State programs and adapt them to County needs. The highest level requires a master's degree as a Program Coordinator, who will be an academic staff member working with development of volunteers and capacity building. The scholarly positions will be more regional and there are still some details that need to be worked out. These are academic positions, not faculty positions. The Specialist will cover multiple counties, developing programs and doing research. Currently, Specialists work primarily out of Madison. Most current positions as they now exist will change in the next three years. The cost savings will be to have academic positions instead of faculty staff. The Specialist will take over the tenure positions through attrition. Alexander illustrated that the four-county structure will be managed by an administrator, who could be likened to an account representative for a business, who is in charge of figuring out what packages of services each county will need. That person will hire staff. Sometime after July 1, the Department Head role will be taken over by the director who will hire University employees. The county will be purchasing services not people. The Regional Director

positions will be eliminated. There will be 23 Directors reporting to two Associate Deans. The contracts will be for a position and not a specific person. State travel will be paid but the County will pay a lump sum fee in the future, opposed to a budget. Technology will vary per county as levels are not consistent at this time. Ultimately, local level people who have a Bachelor's degree will be available to the County. The Director's positions will be determined first.

**Broadband Update:** None.

**Agent Report – Sara Richie:**

Richie presented a topic on Health among Vulnerable Populations. She reviewed the UW Extension mission and how it relates to her work as the Family Living Educator. She has been participating in the Community Health Improvement Planning Team which includes: Oneida, Vilas and Forest County health departments and with Ministry/Ascension. This group is responsible for assessing the health needs of the community and writing a Community Health Improvement Plan. Richie discussed how her programming efforts align with the larger community efforts of this group, as well as what some local collations are doing to address health outcomes.

Some examples of her programming are the Strong Women/Strong Bones program, Cancer Clear and Simple, and Safe and Healthy Food Pantries, Healthy Living workshops, and Food Safety and Preservation. She chairs the Northwoods LEAN (Linking Education, Activity and Nutrition) Coalition and strategically places her direct education programming to align with the policy, systems, and environment approaches of the coalition's work plan. She works in partnerships with Oneida County Health Department, Department on Aging, the Senior Center, Social Services, Ministry/Ascension Health, and Minocqua public libraries. She also partners with other county colleagues and state colleagues on shared projects. Richie has worked closely with a State Aging Specialist with UW-Extension creating an aging-friendly communities pilot project. Richie's role is to take a leadership and support role in these meetings and operate as a connector and facilitator to bring different groups together, and to provide resources. She also sits on the Reducing Rural Cancer Disparities Statewide Advisory Team which allows her to be a local, rural voice at the table. The Reducing Rural Cancer Disparities Project has brought grant dollars to the state of Wisconsin and has allowed special programming efforts to come to Oneida County, including the direct education of Cancer Clear & Simple and coalition coaching of Northwoods LEAN. These combined efforts will make a bigger impact on changing the health of the community.

**Public Comment:** None

**Items to Include on next Agenda:** Fair update, Squash Lake, Air Quality, UW Re-organization.

**Adjournment:** 4:09 p.m. Winkler/Van Raalte moved to adjourn. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary

  
Bob Mott, Committee Chair