

**Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
July 10, 2017 Minutes**

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

Others present: Lynn Feldman, Sara Richie, Will Andresen, Steve Nelson, Brian Desmond, Tom Wiensch, Dan Butkus, Beckie Gaskill, Karl Jennrich, Jim Tharman, and Merry Lehner. Michele Sadauskas excused.

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

Van Raalte/Winkler made motion to approve the 6/12/17 minutes. Van Raalte added minor wording to page one and four. Winker/Ives made motion to approve the amended minutes. All Ayes; motion carried.

Introductions.

Date(s) of future meetings:

August 7, 2017	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room
September 11, 2017	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room

Wildlife Damage Abatement Program (WDAP) Budget Amendment:

Jim Tharman announced that the State approved the fence project, which is now completed. This amends the budget that had previously been approved last October. Oneida County requires an increase of \$19,785.00 to the 2017 abatement budget. This increases the total WDNR funded portion of the 2017 budget from \$20,388.43 to \$40,173.43. He is asking the Committee to sign and approve this amendment. The bill will be paid by the County and the DNR will then reimburse the County. Jensen/Van Raalte made a motion to approve the increase of \$19,785.00 to the budget amendment for the wildlife damage abatement program as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Cost Share Update:

- a. Butkus Reimbursement approval. Approval is needed for the reimbursement, where there is a slight increase in the amount that the Committee originally approved. The original amount approved was \$2,593.44 and the final amount was \$2,637.53, which covered the cost of some plantings for the shoreline. Jensen/Winkler made motion to approve the Butkus reimbursement for the cost share amount of \$2,637.53. All ayes; motion carried.
- b. Corsten Project: Photographs of the completed projects were shared with the Committee.

(NCLWCA) Summer Tour Announcement:

- a. Jennrich reviewed the finalized brochure and agenda of the Summer Tour Announcement scheduled for August 16, 2017 in Three Lakes. They will meet at the Black Forest Pub and Grille, 1765 Superior Street. They will go on a tour of the James Lake Farm which is an organic cranberry marsh. They will also tour the Three Lakes Winery, and the Pollinator Garden and Orchard. The bus transportation contract was discussed where the total cost is quoted at \$240.00. Lunch will be at the Black Forest and the business meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. Registration is due by Wednesday, August 9 to Jonna Jewell, (jjewell@co.oneida.wi.us). Mott and Winkler will be attending.

- b. Bowen's Bus Service Inc. is to provide transportation for the Summer Tour. Corporation Counsel reviewed the Bowen's contract and proposed some changes to the contract. It was presented to Bowens who respectfully declined to sign the contract with the proposed changes. Bowen's wrote a letter that they were a small company and the bus company was unhappy with the changes and refused to sign the contract. Corporation Counsel reviewed with the Committee why the contract had some changes. The changes were itemized on a copy of an email written by Tom Wiensch. Insurance Coverage must be included in the contract. County policy requires that the bus company carry automobile comprehensive and liability insurance, stating the types and the amounts. Changes were made under the Fuel Surcharge where the specific amount of the surcharge was requested. Other changes included more specific wording to the contract, as it relates to risk. Corporation Counsel felt that they had improved the Bowen's contract, at no charge, and the additional wording made a better presentation. Corporation Counsel is not recommending that we do not use Bowens, only that the contract needed some changes. It is up to the Committee to make a business decision on whether to go ahead and use Bowen's Bus Service with the existing contract. There is no other school bus company in the area that offers summertime service. The only alternative transportation is Lamers Bus Lines, out of Wausau, which would be more costly. Mott suggested contacting Lamers for alternative arrangements in case the Bowen's contract falls through. It was noted that Bowen's did agree to the insurance and to the fuel surcharge clauses.

Mott asked the Committee if they would approve the contract presented by Bowen's with the addition of insurance and fuel surcharge wording to the contract. The Committee asked Corporation Counsel to add the insurance coverage and fuel surcharge clauses to the contract and see if Bowens would then approve and sign the contract, and then have it forwarded for committee approval. Corporation Counsel will be requested to make the changes once the surcharge amount is determined. A motion was made by Van Raalte/Ives to make the necessary changes and clarifications on the Bowen's Bus Service Inc. contract regarding the fuel surcharge amount and insurance to be added to the contract, or as an addendum, as discussed. All ayes; motion carried.

Desmond and Wiensch excused.

LWCD & P&Z Merger Update:

Karl Jennrich – no update.

Mid Lake District Annual Meeting Report:

Bob Mott attended the annual Mid Lake meeting on Saturday, July 1 at the town hall in Woodruff. There is a sense of responsibility in the district and there is a generational history of active participants. They decided to drop the mill rate. They voted to keep the larger mill rate assessment for the lake in anticipation of repairing and eventually replacing their weed harvester. Curly leaf pond weed is their most prolific weed. They are hand pulling the weed over chemical treatment removal of the weeds. They have good funding for the district. The meeting was well attended.

Horsehead Lake District Representative Report:

Mitch Ives reported that a pre-budget annual meeting was held to determine whether to mow the lake. It has not been mowed since 2013 and they have the cash to do so. This is an \$18,000 cost. They are in the middle of a lake study and they have not had a study since 2003. The district is opting to keep up the tax levy at their annual meeting, which will be at the August 12 meeting.

Lake Nokomis District Representative Report:

Alan Van Raalte reported on the March meeting where they discussed the limits on chemical treatment of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). Hand pulling is preferred by the regulators but the tannin prevents the required visibility needed for hand pulling, which may aggravate the problem if pieces break off and start more growth.

At the June 15 board meeting, they developed the budget. The annual meeting will be held on August 12 at the Tomahawk High School. Winkler suggested the Committee invite Patrick Goggin to a future meeting to discuss Lake District issues at one of our Committee meetings. The DNR is reviewing their maintenance grants, for Butkus and Mott, and now the DNR grants will cover the initial treatment to eliminate weed problems but in the future the maintenance and treatment for control will no longer be covered. There is a DNR policy on AIS control. Currently, the lakes have to meet a certain level of control to be covered by grants.

Approval of Nicolet College Room Contract:

Corporation Counsel reviewed a Contract to Provide Services for the training/service of the Pollinator Friendly Farming presentation, by Baerbel Ehrig, at Nicolet College on August 29, 2017. It is an Exchange of Service Contract and the County will not be billed. Mott/Winkler made a motion to approve and sign contract. All ayes; motion carried.

Grants – Michele Sadauskas - Was not present to give an update. Jennrich summarized.

- a. Pollinator Grant Update: (resubmission) Re-application for the DATCP grant took place but there is no further update at this time.

Consent Agenda Items- Land and Water:

Mott requested that Out-of-County-Travel requests, regardless of whether it is a paid cost or not, be forwarded to the Committee so they are informed of all work time activities. If someone is out of the office, Mott wants to be sure that inquiries are being answered on a timely basis. Support staff refers calls to neighboring counties when necessary. Van Raalte/Jensen made a motion to approve items a through d as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Jennrich excused.

Consent Agenda Items - UW Extension:

Jennrich commented that she has only one State covered out-of- county travel item for the Statewide Coalition in August. There are no line item transfers. The monthly budget from Finance, item 16 b, was not available but will be emailed to the Committee next week. Van Raalte/Winkler made a motion to approve consent agenda items a c. All ayes; motion carried.

UW-Extension Reorganization Update:

Information packets were shared on the nEXT Generation Project that covers future budget figures on all three of the educators. Feldman shared updates that were just received on Friday. Copies of the new model were distributed along with an email link for more details. Department head positions are being eliminated. Steve Nelson is our new Area Extension Director (AED), which replaces the department head. Will Andresen will no longer be the interim Regional Director and will return to his former CNRED/ Center for Community Development position in Iron County. Andresen reported on the new structure of things. The management structure has now changed and each county will need to determine their budget and the new AED will listen to what the priorities are and address those concerns. A document was handed out where page eight was referenced on the organizational structure. There will be two departments; the Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources and the Department of Youth, Family & Community Development. Our educators in Oneida County which are CNRED, 4-H Youth Development, and Family Living will all be under the same umbrella of the Department of Youth, Family and Community Development. Within that department, are three institutes called the *Communities Institute*, which will cover our current CNRED community development, and the *Youth and Family Institute* and the *Health & Well-Being Institute*, which covers current programming in 4-H Youth Development, Family Living and FoodWise. Each Educator will be a member of one center under an institute, but may work within other institutes based on needs and programming efforts in their communities.” Then, depending on what our County determines their needs are, there will be some overlapping among the centers and institutes.

What fee is to be charged for each educator. A document referenced the price breakdown of those program positions. There are scenarios where educators may work part-time in this county and part-time in another county, but it would

add up to a full-time position. The State is providing a \$10,000 discount to the total cost, which would bring the county cost for the three educators down to \$114,062.00. To maintain the educators in the county as we have them now will cost the county \$30,000 more. This is due to cost averaging of educator salaries across the state, creating a flat rate, opposed to the current percentage payment arrangement. Steve Nelson shared how under the new structure, our educators might not work full time in this county. An educator might be assigned as an Extension "specialist" for our area. Specialists will be very different than educators. Specialists will be state funded positions where they will serve anywhere from two to six counties, per Andresen. The specialists have not been appointed and it is difficult to determine how many there will be. The ranking of programs may need to be re-examined. We do not know what their role will be or how many of them there will be for any given county. This new structure is in response to the budget reduction of 1.2 million dollars.

Nelson said there will be multi-county educators and all these areas will start being covered by a state paid specialist. Mott asked for a listing of all the program areas the educators currently offer in order to determine what areas the county needs most. A breakdown of duties and time spent for each area will be given to Feldman by next Monday. Mott requested an estimate of the duties slated for the new specialist position and time that will be devoted for our County. Winkler commented that UW-Extension educators do not work like county courthouse employees; educators work many nights and weekends. This will replace the 133 Contract.

UW-Extension Office Air Environment Update:

Building and Grounds denied the request for Richie to remain at the office in the Courthouse. LRES will be using this office space for testing and Richie has vacated that office. Richie is working from home. There would have to be future follow up air/fumes testing in the winter season before returning to the Extension office. There have been several reports of fumes noted in the lower level hallways.

UW-Extension Extended Contract Approval:

The July through December 2017 contract was completed early. The amount of \$16,025 covers Feldman's increase and health insurance. For budget balancing, there is extra money in the budget due to the permanent part-time support staff vacancy being replaced with an LTE position, with reduced hours, until the reorganization is completed. Jensen/Van Raalte made a motion to approve amendment #2 to the contract as presented in the amount of \$44,033.00 for the Extended UW-Extension contract. All ayes; motion carried.

Oneida County Fair:

- a. Liaison Report - Jim Winkler was not able to attend the parade but he reported the Three Lakes Fair trolley went well. The Rhinelander parade was well attended. Nancy Gehrig spoke, suing the new PA system, at both parades to promote the Fair. She urged people to go to the Oneida County Website for Fair updates. Foster and Smith/Petco is sponsoring the North Gate entrance and will be helping the Fair financially as well this year. Channel 12 will sponsor the South Gate, which is a new role for them this year. Volunteers for set up and take down are very much needed. People can sign up over website on Sign-Up Genius. Gehrig is looking for volunteers at the entrance gates on Wednesday and Thursday to help deter the general public from coming into the park during set up time. K & M Amusement will be in the process of setting up. They will encourage the public to go elsewhere on Wednesday. Feldman needs more people to help at exhibit tables for a few hours. She hopes to set up an interactive Video of kids being interviewed by parents and others about their exhibits. Channel 12 will help with the lighting for the video. OCLRA will have a booth at the Organization Tent in the Exhibit Court. There is a new pallet contest where people will create things out of re-purposed pallets. The Ugly Lamp Contest and Garden Container Contest are still available this year as well. The Milwaukee Bucks will be doing acrobatic basketball again this year. Winkler will be sponsoring the Milk Marketing Board again this year at the Fair.
- b. Sign Fair Contracts. Completed contracts were presented to Mott for his signature.

Oneida County Broadband Update (Economic Development Project):

Roger Luce was not available today.

Agent Report: Sara Richie

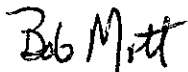
Richie reported on her programming to Build Healthy, Resilient Families. She has built several partnerships in the community to help build and grow her programming in this area. Her program efforts include, *Just in Time* Parenting Newsletter to new moms in Oneida County, Parents Forever Co-Parenting classes, eParenting Blog Post Project with schools throughout Oneida County and she has partnered with the Oneida County Health Department to facilitate Strengthening Families. She also works with the Department of Social Services on their Trauma Informed Care efforts, as well as recruiting families to her educational programs. Her future plans are to work on Creating Aging-Friendly Communities with local groups in the community on a UW-Extension pilot program that she has worked to create at the statewide level. Richie's other programming efforts focus on Health among Vulnerable Populations and working with partners to improve the health of Oneida County residents.

Public Comment: None.

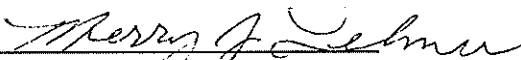
Items to include on next Agenda: Extra meeting if needed for Fair contract discussion. Time may be scheduled for feedback of Extension Specialist, and breakdown of educator positions. Merger update, Cost Share updates, UW Re-organization, Fair update and sign fair contracts, Broadband, Office air environment.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Jensen/Ives at 4:15 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bob Mott, Committee Chair



Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary

