

**Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee**  
**June 13, 2016**  
**Minutes**

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

**Others present:** Michael Stinebrink, Celie Borndal, Michele Sadauskas, Karl Jennrich, Lynn Feldman, Kevin Boneske, Daleth Mountjoy, and Merry Lehner.

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman, Robb Jensen, at 1:00 p.m. noting the meeting has been 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:** Motion by Van Raalte/Winkler to approve the 5/9/16 meeting minutes. All ayes; motion carried. It was noted that a Committee member does not have to be in attendance to approve the minutes of a meeting they did not attend.

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

July 11, 2016	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference
Aug 8, 2016	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference

**Length of Committee Meetings:**

Jensen asked if some of the agency reports could be submitted in writing to shorten meeting discussion. Quarterly reports might work for some agencies. Please let Chairman Mott know if you have further ideas.

**Staff Report:**

Sadauskas gave an overview of the Cost Share and LWCD Programs. The Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) is a grant funded program implemented by the AIS Coordinator. There are two part-time Project Assistants assigned to the program which protect our waterways from the threat of AIS. The focus is on educational outreach, technical assistance, and AIS management. The Wildlife Damage program is a grant funded program at no cost to the county that helps land owners abate wildlife problems. The Farmland Preservation Program protects areas of land for agricultural or forestry purposes, into the future. It ensures that DATCP requirements are met to conserve and enhance economically productive woodlands and productive farmlands. It offers educational outreach and income tax credits for landowners who enter into an agreement with the state to keep land in agricultural use for 15 years. The Cost Share program is through the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, or DATCP, which provides grant monies to all counties. It operates in cooperation with county land conservation committees, the Land and Water Conservation Board, the Department of Natural Resources, and other state and federal agencies. The standards of DATCP (Chapter ATCP 50) & the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) must be followed to be eligible for funding. There is a 50% reimbursement to an eligible landowner if they pursue the program. A deposit of \$500.00 is required on non-engineered and \$1,000.00 on engineered projects.

Our cost share limit, established by Committee, is \$7500.00. The landowners enter into a ten year contract to maintain the practice.

**Cost Share Update:**

Butkus: \$3,500.00 is for our share of the \$7,200.00 estimated on Phase I of this 2015 project. Butkus would like to re-enter the 2016 cost share to complete the shoreline restoration of his property. The acreage was split into phases to spread the cost over several years.

James: Michael Stinebrink from the Natural Resources conservation Service (NRCS) presented a review of the Roger James project. Mr. James is participating in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) through NRCS. He wants to convert an old potato field in Starks into a rotation grazing pasture. It involves rebuilding and re-establishing healthy soil after years of potato farming. His funding includes a well and a fencing plan where this program will offer flat rate incentive payments. They will pay 75% of what NRCS thinks it costs to build a fence, based on collected data from three states. The client has approached the county for supplemental money to help with the cost if it ends up costing more. The client is able to participate with both programs, so he can seek additional help from the county if costs go over. The dollar amount depends on variables of who builds the fence and materials used.

Rebholz: No impact for 2016. This is Cost Share funding from 2015.

Other: Corsten has a deposit in for their project which will probably hit the \$7,500.00 mark. The total project cost will probably go over \$15,000.00. Brice is building a seawall where we need to find out what permits the DNR will allow. They want to tear down a seawall to replace it with rip rap and plantings. It will hit the \$7,500.00. No deposit is received yet. The Eshelman deposit of 1,000.00 was just received. It will be under \$7,500.00 mark where a culvert will be replaced and wild rice beds will be planted, dependent on DNR permit approval. The Blue Waters Condo group will have to come together to decide what the association desires. It will be under the \$7500.00 mark. No deposit has been received. The Connor project is still in question. Prior work was done and it is not known if a permit will be granted. The approximate dollar amount currently is \$27,500 and \$35,000 is annual allotted amount which has to be completed by December, 2016.

Jensen made a motion for tentative approval for the five projects of Corsten, Brice, Blue Waters, and Eshelman, and Butkus pending review. Winkler seconded motion. All ayes; motion approved. Jensen added an amendment that an establishment of commitment date for Blue Water and must be made. Amendment of motion was made by Ives/Winker. All Ayes, motion passed.

The Roger James project will be put on hold until more detail is provided. Three estimates will be submitted. The Rebholz project will need the Committee to decide if a refund will be given on the deposit. Cost and time were invested into the project. The DNR permitted a biological protection (logs on shoreline) versus rock rip rap on recommendation of county. The permit is pending. There is concern that the biological protection would not hold up for the required 10 years due to the boat landing. Sadauskas felt that the deposit should be given back. A standard regarding refund of deposits was discussed. Some homeowners in the past pulled out for no good reason. This case is more related to what the DNR recommended over what the county felt was the best route to go for a 20 foot section of dock. It was a general permit versus an individual permit. The \$1,000.00 was from last year and since there was a commitment, the future funding may be adjusted as a result. Winkler made a motion to refund \$750.00 of the refund; it was seconded by Van Raalte. There is no precedence, so no policy will be set by this action. It is a case by case decision. All ayes; motion passed.

### **2016 Soil & Water Resource Management Grant Contact:**

Corporation Counsel reviewed and there were some concerns. The concerns were forwarded to DATCP who has not had time to respond back. A motion was made by Van Raalte and seconded by Winkler to postpone until the July meeting. All ayes; motion approved.

### **Appointment of NCLWCA Representatives:**

NCLWCA is the North Central Area Land and Water Conservation Association. Bob Mott would be the primary appointment, and he had asked that this be opened up to other Committee members for selecting an alternate. Regional Land and Water Association looks at legislative updates and report to the state association. The meetings take place in various counties of this region. Winkler stated that he would be interested. Motion made by Jensen/Van Raalte to elect Winkler as the alternate. All ayes; motion passed.

### **Agency Reports:**

Lake Districts: Thunder Lake met the first Saturday in June and holds one meeting per year, which had already occurred, so Winkler could not attend. The new President is Dean Kekison and the Secretary is Greg Weinfurter. Agenda included a letter to the Town of Three Lakes for cost efficiency on the dam of Thunder Lake, which needs to be replaced. Funding is needed as only \$10,000.00 is allotted and \$5,000.00 is marked for restocking fish and lake aeration. They are seeking help to fund \$100,000.00 to restore the dam. It is interagency issue. Van Raalte provided the Lake Nokomis May 2 Minutes. The proposed annual budget was discussed and the annual meeting will be August 13. Jensen reported the Bear Lake District annual meeting will be in July.

NRCS: Public meeting on July 26 will be seeking local input into the Environment Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). It will be held at the Forest Service Office from 1 to 3:00 p.m. The objective will be to set the natural resources goal for the six-county area.

WLWCA: A County Conservation meeting is being held July 21-22 in Wisconsin Rapids open to staff and Committee members. Contact Jonna to sign up.

### **Citizen Advisory Position on Committee:**

The Committee asked for a resolution to go to the County Board to amend 2.37 of the Oneida County General Code, Conservation and UW-Extension Education calling for an Ordinance Amendment. It addresses that "The County Board may appoint to the Land Conservation Committee up to 2 members who are not members of the County Board". Lines 8 through 14 address these citizen members. Under line 8 it states that it allows for up to two (2) citizen members on the Land Conservation Committee". The Resolution had separated responsibilities between UW-Extension Education and would serve the Land and Water part of Committee. This presents an issue regarding Kim Simac's vote applying only to the Conservation part of the Committee, as line 8 states. Agenda item 18 will address Simac. It noted that Line 8 needs the word "be" inserted to read, "...Education Committee citizen members would *be* limited to voting on agenda items from the Land and Water Conservation Department. Line 41 needs to have the word "citizen" inserted to read: "Each *citizen* member of the Land Conservation Committee shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses". Furthermore, Line 41 should be paid same amount as per diem as other County Board members, per Margie Sorensen, as a citizen member. A motion was made by Jensen to approve the resolution that the county board may appoint up to two citizen members and move the resolution on to the County Board. The motion was seconded by Van Raalte. Ives made the motion to amend with changes of

words "be" on line 13 and "citizens" on line 41 be inserted as discussed. Winkler seconded the amended motion. All ayes; motion passed.

**WHIP Update/MOU Memorandum of Understanding Renewal:**

Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnerships Strategic Management Plan 2016 was distributed at last meeting where the plan asked the department to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with all their other partners. Corporate Counsel advised not to sign the MOU. A Letter of Support was advised instead of the MOU. Land and Water is in this as a partnership, and provides oversight to WHIP. Jennrich asked if the Committee wanted to still sign the Memorandum of Understanding renewal. NRCS, as a partner, already signed the MOU. It was moved by Van Raalte to go ahead and sign the MOU. Van Raalte made a motion to approve and have the County Board sign the Memorandum of Understanding as is. Ives seconded the motion. All ayes; motion passed.

**LWC/P & Z Merger Update:**

There will be a resolution going to the Oneida County Board of Supervisors next Tuesday extending the time frame for review of the merger for another year.

**AIS Position Coordinator Update:**

Applications and Resumes have been screened by LRES and submitted to Jennrich and Sadauskas who have selected three people out of the original fifteen applications. They will start scheduling interviews soon.

**Consent Agenda Items – Land & Water**

There were no out-of-county travel requests or line item transfers. A motion was made by Ives to approve consent agenda for items B and C for Land and Water. Winkler seconded motion. All ayes; motion carried.

**Consent Agenda Items – UW-Extension:**

Agenda items were presented to the Committee. There were no line item transfers. A Motion made by Winkler to approve the UW-Extension Consent agenda items A through C, seconded by Jensen. All ayes; motion passed.

**UW-Extension 133 Contract:**

Feldman stated that the contract has been approved by LRES. The contract is the same as last year. There is a slight reduction due to Alexander's start date being delayed which is reflected with a one month credit. A motion was made to approve the UW-Extension 133 contract for the period of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 was made by Van Raalte and seconded by Winkler. All Ayes; motion passed.

**Ratifying votes taken with Kim Simac Votes:**

When clarifying the citizen member for the agenda item 10, it was noted on the Oneida County General Code, Conservation and UW-Extension Education Ordinance Amendment that Simac votes apply to the Conservation department issues. In reviewing past minutes, there were three occasions last year where Simac's votes were part of a quorum. There were two meeting dates from October 12 and 26 that involved only the approval of the agenda, minutes and adjournment. The third date, December 14, 2015, involved in several motions which should be reviewed. These votes will need to be ratified. Van Raalte made a motion to ratify the votes for the minutes for October 12 and October

26 and December 14, 2015 for the Conservation UW-Extension Education Committee meeting. Ives seconded the motion. All ayes; motion approved.

Sadauskus, Jennrich, Stinebrink, and Borndal excused at 2:50 p.m.

**Pioneer Park Discussion with City of Rhinelander:**

The public hearing on proposed softball field was cancelled. Myles Alexander is to work with the City with their future strategic planning of all public park areas, starting this fall. By the end of June the Building and Grounds Committee will meet as the school district does not have a contract in place for use of the fields for softball. The first Fair was held in Pioneer Park in 2009. The contract for the Fair was drafted back in 2011 with the option that the Fair Committee could extend it another ten years. Currently, the Fair contract with the City is good through 2019. The City has agreed to host the Fair for 2016. There is a section in article 8 that addresses utilities where the City is committed to provide utilities, including electricity, water and toilets for the Fair at their own expense. This suggests that existing electricity will be provided at no charge. The electricity is limiting growth for the Fair at Pioneer Park. No City representative was present to discuss this at the meeting. Feldman dropped off a copy of this contract to the City.

**Workplace Environment:**

Daniel Karamanski has not yet responded back regarding an engineering study. We need to know what would properly resolve the air issues at the office. Feldman would like to know the estimate for the cost of the engineering study before moving forward. She wants all the pieces in place as does Bob Mott, and does not know if that will be in place before the July 12 Administration meeting. The dates when the two groups meet do not work out well. Since Administration meets the second Monday of the month at 9:30 a.m. and our Committee does not meet until 1:00 p.m. the same day, an additional meeting will need to occur. A separate special meeting needs to be scheduled for this matter. Feldman said she send out a doodle survey to see when they can meet. Whatever the route, it is recognized that nothing will be done before winter if some alternatives are not looked into now. We do not want another winter to progress as last year. We have not contacted anyone to perform an engineering study to see where the fumes are coming from at this time. Jensen asked for Committee to allow Mott, Feldman, and another Committee member to develop an option list to begin to look at alternative sites while awaiting the engineering report. Jensen asked that this be put on next month's agenda for a motion to do so. With each alternative, there are fiscal matters such as rental costs. Mott had requested that Feldman check with Brunette for available space at the courthouse and was told by LRES that there is a temporary area in the Courthouse that could be used for at least two people. Per Jensen LRES requested that the Administration Committee should make a recommendation on this issue. Chairman Hintz had stated that his preference was be for our Committee to provide a recommendation to the Administration Committee regarding a site to house UW-Extension. This offers some time to conduct preliminary work on looking at various options for UW-Extension. Jensen said LRES asked us to take a look at various advantages and disadvantages of this site and look at the options available. Then we need to do the same thing at different sites before July 12. Another option is to use the current site and re-locate some staff members elsewhere. Feldman was encouraged to continue to gather information on alternative sites. Once we hear back about the engineering study, we will schedule a meeting. At the next meeting the agenda should include this as an item on the agenda to make a motion to allow a list of alternatives to look at different office space so that this Committee can start this process.

**Re-Org Update:**

The workgroups are just starting to meet the end of this month and into first part of July. No real changes will take place with the re-organization until February. Everything is on the table. It is a 90% probability that the county cluster model of Vilas, Forest, and Florence Counties with Oneida County will prevail as presented earlier in the year. There will be a nEXT Generation Project meeting on July 13 at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Eagle River at 1:00 p.m. where Dean Rick Klemme will speak. The County Board and this Committee are urged to attend as interested stakeholders.

**Broadband:**

Roger Luce distributed maps which represent grant applications. The original balance assigned was \$23,000.00 and \$10,000.00 was used on the Minocqua, Town of Lynne, and Hazlehurst projects. Luce said they were requesting the remaining balance to the Administration Committee today. A vote to give remaining funds of \$13,627.00 was approved today. The proposed project, as seen on the map, are the red circles which represent where affordable high speed broadband would be placed, if they receive the grant from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. The development costs would cover the towns of Newbold, Crescent, two towers in the town of Harshaw, two towers in the Sugar Camp area, plus an existing tower in Three Lakes. The total cost would be \$403,236.00. The source of matching funds is for approximately \$220,000.00 as a County donation. The total grant funds required would be approximately \$181,236.00. Many applications in the state have applied for the grant funds. Closely matched funds give a better chance of receiving the grant. The grey area on the map depicts existing areas of the plan. They will add LTE to the Wi-Max broadband which functions better. The application will be in on June 16 on behalf of OCEDC and Northwoods Communications. One application, Three Lakes to Eagle River, did not go through. The middle mile of this was too costly. Three Lakes is not a source of matching funds. They already have a cable provider there. The County has a tower on Hwy 51 North of Hwy 8, where there is a microwave dish. There is a component of Sugar Camp that would like to raise a third tower, but that will not be a part of this application. The hope is that the provider, Northwoods Communications, will be able to do the rest on their own and be competitive in the market place. This project should get them to that point. Another update is that a group formed their own LLC to put up money for Harshaw cell phone reception Emergency Government Sheriff's Department. It will enable users to access their computers in their car with the completed broadband. Other sheriff departments will follow their lead.

**Fair Planning Committee:**

The K&M Contract was signed; where it was pending the final ok from Brian Desmond. A motion was made at the last meeting to sign the contract between Oneida County and Kris Milbradt dba K & M Amusements pending review by Corporation Counsel. Brian Desmond looked over and approved the contract previously, and some wording that was changed was approved. The Committee Chairman will need to sign this contract today. It will then need Dave Hintz's signature and then the final signature of Kris Milbradt for the contract to be complete. Vice Chairman Jensen signed the contract in Mott's absence.

**Lunch and Learn:**

There will not be a Lunch and Learn. Extension Agents will find other ways to disseminate helpful information to the Committee members to bring them up to speed about UW-Extension and Agent contributions to the Community.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Items to include on next agenda:**

Update on: Cost Share, LWC /P&Z Update, Fair Planning Committee Update, Air Quality, and UW-Extension Re-org update and alternate site update.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn by Jensen/Van Raalte was made at 3:51 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary

  
Bob Mott, Committee Chair

