

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
June 12, 2017 Ammended 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, Michele Sadauskas, Karl Jennrich, Michael Steinbrink, and Merry Lehner.

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 Jensen/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 5/8/17 minutes. All Ayes; motion carried.

Date(s) of future meetings:

July 10, 2017 1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room
August 7, 2017 1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Local Work Group:

Michael Stinebrink announced the Headwaters Local Work Group meeting next Monday, June 19, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. being held at the National Forest Supervisors Office at 500 Hanson Lake Road, Rhinelander. It is the annual meeting. The local working groups provide recommendations to USDA on local and state natural resource priorities and criteria for conservation activities and programs. They spend approximately \$500,000 to one million dollars per year in the designated seven counties on conservation projects on private land including tribal lands. It is important that Oneida County is a part of this process and he asked that the Committee participate in the four different surveys to indicate what the local priorities are for our county. The most expensive projects are the irrigation system renovations. The Oneida County potato fields would use the cropland fund pool and has a fair amount of money assigned to it. Water quality generally receives funding first, and if there is extra money it goes towards the irrigation systems. The most common projects are rotational grazing. Forestry projects are landowner "plans" or forest improvement projects. Erosion issues are relevant now, with all the rain, where technical assistance can be provided and refer funding, if needed. Sadauskas will be attending this meeting. Jensen made a motion, seconded by Van Raalte, that if Committee Members attend, they will be reimbursed. An agenda will be posted in the event of any quorums. All ayes, except one nay by Winkler. Motion carried. Stinebrink excused.

LCWD & P&Z Merger Update:

Karl Jennrich stated there was no update.

Approve DATCP Master Grant Contract:

Michele Sadauskas stated that in the past they had to sign a contract with DATCP each year for Cost Share and staffing money. Now there is a Master Contract, which has been sent out to Committee, once the contract is signed, the award money will be sent out. Then Land and Water Conservation will acknowledge if there are any updates or terminate the contract. A representative, the County Conservationist, will need to sign it. Going forward, there will be an award letter sent out annually between DATCP and Oneida County. This eliminates the

need to sign a new contract each year. Mott asked about the staffing grant; the ones reported are from 2016 and 2017, due to carryover projects. The total conservation grants are \$27,500, which represents 2017 money. Jensen/Van Raalte made a motion to approve the DATCP Master Grant Contract as presented and Sadauskas will be the representative of this funding. All ayes; motion approved.

Squash Lake District and Mid Lake District Representative Report:

Bob Mott stated that Squash Lake, as a newly formed district, had their first commissioner's meeting. Tom Johansen is the new president and Steve Richardson is the new town representative. They have set their annual meeting for Saturday, August 12 at 5:00 p.m. at Crescent Town Hall. Squash Lake will keep their Association running for now. The Mid Lake District meeting is scheduled for July 1 at 8:00 a.m. at the Woodruff Town Hall. Mid Lake is in search of a new person to operate the weed harvester.

Thunder Lake District Representative Report:

Jim Winkler attended an interesting annual/business/monthly meeting. He said the association claims they only have meet annually because of a grandfather clause which originally classified their meetings as farmers in the early 1980s. They do not have to have quarterly meetings because of this grandfather clause. They represent about ten million dollars in shoreline property. Most funding is spent on stocking and an aerator, which needed repair. They have a ten thousand dollar budget. There is a dam, owned by Three Lakes, which needs to be replaced. Their next meeting will be the first Saturday in June for 2018. Winkler suggested they could still post and have a meeting, where the officers could attend, so that they are in compliance with the statutes to meet quarterly. He met the owner of the new James Lake Farm, which is organic cranberry marsh.

North Central Area Land and Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA)

Oneida County's Summer Tour Date Announcement:

Sadauskas announced that Oneida County will host the Summer Tour for the association on August 16, 2017 in Three Lakes, at the Reiter Center, 1858 S Michigan 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. There will be bus transportation and lunch provided. The business meeting will be afterwards. Registration is due by August 9 to Jonna Jewell, Oneida County Land & Water Dept. (jjewell@co.oneida.wi.us).

Grants – Michele Sadauskas

- a. Sustainable Agricultural Research & Education (SARE) Grant Contract: She is bringing this to Committee where a 48 page contract was increased to 1,300 pages. It is only a \$3,000 grant and Sadauskas is asking for direction from the Committee based on the response from the Legal Department, regarding the length. It is a State grant and our Finance department provided the requested financial documents. A motion was made by Van Raalte/Winkler with the recommendation to move forward with the SARE grant. All ayes; motion approved.
- b. Pollinator Grants Update: They did not get approval for the two small pollinator grants they had submitted. Three other organizations and the State had applied for the Monarch Monitoring Grant. The Bayer Grant was to increase forage and habitat for pollinators. The grant LWCD submitted had too many coordinator hours for the small amount of square footage. The good news is that they can reapply for the grant this week, where they will increase the square footage. The existing gardens had a decline in the Whorled Milkweed and Tickseed, which they are addressing.

Cost Share Update:

- a. Corsten Project and Deposit reimbursement: The Bayview Condos are completed. There is a small, minor repair required on the site, where there is some runoff. Before approving the reimbursement, Sadauskas informed the Committee that the neighboring property's seawall bridged onto the Corsten property, which needed repair. A request was made for a written agreement where both owners would pay for their own

repair. A document between the two landowners will be created stating that each will pay for their property's repairs. Van Raalte/Jensen moved to approve reimbursement of \$7,500.00 for the Corsten Cost Share project, once the signed acknowledgement discussed is received. All ayes; motion carried.

- b. Bergman Project and Deposit Reimbursement: This project has been going on since 2015, due to DNR permitting. Bergman paid for the project but it took a long time for the DNR to approve the permit. It had to be extended because they could not get the DNR permit in 2015. The rock is complete but the plantings are not in yet. It should be completed before the July 10 meeting. Van Raalte/Winkler moved to approve the Bergman Cost Share project reimbursement of \$14,361.45 contingent on Sadauskas' approval of the plantings. All ayes; motion carried.

Notice of Discontinuance of a Public Way

Pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 66.1003 for Gogebic Street and South Michigan Street in the Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County, Wisconsin. Mr. Harrold sent a letter with the statute which Jennrich quoted on the notice requirements. The Three Lakes Winery will be giving up some land on Gogebic Street and dedicating it on South Michigan Street. The Committee has been duly notified and there have been no objections.

Consent Agenda Items- Land and Water:

Van Raalte/Jensen made a motion to approve items a through d as presented. All ayes; motion carried. Sadauskas and Jennrich excused.

Consent Agenda Items - UW Extension:

Mott requested that both departments report to the Committee when they are going to be out of the County, regardless of any cost involved with the County or the State. There will be exceptions to the rule, and please notify Mott in those cases and record it on the next month's report so the Committee is informed. Alexander attended a CNRED meeting in Iron County which was omitted in error; it will be noted on next month's report. Jensen/Winkler made motion to approve items a through c. All ayes; motion carried.

UW Extension 133 Extended Contract draft approval:

Lynn Feldman presented the draft of FY2018 budget for July 1, 2017 through Dec 31, 2017 for Committee approval, which will then go to LRES next week for approval. This is only for the remaining half of this year, which is being cast over from the first six months until the re-organization takes place. The only difference from the previous six months is the increase in the rate of pay on Feldman for approximately \$500.00. The State cannot complete the contract due to changing their budget cycle from July to June to a January to January cycle. They will perform an official reconciliation June 30. The contract will come out around July 18. The new contract starts January 1, 2018. Jensen/Ives made motion to approve 133 contract draft as presented and to forward it to LRES for their approval. All ayes; motion carried.

UW-Extension Office Air Environment Update:

- a. A request to extend the use of courthouse office space until 1/31/2018 was presented. Mott approved the letter presented and the reason why it is pertinent. He would like to see the staff all work in the same location ultimately. Feldman stated that in a perfect world UW-Extension would prefer educators be in one location, however due to the reorganization, the status quo is acceptable. This subject will be re-visited in October 2017. The Committee had no objections to extend the courthouse office space until year end. Richie asked to stay at courthouse through January 31, 2018 to allow for transition time. Van Raalte/Ives made a motion to approve the letter for extended use of office space through January 31 and that the request be forwarded to the Buildings & Grounds Committee. All ayes; motion carried.

Oneida County Fair:

- a. Liaison Report - Jim Winkler reported that Michael Boyd presented information on a 501C3 as a possibility for the Fair. He has participated in the formation of a 501C3 in the past. It would cost approximately \$1,000.00 to initiate it. On-going costs would be an additional \$1,000.00. As it was not on the agenda to discuss it further,

discussion will be postponed until after the Fair in August, 2017. The Fair is in good shape financially, taking in money from vendors and donations. They are putting things in place daily as the Fair approaches. Mott attended the last meeting and he was impressed with the number in attendance. Mott, once again, stated his opinion of an admission fee. The Fair is steadfast about actively promoting the collection of donations at all the gates. The Fair will meet next on June 20, 2017.

Oneida County Broadband Update (Economic Development Project) :

Roger Luce reported that their committee met on June 5, where Mott attended to review the plan. The Public Service Commission (PSC) made the formal announcement that they would be taking grant applications for the 1.5 million dollar award that had been put in last's years' budget. This budget money was entered in a span of four years. They were at the PSC to decide if they should wait to see what legislation came through with without the budget. There is a 15 million dollars State allotment for broadband, that money may not be released until the end of July, so PSC went ahead in accepting grant applications. Luce said they are in the process of writing a grant, which is due the end of this month. This time they will be looking at 60/40 ratio for fund matching. About \$83,000 will come from PSC. The Funding will be for five more towers. They will be presenting to the County Board next week to clear up some questions. Just because people see fiber being installed along the road does not guarantee that a user's speed will improve at their residence, it depends upon location. Service might not be any better since there is still copper wire from the road to a residence, which is slower. Lake Mildred has a reported a dead service area. Wireless wavelengths are four to five miles between towers. Depending on location, service may not be any better. The main towers have the microwave frequency and the other towers are considered sub towers. The goal is to extend service where there is none. Can this Committee do anything to support from the board for further grant money of \$15,000 to come in through the draft of a resolution? The grant does not carry any guarantees. It could be put in the 2018 budget.

UW-Extension Re-organization Update:

Lynn Feldman has requested the State to submit information to us by July 10 for the structure of educator positions and the related dollar amounts. They have come up with a model. There will be segments that counties will be able to choose from. There was discussion earlier that county positions may become state jobs; this will not be the case. The transportation costs of educators will be put together and divided among the counties. There will be a higher expense with these shared costs. They do not know at this time how much cost will be involved, but should know by this fall. Our county is first in line for an answer on these questions. Once that structure is in place, it will be understood better. Most structures will be more general and less specific from what they are like now. Positions will be under a broader umbrella. Mott would like to know more by August so they can be ready for the budget in October. An additional meeting will be required to discuss this matter more, after the July 10 meeting. The Committee will **need** to change the date of their meeting from August 14 to August 7, so there is more time to go over the facts before the next County Board meeting.

Agent Report: Marshall Mentor Program:

Lynn Feldman presented an agent report on living healthy mentally, physically, emotionally, and intellectually. A book titled, Marshall the Miracle Dog, tells the touching story of a puppy who was rescued from a puppy mill and ultimately became a therapy dog. UW-Extension developed a program with research based materials out of the premise of this book. They created a peer to peer group to implement a program that encourages youth to put empathy, strength, courage, perseverance, kindness and forgiveness to use, where teen mentors would work with the youth. Locally, the high school youth will work with middle school youth to develop this program. The program will be divided into sections. Teens will develop mentor skills. A pilot program was developed at James Williams Middle School. Outcomes for the participants were very positive. There was more empathy identified during the program. More courage and character traits were identified. More self-worth was the result. Bullying was a theme through-out the program and how to eradicate it. The future plans are to start a club at school. The school

counselors are supportive of the club. The mentors surveyed had a desire to teach the program again. Feldman's job was to introduce the program and let the schools and youth take it from there. It seemed to be a great success.

Public Comment:

Mott attended a conference at Kemp Center with Myles Alexander on the changing county demographics and how to retain youth in the area.

Items to Include on next Agenda: Merger update, Cost Share updates, UW Re-organization, Fair update and sign fair contracts, Broadband, Office air environment. Lake Nokomis district and Horsehead.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Jensen/Van Raalte at 3:50 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bob Mott, Committee Chair



Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary