

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
March 13, 2017
Minutes

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

Others present: Lynn Feldman, Myles Alexander, Michele Sadauskas, Karl Jennrich, Jim Tharman, Bill Freudenberg, 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 Amended Agenda: Motion by Van Raalte/Simac to approve today's agenda with the order of the items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve Minutes:

Van Raalte/Jensen made motion to approve the 2/13/17 minutes. Additional figures were added to Agenda item 6 b regarding number of signatures and the percentage of land owners on the review of the Resolution. All Ayes; motion carried.

Date(s) of future meetings:

April 10, 2017	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room
May 8, 2017	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room

Proposal for Fencing – Leach Property:

Tharman reviewed the figures on the Summary Worksheet for the proposed fencing project. The projected total cost is \$25,791.00 for 4,722 linear feet of fencing. The projected WDACP cost (75% of the total) is \$19,478.25. The amount may come in lower in the end; the amounts are approximate. The eastern portion of fence will be replaced where currently there is a NRCS fence in place. This issue has been discussed and both entities are fine with this combined fencing. Mr. Leach must complete all preparation work before the fence is installed. The life expectancy of the fence is estimated at 15 years. Committee approval is needed to go forward with the fence proposal, which will then go to the State for approval. Van Raalte/Jensen moved to approve the wire fencing request for the Leach property, which will then be forwarded to the State. All ayes; motion carried.

Land and Water Update:

a. Youth Scholarships: There are three \$100.00 scholarships available for students. Participation will be encouraged through the camps.

b. Lakes Convention: The dates are April 5 through 7 for the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership convention where one Committee member could have all costs covered; there is funding in the budget for lodging, mileage and registration. Notify Jonna if interested in attending. The deadline is March 15.

c. LWCD-Written Comment on State Permit for Small Dredging: Sadauskas sent written comment in opposition to the Proposed Statewide General Permit for Small Scale Dredging of Waterbodies in Wisconsin to the Waterway Policy Coordinator in Madison, where comments were due by March 3. A general permit allows less oversight than an individual permit. The dredging of a lake bottom is a highly invasive procedure.

Two grants, one from the DNR and the SARE grant, will need contracts signed by the Committee Chair (the DNR contract is here today to be signed). There are two additional grants that just came into the department. Sadauskas just received information on a Citizen Monitoring grant (Bumblebee Watch), and a pollinator habitat grant. They would like to apply for these two grants as well. A proposal for the creation of a pollinator garden on the Courthouse grounds is in the works, where there currently is a more formal garden. Master Gardeners perform the upkeep of the current garden at the front of the courthouse. Sadauskas contacted LuAnn in Building & Grounds about starting this pollinator project and four different garden areas are under consideration. It will be on the agenda at the upcoming Building & Grounds Committee meeting. There was suggestion that educational signage be

posted. A motion to approve application to pursue these two grants, Citizen Monitoring (Bumblebee Watch) and a pollinator grant, was made by Mott/Jensen. All ayes; motion approved.

Update on Shoreland Zoning:

Karl Jennrich reviewed the public hearings on the Shoreland Zoning. They had three meetings; the first in Minocqua, then in Three Lakes, and finally in Rhinelander. They had good attendance and will address the comments from the public at their March 15 Planning and Development meeting. Pending committee approval, they hope to discuss the proposed changes to Chapter 9, section 9, in another committee meeting and then take it to the County Board in resolution format in April. Many comments at the meeting were about addition of staff for permit applications and enforcement as well as more staff for educating the public regarding protection of shoreland property. Zoning does some educational outreach with ordinances. There were concerns on the size and height of boathouses and how they are measured related shoreland alteration permits and erosion control. They will be discussing this package at the March 15 meeting. Mott feels that with a two-hundred million dollar tourism industry the quality of our lakes and conservation are important. This may require additional staff to be involved in the protection of the lakes and shoreland zoning. Mitigation matters on shoreland property on what is allowed for structures is a relevant issue. Another is related to property that changes hands where septic system inspection is required for real estate transfers to occur. These comments should be included in SPO's to the State. There has been a history of different bodies of government, such as the DNR, the County, or Township who have different parameters on what a property owner can or cannot do; there is not a consistent answer between entities.

Squash Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Petition:

There have been no phone calls or inquiries regarding the petition. Butkus requested that a letter be sent out to instruct the owners of the new formation of district and Mott forwarded the letter to Sadauskas. A decision will need to be made if the letter should be drawn up and if the District or the County is to send out the letter. Jensen/Van Raalte made motion to approve the Squash Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Petition resolution and forward on to the full County Board for their approval. All ayes; motion approved.

Consent Agenda Items- Land and Water:

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

Agency reports:

Lake Districts: Bear Lake meets March 24. Nokomis meets later today.

FSA: Next meeting is on Friday. Some of the cost share programs have come out, plus information on loans, disaster programs, etc. from Deb Esselman.

WACEC: The North Central Region All Colleague Conference at Hotel Mead, Wisconsin Rapids on Wednesday, March 15. Mott will attend the morning session only.

PILD Conference: Public Issues Leadership Development is being held April 2-5. Mott will attend as an advocate for Cooperative Extension for our North Central Region.

WLWCA: Convention Mar 15 -17. Mott and Sadauskas are attending. Tom Rudolph is being recognized in the evening and there will be a short tribute to Jean Hansen at Thursday lunch.

WHIP: Annual meeting last Thursday where 26 people attended, were engaged, and many new faces.

Simac, Sadauskas, and Jennrich excused

Consent Agenda Items - UW Extension:

Van Raalte/Jensen made motion to approve items a through d. Year-end Line Item transfers were presented for approval as well. All ayes; motion approved

UW-Extension Re-organization:

The hiring of the new State Regional Directors will start as soon as April. There will be 23 positions each representing their county cluster who will perform all administrative work. They are scheduled to begin working by the first of July or sooner. Existing department heads will continue to receive a stipend until December 31, 2017. The Educator positions will be faculty positions and this will be a gradual change over the next three years. The

educator's programs will be layered out between county clusters. The District Director will work with each county according to their needs. The opportunity to receive services will be available to all counties based on their requests. The District Directors and the County will iron out these details. In the new model counties will be purchasing services rather than people. Discussion about our County developing a list of the tasks each educator performs would be helpful to the Committee. This, in time, could be presented to the County Board. The activities of how we educate people, do research, and monitor trends will be part of the work plan.

Air Environment:

Things are moving along. The fan still needs to be installed by the vents that will move the air further down for better air exchange. They are waiting for the fan to arrive. Joe Brauer is offering a tour to anybody who would like to see the completed project. There was one case of very heavy fumes last week when it was very windy. Feldman stated that Myles Alexander mentioned he noticed some improvement since the upgrades have been made.

Technology Update:

The VDI system Support staffer Lehner has been using is costing much lost work time. An improved Thin Client product was promised by IT in two months. Mott felt they should not have to wait two months to have any improvement. The Committee felt that it did not make sense for one support staff person/the rest of the staff to have a newer operating system and not the other; it makes it difficult to streamline work with different technologies. The Committee will work in coordination with Flint in IT and will follow up with Lynn on a solution. Mott/Van Raalte moved to buy a new computer or workstation in coordination with IT and bill it to the County. All ayes; motion approved.

Broadband Update:

Luce reported that in the past month they have received many calls from government and local officials on the progress of broadband. The town of Little Rice is pushing for a tower site they believe will work for them. Skunk Lake has offered a site that could improve their broadband. The people who are calling are very informed about broadband. The Broadband Committee has decided to invite these people to attend meetings because they are the ones within their towns that can go out and fund raise or find tower location sites. They need to gather people quickly because it is anticipated that once the legislation is passed, the thirty-five million dollars will be available and ready to go for grant applications, so they must act fast. The Broadband Committee will need to look at covering the remaining parts of county with poor or no coverage and build additional smaller towers. They will ask for support of their application for about half a million dollars. They will ask the County to assist and ask all the other players such as towns, schools, and businesses. They have a meeting later this week. Other updates are that the Newbold tower has customers as of last week. The Sugar Camp North tower is up and the rigging is scheduled to go up this week. Electrical line will be arranged by Sowinski Farms who are very happy with their fixed wireless and are promoting it to the local community. Other updates are that the Committee is submitting a grant application for curriculum for a Fab-Lab grant for Florence, Three Lakes and Rhinelander school districts. They will write prospectus. One other update is regarding the railroad. There is a rail operator negotiating to operate short portions of rail by installing a switch station on either side of the rails. It will be a way for CN (Canadian National) to commit to more service. Rhinelander to Goodman has a short rail line.

Fair Planning Committee:

Bill Freudenberg gave an update on the by-laws which will be presented tomorrow night, Tuesday, March 14, with approval from Brian Desmond. They are looking into the number of people required for a quorum. The executive members on the Fair committee consists of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. They would like to change the amount of members on the board from 20 people to 15 people. A discussion about the Fair Board being more involved in long term strategic planning for the Fair was proposed. There are wonderful volunteers who do very well their appointed tasks but on-going Fair operations and strategy must be focused on for the future of the Fair. Feldman reported on the financial status of the Fair. Suggestion was made by the Committee that the Fair Board begin to look at what amount of carryover money would be considered as a safeguard amount to have on hand, and how might any excess money be invested as part of the long-term strategic planning for the Fair. An update was provided by Feldman regarding the work put into a news article regarding the Exhibit Court position. Last minute contracts do not need a resolution because Vice Chairs can sign in the Chairman's absence. The State

approved the Fair contract with McNaughton Correctional Center, no further updates can be made as the State has already signed and they will not change it. The contract should be looked over by this Committee. The County can list any concerns there are but the State will not sign off again. There was language clarifying action to be taken if there is an injury on site. Handcrafted items are made by McNaughton inmates for the Fair raffle. The work they perform putting up and taking down the Fair is significant. A motion was made by Mott/Van Raalte to sign the McNaughton contract as is, as an agency representative. All ayes; motion carried. The K & M contract was submitted where there are no changes from last year. A motion was made by Van Raalte/Jensen to sign the K & M contract as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Agent Report – Lynn Feldman:

Feldman has been busy with a program called Workforce Readiness. With an aging population in Oneida County it is important to work on retaining youth in the area. She held the event at the Three Lakes High School on March 3 where youth in grades 7-12 participated with the high school counselors and local business leaders about careers after high school. Three different activities were offered: Mad Money, a financial simulation activity for school juniors and seniors, Mock Interviewing and a Resume Writing exercise for sophomores, and Communication Skill Building for the freshman. Feldman invested a substantial amount of work into coordinating the activities and lining up volunteers to run the activities. Her main focus was to assist in organizing the leaders of each activity. She created some of the materials that can be used in the coming years for future Workforce Readiness programs. Lastly, she implemented an evaluation tool for the program. Students were surveyed and the results showed that in all three areas, students felt they had gained knowledge and new skills. It turned out that students had gained enough confidence through the activities that they felt they could communicate better with area business leaders. Other areas such as problem-solving, goal-setting, showing respect, cooperation, and creativity were also measured for positive change. These life skill opportunities had positive outcomes where people would like to see more of these programs available to the school curriculum. Now that the foundation of the program is in place it can easily be replicated in the future. Participants have shown an eagerness to be involved in future events. Job shadowing activities are being planned for next year. There are plans for the community and the school district to work together in the future for specific projects to mentor students in their career choices.

Public Comment: None

Items to Include on next Agenda: Updates on Cost Share, LWC grants, Shoreland Zoning, UW Re-org, Technology, Air Quality, and the Fair.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn by Jensen/Van Raalte was made at 4:19 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bob Mott, Committee Chair



Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary