

**Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
May 8, 2017 Minutes**

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

Others present: Lynn Feldman, Michele Sadauskas, Karl Jennrich, Stephanie Boismenu, Michael Steinbrink, Jack Flint, Tom Peterson, 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/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 4/10/17 minutes. All Ayes; motion carried.

Date(s) of future meetings:

June 12, 2017	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room
July 10, 2017	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room

LCWD & P&Z Merger Update:

Jennrich had a management meeting with Hoppe, Sadauskas, and Wegner to discuss the pros and cons of the possibility of the department merger. They developed a list which was submitted to Charbarneau in LRES who will discuss with two respective committees chairs, Mott and Holowinski, about the merge. Currently there is a trial merge of the two departments where an evaluation was to take place but that evaluation will not occur until August or September of 2017. The staff feels there are more positive outcomes than negative ones for the merger. The departments will speak with the respective committees about a decision and then LRES will report back to the County Board of Supervisors. Perhaps Corporation Counsel may offer input on the merger. The two departments have worked well together.

North Central Land and Water Conservation Meeting- May 25-approve attendance:

The North Central Area Association Reorganization Spring Meeting will be held in Florence, WI on May 25 at 9:00 a.m. Sadauskas and Winkler will be attending. Tentatively, Mott will attend and will know for certain by May 19. They will need names of the people attending. Payment will need to be received by Jonna Jewell by this Friday, May 12. The cost for registration is \$20. Jensen/Van Raalte made motion that Committee members who wish to attend the meeting discussed on May 25 be allowed to attend with expenses covered. All ayes; motion carried.

Support Letter for Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) re-establishment:

A copy of the April 27 letter was included in the information packets where Jennrich, Sadauskas, and Mott signed in favor of the re-establishment of WEEB. During the 2015-17 Budget cycle, provisions to eliminate the WEEB as of June, 30, 2017 were enacted. Representative Mursau will be introducing a bill to re-establish WEEB and they are asking Senator Tiffany to consider signing on as a co-sponsor to support efforts of WEEB's re-establishment.

Joint Finance Committee Budget Hearing Update:

Winkler spoke in the morning at the Hearing in Ellsworth. There were many educators in attendance. He spoke about why we need this funding and how tourism is involved with this for our County. One of the legislatures spoke with him afterwards to thank him for presenting because she felt her colleagues needed to hear this type of testimonial. Sadauskas spoke at noon in Spooner, WI. Some good conversations took place on what they are trying to accomplish. She noticed that Senator Tiffany was in attendance. One other Land and Water department from Bayfield attended. Mott commented that it is a legislative process and if no one attends or presents, it will appear that the issue is not important. Sadauskas included a copy of letter sent to Senator Tiffany regarding her testimony given to the Joint Finance Budget Committee in Spooner, WI on behalf of the Oneida County Land and Water

Conservation Department on proposed funding reductions of the DATCP staffing grant program. The request is to restore local staff funding in state aid and to appropriate additional money through the Environmental Fund. Boismenu received an email from a Pelican resident who commended Oneida County for participating at the hearing.

AIS Program Discussion:

Stephanie Boismenu provided an update on the three limited term employees (LTEs) who have been hired AIS assistants. They will perform monitoring, restoration, and outreach projects. All three are UW-Stevens Point undergraduates with a vast knowledge of natural resources, as well as good communication skills. The lead LTE worked for the program last summer. Aubrey Nycz, AIS Lead Project Assistant, is an education major and can work up to 1000 hours at \$14.00 per hour. Derek Thorn and Thomas Boisvert are natural resources majors who will be AIS Project Assistants. They will work 600 hours at \$12.00 per hour. There will be many activities where 625 hours will be devoted to the Clean Boats and Clean Waters program. There are up to 25 different boat landings where watercraft inspections will take place. They will be monitoring for AIS and be involved in rapid response and mgmt. of new populations of AIS. They will monitor fifteen water bodies including water clarity testing as well. There will be several field events set up with the local schools, fairs and workshops. They will be involved with bait shop outreach, helping with the Purple Loosestrife Bio-control project, Family Fun Fishing Day and many other activities and events. Finally, they will help with updating website.

Cost Share Program Update:

An update on all the Cost Share packets was included with the information packets showing before and after photographs. They have a total of eight or nine construction sites they will be working on this summer. The water levels on Lake Nokomis for Brice property will prevent work from being completed on the sight and a new contract for 2017 will need to be written. Scott Creek is currently under a water shed study so that the correct size and number of culverts can be selected for the project. The South side of the project has a huge watershed. They are trying to determine how now to raise the height of the road and determine the right size culvert for the south section. There are some challenges but they will need to work with the DNR and others involved to complete it properly. The goal of having this road is to take some of the pressure off the town roads for logging in the area. There are washout problems where they are trying to prevent it from washing out the road.

Consent Agenda Items- Land and Water:

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

Simac, Sadauskas, and Jennrich, Boismenu, Stinebrink excused.

Consent Agenda Items - UW Extension:

The monthly summary budget paper will be emailed to Committee members. Had to pick up reports at the Courthouse. Van Raalte/Winkler made motion to approve items a through c. All ayes; motion approved

UW Extension Offices Technology Update:

Jack Flint gave an update on a new Enterprise file server. Nothing will be deleted or lost. When you move files, shortcuts, and icons will need to be reposted. They will send out instructions on how to set these up. There will be a re-location of the Fair Management Software where it will need to be assigned a new address. Satellite office communication lines will continue to have technical difficulties due to it being a resident line versus a commercial line. Flint would like to get a metro net where Extension could be on a fiber ring with the community in the future. Flint Excused.

PILD Conference:

Mott attended the Public Issues Leadership Development conference in Crystal City, VA, across the Potomac River from the Pentagon. He attended the Capital Steps, a political satire group and it is a big hit. He recommends the twilight tour of the monuments and Korean War memorial, which depicts soldiers going thru the rice patties; it should not to be missed. This year he went to the Holocaust museum; a staggering experience. A cobblestone street brought from Poland and a railroad with boxcars headed for Auschwitz was re-created. Monday morning was for the Wisconsin delegation statewide. There were two 4-H Youth representatives, many county board members from throughout the state, and Extension educators from northern Wisconsin. Dean Karl Martin and Associate Dean Heidi Zoerb were there they became better acquainted. Two hundred national delegates from land grant universities spoke about educating people about the cooperative extension programs. Program volunteers in Wisconsin total 136,000. One million contacts per year are made through the Wisconsin Extension programs. 4-H alone has 10,000 community service projects annually.

For every dollar invested in nutrition programs there is a reduction in healthcare costs of \$8.82. They attended discussions with congressional representatives for Senators Tami Baldwin and Ron Johnson. Mott had a good discussion with Legislative Assistant, Meris Petek, who is from Oshkosh. To get to the Senate from the House, there is an underground tram system. Mott said it was remarkable to be where all the important decisions are made for the country and its effect worldwide. Due credit goes to the people who have dedicated their time at PILD. Educators from Extension offices also deserve credit for their efforts. It is a very worthwhile endeavor.

UW Extension Air Environment Update:

There were not any new air quality reports this month. An outside company installed new ducts, filters, fan, system, which appears to be resolving the problems. Thank you to the Airport Commission and to Joe Brauer.

Fair Planning Committee:

- a. Liaison Update: Jim Winkler announced that on Tuesday, June 6 at 5:30, they have asked Mike Boyd to speak on obtaining a non-profit status for the Fair, here at the UW Conference room. The regular Fair meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. If Committee attends, it will need to be posted. The Fair Planning Committee will meet twice a month starting in June 6 and 20 and July 11 & 25. The request to purchase a portable sound system for approximately \$260.00 to help with announcements has been proposed. It could also be used at the July 4 parade to promote fair. Website is up and running where all updates will be posted. The meetings are more orderly and attendance has been good. Peterson is doing very well at directing the meeting, per Feldman, and keeping the agenda on track.
- b. Approval of Contracts: Incoming contracts were presented to the Committee. A motion to approve the Fair contracts as presented by Van Raalte/Winkler. All ayes; motion carried.
- c. Approval of Electrical Update: Tom Peterson presented a request for additional electricity last month. The City-Parks meeting approved the request and Peterson is now asking for approval to spend \$2,175.00 for permanent installation of 60 amps in a proposal from Gaber Electric. Money will come out of the carry over money from past years' budgets. It will be for new underground wiring installed for lighting along the fence line of the museum. The City and Parks Committee will offer to pay for the installation of the old street lights and retro fit the lights. This will eliminate temporary lighting costs. The Family Land area needs additional lighting, but not at this time. The City will pay for additional electrical service for other areas of the park. Lights will also be installed along the walk ways near North gate. The Gaber Electric Proposal will need the Committee to approve it and Mott to sign the proposal. Winkler/Jensen made motion to approve for the payment of electrical for the lighting near the exhibition court area as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Oneida County Broadband Update:

Mott shared that they had a long discussion at the Administrative Committee about broadband where it was reviewed what they are doing in the county. There will a County Board Meeting that will be devoted to the discussion of broadband.

UW-Extension Re-organization Update:

Lynn Feldman will attend May 24 the LRES meeting but there will be no educator contracts for review. She has requested that the State provide her with documentation on the delay to present to LRES. We should have the names of who has applied for the Area Director position by the end of the month. All four counties and three tribes will be notified. The Area Director will be hired the first part of June and they will be on-board by the end of June. Feldman's role as department head will continue on for now. Area Directors are part department head and part regional director. There are certain roles of the department head that will not be assumed. It is not clear who will attend county meetings and manage support staff and those decisions will be made as the transition occurs. They will change the fiscal year to be January through December. The six month contract from June until the end of the year will need be an extended out. Extended contracts will not go out until late August early September. Current contracts end in June 2017. Feldman sent an email to Dave Berard describing the Oneida County timeline. The State has received timelines for all the counties. Each county works on a slightly different budget timeline, and Assistant Deans, Regional Directors and County Department heads have collected data from all the counties to engage in budget discussions based on each county need. Feldman requested a letter from the State outlining what our county can expect for a timeline and how they will be addressed. We will have a monetary amount by August 15. Feldman will present to this Committee in September and to the County Board in October 2017. As far as current Extension staff position go, there will be no changes made until January, 2018. Educators eligible for a

faculty position with tenure track must submit their application by September 2017. Candidates must have everything completed by the end of December. Feldman is eligible but will not have time to complete the process by year end. No application extensions will be offered. Everyone at this office, therefore, will be academic staff. Feldman will oversee Langlade and Forest counties at present, where there are job vacancies. The County will not pay for faculty staff but will pay for academic staff. Academic staff applicants who have an high school or undergraduate degree are now eligible for those positions. Tenure track agents who have completed four years of work are eligible to be faculty staff. Another change involves the division of an educator's duties. Currently there are CNRED, Family Living, Youth Development, Agriculture, Nutrition, and Horticulture programs. Now there will be two departments: the Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources and Department of Youth, Family & Community Development. Under the two departments there will be Institutes; 4-H, for example, will be an institute. Fair services may not be a provision under the new plan and recommendations are pending. The Committee will schedule a meeting to further discuss contracts before budget meeting.

Request for Extension LTE Position:

Feldman has asked for an extension for the LTE UW-Extension support staff position. Van Raalte/Winkler made a motion to extend the LTE position through December, 2017. Feldman discussed how Tillman's hours have been reduced to three days a week at 21 hours until year end.

Foundations of 4-H Youth Development - Lynn Feldman:

Feldman presented why 4-H youth development is so important for teens. The foundation of 4-H is to learn by doing, make your best better, and teaching of life skills. We all need to be challenged and life skills are a part of every single 4-H activity. The Experiential Learning Model is employed where youth learn by doing and get the experience in the process. It must go beyond experience so that youth can share, process, generalize, and apply it to their lives. Work force readiness is an example of training youth to engage in all these parts of the experience of learning. Research has proven that children involved in 4-H are many more times likely to have higher grades, more engaged in school, to graduate from college, and report healthy habits. They are less likely to use drugs or engage in sexual relations. Current research shows that changes in parenting and adolescent brain development are impacting how youth are growing up. 4-H can mitigate the negative brain impacts. 4-H enforces in depth learning and employs the use of both sides of the brain. It encourages problem solving. Developing these skills in 4-H skills helps youth have more empathy and helps their thinking ability.

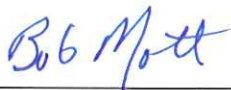
Public Comment:

Michael Stinebrink provided a written report from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). We have a new state conservationist, Angela Biggs. The Headwaters Local Work Group will host a meeting to solicit input from local stakeholders regarding local conservation priorities. It will be held on June 19 from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. at the Chequamegon-Nicolet Forest Headquarters office in the Oneida Room at 500 Hanson Lake Road. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program that is geared towards farmers and forest land owners. They help agricultural producers receive financial and technical assistance to implement structural and management conservation practices that benefit the environment. The second program offers payment toward good stewardship efforts by the landowners.


Items to Include on next Agenda: Merger update, Cost Share updates, UW Re-organization, Fair update, Broadband, Office air environment.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Bob Mott, Committee Chair



Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary