

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
May 9, 2016
Minutes

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

Others present: Jim Tharman, Bob Willging, Kristina Aschenbrenner, Gunder Paulsen, Tom Schmitz, Michele Sadauskas, Karl Jennrich, Lynn Feldman, Myles Alexander, Sara Richie, Karly Johnson, Nancy Gehrig, and Merry Lehner.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Bob Mott, at 1:30 p.m. noting the meeting has been properly posted and the facility is handicap accessible.

Approve Agenda: Motion by Jensen/Van Raalte to approve today's agenda with the order of the items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve Minutes: Motion by Jensen/Mott to approve the 4/11/16 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:

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|---------------|-----------|-----------------|
| June 13, 2016 | 1:00 p.m. | UWEX Conference |
| July 11, 2016 | 1:00 p.m. | UWEX Conference |

Meetings take place the second Monday of each month. Mott asked the Committee if they would consider starting the meeting at 1:00 p.m. instead on 1:30 p.m. due the lengthy agenda items from both Land Water Conservation and the UW-Extension departments. All agreed to start at 1:00 p.m. The other option is to hold separate meetings for each department. It will be put on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

Welcome Introduction:

The new Chairman, Bob Mott, announced his post and this will be his third term on the County Board and on this Committee. He is replacing Tom Rudolph which he said is impossible to do in view of Rudolph's vast knowledge. He welcomed the new Committee members and asked them to give a brief introduction of themselves and their background. Mitchell Ives is an independent logger and a life-long resident of Oneida County. He represents District 12 and it is his second term on the County Board. Alan Van Raalte represents District 20 for the towns of Little Rice and Nokomis and it is his second term on the Board. Jim Winkler represents District 10, replacing Rudolph, and this is his first term on the Board. He is a former UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development agent for eight years and worked for UW-Extension for 23 years. All in attendance introduced themselves and their position.

Election of Vice Chairman

Nominations for the Committee Vice Chairman were requested. Mott nominated Robb Jensen. No other nominations came forth. A motion was made to nominate Jensen as Vice Chair by Mott and Van Raalte seconded it. It was moved that nominations were closed. All ayes; motion carried.

Election of Lumberjack representative and alternate

Bob Mott is the voting member for Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development Council (Lumberjack RC&D Council) Mott took Tom Rudolph's place on this council. The organization meets quarterly and is based in Rhinelander. It represents the following counties: Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Shawano and Vilas. They receive money by employing a group of foresters that conduct a State

required forest inventory. They issue a number of grants, including the Pollinator project in Three Lakes and a shoreline restoration on Pelican Lake. The grants are offered where there is a limit of \$10,000 per project. Funding under \$5,000 requires a 15% match and over \$5,000 requires a 25% match. Jensen made the motion to officially appoint Bob Mott as the Lumberjack representative and to appoint Alan Van Raalte as the alternate to Lumberjack. Winkler seconded the motion. All Ayes; motion approved.

Workplace Environment:

Tom Schmitz participated in a meeting with Lynn Feldman and Bob Mott to discuss the next steps regarding "a persistent odor" situation. Building and Grounds and UW-Extension CUW committees met last month to discuss alternatives to resolve the fumes problem. There is a filtration system that Joe Brauer looked into that it is designed to take in air and filter out diesel fumes and formaldehyde odors from a building. Information will be forwarded to Daniel Karamanski and to Sharon Bessa, who conducted the industrial hygiene and air quality survey in February. Schmitz will find references about these specific filters. There are three favorable testimonials reported as this being a possible resolution to the fumes issue. The testimonials involved an office that was adjacent to a site using diesel tugs where the filter system seemed to help rid the area of fumes. It is the goal of Schmitz and Mott to improve the workplace environment. They want a healthy environment where people can concentrate on their work and are not distracted. They will continue to work with Joe Brauer to find a solution so that people are not going home ill. A work atmosphere can be nonproductive as a result of fumes. Schmitz wants feedback from the Madison specialists on whether they agree that the filter system is a viable solution. Continued effort will be made to provide a healthy and productive work environment. Winkler commented that he spent eight years down in these offices and complained of fumes; he is glad to see some action being taken to resolve the issue. It is not known, however, if the filter system will clear the fumes until the cold weather returns in November.

UW-Extension Re-organization Update:

The nEXT Generation reorganization update is continuing to look at ways to save money due to the budget cut. Schmitz reviewed that 3.6 million dollars were cut from Cooperative Extension as a result of the 250 million dollar cut the University of Wisconsin system. We are part of the University system and are taking an equal percentage of cut from our administration, out of our specialist support, and out of our local offices. What it means for local offices is a 1.2 million reduction target. They have moved towards identifying multi-county areas as a way of reducing administration by trying to establish leadership across multiple counties. The Chancellor has called for Work teams to begin the process. The final Work Team members will be announced shortly. They will start work on specific components of the re-organization. Extension is an interesting entity; it has many different partners at different levels. The county and tribal positions are split on 60% State and 40% County. Administratively, there are often people who are paid by more than one State department so it is hard to isolate some positions because of the mix in funding. The State has identified an interim replacement for Schmitz's position as he retires. They are not releasing that name publically yet and it will be an interim position because Schmitz's position may change going forward. Currently, Schmitz works with 19 counties. There are four regional directors. With the multi-county arrangement there will be more shared positions and less regional directors.

Schmitz was excused at 2:35.

Pioneer Park/Oneida County Fair/Building and Grounds from City of Rhinelander

City Administrator, Kristen Aschenbrenner and Gunder Paulsen, Parks, Buildings & Grounds Director came to discuss the Fair and Pioneer Park. The City Chair and Mayor were not able to attend today. The City would like to continue supporting the partnership of having the Fair at Pioneer Park. However, the City is not willing to invest any more money into infrastructure for an event that is held for just a few days out of the year. There is adequate electricity to run most other events except for a large scale operation such as the Fair. It is understood that additional electricity and more infrastructure would be an improvement to park. If the City were to make an investment on an improved infrastructure, they would like to see a commitment from the County to support the Oneida County Fair for at least five years or more. Discussion will be based on if the

County will commit to a financial agreement. If another Fair location is being considered, the City will need to know this information. If the County plans are not to support the Fair, in a long term agreement, the City just needs to know. The City is here to work with the County, but needs to know if the investment is going to be there. Discussion will continue if the County has a long term goal for the Fair at Pioneer Park. What is the plan for the next 10 to 20 years? Will it be the Oneida County Fair and what can the City do to be a part of that discussion? They see the benefit of the Fair and want to know how they can work with the County. Mott noted minutes from two months ago mentioned the hockey rink was to be torn down and a new soft ball field was being constructed. How will that affect the Fair Equestrian team that uses that area? Aschenbrenner stated that the hockey rink is fully depreciated and needs to be torn down. A new hockey rink may be built elsewhere. The Softball Association has the money to construct a new field and has asked the City if they can build it there. A donor offered to build a new ball field. The City has told them to continue on with these plans, working with the Fair interests in mind, while doing so. Most likely the Fair can use the existing rink area for the Fair this summer. The Equestrian drill team has portable fencing, if it is needed, per Feldman. The rink area will be empty for the Fair according to the City.

Jensen asked, what is the function of the Fair Committee? To oversee the all aspects of the Fair and goal is to make the Fair self-sufficient over time. Gehrig said the Fair was \$8,000.00 in the red three years ago. That year, the fair made \$14,000.00, but \$10,000.00 was paid to amusement rides and \$4,000.00 to fair board members, and the Fair Coordinator was not paid at that time. For the past two years, the Fair has been in the black, plus the Coordinator was paid. Sponsorship efforts kept the Fair in the black. Mott still suggests an admission charge. Gehrig has 185 volunteers that would have to man three gates and collect money; it would be difficult.

The City interjected that if the County cannot commit to continued financial support due to budgeting, then the City needs to know that, if the City is to improve the infrastructure. Mott commented that both the County and City must consider to value of the Fair. Simac asked if they were satisfied with Pioneer Park as the location. Is that is where they would like to remain?

A decision on the vision for the Fair is needed. They must address if they are able to face the presented obstacles by remaining at Pioneer Park. They need to consider how to generate more financial funds. Simac said she would not have a problem paying a dollar admission charge.

Feldman believes it is time for the County Board to decide if the term Oneida County Fair means support by the County. There are some fairs in the state with no county support, but most have a fair association that independently runs a fair; however, those counties own a fair-ground. More often than not, counties have fair grounds set aside that are committed to the public. This County does not. This County has given money for the Fair and that funding is being reduced over time expecting the Fair to be self-sustainable. It is almost impossible for this to happen without some sort of backing. If this philosophy of the County continues, she believes the City needs to know that the County is not out to own a County Fair. It is very difficult as a Committee to be in the middle of ensuring a suitable place to hold the Fair and to operate it. This is contrary to other counties. Other counties invest in fairgrounds. We need to know the money commitment involved and the City needs know as well. Will the Fair be sustainable or not. This needs to be presented to the County Board to see what their vision is for the Fair. Does the City wish to set aside grounds? The Vision is needed by all three; the City, County, and Fair Board. Van Raalte suggested a resolution on a financial impact statement is needed to justify what will be brought to the County Board.

Electrical panels are brought in for \$4,000.00 as temporary fix each year for the Fair. This is paid out of the Fair budget. Mr. Paulsen stated that the electricity was improved; originally there were fuses before \$30,000.00 of electrical upgrading. Currently, the Parks do not need more electrical, and the additional electricity would be exclusively for the Fair vendors. To permanently install electricity at Pioneer Park would cost \$12,000.00 where now it costs \$4,000.00 per year on-going temporary electricity. Van Raalte commented that in three years the cost would pay for itself rather than spending it for temporary electricity while the Fair is in session. It was suggested that the CNRED agent to run a survey regarding the Fair. Alexander can do it, if scientifically conducted. Winkler commented there is economic benefit and tourism activity to the Fair. This will remain on the Agenda next month.

The City representatives were excused at 2:55 p.m.

AIS/WDP Update – Jim Tharman, USDA Wildlife Specialist:

Bob Willging had to leave the meeting and offered to return next month to go over the budget. Tharman summarized that every October a new budget comes out. There are now two budget sheets, but it is still one budget. The DNR has one sheet that needs signatures and the USDA, his department, also needs a sheet signed. The Federal and State monies have a 75%/25% cost share, respectively. The county budget pays for the abatement materials needed to prevent wildlife damage, but the cost is refunded, by the State program. There are some administrative costs that are itemized, where the venison donation, for example, is a line item. This is a new procedure. The State changed the billing and paperwork and none of the counties have seen this format before. The next bill will be itemized. Willging can return and explain the details to the Committee next month.

Tharman excused at 3:08 p.m.

Citizen Advisory Membership Support Letter or Resolution:

Karl Jennrich said no formal motion was made at the last meeting, but the request to look into having a citizen advisory member added to this Committee. Under the State statues, under 92.06 Land Conservation Committee, under B4, it addresses membership under items one through four. Under number 4, the County Board may appoint to Land Conservation Committee up to two members, who are not members of the County Board. Two citizen members could be permissible to add to the Committee. Bob Mott had met with Brian Desmond about if the county code could be amended to allow citizen members. This Committee would have to make a decision if a citizen member on the Committee is desired. If so, up to two citizen members could be added to the Committee. They would be full voting rights members, paid per diem, with travel expenses and other benefits. If yes, then it would require an ordinance amendment. The ordinance amendment would have to be sent to the County Board via the Administrative Committee. It would need a financial impact statement, which Margie Sorenson, in Finance would complete. If the Committee does not want citizen members with voting rights, then would you pay them per diem, travel expenses, and require reports on their efforts taken on behalf of the County? It would require a more difficult ordinance amendment and would need to go to Administration Committee and County Board. In any case, for a citizen member, Desmond would have to make amendments to the County code and it would have to be passed by the Administration Committee, and then approved by the County Board of Supervisors at the June meeting. Good reasons to have these citizen members would be the experience or expertise and they could offer and also they could share a wider view point with the Committee. Would this person serve just the one Committee or would it be both? This will have to be researched and discussed further. A motion was made by Winkler to approve adding up to two citizen members according to county code 92.06 who would be in full standing for the Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee. Ives seconded the motion. All ayes; motion approved.

WHIP: (Memorandum of Understanding) MOU Renewal:

This agenda item postponed until next meeting.

Cost Share Update:

Sadauskas reported they have more calls coming in and they are running some of these calls through the DNR and working with DATCP regarding permit issues. An engineer will be coming on Wednesday from Appleton to look at two sites and offer an opinion on erosion issues with riprap. One area is on Lake Kawaguesaga and the other is a small 8 foot section of riprap on Blue Lake, where a permit was denied by the DNR. They will be making a decision to see what can be done to remedy the situation. Karl Jennrich mentioned that they will present an overview of the Land Water Conservation for the new Committee members at the next meeting. It will be included on the June agenda. Sadauskas will also review the Managed Grazing Plan at the next meeting and will include that on the agenda. They may be able to cost share this Grazing Plan with NRCS. She will put together those numbers to present. The Plan may not be in place until 2018.

LWCD and P & Z Department Merger Update:

County Conservation Position Update, AIS Position Approval:

The County Board of Supervisors approved the department merge, which started in September 2015, and it is to be reviewed after a one year period, in August 2016. There were some technical glitches with staffing at the beginning but were physically merged as a department. They now have started the process of merging more closely and now things are flowing better. We now have a new County Conservationist, Michele Sadauskas. She was the former AIS Coordinator, and she interviewed and has good vision for the future direction of Land and Water Conservation program. All are happy that she accepted the position and wish her well. The management team will now consist of Karl Jennrich as Director of Planning and Zoning /Land Water Conservation and Pete Wegner is the Assistant Director, Michele Sadauskas is County Conservationist, and Denise Hoppe, Office Manager. The management team will have meetings to introduce Sadauskas and discuss personnel issues, and other duties. Both staffs will explain their job functions at upcoming meetings. The AIS Coordinator is open so there still is not a complete staff in place. Mott asked the Committee to include on the next agenda a discussion to extend out the one year period of merger from a one year period ending in August 2016 to April of 2017. At this time, there is not a plan to separate the Land Water Conservation and UW-Extension Committee.

There is a vacancy for AIS position, Agenda item 13 that will need approval for it to be filled. The Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator is a County funded position since 2007. Oneida County has received approximately \$340,000 in grant funding, of which \$35,089 was received in 2016. The AIS salary is used as in-kind match to leverage grant funding. Stephanie Boismenu, Field Lead AIS Assistant, has been performing some of the program coordination this spring. Currently, Boismenu is limited to 29.75 hours and a full time AIS Coordinator is needed immediately for the program. Although the position is county funded, DATCP staffing grants help offset Coordinator wages. To ensure future DATCP funding, it is recommended to fill the position without delay. Jennrich presented to LRES to fill the AIS position and they waived the six month vacancy review as long he has permission from the committee of jurisdiction, which is this Committee. Due to the summer months approaching, Bob Mott offered to work through LRES to fill the position more quickly. They have the very good internal candidates and but they have the option to post externally. The Committee feels they should consider opting for an internal position quickly. Motion was made by Jensen to move forward to fill the AIS position at the department's discretion, Van Raalte seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

Consent Agenda Items: Land and Water:

Jensen made a motion to approve the Land and Water Consent Agenda items a through d as presented. Ives seconded the motion. All ayes; motion approved.

Agency Reports:

Lake Districts: Mott reviewed the lake districts with the new Committee members. Lake districts are special units of government, and include; public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts. The purpose of a district is to maintain, protect, and improve the quality of a lake and its watershed for the mutual good of the members and the lake environment. Residents who live in the district and are eligible voters and all property owners have a vote in the affairs of the district. An annual meeting must be held between May 22 and September 8 each year. The Lake Districts need one Committee member assigned to a lake in the district. Former Committee members represented Horsehead, Thunder, and Lake Nokomis, which will need to be represented by the new Committee members. Jensen submitted the February 27, 2016 minutes of Bear Lake District.

FSA: Simac said at their spring meeting there was a request to promote agricultural programs which are available to the public. There are pollinator program grants for private land owners. Sadauskas said a pollinator news release will be going out shortly. For small farmers to be eligible they must sell \$5,000 to \$7,000 a year. Many are making these sales at farmers markets but might not be aware of qualifying for this program. They should contact Land and Water or FSA representative, or the Wausau office for more information. More agricultural exposure for the county would be helpful.

OCEDC: Broadband meeting is scheduled for May 24. The annual Economic Development Corporation meeting took place on April 29, 2016. New officers were elected; Jack Sorensen replaced Tom Rudolph. A presentation of FabLab took place.

RC&D: Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) is a rural development program focusing on conservation, development and utilization of area natural resources to improve social, economic, and environmental conditions for area citizens. The last meeting was in Eagle River. 2016-2018 Executive Committee members are President-Bob Hermes, Vice-President-Dave Solin, Treasurer-Claudia Baker, Secretary-Yvonne Van Pembroke, and Past-President Wayne Plant. Next meeting is July 28.

WACEC: State Convention June 20-21 in Wausau. Mott will be in Seattle. The County Board Meeting is on June 21 but Mott recommended all should try to attend the Monday meeting. Richie presents at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday at the Convention.

Sadauskus and Jennrich excused at 3:35

Consent Agenda Items – UW-Extension:

Agenda items were presented to the Committee. A Motion made by Mott to approve the UW-Extension Consent agenda items a through c by Jensen/Van Raalter. All ayes; motion approved.

Agent Report:

Karly Johnson, the new WNEP Coordinator, presented an overview of the Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP). They are a federally funded program where they received funds from SNAP Ed dollars which stands for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education through the USDA, Food and Nutrition Service. It was formerly known as food stamps. WNEP falls under the Family Living Program with UW-Extension, but is fully grant funded through the State. Their main goal is to make the healthy choice the easy choice through both direct and indirect education. WNEP follows the MyPlate guidelines promoting a healthy eating style and to maintain it for a lifetime. Everything you eat and drink matters; the right mix can help you be healthier now and in the future. <http://www.choosemyplate.gov>. She has been able to meet community partners and also has attended several state conferences in her field.

In the last six months they have had over 3000 contacts and have held 149 teaching events. For a school to qualify 50% of the student population must qualify for a free or reduced lunch. They work grades 1-5. She has completed the 2016 and 2017 program planning requirements. Safe and Healthy Food Pantry projects is a joint effort of WNEP and Family Living. She and Richie worked with the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry to develop food safety and nutrition policies along with consistent health messaging for the pantry. They developed a healthy food labeling system where volunteers placed the labels on food to help pantry clients make healthy food choices. For the remainder of the year she will work with the two educators to choose the best State approved curriculums to use for the communities. They will be improving some of their program evaluation tools for the program. She will be attending the state New Colleague orientation in Madison for new UW employees in May. A project she plans to be working on will be the National Farm to School work and she will attend a workshop on this in Madison to respond to the interest the community has in this program. She plans to set up an Action Committee to bring in local food into the school district that promotes consumption of fruits and vegetables. The goal is to educate the students. Van Raalte asked if Johnson works with the Lakeland area food pantry; no. They work with Rhinelander area food pantry due to the existing relationship. They will plan to get involved with all the food pantries through the Safe and Healthy Food Pantry project.

WNEP Oneida County Agreement Letter:

The agreement letter was reviewed and how Oneida County will support the WNEP program for federal fiscal year 2017. A motion was made for the Committee to approve the County Agreement letter by Van Raalte/Winker. All Ayes; motion approved.

Chairman's Report on PILD Conference:

Mott attended the Public Information Leadership Development (PILD) Conference held in Washington DC. It is a two year commitment where Mott was selected by UW-Extension personnel to be a board member volunteer

to attend this conference. There are extension agents from all over the nation that meet with selected county personnel to discuss topics. Attendees from all the states have one need in common: money due to governmental cuts at all levels. There were some outstanding speakers at the conference. The essential function of the conference is to advocate for Extension funding that comes from the US Department of Agriculture. They advocated for \$4 million for Extension support. He commented on all there is to do and see in DC; the Jefferson Memorial quotes Jefferson as saying that the constitution is a living document and things change. Just like a little boy that grows into a man would not wear the same jacket we have to keep on adapting.

Technology Update:

There continue to be two issues that need resolution, but we have a great IT director, Jack Flint, who is working throughout the county with some ongoing problems. Phone outages continue. An agent lost their connection while on a conference last week with people from the State. It seems to be a daily occurrence. The other problem is related to the age of the desktop computers still using Windows XP. There are no longer updates available for this operating system, which is over 10 years old. The agents are using laptops provided by the State so that they can access Chrome, which they need for their jobs with the State. Mott said there are about one hundred XP computers used currently in the county. The replacement cost would run approximately \$32,000 to \$48,000. They are researching using service contracts versus buying new computers. The Backup Server is no longer located in Airport.

Broadband:

The Committee is in session as we speak looking at current funding options and grants. The mix of people is important and consists of various service providers and interested individuals participating, including Roger Luce of OCEDC. There was a \$20,000 commitment by the County to broadband development some years ago and not all of it was spent. If that money could be released or available it would be helpful for funding. There was federal rural grant funding made where the middle mile was funded but the last mile is not funded. That is where they are having difficulty to find funding. This involves getting the fiber optic from a trunk line to a neighborhood and is where the funding problem occurs. That money for the distribution of fiber optic is where the model is failing. Mott asked if Luce could attend the next meeting to bring the Committee up to date.

Fair Planning Committee:

The K&M Contract was distributed to the Committee. Brian Desmond approved the insurance portion of the contract of it at the Administration meeting today. In the past, rain or shine, the County has paid K & M \$10,000 up front. Most other counties pay a percentage of the gross concession. Kris Milbradt of K& M has offered the County 20% on ticket sales and \$85 per concession for 2016. He is offering this to continue the relationship he has had with Oneida County Fair. Wristband sales in the past were sold. We made \$14,000 on wristband sales last year. In past the local media sold wristbands for half price in exchange for advertisement. WJFW gave back 50% of sales last year along with a \$1,000 sponsorship. Wristbands will not be sold to media this year. This year K & M will reduce the cost by 50% and the Fair will offer the wristbands to the Fair, not the media. Wristbands are used to cover volunteers. Sixty free wristbands are given out to volunteers and K& M will try to accommodate this again in 2016. It is being asked that a motion be on contract pending approval on dollar amounts added in by K&M on contract after a final approval by Brian Desmond. A motion was made by Van Raalte/Winkler that the contract between Oneida County and Kris Milbradt dba K& M Amusements) pending review by Corporation Counsel. All ayes; motion approved.

Liaison for the County Board for the Fair:

The Fair Committee lost three members. Bob Mott asked if Jim Winkler could take the place of former Fair Board President, Jim Intrepidi, for the Fair. The Fair Board Treasurer also resigned and Kathy Silbernagel took the Treasurer position and Tom Peterson took the Vice President position. Jim Winkler will fill the position, and the Committee approved him doing so. The meetings will be held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month for June and July.

Public Comment:

None

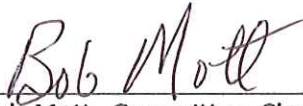
Items to include on next agenda:

Announce Lake Districts and Lumberjack Board, WHIP-MOU Renewal, Cost Share, LWC /P&Z Update, Citizen Advisory position on Committee, Fair Planning Committee Update, Roger Luce-Broadband, Air Quality, and Technology update.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn by Jensen/Ives was made at 4:35 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bob Mott, Committee Chair


Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary