

**Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
November 7, 2016
Minutes**

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

Others present: Karl Jennrich, Lynn Feldman, Myles Alexander, Sara Richle, Michele Sadauskas, Karl Jennrich, Mike Romportl, Brian Desmond, Jim Tharman, Stephanie Boismenuue, Dan Butkus, Craig Zarley, S. Nick Boismenuue, Sharon Sparling, Gary Sparling, Connie Anderson, and Merry Lehner.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mott at 1:00 p.m. noting the meeting has been properly posted and the facility is 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: Motion by Winkler/Jensen to approve the 10/04/16 meeting minutes with two minor amendments. All ayes; motion carried.

Date(s) of future meetings:

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| December 12, 2016 | 1:00 p.m. | UWEX Conference Room |
| January 9, 2017 | 1:00 p.m. | UWEX Conference Room |

APHIS - Jim Tharman:

Tharman reported, following up on question asked by Mott at October meeting, regarding if processors check for CWD when deer come in through the APHIS program. Deer are not checked for CWD, but they can be. It is up to the hunters to make the request. The current processors do not test. Deer can be tested by the DNR where the State picks up the fee if requested. DATCP only requires checking within a ten mile radius of the Three Lakes hot spot for our county. Only one claim was filed for damage to a strawberry crop. The farmer must fill out information correctly and the claim will be submitted in January, 2017.

Lake Classification Grant Resolution:

Application for this lake classification grant was presented two months ago, now the resolution will be presented to County Board to support the application. It is a LTE position where funding covers wages and some mileage for shoreline restorations. Per the fiscal impact page, this grant is for \$50,000 over two years. Therefore, for 2017 it will be half the amount. The category applied for is a county only application. The amount is for \$50,000.00 and the donation of Sadauskas' time. It will be marked as a consent agenda item on the form and then passed on to County Board. Jensen made motion to approve the resolution for the Lake Classification Grant and forward on to the full County Board for their approval. Van Raalte seconded motion. All ayes; motion carried.

Squash Lake District Petition – LWCD and Dan Butkus:

Jennrich reported the Squash Lake Protection Rehabilitation District formally submitted the petition this morning at 9:00 a.m. It must go through the Oneida County Board of Supervisors since it encompasses both the townships of Crescent and Woodboro. Land and Water has been the primary contact with Dan Butkus, along with Mike Romportl, Land Information and Brian Desmond, Corporation Counsel, who have assisted in this process of forming a lake district. Mott reviewed that a hearing must take place within 30 days of the petition filing, to review the ordinance. The date of that public hearing is December 3 at Crescent Town Hall. The township has reserved the building for the entire day but the Committee must schedule a meeting time.

The Committee has to report to the County Board within three months of the hearing date. Within six months of the hearing date the Board then will render a decision to approve or not approve.

Dan Butkus thanked all involved for clarifications on the forming of a Lake District. They agree that the district boundaries should be 280 total signatures and they received 154 signatures. To be eligible they needed 51% minimal of owners of the 280 the signatures, or 143. In the proposed district 55% of the people signed. Sixty-three percent of riparian owners signed and 27% of non-riparian owner signed. Their response rate, including those who wished not to sign, was 71%. The tax rate for off lake residents will be discussed and decided at the annual meeting.

Taxes are discussed in Chapter 5 of the publication, "Forming a Lake District". Taxes are determined after the district is formed. There is a tiered tax formula used by the State. All decisions are by referendum of the people in a lake district. There are three fee options: a flat fee, mil rate fee, and feet of frontage. They are opting for the flat fee. In forming a Lake District, public health, convenience, and necessity are addressed in the petition. A reason for the formation of a Lake District is required and theirs is to assist in the control of aquatic invasive species, habitat preservation, and restoration. The necessity is that if Eurasian Millfoil takes over it will affect lake recreation. The existing Lake Association already addresses regulations on boat traffic, wake zones, etc. within the Lake District. The district is a government entity that can state its stance on issues. This Committee heads the hearing. A quorum will be required. Four out of the five voting members must be present from this Committee. A list of Committee members who will be present is requested. The public may submit written comments. Desmond commented that one of the duties of this Committee is to process Lake District petitions pursuant of 33.26, so no further designation is needed. The committee needs to approve the following: The agenda, the date, time, and location of the public hearing and inclusion of Chapter 4 Forming of Lake District (p. 50) with the public notice draft distributed today. It is not required to have a court reporter, but they have one available if it is requested. A motion was made by Jensen/Winkler to approve the Squash Lake District agenda (Public Notice draft) as presented with scheduled meeting for December 3, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. at the Crescent Town Hall, and for item B Chapter four to be included as a separate enclosure with the public notice. All ayes; motion carried. It was further moved to include the financing of a court reporter from contingency funds by Mott/Ives. All ayes; motion carried.

Zarley, Boismenuue, Anderson, and Sharon and Gary Sparling were excused at 2:15 p.m.

Summer Tour (August, 2017):

Each summer the Land Water Department hosts a summer tour. This past summer Jennrich and Winkler attended the tour hosted in Athens, WI. Rhinelander is the host for the summer of 2017. They plan to highlight the pollinator plots, specifically the plot at Three Lakes Winery. Sadauskas has been in contact with Three Lakes Winery who has crops to be pollinated as part of the tour. They have contacted an organic cranberry grower to participate in the event. Sadauskas will need all information by February 2017 for the North Central Land and Water Committee. Jim Winkler expressed an interest in helping for 2017.

Cost Share Update:

At this time there are seven projects they are working on, where three have signed contracts. Two others need to have the contracts signed, where bids have gone out. They have to design one more project when the engineer is in Rhinelander on Friday. The approved Eschelman project is pending due to an individual permit rather than a general permit related to the construction of a culvert. Low cost bids contractor cost estimates for plan projects had three bids come in. The low bids are: \$3,938.86 from Hanson, \$4,816.50 from DR Thomas, and \$6,005.78 from Outdoor Rooms. Sadauskas will need approval from the Committee for the low cost bid of \$3,938.86 on the Butkus project. Jensen/Winkler made a motion to approve the low cost bid for the Butkus project. All ayes; motion carried.

LW/P&Z Merger Update:

Jennrich had no update on Merger.

Consent Agenda Items – Land & Water

Jensen/Van Raalte made motion to approve Items A, B, and C as presented. There were no line item transfers. All ayes; motion carried.

Butkus was excused at 2:25 p.m.

Agency Report:

Lake Districts: No reports for Mid Lake and Thunder Lake. The Lake Nokomis Lake District Board had no one show up to review assessments. Dec 10 is next meeting for Bear Lake. Horsehead Lake meeting is Dec 17. Thanks again to all who worked on Lake District formation project.

RC&D: Lumberjack had a nice meeting Oct 27 in Forest County. Two local people were recommended for forestry awards. A Wisconsin County Forests Association nomination occurred as well. A Forestry Award went out to Langlade County. Sadauskas reported the pollinator project grant approved for education outreach and moved to the second showing for January.

Jennrich and Sadauskas excused at 2:30 p.m.

Consent Agenda Items – UW-Extension:

A motion was made to approve UW-Extension agenda items A through D by Van Raalte and seconded by Jensen. One Line Item Transfer was for a mileage account reimbursement. All ayes; motion passed.

Agent Report:

Myles Alexander presented "Program Impacts" where a consistent theme is the need for a "deliberative approach" to be used at public meetings. It is the foundation of democratic and community politics. Deliberation connects people even when conflict occurs, allowing decisions to be made. Alexander has seen patterns where deliberation can reveal new possibilities for action that individuals alone did not see before. Three recent meetings he conducted revealed this pattern. First, the ADRC of the Northwoods strategic plan update used SCOPE (Situation, Core Competencies, Prospects, Obstacles, and Expectations) analysis rather than the common SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis brought about better outcomes. Second, participants at the Three Lakes Workshop learned the difference between an annual town meeting and a town board meeting. The annual town is a meeting of the town electors. It is mostly advisory, not a decision making meeting. The town board meeting is legislative. Electors may observe but not participate in the deliberations unless invited by the board. The third example was the Rhinelander Parks Meeting. It was structured to have small groups discuss topics assigned. It was very different than a public hearing. Outcomes were built around small group discussions. At the end of the meeting, evaluation questions were asked. The responses were positive. When asked how satisfied they were with the discussion at their table, 79% said very or extremely satisfied and 14% were moderately satisfied. That percent total revealed a 93% satisfaction rate for this method of meeting. The conclusions from these table discussions showed that people want to be involved in the process, plan parks based on community needs and not for who brings money, among other things. Public deliberation is possible and people want to participate in public deliberation. As a result, Rhinelander Parks will conduct a series of deliberative events.

Technology Update:

Feldman has new computer after her desktop crashed. There were two days of very poor telephone service the last week in October. Charter replaced the modem and removed a splitter. The cable going from the box to the building was replaced outside. IT worked closely to resolve the problem and is commended for their effort.

Work place Environment:

We have begun to experience days where diesel fumes have resulted in the office closing early this month. The office closed at 3:45 p.m. Winkler worked in these offices for eight years. Since retiring, he now has to

use a respiratory device at night because his doctor says he has some sort of issue with his lungs. He cannot prove that it is from the air quality of the Extension office, but he wonders if he was subjected to something. It would be a very bad thing if current employees end up with something like he has now. His concern is to protect the current staff and wanted this statement to be made. Richie stated that her asthma is aggravated and uses her inhaler more often since working at this location. Her lungs are tighter as well. The State supports Richie working out of her home. She still needs access to an office setting to use copiers, faxes, and other equipment. Support staff services are needed as well. An office space is the ideal location. The Committee advised to check on the policy for mileage from working from home. It is permissible to log miles noting the reason why for a matter of record. Alexander is working at the office using an air purifier for the time being until Building and Grounds assigns the space. It will be January and we are no further along. Discussion ensued about the air quality study that had already been completed. The study came in as standard versus sensitivity issues. What would blood tests reveal? Brian Desmond has not given feedback how results of a medical report would be handled. Alexander said there no one medical system that would understand the disability. Alexander stated that the air, according to the study, came within limits for certain types of testing. Those tests are more of an industrial level versus working in an office day to day. Photon tests now can show how molecules traveling up olfactory nerves affect the brain. Lehner has aggravated sinus conditions and her concerns were documented by her doctor but inconclusive. Williams is on record that she would not work at the current location, if she becomes pregnant. WNEP Coordinator, Johnson, did not work at the Extension office while pregnant this past year. Mott had mentioned at last Board meeting that if fumes were pumped into the County Board room, action most certainly would be taken.

Temporary Re-location of Individual Staff Members: Request Letter to Building & Grounds

Buildings and Grounds committee chair Billy Fried asked for this committee to make the relocation request in writing. A draft letter was distributed. Permission was to seek temporary re-location of affected UW-Extension staff. Feldman presented a draft letter to the Committee to edit or approve.

This request should not continue to be a ping-pong game. Action should be expedited instead of running into more obstacles. A rumor that UW-Extension staff turned down space at the Courthouse several years ago was corrected. Newspaper articles, a testimony by Erica Brewster, and a statement from Brunette of Building & Grounds department at that time, all indicate that Extension was never given an opportunity to turn down courthouse space. In 2013, Extension toured the Courthouse, but the next day, Buildings and Grounds, stated that it was not a good fit for Land and Water/UW-Extension Departments. The available space was designated to be used as a courtroom instead and the space was never offered to Extension. We currently are looking for space for UW-Extension staff only. This Committee wants a comfortable, healthy environment for the staff. Van Raalte/Ives made a motion to sign the letter of request to Oneida County Buildings and Grounds Committee authorizing UW-Extension to seek temporary office space in a County facility. All County Board members will receive a copy of the letter. It will state that the issue has been brought out during Budget discussions, and was presented in previous years. Feldman and Mott will revise the document and a final draft will be sent out. All ayes; motion carried.

Alternate Site Update:

Feldman and Brunette discussed the temporary office space at the Human Services building. There is concern that it would affect their confidentiality laws with people visiting the agents. Brunette informed Feldman that Building & Grounds would need a written request, addressed above, to grant the UW-Extension to seek temporary office space in an Oneida County facility for some staff members. Mott felt that the letter is unreasonable, as the staff requires an alternate place to work. Brunette understood this and was following through, until the request for this letter. Action should be expedited immediately. Feldman is working very hard to remain professional and keep communication open with other committees and the board. The Committee stated that discussion has gone on for over a year and it is very frustrating to have to write this request now. The Committee recommends continued relief for staff, but power is limited outside of this Committee. Building and Grounds will review the request at the next meeting. There is no further update

from Kate Sullivan, Senior Institutional Planner at UW-Extension, about conducting an engineering study since last month. Sullivan requested the minutes from the Administration Meeting, about the re-organization.

UW-Extension Reorganization Update:

Feldman learned at the last Administration meeting that any re-location of UW-Extension is to be postponed until there is more information on the re-organization. The Chancellor postponed promised updates until late February-early March and will address feedback from counties after that. Contracts were announced to be out by mid- June. Feldman communicated with the State that she must receive contracts earlier and no later than the first of June. LRES and Administration need time to reflect on the State contract and it is critical for to receive it early as possible. Two years ago the contract did not come out until June 29 and there was not time to go over them for approval. Feldman contacted Aaron Brower, Steve Wildeck, and Will Andresen about receiving contracts earlier. Feldman will urge the State to get contracts out sooner. The County Board must see how the State contracts affect services and the budget. We know that the four county structures will prevail. Andresen is scheduling meetings for the committee members from all four counties to review the options of the re-organization structure. It is Feldman's goal is to obtain the contracts before June 2017. Mott said it is difficult to begin talking when the structure is not set up yet. By the end of March, we will know the Chancellor's decisions and contracts will go out in June. We do not know what the allocated dollars will be until then. Each county is very different and not one option will fit all counties. Staff options differ throughout the state. There is an upcoming Wisconsin Counties Association webinar on December 1 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. where Chancellor Cathy Sandeen, Cooperative Extension Dean and Director Karl Martin and Wisconsin Counties Association Director Mark O'Connell will speak. They will discuss what to expect from the nEXT Generation project in 2017 and answer questions. Feldman will send out information to the Committee, with a link for questions and comments.

Broadband Update:

Current work being accomplished is there is now new equipment on the tower in Three Lakes. There are 25 new customers including the Sowinski Farms, who are happy with as heavy users of the services. The tower in the area of North Three Lakes is in process, where they are working out some problems. They are still looking for a site for the tower in Crescent. There are two sites that have been identified in Cassian where they just have to vote on which one they will use for the new tower and equipment. The costs involved are \$30,000 for a tower and another \$30,000 to put equipment on a tower. It costs \$1,500 per month for the rental of a tower if a private entity rents it. The \$1,500 is taken care of by Northwoods Connect, but the Town of Crescent is involved in paying a percentage as well. The Broadband committee meets next week Friday.

Fair Planning Committee:

Winker reported the Fair Committee met on Nov 1 to begin discussion on charging admission at the gate. The goal is to charge for next year and they will need to add on more volunteers to make it happen. Fred Andres, who formerly handled teacher's union affairs, has attended meetings and applied to the Fair Board. Antonia Virgilio also applied. Background checks submitted. The contract for the Fair Coordinator has not yet been renewed. Committee and Fair Board shall set a deadline for Fair Coordinator to sign her contract. They have addressed some financial questions to Margie and the new Director, Darcy Smith in Finance. There is \$5,500 left on the Fair books. They will address how much money is available for 2017 at the next meeting and how to use it. They plan to meet more regularly and need to address their strategic planning. They want to reduce the length of the time spent at meetings. The Committee asked if the Fair Board discussed the City's request of a five-year obligation and upgrading of the infrastructure at Pioneer Park. This is next agenda item.

Contract with City of Rhinelander regarding OC Fair:

Feldman said that Brian Desmond focused on article 29, Assignment or Sublet, and article 30 on Termination. That information was not in the contract before. Article 2 states the term is for five years. The current five-year commitment renews on January 1, 2017 on the current lease agreement at Pioneer Park. County has right to "terminate" the contract if Fair were to become self-sustaining. This contract does not carry any dollar

figures. Article 8 addresses utilities where the lessor shall furnish the electricity, toilets and water at the premises at its own cost and expense. The Fair needs more power. The interpretation by the City is that you have the current electricity offered. It would seem logical that if a ball diamond is constructed, more electricity will be needed anyway. The City will not be upgrading electricity in an effort to balance the budget per the newspaper article read by Alexander. Article 8 says nothing about upgrading utilities. Winkler has a letter from Finance stating availability of tax exempt information to vendors, which was distributed to the Fair Board Committee. The city clerk is now Val Foley and that correction must be made on the contract. The City wants to know the five year commitment because of strategic planning. The City contract was already lengthened until 2019. No renewal can be made by the County unless the electricity is upgraded. Mott advised not to approve City-County Fair Lease Agreement for the Fair Committee, who will need to approve it.

Public Comment:

Richie thanked the Committee supporting UW-Extension staff to work in a healthy environment.

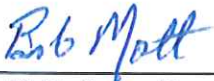
Items to include on next agenda:

Updates: LWC Dec 3 meeting/cost share update. LWC/P&Z merger, Workplace environment/alternate site, Re-org. City Contract for Fair, Fair strategic planning and Coordinator contract renewal.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn by Jensen/Ives was made at 4:20 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bob Mott, Committee Chair


Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary