

**Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee**  
**October 2, 2017**  
**Minutes**

**Committee members present:** Chairman Bob Mott, Robb Jensen, Alan Van Raalte, Jim Winkler, and Kim Simac. Mitch Ives: not present.

**Others present:** Lynn Feldman, Sara Richie, Myles Alexander, Steve Nelson, Karl Jennrich, Jim Tharman, Manny Oradei, Stephanie Boismenu, Quita Sheehan, Dave Noel, Roger Luce, Beckie Gaskill, and Merry Lehner.

**Call to order:** Chairman Mott called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. noting it was properly posted and the facility handicap accessible.

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

**Approve Minutes:** Winkler/Jensen made a motion to approve the 9/11/17 minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

**Date(s) of future meetings:**

November 06, 2017	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room
December 11, 2017	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room

**Approval of Wildlife Damage 2018 Budget and Donation Program - Jim Tharman:**

Tharman presented 2018 Budget for approval of wildlife damage. There is an increase of \$4,600 this year where there was an increase in salaries as well as abatement increases. The County initially pays for the program but then the State reimburses the County. It was asked if the County would like to participate in the turkey damage program. Jensen/Van Raalte made motion to approve the Wildlife Damage 2018 budget as presented. All ayes; motion carried. Mott/Winker moved to support the turkey donation. All ayes; motion carried.

Tharman excused 2:15 p.m.

**Land and Water Conservation Department – Sale of Timber Bridge:**

Sale of Timber Bridge-Manny Oradei, Forester-Department of Natural Resources.

The sale of a 25 foot bridge that has not been used in many years is being proposed. It was acquired for the Land & Water Conservation department through RC&D and designed for the public to use. There has not been any activity or use of the bridge and they would like to sell it. The bridge was last used in 2012 when it was rebuilt at a cost of \$1,321 to re-plank the bridge. There are currently some minor repairs, such as replacing the tarp, and basic maintenance required to keep it functioning. Some loggers have used it in the past. The Committee would like Oradei to contact any local loggers in the area to see if any of them would be interested in purchasing the bridge. They asked that the brochure be sent out to all interested parties. John Bilogan, from the Forestry department, has an interest in the bridge but does not want to share it with the public. If there is not an interest from the public, private loggers, or the towns, the Committee recommended to go ahead with an offer to the County Forestry department. An update on status should be scheduled for January 2019.

Oradei excused 2:35 p.m.

**Cost Share Update:**

- a. **Smithing Reimbursement:** This project was completed. Overall cost was \$25,000 and the department is asking for a \$7,500 payment to them plus the return of their \$1,000 deposit. Jensen/Winkler made motion approve the Smithing cost share monies. All ayes; motion carried.
- b. **Blue Waters Condo Project:** Sadauskas sent out a letter to Blue Waters Condominiums stating that in order to retain the 2017 cost share grant and have the \$1,000 refundable deposit returned they must have a contractor chosen, have a pre-construction meeting by September 30, and planting completed by October 15. The condo owners are still very interested in the project. Since Land & Water has other projects now scheduled, Blue Waters may be able to participate in the project and line them up for the 2019 project list for \$7,500. They will carry forward the \$1,000 deposit to 2018,

most likely for 2019 at the \$7,500 cost share amount. Jensen/Van Raalte made a motion to hold the deposit for Blue Waters and carry forward the project for consideration in 2018 for 2019.

There are ten land owners on the project list for 2018. The cost share amount is up to \$40,000 for 2018, which is an increase from the \$27,000 received this year. The department is requesting that the cost share cap be increased to \$8,000 from the \$7,500 cap on cost share grant for 2018. Van Raalte/Winkler moved to increase the cost share from \$7,500 to \$8,000 for the year 2018. All ayes; motion carried.

#### **Annual meeting of Lake Nokomis Lake District:**

Van Raalte reported on the August 12 annual meeting. Current Commissioners were re-elected to the board. The board recommended a \$25 levy per property owner but members voted to increase it to \$30, anticipating an update of the land management plan. The Clean Boats Clean Water (CBCW) program was discussed and it was mentioned that there are problems finding volunteers. The budget did not include line items for CBCW or hand pulling of weeds. The Lake Nokomis Concerned Citizens lake association offered to pay for the work to be completed. The Organizational meeting was held afterwards where the same officers were elected. Dave Russell is the president. A non-paid, non-board member was appointed recording secretary to take minutes and distribute communications. At the September 5 board meeting they discussed cattail abatement issues which may not be allowed in 2018. There was discussion on whether and when a new lake management plan for Bridge Lake would be required and by whom and whether it was a good idea to solicit bids for the service that Ontera currently performs. Assessment letters were reviewed and approved along with a property owners list. Order of agenda items was discussed along with pending items for future meetings, keeping open meetings, requirements in mind.

#### **2018 AIS Grant Resolution - Stephanie Boismenu:**

Their department is applying for an AIS prevention, education, planning grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). Funding will continue to support the Oneida County AIS prevention and control project for the 2018-2019 year. Their aim is to empower Oneida County to fight against invasive species and to safeguard our waters. The Project sustains the AIS program mission statement, which is to develop and implement an AIS plan of action that prevents and manages AIS in the County. AIS fosters collaboration with lake associations and districts, school groups, businesses, and various organizations and partners. The Fiscal impact statement shared is not in its final form as they are still waiting for partners and volunteers to provide them with their estimated donation commitment time for the 2018 season. There are three AIS LTE's in the department but only applying for two LTE's with the grant. The third position will be paid through funds still available this year that can be carried over to next year. The \$25,615.00 will be the amount of their project. The dollar amount for the grant for next year is less than last year due to the mentioned carryover money. Motion by Van Raalte/Winkler to forward on to the County Board of Supervisors to approve the Resolution for Aquatic Invasive Species. It was noted to use the verbiage "maybe with contingent upon approval of the grant" in the resolution. All ayes; motion carried.

#### **Consent Agenda Items- Land and Water:**

- a. Approve Out of County travel requests:
- b. Approve Monthly Budget Report – September
- c. Approve Monthly invoices/purchase orders.
- d. Line Item Transfers – LWC Reimbursement to Expense Accounts

Winkler/Jensen made a motion to approve items a through d as presented, with the exception of Sadauskas providing explanation of budgets. All ayes; motion carried.

#### **Lumberjack RC&D Grant Application Approval: Vilas County LWCD: Quita Sheehan**

The project title is Vilas & Oneida Counties: Lake Water Clarity and Property Values. It is a joint project between OCLRA and LWC of both Vilas and Oneida counties. The Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department is submitting this proposal of \$7,520 in funding from Lumberjack RC&D in order to apply a previously developed model to statistically determine the variation in property values due to varying water clarity for Vilas and Oneida County lakes. The model was developed by Dr. Thomas Kemp of UW-Eau Claire. The proposed study, based on Dr. Kemp's study, will quantify the effects that changes in water clarity will have on property values on over 100 lakes in the two named counties. The result is that people interested in the ecologic condition of area lakes will have a tool to measure the economic effects of management decision that affect local lakes. Results of the study will be shared through presentations, publications, and news releases. The study will attempt to capture the lost property values due to reduced water clarity. Lakes that are larger than 100 acres in size will comprise the preliminary study area. Use of DNR Secchi disk readings, which give an objective measure of water quality, will be used in the

study. Calculated results will come out in a written report from Dr. Kemp and his students. The study will put a dollar value on the effect declining water clarity can have on property values, which in turn will have economic and tax revenue ramifications. The study will motivate landowners, lake organizations, and local governments and businesses to invest in the protection and improvement of water clarity in area lakes. A motion was made by Van Raalte/Winkler to recommend the grant and pass on to Lumberjack RC&D for approval as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

#### **Consent Agenda Items – UW Extension**

- a. Approve out-of-county travel requests
- b. Approve monthly budget report – September
- c. Approve Monthly invoices/purchase orders.
- d. Line Item Transfers

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

Boismenu, Jennrich, Sheehan, Noel excused at 2:25 p.m.

#### **UW-Extension Office Air Environment Update: No update.**

#### **UW Extension Re-organization – Steve Nelson**

Nelson reviewed the most recent reorganization topics discussed by Chancellor Sandeen and Dean Martin at the Wisconsin Counties Association Conference, September 26. The three stages of the reorganization are Design, Implement, and Evaluate. We are now at the implementation stage. Then there will be evaluations and changes made as needed. Twenty critical academic staff positions for existing vacancies around the state will be filled in October. Probationary faculty have received letters with two options. One is to request reclassification to academic staff for the next year. The second option to remain faculty and accept a notice of non-renewal. Both options allow qualifying staff to apply for a tenure track position. All three educators in Oneida County are probationary staff who will be making their decision by October 10. The Program Directors have been hired: JulieAnn Stawicki with Youth, Family, and Community Development and Patrick Robinson with Agriculture and Natural Resources. They will start to hire the Institute Directors that fall under those program directors. The North Zone Assistant Dean is Dave Berard. He works out of Sawyer County. The goal remains to have an extension office in every county. The state specialist positions are pending. Specialists will be faculty. Compared to the old structure, more specialist will be located in counties to ensure the highest caliber programming at the county offices.

Nelson invited discussion. Mott requested that the committee and the educators make a list of what types of expertise that each has seen needed in the county. Specialists can come in for specific short term assignments. There will be 22 specialist positions. Mott asked how Oneida County will be eligible for these specialist as opposed to Milwaukee. Mott and Dave Hintz attended the WACEC meeting, which was well attended. Nelson would like to bring the staff from all four counties together to have a group discussion to identify any significant issues. He wants to address what are the issues and priorities all have in common. The budgets in the four county structure is not completed until they hear back from their finance committees. Florence has almost completed theirs. Vilas is just about complete. The budgeting has gone to the calendar year budgeting. Our budget review is scheduled for Thursday, October 12.

#### **Oneida County Broadband Update (Economic Development Project) – Roger Luce**

The Public Service Commission (PSC) approved a change to the sequence that some locations will be developed. Three projects in the town of Shoepke and Pelican in the 2018-2019 grant, just received, are now being switched to Cassian/Lake Tomahawk locations included in the 2017-2018 grant. The Cassian and/Lake Tomahawk towers will be completed as part of the 2018-2019 grant. Two Shoepke sites should be completed by year end. The Malvern or Town of Pelican tower will be up and running this year as well. Luce visited the town of Crescent site where all cabling was completed and installation of equipment on the tower. Service should be turned on this week. Out of the \$624,000 raised, the County has 2.5% invested in the projects. Fixed wireless is the wave of the future. Installation of units to houses will increase during the winter months. That is the slower process. There are over 700 homes currently connected to the system.

It was asked what type of wiring goes into the home. It is very similar to what or how a dish is installed for fixed wireless to the house. A noticed open public Broadband Committee meeting will be held on Monday, October 23 at 10 a.m. at Extension conference room. One of the three commissioners from the PSC will meet with the Broadband Committee. Anyone may attend. The broadband committee anticipates \$7.5 million will be included in the state budget for broadband expansion matching grants. They are preparing plans to complete coverage of the county and will submit a proposal for the next grant

cycle. Two areas in Cassian are being considered for towers. The process people learn about Northwoods Connect broadband availability is mostly by word of mouth. They only have three employees. Right now all their time is devoted to installing and making repairs on towers. They need more people to be trained to install in the homes. Luce Excused 2:55

**Oneida County Fair:**

- a. Fair Update & Liaison Report-Jim Winkler. The next Fair meeting is tomorrow, October 3 at 6:00 p.m. Gehrig's resignation is not official although it was indicated in the newspaper article covering the Parks Committee meeting recently. Winkler is in need of the Fair Coordinator independent contract agreement. A job description with a list of duties would be helpful. It was requested that Gehrig write out her current duties as Fair Coordinator. As an independent contract, the County Labor Relations Employee Services department (LRES) does not have a job description. Both will be needed in the very near future. The Fair Committee wishes for the position be posted internally and not externally. There are one or two Fair Committee members interested in the coordinator position. The CUW Committee encouraged the Fair Committee to post the Coordinator position both internally and externally. Mott's personal opinion is to see the job posted externally. The Committee asked that the Fair Committee interview any new Coordinator candidates. The overall choice is up to the Fair but the Final interviews shall include the CUW Committee as part of the interview team. Mott would like to see all of the Committee members involved in final candidate interviewing. The position will need to be posted as soon as possible. The Job description should be ready for review by the November Committee meeting. The by-laws will need to be referred to for the election of officers, by the November meeting. Most of the remainder of officers will keep their positions for the Fair pending the newly elected as the president.
- b. Fair Leadership: The Support staff role must be clearly defined for Fair related duties. Feldman's former Fair duties must be outlined in detail. Gehrig's coordinator duties must be outlined as soon as possible.
- c. Fair Coordinator Vacancy: The CUW Committee wishes to see the coordinator position posted externally. The newspaper posting was posted by Extension office in the past.
- d. Fair Coordinator Position Description: A Coordinator job description is due by November 6 for review.

**Agent Report - "Taking Care of You" - Lynn Feldman:**

In January Feldman attended training for a new program called Taking Care of You. The researched based curriculum, developed by Missouri Extension, offers practical experience and strategies to help people with the stress in their lives. It fosters healthy ways to take on challenges in order to take better care of our overall health. Smaller groups explore topics with discussion, self-reflection, and activities where the focus is on examining stress in our lives, and then learning resilience and management skills as ways to respond to it. Feldman will facilitate and train others. Potential uses are at staff trainings, community groups and offerings, youth groups and their leaders, teen court, and afterschool programs. The goal is to become more aware of the mind-body connection and how to use this awareness for better health. It encourages people to develop better habits that can lead to a healthier person in body, mind, and spirit. The more self-awareness we have, the more choices we have in life. Participants learn how to respond rather than react to the stress in life. They explore what each one finds stressful and how to free themselves from it. Finding opportunities out of challenges, finding joy, and an effort to simplify life are highpoints of the program. Forgiveness and appreciation are ways to rewire challenging situations. Feldman lead the group through a short activity to illustrate how we can be mindful of very basic things like our breathing. The group all felt more relaxed and focused after the exercise.

**Public Comment:** The tragedy in Las Vegas was given a moment of reflection.

**Items to Include on next Agenda:** Budget explanation provided by Sadauskas, Jensen will report on Bear Lake Dist. Annual meeting, Add item to recognize Economic Development Corporation on their Broadband s efforts, Cost Share, Grant Applications, UW Re-organization, Fair update on coordinator position and new officers, Air environment.

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by Van Raalte/Winkler at 3:55 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Bob Mott, Committee Chair  
Robb Jensen Acting Chair

  
Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary