

**Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee**  
**October 4, 2016**  
**Amended Minutes**

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

**Others present:** Karl Jennrich, Rosie Page, Joel Knutson, Lynn Feldman, LuAnn Brunette, Tracy Beckman, Bob Willging, Roger Luce, Daleth Mountjoy, 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 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 Van Raalte/ Winkler to approve the 9/12/16 meeting minutes with two minor corrections to amend. A second motion was made to approve the 8/22/16 re-location options minutes by Van Raalte/Winkler. All ayes; motion carried.

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

Nov 7, 2016	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room
Dec 12, 2016	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room

**Wildlife Damage Program:**

Bob Willging, District Supervisor for the USDA, APHIS Wildlife Services, presented the 2017 budget and the deer abatement program. Their mission is to provide leadership and services to resolve wildlife conflicts allowing people and wildlife to coexist. APHIS screens nuisance deer and bear calls, wolf depredation conflicts, hunting dog conflicts, and beaver dam management, all in cooperation with DNR and the Forest Service. The Abatement claims program handles these complaints. The county budget pays for the abatement materials needed to prevent wildlife damage, but the cost is refunded, by the State program. Most counties have Wildlife Services handle the program. A motion was made by Jensen and was seconded by Van Raalte to approve the 2017 Budget Wildlife Abatement Program as presented. All Ayes; motion approved.

For the Venison Donation program, the County administers the program. There are some administrative costs that are itemized for venison donation, that are then line item transferred. Mott asked about whether deer shot in program are checked for CWD. Willging can check with Brad Cooley, DNR wildlife specialist and follow up on Mott's request. Van Raalte agreed this was important. A motion was made by Ives/Van Raalte to approve Oneida County Deer Program. All ayes; motion carried.

Willging was excused at 1:20 p.m.

**2017 AIS Grant Resolution:**

This is a standard resolution that has to be approved by the Oneida County Board of Supervisors. They intend to present at the November County Board Meeting. The amounts that still need to be finalized are on page three of the handout is volunteer donated time. The Board approved the full time AIS coordinator funded by the tax payers where a grant would provide a 25% match. This is an excellent commitment to the problem. The State portion of the grant is \$34,247. A motion was made to send the resolution on to the Board with final numbers by Winkler with final numbers to be determined, approved with the consent agenda. It was seconded by Jensen. All ayes; motion approved.

### **GPS Purchase Approval:**

This is a request to purchase a GPS unit. The request will go to Buildings & Grounds-Furniture Equipment to purchase the GPS unit for the total amount of \$1,538.00. Typically, the request goes through Building and Grounds but this time it is going thru Land Information for this type of equipment. Per Brunette, any items purchased that are over \$250 have to go through Buildings and Grounds Committee for approval first. The units need to be compatible with Oneida County System LIO department software. Both current units are not functioning; one is from 2007 and the other from 2011. Could one GPS unit be sufficient? Mike Romportl, from Land Information, recommended obtaining two GPS units for the three departments. The existing units are no longer dependable for use and there have been problems. They will be used for AIS and also Cost Share information. The Terra sync is the software accounts for \$500 of this purchase. It must sync with what County is using now and is needed to work with the mapping component. Discussion over cost was questioned by the Committee. Page commented that the value and worth is not due to accuracy, it has to do with data collections and working with computer programs at the office. Mott said this was acceptable. Extended warranties allows for software upgrades making it worth the extra money. Van Raalte moved to approve as presented and Ives seconded to approve purchase. All ayes; motion carried.

### **Cost Share Update:**

No update. They will be in discussion with DNR and DATCP to finalize some minor issues.

### **LW/P&Z Merger Update:**

Planning and Zoning had a position approved for a zoning technician by LRES, which will now have to go through Administration and the budget process. If approved by Administration, Jennrich would like to see if the person could help both departments. He had discussed this with Land Water Conservation regarding department needs and they could utilize this technician as well. Currently, this is still a trial merger. Twice a month Jennrich tries to attend both department meetings to address topics to the oversight committee regarding who will be handling what in the departments.

### **Consent Agenda Items – Land & Water**

There were no line item transfers. Jensen made motion to approve items A, B, and C and Van Raalte seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried. The next Lumberjack meeting will be in Forest County.

### **WHIP Lumberjack RC & D Grant Revision:**

Mott announced that Tracy Beckman is new Executive Director of Lumberjack was here to observe the meeting. Rosie Page informed the Committee of some additions to the WHIP Lumberjack grant proposal presented in September. WHIP is now requesting funding toward the support of the WHIP Coordinator position. Four outreach presentations are given on average per month to community and school groups and the public. Most have been funded in the past by grant money from Lumberjack RC&D and they hope to maintain this level of education. Although they receive grant money from the DNR, it only covers specific projects and cannot fund any outreach activities on public land or pay towards mileage expenses. With renewed funds from Lumberjack, coordinator hours could be used to continue needed public outreach activities. They are requesting \$5,000.00, which covers 235 hours for the coordinator and a small amount for mileage. The estimated required match will be \$1,920 or 38%. The first approval deadline is October 13 and second approval will be January 2017. Winkler made motion to accept the revision of additional grant funding and move it on to Lumberjack, Van Raalte seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

### **Lumberjack Grant Approval: Bat Project**

Joel Knutson received a DNR grant through the Citizen Science program two years ago. Supplemental grant money from Lumberjack RC&C to acquire a bat echo locator for his bat education program was received. To capture bat frequencies, the average cost of a monitoring kit is about \$3,000. Four counties shared one echo locator unit through the DNR. Since then, bat interest levels have gone up. The timber industry, recreation, schools, civic and community groups all have shown increased interest in bats. With white nose syndrome,

recognizing the role bats play in the environment, along with insect control, public interest has risen. Knutson has spoken at many one-time presentations but now would like to develop more sustainable programs. People in the Northwoods want to learn more about bats as species and what threats exist. Bat habitat is now the broader context for this grant. As forest dwellers bats are of interest to the private wood product industries. Bat house building to increase habitat is on the rise. Now that technology of wildlife monitoring has come down in price, there are tablet based systems available. Permanent long term monitoring for ecology based learning is now the goal. He would like to develop partnerships with various interest groups so that they can start their own education programs. The grant assistance needed is \$5,000.00. It will be a labor based grant of 180 hours at \$25 per hour in addition to the required matches. Goals include local groups now being able to participate in monitoring surveys, where failing or unavailable equipment prevented monitoring in the past and collecting of high-quality useful data. The new part of the plan is to train students to develop an interest in bats and get them engaged in finding bats, and to use bats as a tool to understand habitat. The monitoring will help to see if the bat population is crashing. The demand to keep program going, is becoming overtaxed. Knutson wants to provide tools to schools and have them own it. Jensen moved to approve and move on to Lumberjack the grant proposal as presented and Van Raalte seconded it. All Ayes; motion approved.

Jennrich, Page, and Knutson excused at 2:20 p.m.

### **Agency Report:**

Lake Districts: Mid Lake had their meeting two weeks ago and discussed lake monitoring costs and a new harvester, elevator and truck. The Lake Nokomis meeting was last week; they assessed \$25 to property owners. Thunder Lake has no report. Bear Lake had their annual meeting; no minutes yet. Two beavers were removed. Horsehead Lake had no further meetings, but now has a website.

OCEDC: Mott spoke with Luce who said the state board meeting today and of three people involved two are in favor of granting the 15 million dollar loan.

RC&D: They meet 4 times a year and Oct 27 is the next meeting in Forest County.

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

A motion was made to approve UW-Extension agenda items A and C by Jensen and seconded by Van Raalte. All ayes; motion passed.

### **Work place Environment:**

After going before the Administration Committee, Feldman was advised that relocating the offices and voting on it will be connected to the budget hearing. The 2017 Budget Hearing will be on October 10 at 2:30 p.m. At that time she will be asked to present the reason for re-locating, the financial impact, and its implications of the re-organization. Steve Wildeck and Aaron Brauer already addressed the re-organization at the last County Board meeting. The State informed Feldman on September 20 of their pursuit of an engineer to access the building air flow at Extension. The State will pay \$1,500.00 for an initial walk through of the building. Kate Sullivan, from the State is visiting on Friday morning, October 7. She has the building plans and will look at different options for the building. We do not know if the State will contribute to any remediation, but they did not state this initial study would be the only thing paid. Mott felt the walk-through was worth the time.

Feldman appears before Administration to present the UW-Extension and Fair budgets at 2017 Budget Hearing scheduled for October 10 at 2:30 p.m. A quorum of this Committee may be present at the meeting and notice should be posted.

### **Alternate Site:**

LuAnn Brunette came to the meeting to present the financial impact of re-location of UW-Extension. Several properties were viewed by Feldman who shared those details to Brunette, who also viewed some properties. One near the courthouse had insufficient space. Brunette directed the Committee to review the hand-out, Potential Relocation Fiscal Impact, based on Extension's request for 2,000 to 3,000 square feet. It listed what anticipated, on-time costs would be initially, and then the anticipated annual recurring expense. The potential

properties listed costs related to rent, cost of moving staff and equipment, relocation of computers and phones, utilities, snow removal, grounds maintenance, and janitorial/supplies and garbage pick-up. Security monitoring is covered by the airport. For a new site, it will cost \$20,000 for security and swipe cards are \$1,000 annually. Brunette is still looking into insurance costs. Brunette contacted the City and if the expenses of the Airport were not met, with the reduction in revenue, it was confirmed that City would cover half of the cost of the offices, if vacated. The County share would be \$20,000. Costs for relocating and renting elsewhere have additional costs for services now provided by the Airport. Landlords usually cover remodeling new buildings whereas any remodeling here is covered by Buildings and Grounds. Discussion on the figures listed on the handout, followed.

Presently, there are no answers on whether municipal space or privately owned properties will be considered. Any new building will need to be usable space and it is important for staff to work in an acceptable environment. Mott feels the staff needs to be involved in viewing locations, ensuring that a new space is acceptable. Minimum length of leases varies, but if any property requires remodeling, a five year lease would be expected. Brunette looked at Minocqua for county space as an alternative, but none was available. Numbers presented are for a permanent re-location. Minimal cost ranges are \$70,000 to \$104,000 for recurring annual expenses. It is October and no major change is anticipated through the end of the year. Staff will find an interim space. One challenge is that educators operate differently than the county staff. Office support staff must remain in place for phones and assisting the public. Permission will be given to leave office when fumes persist. This arrangement causes the Extension staff to become disjointed in location. Staffing levels of some county departments are being reduced but we do not know if extra space is available. There may be access issues those departments. Monday is the budget proposal for Extension. If re-location figures are presented, the Committee recommends asking the top amount. What impact will this have on the budget? It is anticipated any action might be tabled for the short term pending final information on the re-organization. Mott requested another list of buildings and their costs to be presented to the Committee. It should include cost to purchase and cost to renovate. It may be a good time, financially, to build a new office. With Brunette's report, what is recommended to be brought to the Administration Committee? For first year, the cost would be \$145,000, which includes first year's lease. A motion was made by Mott asking for up to \$145,000 for the rental of a facility for UWEX for first year including one time moving expenses. Pursuing a buy or build option for the long term is suggested by the Committee. Ives seconded motion. Four ayes and one nay; Jensen opposed.

#### **UW-Extension Reorganization Update:**

Mott reviewed the six basic points that Chancellor Sandeen shared at the WACEC convention. One there will be shared administrative leadership at both the State and County levels, which means that there may be one person that does that job for four counties. Offices will be maintained at each county. The staff here may not change at all. Tribal nations will be included with counties on any decisions made. Staff programming will be identified for all counties, where some areas will be shared amongst counties. Digital technology will be identified and expanded enabling programs to be shared digitally with other counties. They will be looking for new revenue sources, which may include certain programs where a fee would be charged to share the program nationally. Each county will have a liaison to distribute information and materials from nEXT Generation Committees and meetings. Dave Hintz is assigned for Oneida County. The workgroup will share our options by the end of February 2017. An external company will analyze administration and financial workings to look for improvements. They will analyze job vacancies and whether to fill them. Karl Martin is the interim Dean spoke as well. By February 2017, the first nine nEXT Generation committees of the State are to report their findings. They should have more information and options by April 2017.

#### **Broadband Update:**

Roger Luce announced that they just approved the loan to help Expera expand in Rhinelander for \$15 million. Two were in favor and one against, where he did not see a need for the program. The update for broadband is that the Public Service Commission will be in Eagle River next week. They will have to make presentation to them and to Senator Tom Tiffany and Representative Rob Swearingen for a progress report on the projects.

The latest grant cycle submitted was for \$60,000. Equipment is on order or already installed. The tower in Sugar Camp to the South is operational. The tower in the North will be done this week. All upgrades in the Minocqua and Rhinelander area will be done in the next two weeks. They still need to find tower for the town of Crescent. The original site pulled out. The Newbold tower will be up in another month.

Brunette excused at 3:30 p.m.

**Fair Planning Committee:**

Winkler said 501C-4 (these are Fair legal designations) is what they will be discussing for the future. The goal will be to find someone who would then help fund. Winkler has a list of several lawyers to start this process. He would like to make a personal contact with a lawyer. He would like to ask if a law group would do this as a freebie. They also will examine the by-laws and the 2017 contract.

**Contract with City of Rhinelander regarding OC Fair:**

The City parks committee still is requesting a five year commitment from the County. Ives attended and the five years is still in expectation. It is a yearly budget which makes it hard for the County to agree to it. The Fair has a monetary commitment for salaries for 2017. If we stay at Pioneer Park it is recognized that our proposed Fair budget is for Fair LTE salaries of \$14,000. This committee must recommend a resolution for the Fair. How we commit to five years without a budget? We do not know what year to year finances will be. We have a contract through 2019 which is already in place. The electrical upgrade really is a separate issue and should come out of the City park budget. The City is requesting it be through 2021, which would make the contract five years. Mott moved to extend the current contract with the City for the Fair at Pioneer Park, which ends in 2019 be extended to 2021, and forward to Administration Committee for review. Ives seconded motion. All ayes; motion carried.

**Agent Report- Lynn Feldman:**

Oneida County Teen Court offers eligible youth an alternative to the Juvenile Court system. Teen offenders receive a sentence from their peers rather than a judge. This gives youth offenders the opportunity to take responsibility for their actions. It provides positive peer pressure. For those serving on the Teen Court Panel, it is a chance to make a positive difference in the lives of other young people. When juvenile offenders successfully complete their teen court sentence, the charge is removed from their record. This provides a "second chance" to prove that mistakes can be turned into positive choices. Restorative justice is for first time teen-aged offenders. The teen goes before a panel of other teens and they are not fined, but are given sanctions. Offenders between the ages of 10 and 16 go before a panel of peers and they have to bring their parents. It is a deferred prosecution. Panelists are volunteers and cases are kept in strict confidentiality. The panelists care about the respondent's outcomes. The teens apply, interview, train, commit to community service. The positive results are that teens develop interviewing, sanctioning, and teamwork skills. Respondents and parents learn about the process, have to commit to it, and then attend teen court sessions. The judicial system supports this process. Teens are urged to go to teen court and if they refuse are asked to give reason why they would not want this option. UW-Extension organizes the program, train panelists, maintain files, provide education, and attend WTCA (Wisconsin Teen Court Association), Sanctions and evaluation programs follow. They hear about 20-25 cases per year. Currently there are a diverse group of five males and seventeen females involved in the program. Community awareness of the program has increased. New groups have opened in the Lac du Flambeau nation, churches, and schools. Previous offenders are now applying to be Teen Court panelists. Having completed the program, they were so impressed that they now want to be involved as panelists. As a results based program, MI (Motivational Interviewing) questions to encourage teens to think about their situation. Question such as: why did you choose teen court, what changes do you need to make not receive another citation, or how important on a scale of 1-10 is it for you to make changes. Teens are asked what reasons motivate them make changes in behavior or are asked to state accomplishments that have resulted from the program.

**Public Comment:**

Mott attended the Community Health Symposium and shared information that Wisconsin Department of Justice provided about opioids where a large amount of overdose deaths are from prescription pain killers instead of heroine. Another comment is that Lumberjack is having their forestry awards where there are three categories for nominations and you can speak with Mott or refer to the website for more information.

**Items to include on next agenda:**

Updates on: LWC/P&Z, Fair Planning Committee, Workplace environment/alternate site, Re-org.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn by Jensen/Van Raalte was made at 4:30 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bob Mott, Committee Chair

  
Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary