

**Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
September 11, 2017 Minutes**

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

Others present: Lynn Feldman, Sara Richie, Myles Alexander, Steve Nelson, Michele Sadauskas, Rosie Page, Stephanie Boismenu, Ed Hammer, Tom Peterson, Beckie Gaskill, and Merry Lehner.

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

Approve Agenda: Motion by Winkler/Ives 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 8/7/17 and 8/17/17 minutes All Ayes; motion carried.

Date(s) of future meetings:

October 2, 2017	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room
November 13, 2017	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room

APHIS 2016 Summary Report-Jim Tharman:

Tharman was not present but asked Sadauskas to distribute the APHIS report on wildlife damage. The committee commented that the packet was helpful in seeing the extent of damage assessed for the County.

Land and Water Conservation Department:

Sale of Timber Bridge-Manny Oradei, Forester-Department of Natural Resources. It was requested to have this item re-scheduled to the next meeting. There has been little rental activity with the bridge and they would like the Committee's direction on the future of the bridge (possible sale of bridge). The bridge rents for \$100/month as stated on the brochure. Jensen/Winkler made a motion to postpone a decision on this until October 2. All ayes; motion carried.

Lumberjack RC&D Grant Application Approval:

- a. Wisconsin Headwaters Invasive Partnership (WHIP) Rosie Page, WHIP Coordinator, presented the grant application to administer and support the Coordinator position. Page hopes to submit the application by October 1. The mission is to carry out outreach and education about invasive species. There are fewer invasives in the Northern part of the state than elsewhere, but the focus locally is eliminating buckthorn and honey suckle. The five objectives their project will address are coordination, continuing outreach opportunities, activities on public land, worm watch fieldwork, and financial need. They will be requesting 522 hours to continue the employment of the coordinator and provide money for mileage reimbursement for work related travel. They will apply for the maximum amount of \$10,000. The coordinator/group has always been grant funded. The match will include 15% cash and the other match is steering committee professional time and volunteer services, making the match roughly \$5,000.00, and making the total for the entire project for the year \$15,000. Donations have been received from customers that shop at Walkabout Paddle in Eagle River. Jensen/Winkler made motion to support the approval of the Lumberjack RC&D application. All ayes; motion carried.

- b. Town of Newbold – Ed Hammer, Newbold Town Supervisor
Hammer is applying for a Lumberjack grant, 2018 Terrestrial Invasive Species Inventory and Management Plan, to eliminate spotted knapweed. He is in support of the efforts of WHIP. They have pulled 250 pounds of spotted knapweed from a recreation area. They have a strong volunteer base. They believe that more is required than education, they want public action. They have logged 1,700 hours from volunteers working on the outdoor recreation area mentioned before. They are requesting \$7,025.00 (corrected from the \$6,025 noted on the distributed documents). The town of Newbold will offer \$4,200.00 cash for the grant. They have the cooperation of the Land Records Department to help with postage and printing. Jensen/Winkler made motion to support the approval of the town of Newbold's grant application with the noted changes and forward it on to Lumberjack RC&D for their review. All ayes; motion carried.
A letter of recommendation listing both of the above Lumberjack grants will be forwarded to Lumberjack RC&D.

AIS Summer Wrap-up Report-Stephanie Boismenu:

Under the 2017 AIS Education and Prevention planning grant, they had three wonderful LTE's (Limited Term Employees: Aubrey Nycz, Derek Thorn, and Thomas Boisvert) working this summer. The grant required them to complete the 625 hours in watercraft inspections. The three employees exceeded this goal and completed 797 inspections at 29 different boat landings. Between May and September the team monitored 18 water bodies for aquatic invasive species and testing of water quality and they did not find any new invasive species. They held five Clean Boats Clean Water Workshops over the summer. There were a total of 75 attendees to the workshops and over half were new to the program. The results were very positive. A list of several of the activities that students have been involved with this past summer was shared with the Committee.

Cost Share Update:

- a. **Blue Waters Condo Project**

It has been a long road with this project located on Lake Mildred. The \$1000.00 deposit had been made. The group originally obtained two contractor bids. An additional bid was requested, and received, but up to this date the group has not chosen a contractor for the project. The project is running out of time as it must be completed by December 31, 2017. A deadline of September 21 was given to the group in selecting a contractor. A letter will be drafted noting the \$1,000 deposit will be lost if they do not come forward by the date of September 21. The condo association seems to be concerned about the finances involved. Committee suggested that a certified letter regarding the loss of the deposit be sent. The committee will follow up on whether the deadline was made and if not, the funds will be applied elsewhere.

- b. **Smithing Reimbursement**

No receipts were submitted by client, therefore no reimbursement approval is needed. A handout showed pictures of bag walls.

Summer Tour Wrap-up–Michele Sadauskas:

The tour worked out well and was successful. The organic cranberry farm was well attended. After the organic cranberry bog tour the group went back to the winery and then toured the pollinator gardens. The winery garden in Three Lakes will be re-located due to owner not being entirely happy with the current location. The garden covered some re-charging stations and there was some customer feedback on the manicured look of the pollinator garden. It will be moved to another site on the Three Lakes Winery property. For future projects LWCD will create an agreement that property owners will need to maintain the garden for an agreed upon amount of time in the future. The bus arrangements turned out well.

Approval of 2018 Land and Water Conservation Department Budget:

There are three budgets with Land Water Conservation: Land Conservation, Wildlife Budget, and Aquatic Invasive Species Program. Sadauskas noted that on the right-hand column of the presented budget, with yellow highlighting,

are values that were corrected by Darcy from Finance. The Wild Life budget monies go in and out and can be seen on pages 3-4 and is zero due to the State reimbursement. Land Conservation is noted on page three. Personnel costs of \$5,839.00 increased due to the DATCP grant not coming in yet. The past few years the department was below budget, it is essentially supposed to be a zero increase budget, with the exception of personnel changes. There was a negative amount the past year due to DATCP funding based on Hansen's wages. Non personnel fees stayed at zero. The difference is only in personnel. For AIS they are requesting \$57,776.00 including the grant and the Coordinator wages. The bottom line request (for the department) is for approximately \$63,615.00, but the amount will change due to changes made by Finance (when the correct amount is received from DATCP). Jensen/Ives made a motion to approve the budget and forward on to the Administration Committee for review. All ayes; motion carried.

Consent Agenda Items- Land and Water:

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

Boismenu, Page, and Sadauskas excused at 2:20 p.m.

Oneida County Fair:

a. Fair Update & Liaison Report-Jim Winkler

The Fair Committee had their meeting last week and all felt that the Fair went well this year. It was well attended, where approximately 13,000 people attended even with the rain out on Thursday night, which dropped the number of attendees. The entertainment attendance was very good where the Abba Salute, it is believed had the highest attendance ever for the Fair. The fish fry sold out on Friday night. Donation boxes on the trolley and the boxes totaled \$1, 876.54, per information that Tom Peterson received from Gehrig. The final balance for the Fair was not available but the Fair broke even. Despite the rain on Thursday, there was still an opening ceremony and the Native American Dancers performed. At the last Fair meeting, Tom Peterson stated that he would be resigning from the Fair Committee Board. Tom Peterson formally read his resignation letter to the Committee today. He had logged 94 volunteer hours to the Fair and enjoyed his time devoted to the Fair. He will preside over the October 3 meeting. Winkler commended Peterson for his efforts and how he helped the general functioning of the Fair. There are several names of people who will be coming forward to replace the Fair Committee President position. Another pending resignation is Nancy Gehrig who wishes to tie up loose ends and be sure that the Fair is in good hands, before resigning. Her resignation will be submitted later this fall. Peterson stated Gehrig raised \$12,000 in donations and additional in-kind money of \$30,000.

b. Approve Fair Invoices

Covered under Consent agenda items.

c. Approve Fair Contracts

None.

d. Approval of Fair Budget

Feldman presented the Fair budget and what the Fair Committee recommended. Compared to 2016 the amusement/carnival income was expected to drop due to the bad weather on Thursday at the Fair year. It dropped from \$16,860 down to \$13,500. The lump sum donation category dropped by \$600.00 from last year. If you look at those dips the ending balance will be close to zero for 2017. There are still some outstanding bills that need to be paid. The Fair will use money out of their reserved account to for the Exhibit Court electrical upgrade, extension cords, and a sound system which is a total of around \$1,700.00. Feldman did not make a recommendation, but wanted the Fair Committee to present two options for the 2018 budget request. Option A is for a zero percent increase at \$16,000 for 2018, which what was appropriated last year for the Fair. If support staff continues to work 300 hours, option A will

remain. Option B would include reduced support staff, where the estimated cost would be \$24,000. The Fair Committee would have to contract out to pay for support staff duties for Option B. There was further discussion. Jensen did not have a problem going forward with the \$16,000 into 2018. The Committee all agreed the \$23,000 didn't sound like something they would approve. Discussion about how much time support staff devotes to the Fair, and how the 300 hours would be monitored to keep that amount at bay ensued. Educators stated they could certainly use more help from support staff during the Fair but have been hesitant to make requests during the time of the Fair. They end up doing additional tasks themselves rather than calling upon the support staff. The consensus is that it will be 16,000 and support staff would be kept under 300 hours, which Steve Nelson would monitor. No motion will be made here, until the rest of budget is presented.

Approval of 2018 UW-Extension Budget:

Lynn Feldman presented the UW-Extension Budget. There are three options. Option A presents 3 FTE Educators at 100 percent time at this County Extension office is listed on the budget sheets as \$115,562 which is listed under professional services. The 2017 appropriated funds are \$191,303.00 and under option A the amount would be \$216,383. The increased amount for three full time educators is \$25,080 versus the \$30,000 discussed at the last meeting. This is due to a change made by Darcy in Finance under wages and insurance. For Extension agent wages are listed under Other Professional Services. All other departments list it as Personnel expenses. If the County chose option A., it will cost them \$25,080 more to keep three full time educators as they currently are.

Option B funds 2.5 FTE Educators where there would be a half time CNRED, and full time Family Living and Youth Development. Option B is a 25% reduction in their contract, which would be an increase of \$1,952, where total costs would be \$194,955.

Option C would reduce all educators to 75% work in this county where the total would be \$185,693.

Jensen stated that Option A is what the Committee wants to recommend. Personnel costs have gone up due to the reorganization. Option B needs to be presented as the case that is closest to a zero percent increase as can be. If Option A is rejected the other options would be considered. Option C would not need to be included.

Winkler/Ives made motion with the options A & B with an explanation sheet and if option B what would be lost from the CNRED Agent. All ayes; motion carried.

Consent Agenda Items - UW Extension:

There are no line item transfers. Jensen/Winkler made motion to approve items a, c and d. All ayes; motion carried.

Approval of letter to Fair Committee regarding Lynn Feldman's duties as UW –Extension Educator:

Mott read the letter to Committee where it outlined the duties Feldman would no longer be performed as they are not related to the educational aspects of the Fair. The areas Feldman will no longer have oversight on include Open Class, School Entries, Rotating Organizations, Oneida County Beekeepers Association tent, monitoring the Fair Special contest, Junior Fair entries and the building and monitoring of the temporary structures in the Exhibit Court area. Her duties will be greatly reduced where she will only be involved in the 4-H tent set up and take down, assisting youth in entering their projects, assisting with the development of the Junior Division Fairbook, and planning activities for the 4-H tent area and Animal Alley. The Fair Committee will have to come up with personnel to oversee non-educational aspects of the Exhibit court, including hiring or recruiting volunteers to cover those areas.

UW-Extension Office Air Environment Update:

One report on fumes was made since last meeting related to the Fed Express truck parked next to building and their exhaust fumes entered the building.

Oneida County Broadband Update (Economic Development Project):

Roger Luce - Excused.

UW Extension Re-organization.

The Madison Human resources has merged with the UW Systems as well as Finance. They are no longer separate as UW-Extension. They will slowly start adding staff back up to 220 people in Extension. Interim program leaders are in place. Critical needs positions will start to be filled now. A point person being assigned where AED is not available. Merit increases will be offered to a staff person to handle local calls. Specialist will not be doing programming. The specialist will provide the expertise and advice on local issues. It will be more like the current integrated specialist. The institutes will be making a decision on assigning the specialists and how many will be assigned. The details and roles of this are still pending.

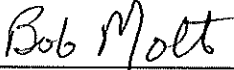
Public Comment:

None

Items to include on next Agenda: Sale of Timber Bridge-Manny Oradei, Cost Share updates, Lumberjack RC&D Grant Approvals, Budget follow ups, UW Re-organization, Fair update, Broadband, Office air environment.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Ives/Winkler at 4:00 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bob Mott, Committee Chair



Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary