

Agriculture & Extension/Land & Water Conservation Committee
February 20, 2012
Minutes

Committee members present: Chair Tom Rudolph, Carol Pederson, Greg Berard, Paul Dean, and Clint Zimbeck. Excused: Romelle Vandervest.

Others present: Jean Hansen, Michele Sadauskas, Barb Payne, Brian Desmond, Mike Romportl, Court Reporter, Erica Brewster, Jim Winkler, Roger Luce, Kari Lazars, Rochelle Beck, Ginger Terzinski and Kerri Ison. Also: John and Ginger Bowman, Shirley Ament, Dean and Charlene Tessenske, Jed Buelow, Leonard and Isabel Gorzalski, Myra and Richard Ross.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Tom Rudolph at 1:30 p.m. noting the meeting has been properly posted and the facility is handicap accessible.

Approve agenda: Motion by Dean/Pederson to approve the agenda for today's meeting with the order of agenda items at the chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

Approval of minutes: Motion by Dean/Berard to approve the minutes of 1/9/12 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Public comment for Lake Nokomis: Rudolph reminded those present that this is not a public hearing and comments will be limited to three minutes.

- John Bowman, Lake District Coordinator for LNCC, noted his presence to let the Committee know he is supportive.
- Leonard Gorzalski noted the Lake District affects his property and has witnessed deterioration of lake quality. LNCC has made a valiant effort but is concerned his lake access will become impassable. It is upon the landowners to protect the lake as the great resource it is, as funding is not available from the DNR. Only lake property owners will be assessed. This is the only Lake District petition in the state that has been denied when all requirements were met. Mr. Gorzalski thanked the Committee for their consideration of the passage of this Lake District.
- Richard Ross participated in drawing water samples for four years and noted the lake has deteriorated. The LNCC cannot keep up with treatment because of lack of funds. He believes that since the water flows to several other water bodies they will eventually be affected if the problem is not addressed now.
- Dean Tessenski has been a landowner since 1979. In light of no other funding sources, he believes the only viable way to continue is to form a Lake District.

Lake Nokomis Lake District: A report was provided to committee members. By law, this Committee is required to provide such a report within three months of the public hearing. Desmond noted it is similar to the report supplied last time with a few new sections added, an updated list of speakers from the 2/4/12 public hearing and number of letters submitted. The percentages have not changed as the same petition, numbers and landowners were used. Letters received after the public hearing will be submitted at the March County Board meeting. It is Desmond's intent to have the County Board accept report in February and with questions being addressed in March. Romportl noted two changes: (1) Page 3, 3rd paragraph last line should be 47.5 not 47.3; (2) Exhibit #7, first line after table should include page 73.

Motion by Berard/Pederson to approve the Lake Nokomis Lake District report and submit to County Board at the February meeting. All ayes; motion carried.

UWEX Centennial celebration: Brewster introduced Rochelle Beck from Leadership Oneida County. She, Anne Bonack and Blaine Oborn are assisting Ginger Terzinski in promoting the 100th Anniversary celebration of UW-Extension. Beck gave a brief presentation about the history of UWEX highlighting that E.L. Luther was the first extension agent in 1912 and was based out of Oneida County. A table display and cake were presented to the Committee to commemorate the occasion.

Equipment rental procedure: Hansen noted there is nothing to address at this time.

Agency reports:

- OCEDC: Luce noted the Revolving Loan Committee met last week to consider loan requests for two assisted living facilities. The Railroad Transit Commission will become a legal entity in April. A second shortline railroad is also interested in taking over the line from Cameron to Dunbar. An existing company is interested in another expansion this year which would add 35-40 new jobs. OCEDC is also working on another project which could mean winning or losing a number of good jobs.
- LWCB: Rudolph reported LWCB met on 2/7/12 and held a long discussion on staffing grants. The LWCB did not vote to accept the allocation. Since that time, the Joint Finance Committee approved the allocation, as presented by DATCP, which includes a 12% cut across the board and a revision to the staffing grant formula. Oneida County's staffing grant was cut \$37,000. Rudolph requested Brewster and Hansen work together to get clarification on the large cut to Oneida County. LWCB plans to sponsor a forum in June or August addressing the staffing grant formula.
- WLWCA: Rudolph reported WLWCA is in the process of hiring new Executive Director. A Hiring Committee meeting will screen applications on 2/22/12 in Hancock.
- RC&D: Rudolph reported the State RC&D Association meeting will be held in Stevens Point on 2/29/12. The National Conference will be held in Madison 6/11-13/12. Rudolph urged committee members to attend.

National Association of Conservation Districts Annual meeting: Rudolph represented Wisconsin at the NACD meeting in Las Vegas the end of January. He participated in the Board of Directors meetings and some breakout sessions. Resolutions on Asian carp, monitoring of climate change and phosphorous loading were submitted from Wisconsin with only the phosphorous resolution being denied. Conference details are included in the "*Thursday Notes*" and he urged committee members to visit the NACD website for detailed information.

Monthly staff reports:

- Brewster participated in the January/February Leadership Oneida County sessions. Due to budget cuts, UWEX has been asked to provide educational programs for Oneida County inmates. Brewster recently provided four sessions of "Family Strengths".
- Lazars noted staff is busy providing lessons in the schools. The program may expand the number of lessons offered at current schools and add NCES next year. The Fill-A-Backpack program now serves 66 families. Lazars will be providing department head assistance for Menomonie County Nation and Shawano County on a short-term basis.
- Winkler has begun planning for spring and summer programs. 4H hosted an Ice Fishing Clinic partnering with Walmart, HT Industries and the WI DNR with 36 youth participating.
- Sadauskas noted Angela Wenninger has been hired as AIS Project Assistant. She assisted at the 4H Ice Fishing Clinic and is also conducting an ice fishing survey. Sadauskas submitted a grant proposal to WEEB to expand on ice fishing outreach next year. Brewster announced Sadauskas has been hired as the full-time AIS Coordinator effective 2/14/12.

- Hansen noted Payne has been working diligently on the Lake Nokomis report. Hansen reported the WHIP proposal sent to RC&D for funding will be voted on in April.

Out of county travel requests:

Brewster:

1/14/12	Poverty Simulation	Tomahawk*
1/26/12	Semi Annual PIT Homeless County	Eagle River*
2/1-3/12	Leadership Academy	Wausau**
2/4/12	Lake Nokomis Lake District public hearing	Tomahawk*
3/7-9/12	UWEX County Leadership Conference	Stevens Point**
2/16/12	Northwoods Coalition	Lac du Flambeau*
2/17/12	Legislative Dialogue Session	Shawano*
TBD	Meeting with Diane Hanson	Lincoln County*

Hansen:

3/7/12	Invasive Plant meeting	Eagle River*
3/9/12	Pickup materials for GNS conference	Eagle River*
3/10/12	Gardening Northwoods Style conference	Woodruff*
TBD	Meeting with Diane Hanson	Lincoln County*

Sadauskas:

3/7/12	Invasive Plant meeting	Eagle River
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Winkler:

TBD	STEM promotion @ Vilas County schools	Vilas County*
4/11-12/12	JCEP Conference	Stevens Point*

Committee & Staff:

4/10-12/12	WI Lakes Convention Green Bay	Green Bay*
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Rudolph:

2/16/12	Northwoods Coalition	Lac du Flambeau*
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*county expense / **district or state expense

Motion by Berard/Pederson to approve the out-of-county travel requests as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Fair Update: Winkler is working with Werres to get fair books updated.

Approve monthly budget reports:

- Motion by Berard/Dean to approve the UWEX monthly budget reports for the periods ending 12/31/11 (Close 1) and 1/31/12. All ayes; motion carried.
- Motion by Pederson/Berard to approve the LWC monthly budget report for the period ending 12/31/11. All ayes; motion carried.

Monthly invoices:

- Motion by Berard/Pederson to approve the UWEX monthly invoices as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

- Motion by Pederson/Berard to approve the monthly invoices for the Oneida County Fair as presented. All ayes; motion carried.
- Motion by Berard/Dean to approve the LWC monthly invoices as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve line item transfers:

- Motion by Berard/Dean to approve the line item transfers for UWEX as presented. All ayes; motion carried.
- Motion by Pederson/Berard to approve the line item transfers for the Oneida County Fair as presented. All ayes; motion carried.
- Motion by Berard/Dean to approve the line item transfers for LWC as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

County Conservationist/CNRED Agent positions: Brewster met with Tom Rudolph, Kuzlik, Kathy Miller (Interim ND Director) and Lisa Charbarneau (LRES) on 1/26/12 to discuss the position(s). She believes the positions will be divided administratively but the desire is to hire one person. The state and county are both supportive of replacing the position(s) as soon as the state managed staffing plan/vacancy review policy allows. Brewster is waiting for further information from Miller and Charbarneau. Lengthy discussion followed.

Soil & Water Stewardship Week: Hansen reported the theme of this NACD annual event is "Soil to Spoon". LWC will provide educational handouts to area churches and libraries as in past years.

County-cost share program update/approval: Hansen reported the 2012 final allocation is just over \$60,000. Hansen has been working on a possible culvert replacement in the Town of Lynn and asked for committee input regarding providing cost share funding or technical assistance to municipalities. Oneida County has never cost-shared with a municipality but other counties have done so. Lengthy discussion followed. It was the consensus of the committee that cost share dollars not be diverted for culvert replacements for municipalities.

4-H archery program: Winkler wishes to start a 4-H archery program as part of the shooting sports program. The Airport Manager granted permission to use Airport property; however the proposal also requires County and City approval. The Traditional Archer's Association wishes to donate equipment for the program. Dean referred Winkler to Corporation Counsel regarding insurance issues. Motion by Rudolph/Dean for Winkler to seek City and County approval to begin a 4-H archery program on Airport property. All ayes; motion carried.

Public comment/communications: Nothing additional.

Items for next agenda: Equipment rental procedure, fair report, Lake Nokomis Lake District.

Adjournment: Motion by Dean/Berard to adjourn at 3:55 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Ison, Recording Secretary

Thomas Rudolph, Chair