

Agriculture & Extension Education/Land & Water Conservation Committee
August 9, 2010
Minutes

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

Others present: Lawrence Eslinger, Erica Brewster, Jean Hansen, Jim Kumbera, Chuck Faber, Bob Martini, Susan Hunter, Michael Stinebrink and Kerri Ison.

Call to Order/Chairperson's Announcements: The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chairman Rudolph, noting the agenda has been properly posted and the facility is handicap accessible.

Rudolph announced Paul Dean received a 5-year service award from WACEC. He will present Dean with his certificate at a later date.

Approve agenda: Motion by Vandervest/Pederson to approve the agenda with permission to change the order of the day at the discretion of the Chair. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve minutes: Motion by Evsich/Vandervest to approve the minutes of July 20, 2010 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Date of future meetings:

9/13/10	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room
10/11/10	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room

Wildlife Damage Deer Fence Proposal: Hansen noted Tharman hopes to have proposal ready for September meeting.

Introduce new NRCS District Conservationist: Michael Stinebrink, new NRCS District Conservationist for Vilas, Florence, Oneida and Forest Counties was introduced. He has been with NRCS for ten years and was most recently stationed in Lincoln/Langlade Counties for the past two years. He also worked with the Cranberry Growers and was a soil conservationist in northern California.

He noted there is a **deadline** of 10/1/10 for the local conservation departments/districts and/or NRCS to host Local Work Groups which may be formed to provide local input for the implementation of USDA conservation programs. Environmental Quality Incentives Programs (EQIP) projects will be lumped into area wide funding pools. Local funds are also provided to local counties for crop land and pasture projects and locals are allowed input on how this funding is distributed. Projects are placed on a ranking system which has an impact on who gets funding as there are normally more applications than funds. Stinebrink plans to host one public meeting for all four counties and requested a member from this committee participate. Discussion followed. Rudolph requested Hollands and Kuzlik work with Stinebrink on this meeting and will speak with them.

Oneida County Lakes & Rivers Association (OCLRA) recommended Shoreland

Resources Advisory committee resolution: Bob Martini and Chuck Faber, representing OCLRA, presented a draft resolution recommending the formation of a Shoreland Resources Advisory Committee to assist with bringing the shoreline protection ordinance up to state code compliance by 2/1/2012 if the county wants to continue issuing zoning permits. The advisory committee would increase public involvement, result in a better code and would allow the Agriculture & Education/Land & Water Conservation Committee to have an advisory role in working with Planning and Zoning and the County Board to revise the code.

Martini noted that Oneida County ranks second in the state for amount of water resources. These resources are important because many visitors come here because of the lakes and rivers, which in turn drives the local economy. The current system to revise the code references using a model ordinance being used by DNR which describes the minimum required to be in compliance with state law. OCLRA does not believe this is adequate for Oneida County. Ordinances in other counties with substantial water resources allow the permit issuing entity to take into account the size of lake, complexity of lake and how much development already exists. Some don't allow permits without doing some type of mitigation on the shoreline. These types of changes would better protect the valuable water resources of Oneida County.

Faber noted that when Oneida County passed the original ordinance in 2000 it was a very good, strong ordinance in terms of protecting shorelines. The original ordinance was substantially degraded from 2001-06 when the ordinance was amended 37 times. These amendments were made in regular Planning and Zoning Committee meetings with little public involvement and chipped away at original intent of the ordinance. Now, as a result, the ordinance is does not even comply with the state's previous shoreland protection requirements.

Other counties have formed advisory groups to help the planning process along and it has been successful. Lynn Markum, Director of the Center for Land Use Education at the UWSP's College of Natural Resources, has offered to assist Oneida County in the formation and implementation of an advisory committee. Discussion followed. Martini emphasized there would be no financial impact to the County as advisory committee members will be volunteers and OCLRA will reimburse any per diem costs for the Ag & Extension/Land & Water Conservation Committee representative.

Faber believes it is important to have stakeholders input. He recognizes that Planning and Zoning has to come up with an ordinance that is in compliance with the state, but also recognizes that it's the Ag & Extension/Land & Water Conservation Committee's job to protect the land and water of this county and that it includes necessary input from a broad spectrum of stakeholders. Martini urged Oneida County to apply for funding in the next cycle of planning grants and perhaps the funding application could be added into the resolution. Lengthy discussion continued.

Several revisions were suggested. Faber will revise the resolution to include changes for financial impact, possible funding, etc. and bring back for Committee discussion on 9/13/10. Corporation Counsel must also sign off on the resolution.

Motion by Vandervest/Evsich in favor of issuing a resolution drafted proposing the formation of a Shoreland Resources Advisory Committee to include revisions discussed at today's meeting and bring back for discussion and possible approval at the 9/13/10 meeting. All ayes; motion carried.

Approval monthly budget reports:

Ag & Extension: Not available at this time.

LWC: Motion by Vandervest/Pederson. Discussion followed. All ayes; motion carried.

Monthly invoices:

Ag & Extension: Motion by Vandervest/Berard to approve the monthly invoices for UW-Extension as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

LWC: Motion by Pederson/Evsich to approve the monthly invoices for LWC as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Oneida County Fair: Motion by Vandervest/Pederson to approve the monthly invoices for the Oneida County Fair as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Agents 133 contract: Ison distributed and reviewed copies of the Amendment to the Agents 133 contract for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. This contract is for agents services. The County is responsible for 40% of agent's salaries with the state paying 60%. Agents are still required to take eight furlough days during this fiscal year. Discussion followed. Motion by Vandervest/Pederson to approve the Amendment to the Agents 133 contract as presented and forward on to LRES Committee for approval. All ayes; motion carried.

2011 staffing requests:

Hanson presented staffing request for two AIS project assistant positions. These are summer positions working 600 hours. The request is the same as this year and Eslinger noted these positions were a big help. Motion by Vandervest/Berard to approve the AIS project assistant LTE staffing requests as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Ison presented staffing request for Summer Horticulture Assistant LTE position. This 280-hour position provides horticulture assistance and education during the busy summer months. The UW-Extension Northern District Office provides approximately \$500 in funding. If a student is hired and uses the position as an internship, an additional 140 hours may be available in grant funding through the Summer Affirmative Action Internship Program. Motion by Vandervest/Evsich to approve the Summer Horticulture Assistant LTE staffing request and forward to the LRES Committee for approval. All ayes; motion carried.

Ison presented staffing request for Oneida County Fair Secretary LTE position. This 400-hour per year position provides secretarial support to the Oneida County Fair during the year. Motion by Berard/Pederson to approve the Oneida County Fair Secretary LTE staffing request and forward to the LRES Committee for approval. All ayes; motion carried.

Ison presented staffing request for Oneida County Fair Manager LTE position. This 400-hour per year position provides overall management for the Oneida County Fair. Vandervest noted many hours were voluntary this year as it takes more than 400 hours to oversee such an event.

Motion by Vandervest/Evsich to approve the Oneida County Fair Manager LTE staffing request and forward to the LRES Committee for approval. All ayes; motion carried.

AIS purchases: Covered under monthly invoices.

2011 AIS grant: Eslinger submitted the grant to the DNR on 7/30/10 and provided final goals and budget for the project for review. He believes the grant is still very aggressive but is a lesser dollar amount than 2010. The grant requires a 25% match (\$8,452.25) but noted additional dollars are not required of the County other than his time. He estimated 600 hours of his time which is in excess of what is needed for the match.

AIS resolution for DNR: Eslinger distributed a copy of resolution authorizing the Land and Water Conservation Department to apply for the 2011 AIS DNR grant for review. He noted Corporation Counsel has already given approval. Discussion followed. Motion by Vandervest/Pederson to approve AIS resolution for the 2011 AIS DNR grant and forward to County Board for approval. All ayes; motion carried.

County-cost share program: Hansen noted she worked on two surveys with several more coming up. She noted the approval process has become lengthier due to the downsizing of the local DNR office as paperwork is now submitted directly to Superior.

Oneida County Fair update: Vandervest worked at the information gazebo and noted it was extremely busy. Ison reported attendance was approximately 17,500 which is an increase of approximately 4,000 from 2009. Fair keeps all wristband proceeds. There were some electricity issues which will need to be addressed for next year.

Oneida County Fair contracts: None.

Monthly staff reports:

Eslinger: Has spent majority of time working on the grant and presented at a few town board meetings. He and an LTE provided an information packet addressing NR40 to aquarium/plant nursery dealers and conducted follow up visits. AIS Citizen Awards Ceremony will be held on 8/21/10 at 6 p.m. at the Quality Inn to celebrate this year's accomplishments in the County.

Brewster: N*WISH analyzed a Newcap survey given at RAFP noting 18% of food pantry users had been homeless or were at risk of homelessness in the past year. Also participated in a point-in-time survey to count homeless in the area but since weather was nice the group did not encounter any homeless. Plans are to do it again in January. Leadership Oneida County will host a poverty simulation on 12/8/10 and need volunteers and participants. She is also working on her first official plan of work.

Hansen: Attended WHIP meeting in Woodruff and is working to get MOUs signed. She provided office coverage and administration due to staff medical leave; is working to remove burdock out of the church parking lot by the Courthouse and researching erosion control products.

Motion by Vandervest/Evsich to approve the monthly agent reports as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Out-of-county travel requests:

Brewster:

8/10/10	Key Ingredients meeting	Eagle River*
8/13/10	Key Ingredients research	Vilas County*
8/17/10	Joint AODA Coalition meeting	St. Germain*

Eslinger:

8/9/10	National Open Musky Tournament	Eagle River*
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Kuzlik:

8/31-9/1/10	ND Dept. Head In-service	Price County**
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Winkler:

TBD	Teen Court meeting w/Tribal Leadership	Lac du Flambeau*
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Committee:

9/22-24/10	RC&D Council Annual Conference	LaCrosse*
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*county expense

**district/state expense

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

Agency reports:

Lake districts:

Berard attended two Bear Lake meetings noting their annual meeting is 9/4/10. He noted the assessment has been lowered for next year, they have completed a road-side bulletin board and a weed assessment is scheduled for next year. He is scheduled to take a tour of the lake with other members after the annual meeting.

Evsich noted the Thunder Lake annual meeting is 8/28/10 at 9 a.m. at Don Burnside Park.

Rudolph noted the Horsehead Lake annual meeting is 8/14/10 at 9 a.m. The 2011 budget is set and will be presented for approval along with a final report on their lake study.

FSA: Susan Hunter provided FSA report for August and reviewed program signups available through their office at this time.

OCEDC: Kumbera noted OCEDC will have a resolution for approval at the August County Board meeting requesting to borrow up to \$1 million from BCPL for ABX for expansion. County Board members will receive a letter from OCEDC discussing the economic base of the County and this expansion project. OCEDC is also seeking additional tax incremental financing from the City of Rhineland. Kumbera is unable to attend the August meeting due to family issues; however, Tony Haug will represent ABX and Al Ruetten will represent OCEDC. Kumbera will be available via telephone if needed.

Kumbera noted the unfortunate loss of Solon. The company initially located here because of the availability of white birch but now that supply must be brought in. The parent company made a corporate decision to stay with their primary business in Canada. Kumbera plans to have discussions at the corporate level regarding the 30,000 square foot building which is located on 18 acres.

LWCB: Rudolph attended a meeting in Madison recently noting staff funding is a big issue. It seems Oneida County will maintain current funding due to staff competency and use of grant funds. Four resource management plans were also approved. LWCB will continue to work on future funding streams to support county land and water departments.

WLWCA: Rudolph reported WLWCA is working with LWCB and other partners to address funding issues for LWC staffing. Board meeting will be held in Stevens Point on 8/18/10 with election of officers. Rudolph is current Vice President of WLWCA.

RC&D: Rudolph reported the annual conference is 9/22-24/10 in LaCrosse. Registrations are due to the LWC office by 8/31/10.

Public comment: Rudolph urged members to attend Committee meetings since we will be one member short due to Dean's absence. He noted he received many repercussions because the July meeting ended unexpectedly due to lack of quorum leaving public comments unheard.

Rudolph voiced his understanding that staff and committee members have other commitments but encouraged attendance at association meetings when possible as he feels Oneida County should be represented and he cannot continue to do it by himself. He also reminded staff to give committee members sufficient time to respond to emails as they may not be available to check email daily.

Evsich thanked Vandervest for representing the committee by volunteering at the 2010 Oneida County Fair.

Items to be included on next agenda: Ison noted the budget will be up for approval at the 9/13/10 meeting as it is due 9/15/10 to the Finance Department.

Adjournment: Motion by Pederson/Vandervest at 4:17 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Ison, Recording Secretary

Thomas Rudolph, Chair