

Agriculture & Extension Education/Land & Water Conservation Committee
May 16, 2011
Minutes

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

Others present: Nancy Hollands, Jean Hansen, Michele Sadauskas, Kari Lazars, Michael Stinebrink (NRCS), Dan Kuzlik, Jim Kumbera, Erica Brewster, Susan Hunter, Tina Werres and Kerri Ison.

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

Approve agenda: Motion by Dean/Evsich to approve agenda as presented with order of the day at the discretion of the Chair. All ayes; motion carried.

Introduce AIS Coordinator LTE: Kuzlik introduced Michele Sadauskas, AIS Coordinator LTE. Roundtable introductions were held. Sadauskas started with Oneida County on 5/2/11 and is scheduled for 600 hours during the summer. She is originally from Conover and is a graduate of UW Stevens Point with a degree in forestry and plant ecology. Tim Plude, AIS Technician LTE, has returned for another season and started today. There is still one AIS Technician position to be filled. Discussion followed.

Approve minutes: Motion by Vandervest/Pederson to approve the minutes of April 11, 2011 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Agency reports:

NRCS: Stinebrink reported obligations for the conservation programs NRCS manages are winding down. Environmental quality incentive programs had 10 contracts approved totaling \$68,000. Projects include a grazing contract and forest stand improvements. The Conservation Stewardship application deadline is looming. Fourteen applications have been received, with 12 approved, securing \$55,000 every year for five years. Last year only three contracts were approved.

Operational agreement between Oneida County and USDA/NRCS: Stinebrink noted NRCS must have a partner in order to provide programs. In Oneida County it is through the Land and Water Conservation Department. Although the partnership here is less direct than a lot of the southern counties it still allows for the sharing of staff. This is a five-year contract and is standardized for the counties. Contract requires County Board Chair and Vice Chair signatures as well. Motion by Evsich/Vandervest to approve the operational agreement between Oneida County and USDA/NRCS. All ayes; motion carried.

Agency reports continued:

FSA: Susan Hunter reviewed written report. Many changes have been made to their budget including cuts to travel, salary, overtime, and postage. A hiring freeze has also been implemented.

OCEDC: Kumbera noted blacktopping has begun at the SpeedDee Delivery facility. Fiberoptic cable must still be relocated and then Airport Road will be paved. The ABX building is complete. Work continues on the final grade and storm water retention. OCEDC Board Selection Committee has conducted telephone interviews for the Executive Director position. Final interviews will be held soon. Kumbera continues to work on the rail issue and ways to provide service to those in need.

Lake Districts: Berard noted the Bear Lake District met recently. Most of discussion focused on county zoning issues and a weed survey which will be conducted this year. Evsich noted the Thunder Lake District met recently noting there is a good water level, but there is concern about paying for aerator expenses. Rudolph noted Horsehead Lake District will meet on 7/7/11.

LWCB: Rudolph reported an officer's conference call is scheduled this week to discuss the agenda for the full board meeting on 6/7/11 in Madison. Proposed bylaw changes regarding electronic transmittal of meeting materials and the forum on spreading of septage on fields will be discussed.

WLWCA: Rudolph noted the Ad Hoc Committee continues to work on the merging of WLWCA and WLACE with hopes to get it passed before the next spring election. This is a contentious issue between employees and county board members. The Executive Director continues to lobby for the Association on key legislative issues with a conservation impact.

RC&D: Rudolph reported support for RC&D has been eliminated from the federal budget. The local office is financially solvent and continues to generate revenue and is able to continue to operate at current levels. A long discussion was held at the state meeting and all seven councils are planning to continue with "business as usual" if they are able. The Regional RC&D conference (8 north central states) is scheduled for 9/14-16/11 at the Ramada in Stevens Point.

Fair update: Werres reported Cindy Eckardt has resigned from the Fair Committee. Eric Britton has been appointed to the position. Electrical upgrades are planned prior to the Fair but she is unaware of schedule. The missing scrapbooks were returned to the River News office.

Dates of future meetings:

June 20, 2011	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room
July 12, 2011	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room

Monthly staff reports:

Winkler reported 4-H is again partnering with Walmart to host the 2011 Family Fishing Fun Day. He provided a flier highlighting this year's event noting over 200 attendees in 2010. Composting workshop at the Senior Center was well attended.

Brewster reported the Poverty Simulation scheduled for 5/21/11 has been cancelled due to lack of participation. She and other colleagues attended a Raising a Thinking Child "training of trainers" in an effort to expand the curriculum to additional sites in the fall.

Hollands reviewed written report in detail. Kuzlik will facilitate the Citizens Advisory Committee for the LWRM plan.

Hansen noted a terrestrial invasive species informational meeting will be held 6/20/11 at LUHS. Additional information is forthcoming.

Lazers reported Cantastic raised 3,567 pounds of food for RAFF. The Leadership Oneida County (LOC) "Fill a Backpack" campaign helped raise \$5,000 and recruited 15 new volunteers. Additional donations are still being received.

Sadauskas provided written report. She has been sending weekly email communications to lake associations and is utilizing Facebook to help reach a different audience.

Kuzlik reported LOC presented Mel Davidson with a "Community Person of the Year" award at their recent graduation ceremony. The Secretary of Transportation will be in Rhinelander on 6/2/11. Kumbera has additional details.

WNEP annual agreement: WNEP provides the educational component of the USDA federal food stamp grant program. Programming includes nutrition education, food safety, hand washing, stretching food dollars, etc. WNEP is a federally funded program which draws federal dollars for indirect supports such as office space, computer support, electricity, telephone, salaries, etc. An annual agreement is required to continue to provide the in-kind services listed above to continue the WNEP program in each county. Lazers provided a copy of the written agreement and reviewed with Committee. Contract period is October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012. Motion by Vandervest/Pederson to approve the WNEP annual agreement as presented. Discussion followed. All ayes; motion carried. Rudolph will sign agreement as Chair.

Out-of-county travel requests:

Brewster:

5/12/11 Family Impact Seminar
5/20/11 Mental Health Summit
5/21/11 Poverty Simulations

Stevens Point**
Eagle River*
Antigo*

5/25/11	UWEX "Gracious Space" Facilitation Training	Stevens Point*
6/8-9/11	Mentor networking visit	Douglas County*
6/10/11	ND Family Living/WNEP meeting	Ashland**

Hollands:

6/10/11	North Central Assn. spring conference	Antigo*
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Kuzlik:

6/7/11	Grow North membership meeting	Merrill*
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Winkler:

5/26/11	Camp Counselor training	Antigo*
6/13/11	Camp Counselor training @ Camp Susan	Langlade Co.*
TBD	Camp planning meeting	Langlade Co.*

Horticulture Assistant LTE

6/1/11	Horticulture training	Eau Claire*
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AIS LTES

5/24/11	Watercraft meeting @ UWSP	Stevens Point*
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Committee:

6/10/11	North Central Assn. Spring Conference	Antigo*
7/21/11	RC&D meeting	Shawano Co.*

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

Update on Lake Nokomis proposed Lake District: Corporation Counsel has received notice the County is being sued by Lake Nokomis Concerned Citizens (LNCC) as they secured required signatures according to State Statute. The issue is on the County Board meeting agenda for tomorrow. Discussion followed. This committee initially approved the petition and spoke to the issue at the county board level and followed proper procedure. Rudolph believes it was a mistake for the County to deny the petition and wondered if the Board can reconsider their actions to avoid a costly legal battle. Vandervest felt the timeline has passed so the County must decide how to respond to the lawsuit. Kuzlik felt the Board can authorize spending funds to defend the lawsuit or let the judge decide the outcome. Additional discussion followed.

Dean left at 3 p.m.

Evaluation of department programs/services: All county departments have been asked to evaluate their programs. This process originated from the Ad Hoc Committee

on Consolidation to look at evaluating all county programs in all county departments. Process is due to the County Coordinator today and will be forwarded to the Efficiency Team for review.

Kuzlik reviewed charts and spreadsheet with the Committee. He noted UWEX does not budget by programs because they are integrated and cross programming is common in the department. He referenced a chart which indicated that all UWEX programs and staff costs are only supported at 47% of the total budget by the county levy and 53% from state, federal and other sources. Kuzlik also noted several suggestions on saving additional dollars were presented to the Consolidation Committee. He will be meeting with that committee in the future to walk them through the UWEX budget.

Hollands reviewed charts and spreadsheet with the Committee. Overall, LWC programs operate 60% from revenue and 40% from the county levy. If programs are cut, revenues/reimbursements are decreased. Hollands ranked the programs but noted it was difficult as all are intertwined in the Land and Water Resource Management Plan and funded by state revenues.

Rudolph noted UWEX and LWC programs are somewhat similar as funding comes from outside sources other than just the county.

Motion by Vandervest/Evsich to forward program evaluation results for UWEX and LWC to the Efficiency Team as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve monthly budget reports:

Motion by Vandervest/Pederson to approve the UWEX monthly budget report for the period ending 4/30/11. All ayes; motion carried.

Hollands reviewed the LWC monthly budget report in detail. Motion by Berard/Pederson to approve the LWC monthly budget report for the period ending 4/30/11. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve monthly invoices: Motion by Vandervest/Evsich to approve the monthly invoices for UWEX as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

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

Motion by Berard/Vandervest to approve the monthly invoices for LWC as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve line item transfers: Ison submitted a line item transfer in the amount of \$545 to correct a journal entry completed in May 2010 for the Northwoods Saves

account and a line item transfer in the amount of \$594 to correct the continuing appropriation account for the Oneida County Fair. Motion by Vandervest/Berard to approve the line item transfers as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Non-budgeted item request: Ison submitted a non-budgeted item request for a new copy machine. The current machine is approximately nine years old and has run 1.9 million copies. Recently, the finisher/sorter broke and was costly to repair/replace. Curt Krouze directed Ison to get an estimate from EO Johnson Company and submit a non-budgeted item request. Discussion followed. Motion by Vandervest/Berard to forward the non-budgeted item request for a new copy machine to Buildings and Grounds for approval. All ayes; motion carried.

County cost share program: Hansen noted rip rap construction on a Lake Tomahawk project is completed and plantings will be finished in next few weeks. A Crescent Lake project is scheduled for the end of the month. The prescribed grazing plan/fencing project in Monico is progressing. Hansen hopes to have the contract ready for approval at the June meeting. The cost share program is still generating interest and Hansen reviewed potential contracts.

LWRM Plan update: Hollands noted the Citizens Advisory Committee roster includes: Bob Martini, Bryan Pierce, Matt Matteson, Bob Evsich, Mike Bryan and Tom Roush. Hollands will also contact Jackie Cody. Documentation will be provided to group for review prior to the 6/9/11 meeting. Fred Heider, NCWRPC, will attend the meeting and Kuzlik will lead nominal group process portion. Plan is due to DATCP in October.

DATCP grant contract for calendar year 2011: Hollands reported the total DATCP contract for 2011 is \$223,310 and includes staffing costs. Motion by Pederson/Berard to approve the DATCP grant contract for calendar year 2011 and authorized Rudolph to sign the contract and commit monies for Oneida County.

Select Conservation Youth Camp scholarship recipients: Hollands noted an application was received for Youth Conservation Camp from Stephanie Belanger. Motion by Vandervest/Pederson to award Stephanie Belanger a scholarship for Youth Conservation Camp. All ayes; motion carried. Motion by Vandervest/Berard to award one additional scholarship if only one further application is received. All ayes; motion carried.

Staff vacancies: Kuzlik officially received notice that Nancy Hollands will retire on June 8, 2011. Hollands noted her position has been a big part of her life for 36 years and has enjoyed working for the County. If there are questions or staff needs assistance she is only a phone call away. Committee voiced their appreciation for Hollands' dedication to the land and water issues of County and wished her the best in the future. Rudolph personally thanked her for all her assistance throughout the years.

Rudolph noted that 100% of the Conservationist position is funded by DATCP and believes this critical position should not fall under the six-month mandatory vacancy policy.

Public comment/communications: Rudolph noted Oneida County is hosting WI Counties Forest Association Summer Tour 6/22-24/11. This event is rotated throughout 29 counties and is a great opportunity to see what the county forest is all about – not only recreational activities but as a renewable resource. An agenda was provided to Committee members for review. Additional information is available through the Forestry Department.

Hollands noted the North Central Area Association Spring Conference will be held 6/10/11 in Antigo. Registration is due 6/2/11. Rudolph urged Committee members to attend. Contact Hollands to register.

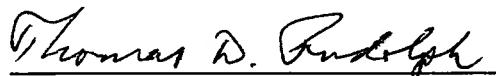
Items to be included on next agenda: Staff vacancies, Lake Nokomis proposed Lake District.

Adjournment: Motion by Vandervest/Evsich to adjourn at 3:53 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kerri Ison, Recording Secretary



Tom Rudolph, Chair

