

**Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee**  
**February 9, 2015**  
**Minutes**

**Committee members present:** Chairman Tom Rudolph, Bob Mott, Robb Jensen, Scott Holewinski, and Kim Simac. Excused: Jim Intrepid

**Others present:** Jean Hansen, Michele Sadauskas, Lynn Feldman, Sara Richie, and Merry Lehner. Excused: Jim Tharman, Matt Peplinski, and Fred Heider.

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rudolph at 1:30 p.m. noting the meeting has been properly posted and the facility is handicap accessible. If the NCWRPC attends, that item will be moved forward so they can present.

**Approve Agenda:** Motion by Jensen/Holewinski to approve today's agenda with the order of the items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

**Approve Minutes:** Motion by Holewinski/Jensen to approve the minutes of 1/12/15. All ayes; motion was carried.

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

March 16, 2015	1:30 p.m.	Airport Meeting Room, Mott will Chair meeting
April 13, 2015	1:30 p.m.	Airport Meeting Room

**Re-application for WEEB Grant**

Michele Sadauskus presented information on re-applying for the WEEB (Wisconsin Environmental Education Board) grant. They had applied for this grant last year but funding was not there so now they are re-applying for 2015. The name of the grant is Inter-Regional Approach to Youth Aquatic Invasive Species Education. The grant amount will be \$5,230. There will be a 25% match but they will also be partnering with two school districts. They will be working in the Mellen School District in Ashland County and in Rhinelander. They will compare ecosystems with AIS and do field work and some outreach material. A blog will be developed geared towards 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders. These are pilot classes. Teachers are donating into the grant with video cameras to be used out in the field so they can live stream it back to the classroom to learn more about AIS. There will be 1,400 students involved in the classes. Sadauskus will need approval from the committee. A motion was made by Mott to approve the re-application of the WEEB grant. Rudolph seconded the motion. All Ayes; the motion carried.

**Speaking & Poster Contest (Local & Area) Update**

Land and Water Conservation will host the Oneida County Conservation Speaking Contest at 5 pm. Thursday, February 12, in the County Board Room (second floor) at the Courthouse. Area youth have the opportunity to write and give a speech promoting the conservation of natural resources, and to protect and enhance the environment. Jean Hansen commended Sadauskas and Jonna Jewell for their hard work in coordinating this project with teachers and schools to have children participate in this contest. The poster contest will be judged Tuesday, February 10, 2015. The theme is "Local Heroes-Your Hardworking Pollinators". Poster contest winners will have copies of their artwork displayed at the speaking contest on Thursday. The posters will remain on display at the Courthouse. First place winners will advance to the Area Competition, involving ten counties, and will be held at

the Courthouse on February 20. The speaking contest begins at 10:00 am. followed by the poster contest. The Awards Celebration begins at 11:30 am. Afterwards, the NCLWCA business meeting will be in the afternoon.

### **NCLWCA Area Meeting – February 20**

The business meeting of the North Central Land & Water Conservation Association will begin at approximately 12:40 pm on Friday, February 20 at Committee Room #2, following the awards presentation. Rudolph encouraged members to attend this entire event.

### **Consent Agenda Items:**

Discussion to clarify budgeted money on wildlife crop damage was addressed. Jim Tharman is involved with the land owners to prevent further damage. Mott moved to approve the consent agenda items as stated and Holewinski seconded it. All ayes; motion was approved.

### **Staff Report – Jean Hansen**

Hansen presented the Land & Water Conservation Forestry Rental Program. She wants inform the public that this program is available. There is not requirement to be a resident or business of Oneida County to rent this equipment. Hansen will be contacting forest managers and contractors to inform them of the availability of this equipment as a way to generate more revenue. The revenue goes to the LWCD budget, where \$500 is reserved for repairs. This forestry equipment was received from Lumberjack RC&D some years ago. LWC partners with the Wisconsin DNR to rent it out and the equipment is stored and maintained at the DNR garage. The DNR assists the renter with loading and instructions. Available equipment includes a portable timber bridge, tree planter, and a scarifier. The portable timber bridge is 25 x 10 feet and is designed to be used in logging operations. It is not made for public roads, but is designed to be hauled to sites in two pieces. It is used to span across low lying areas or creek beds. It supports 100,000 pounds. It is rented by the month. The tree planter is usually rented in the spring where it coincides with the annual DNR Tree Sale. A tractor or other suitable vehicle is needed to pull the planter in the field. The renter must provide the vehicle and it is rented by the day. The third equipment item is an anchor chain or scarifier, which is rented out \$15 an acre. It is used to loosen soil and smooth the ground before planting. It has a trailer for hauling it on site and is used with large machinery. Rental agreements and insurance requirements were outlined to the committee. All the machinery requires a deposit for use of the equipment that will be refunded afterwards. There is a late fee of \$10 charged if the equipment is not returned on time. The committee commented that if the tree planter is rented daily, and is returned a day late, the user should be charged the full amount of an additional day instead of just a \$10 fee. This issue will be on the agenda for the next committee meeting.

### **Agency reports:**

Lake Districts: No new reports on Lake Nokomis, Mid Lake, Thunder, and Horsehead. Jensen provided minutes from Bear Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District.

USDA, APHIS: None were present; no reports available.

FSA: Simac had nothing new to report.

NRCS, DNR: No report.

OCEDC: Roger Luce is in North Carolina attending the funeral of his son.

LWCB: No new report

RC&D: Project proposals were reviewed and they funded six grant proposals on Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> in Langlade County. The Bat Monitoring Project and the Veterans stage proposals were was accepted that had been presented to this committee. All in total, \$75,000 was allocated tentatively. Some are at the

final stage of the process and some were at the first review. They will be finalized on April 30 in Menominee County.

**WACEC:** (WI Association of County Extension Committees). There was a teleconference held on Friday for the Northern Region, Rudolph was unable to attend due to a death in the family. There is another upcoming meeting for the Northern Region, which will be addressed further down on the agenda. A new Associate Dean, Annie Jones, was appointed to replace Yvonne Horton for UW-Extension.

### **NCWRPC Study:**

Mott, as well as the rest of the committee questioned why no email was received about the results of the study, as had been promised, at the last meeting by Lisa Charbarneau. Feldman stated that she had contacted Coleman Peiffer who informed her that the study was complete but that LRES had opted to review it on their own first, before sharing the results. No information will be released until the LRES meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, 2015.

### **Farmland Preservation Plan**

#### **Approval of Farmland Preservation Plan Resolution**

Fred Heider was unable to attend meeting today. It was decided that the Committee cannot approve anything today because of the changes DATCP has proposed. The items will be rescheduled to the March Agenda. A motion was made by Jensen to table Agenda Items 5 and 6 until the next meeting. Mott seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

### **CNRED Agent Position- Action on the next steps**

There are interviews scheduled for Thursday morning, February 12 for the LTE interim position. This is what the Committee had decided at the last meeting: a motion was made by Jensen/Holewinski to have an LTE interim position where there will be 720 working hours available for an LTE to work the CNRED position until the regular position is filled. The regular CNRED agent position will be filled as a full time contracted position. It must be determined whether the six month waiting period can be waived for that full-time regular state position. A motion was previously made to take it to Corporation Counsel regarding if this contracted position needed to go under the vacancy review process. Corporation Counsel recommended that the position should go through the review process. The decision from this committee was to opt for the six month review waiver. Feldman had completed the vacancy review form and submitted it to LRES. At the January 28, 2015 LRES meeting almost all were in favor and ready to waive the vacancy review, but one person felt no action should be taken until after the NCWRPC study was completed. At the time of this meeting, no further action can be taken on posting the full time CNRED position until after the aforementioned study is reviewed. The committee will request a waiver on the six month review so they can move forward in filling the full time CNRED position. A motion was made by Jensen/Mott to request a waiver of the six month waiting period pending the NCWRPC report, if the study results were positive. All ayes; motion carried.

### **WACEC North Central Region Annual Meeting**

Tom Rudolph would like to encourage all the Committee members to attend this meeting if at all possible. This is an opportunity meet with the Extension oversight committee members of the 20 counties which make up the North Central Region. It will be located at the Waters of Minocqua on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 9:15 am to 3:00 pm. Committee members can forward their completed RSVPs to Merry at the Extension Office.

### **Office Space/Air Quality:**

The wall in the conveyor room is complete except for the space above the sub-ceiling and where the doorway is located to access that enclosed area. It was to be completed by February 13, but it is not totally done. The end of February still is a possible deadline. It was asked if there has been a change in the amount of diesel fumes noticed. Feldman said Joe Brauer had mentioned that the wall will not eliminate the fumes altogether. It will help the main office closest to the conference room. The area most affected is in the offices on the east end of the basement. Historically, the problem has been worst in this area that houses the WNEP and the Family Living offices. There have been attempts made in the past to address complaints in this area regarding air quality. The wall that was just constructed will not alleviate fume problems to these offices at all, which are on the opposite side of the luggage conveyor.

There were 55 entries logged for the month of January where 16 days out of 20 business days of the month had fumes complaints logged. In the morning for the month there were only 7 reports of fumes, however, there were 35 logged between 3 pm and 5 pm where fumes were at a level that caused discomfort.

Jensen stated that the challenge is what level of fumes was acceptable because county workers at the garage experience fumes. It was clarified that the fumes may not be acceptable for office space versus an industrial setting per the NIOSH report. One recommendation of NIOSH was to have counter air flow vents installed to bring in more fresh air to the existing ventilation system. With the pending re-model in the budget, it was suggested this additional ventilation system be a priority. Holewinski stated that we need to identify where the air intakes are and there is no reason why this area can't have fresh air. He added that you can't get rid of all the fumes at an airport, especially if the wind blows the jet exhaust towards the building. Feldman replied that there are fumes present upstairs in the lobby but that there is enough air flow upstairs that the fumes are flushed out more quickly.

Cigarette smoke is due to smokers standing too close to the building or by the doors. Brauer has addressed staff that they are to smoke only in designated areas. The UW-Extension Staff has been encouraged to report and investigate where cigarette smoke is coming from so that information can be forwarded to Brauer.

Holewinski said there is a device that the fire department uses that measure particulate matter in the air. Feldman will contact Terri Williams to see if a device is available so the lower level can once again be analyzed. Richie stated that the public health department has a device as well.

### **UW-Extension Phone Expenses**

Two telephone lines were eliminated where one line was still active on a former Land & Water Conservation office and the other was a WNEP line that no longer was in use. A net savings by \$51.14 per month resulted in this action.

### **Oneida County Fair Update**

Feldman gave an update in Intrepidi's absence that the Fair has formed some committees for their strategic long range plan. The Fair Planning team is making up committees for this next summer and more people are attending the Fair meetings. Some new marketing ideas were presented by Jim Hext, of Hext Theaters, who attended his first fair meeting this month. He has volunteered to offer his help in web design skills to update and maintain the Fair Website. Leadership Oneida County has been working with Nancy Gehrig in the development of a volunteer structure. They will look at sustaining members and raising money. They will continue to follow up with their steps in the strategic plan to set up standing committees. The long range plan is to meet several times a year to work on these issues. This action will be under the Fair Committee, not Gehrig. The Fair Board has

had discussions on what would be needed for the existing Fair location to make it function better as well as exploring new sites for the future. All these decisions will have to be brought forth to this committee if and when they come to fruition. It was noted that the number of hours could be reduced that are held by the treasurer per former Treasurer, Terri Angell. There was discussion on what the final figures were for the Fair last year. More money was paid out to the coordinator than the previous year where more hours had been volunteered. Overall the Fair did better last year than from the year before. More ideas from the public have been presented this year over previous years. Gehrig's contract 2015 was approved last month and she has received payment for January and February.

### **Approval of Fair Volunteers**

Four new Fair volunteers have been approved and background checks are complete. These four people, Dick Garrow, Nathan Neuber, Aprelle Rawski, and Thomas Rawski, will be part of the decision making process of the Fair Committee. A motion was made by Mott and Holewinski to approve the four new Fair volunteers. All ayes; motion was approved.

### **Public comment:**

Tom Rudolph thanked the staff for condolences on death of his sister. Rudolph returned early from the NACD National Annual Meeting in New Orleans to attend the funeral. He promoted further support for invasive species while attending. Rudolph mentioned to the committee that he received a very heartwarming email from a constituent regarding the work that Feldman has accomplished with the 4-H Program.

Mott noted that the Governor's budget will put a freeze on stewardship money for forestry and asked that each talk to the legislature regarding this. There are also 66 positions with the DNR where 18 are science positions studying fish and wildlife. He encouraged all to contact their law makers.

**Items for next agenda:** NCWRPC Study Results, 2015 Fair Strategic Planning, CNRED Next Steps, and Air Quality/Office Space. LWC Late fees on Rentals. Position Description for AIS Coordinator for Vilas County.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Jensen/Mott to adjourn at 3:29 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary



Bob Mott, Acting Committee Chair