

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
January 13, 2014
Minutes

Committee members present: Chairman Tom Rudolph, Jim Intrepidi, Bob Martini and Bob Mott. Absent: Greg Berard (excused) and Clint Zimbeck.

Others present: Erica Brewster, Tim Brown, Lynn Feldman, Jean Hansen, Michele Sadauskas, Jonathan Anderson (media) and Kerri Ison.

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.

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

Approve minutes: Motion by Martini/Intrepidi to approve the minutes of 12/9/13 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Date(s) of future meetings:

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| February 10, 2014 | 1:30 p.m. | Extension meeting room |
| March 17, 2014 | 1:30 p.m. | Extension meeting room |

Consent agenda items: (additional out-of-county travel requested)

Hansen:

| | | |
|---------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1/16/14 | Lumberjack RC&D | Vilas County |
| 1/17/14 | WHIP | Vilas County |

Motion by Martini/Intrepidi to approve the consent agenda items as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Office space update:

- Brewster noted an offer to purchase has been submitted to the County. Land Records Committee will meet to discuss on 1/13/14. Discussion followed.
- Brewster made the Committee aware of issues with fumes in the office and how staff members are being affected, especially during flight times. Lengthy discussion followed.
- Discussion followed regarding the resolutions about office space for Land Conservation and UW-Extension which were postponed at the December County Board meeting.

Monthly staff report: Brown made a presentation regarding a survey developed to determine why young people choose to stay or leave Rhineland/Oneida County and what they consider the area's assets. Lengthy discussion followed.

Oneida County Fair update:

- Discussion followed regarding a potential agreement with the City of Rhineland

regarding the Oneida County Fair. The City is willing to upgrade the park but want to know that the County is committed to keeping the Fair at Pioneer Park. Martini suggested having a memorandum of understanding. Motion by Martini/Intrepidi directing staff seek resolution as to whether there should be a formal agreement in place and to work with Corporation Counsel and the Fair Planning Committee to draft a resolution or MOU if needed. All ayes; motion carried.

- Nancy Gehrig is still very committed to the Fair, but due to family issues she may be unable to take on the Fair Coordinator role. She is still interested in volunteering. Kim Swisher is able and willing to take on the role. Brewster reviewed her background and skill set. Brewster worked with Corporation Counsel to develop an independent contract for a paid Fair Coordinator and provided a copy for Committee review. Discussion followed regarding insurances required and costs. A summary of the 2014 budget was provided for review and discussion followed regarding finalizing the cost of contract. Motion Intrepidi/Mott to approve the independent contract agreement as presented. All ayes; motion carried.
- Motion by Martini/Mott to appoint Intrepidi as liaison to the Fair Planning Team. All ayes; motion carried.

Agency reports:

Lake Districts: Intrepidi noted Lake Nokomis will meet in a few weeks. Mott noted a Mid Lake meets next week. Rudolph reported Horsehead Lake meets in April.

LWCB: Rudolph noted that due to merger and the change for the annual meeting, there is an issue in submitting a timely nomination for LWCB representation. Hansen noted the nomination can be sent via email. She will work with Rudolph regarding nomination submission.

WLWCA: Rudolph attended the NACD North Central Region Board meeting in Chicago last week and summarized presentations focused on terrestrial invasive species. He drafted a resolution for the upcoming NACD meeting in Anaheim.

RC&D: Rudolph noted the next Lumberjack meeting is scheduled for 1/16/14 in Vilas County.

WACEC: Brewster reminded committee members of the North Central Region WACEC meeting on 2/21/14 in Rothschild. Registration and agenda were provided.

AIS grants: Sadauskas discussed applying for another WEEB grant (under \$5,000) to work with Rhinelander and Mellen School Districts to develop a blog or website to reach expanded areas in the state. Sadauskas and Feldman have also discussed applying for an innovation grant (under \$5,000) through UWEX for a science-oriented project doing research and data collection with large purple bladderwort. Lengthy discussion followed.

DATCP Farmland Preservation Plan requirement/grant: Hansen reported a Farmland Preservation Plan is required for counties to participate in the program. The deadline for Oneida County is 12/31/14. She has been working with Jennrich (Planning and Zoning Director) on this process and he has been in contact with North Central Regional Planning for assistance. Hansen noted a grant is available to help cover the costs of a plan, but noted LWC staff salary cannot be included in the grant as salaries are already reimbursed through

DATCP staffing grants. Planning and Zoning staff time and additional costs could be covered by the grant. Rudolph noted Hansen should take the lead on this project as it is under the LWC scope. Lengthy discussion followed. She will continue to research the project and report at a future meeting.

County-cost share program update/approvals: Hansen reported that \$5,000 of 2013 funding was not allocated as one applicant pulled out at the last minute. The 2014 allocation is \$55,000. She has spoken to a few interested parties.

Public comment/communications: Mott highly recommended attending Science on Tap in Minocqua. Programs are very informative and the setting is great.


Items for next agenda: Office space update, Oneida County Fair update (agreement with City of Rhinelander and Fair Coordinator contracts), DATCP Farmland Preservation Plan.

Adjournment: Motion by Intrepidi/Rudolph to adjourn at 4:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kerri Ison, Recording Secretary


Thomas Rudolph, Chair