

**Conservation and UWEX Education Committee**  
**May 7, 2012**  
**Minutes**

**Committee members present:** Chairman Tom Rudolph, Bob Mott, Jim Intrepidi, Bob Martini, Greg Berard and Clint Zimbeck.

**Others present:** Erica Brewster, Kari Lazars, Mike Romportl, Brian Desmond, Jean Hansen, Michele Sadauskas, Angela Wenninger, Susan Hunter and Kerri Ison.

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

Roundtable introductions were held.

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

**Lake Nokomis Lake District petition:** Desmond noted the updated Lake Nokomis report has been submitted to the Oneida County Clerk. He reviewed the two ways to qualify for a lake district: 51% of landowner signatures or 51% of land area signatures. The petition has qualified under the area qualification as 69.16% of total acres in the proposed district have been signed for. This report contains all the same elements of previous report but includes latest calculations. This report will be provided to the County Board on 5/15/12 for review with a decision being rendered before August.

**Public comment:** John Bowman spoke on behalf of the Lake Nokomis Concerned Citizens (LNCC). The law states that County Board has four things they can consider for a lake district: number of owners, necessity of a lake district, public welfare will be promoted, county included will benefit. Lincoln County has several tax roles, none of which meet the requirement of the law. A tax role must be properly certified by the town clerk and the clerk must sign/date the certification prior to turning it over to the tax collector. This is not done in Lincoln County. Lincoln County also shows up to four owners, however they don't list all of the addresses. The tax role that LNCC received had two owners listed and the one Oneida County received listed up to four owners which increased the number of signatures required in order to certify as a lake district. LNCC feels if they need to go back to court, they will state the County has not done a proper job in producing a tax roll and review of data. Bowman plans to prepare a detailed written report prior to County Board stating their position. There are four lake districts in Oneida County and two are within one mile of Lake Nokomis; both have \$25 annual fees.

McDonald noted the intent was to submit the petition with 51% of signatures but LNCC was unable to meet that goal due to discrepancies in the Lincoln County tax roles. The group truly wants to do the right thing for the lake and the landowners understand the property tax implications.

Martini worked on Lake Nokomis for many years during his career with the DNR. He believes the Lake District is needed and would be very useful. Motion by Martini/Mott to endorse the approval by the County Board of the Lake Nokomis Lake District, to approve the report and forward to County Board with recommended approval. All ayes; motion carried.

**Fair update:** Werres reported vendor letters have been sent and volunteers are currently working on entertainment contracts. Sponsor booklet and updated operational guidelines were provided for Committee review. Several Planning Team members have resigned leaving four vacancies

**Select Committee Vice Chair:** Martini was unanimously appointed as Vice Chair.

**Minutes:** Motion by Berard/Rudolph to approve the minutes of 4/9/12 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

**Dates of future meetings:**

6/11/12      1:30 p.m.      Extension meeting room

**Select Committee representatives/alternates:**

- North Central Land & Water Conservation Association: NCA meets quarterly. Rudolph is current president. Martini volunteered as alternate.
- Lumberjack RC&D: Meets quarterly. Rudolph is treasurer and will continue to serve in that capacity. Mott volunteered as alternate.
- Lake Districts: Horsehead (Rudolph); Bear (Berard); Intrepidi (Thunder); Mott (Mid).
- Fair Planning Team: Berard volunteered as committee liaison.

**Agency reports:**

- *Lake Districts:*
  - Berard reported Bear Lake conducted a weed survey and are having issues with parking. Budget will be discussed at the next meeting.
  - Rudolph reported Horsehead Lake district met in April. A landowner offered to donate a lake parcel to the District and they are investigating how to proceed. Martini suggested contacting Bryan Pierce with Northwoods Land Trust to see if it meets their criteria.
- *FSA:* The FSA office administers the programs approved in the federal Farm Bill. The Rhinelander office staff has been cut with all staff members being reassigned/relocated effective 6/4/12. The Rhinelander office will remain open Tuesday/Thursday from 8 am-4 pm and will be staffed by Matt Pepinski, Director of the Lincoln/Marathon County offices. Hunter reviewed available programs. Committee wished her luck in her new position.
- *LWCB:* Rudolph noted a focus group will be formed to address funding allocations. North Central LWC Association meeting is scheduled for 6/8/12 in Antigo.
- *WLWCA:* Rudolph reported WLWCA has recently merged with WLWCE and have hired Jim Vandenbrook as Executive Director.
- *RC&D:* National conference will be held in Madison 6/10-13/12. National conference is held every three years and rotates throughout the country. Rudolph urged committee members to attend.

**Monthly staff reports:** As an orientation for new committee members, Brewster requested staff provide a brief written overview of their positions/programs/duties in lieu of a monthly report. Brewster reviewed an organizational chart with the committee and how positions are funded. Staff members reviewed specific programming efforts to help familiarize committee members with the departments. Discussion followed.

Bob Mott was excused at 3:21 p.m.

**North Central LWC Association meeting:** Rudolph provided agenda for the meeting in Antigo on 6/8/12. Registration is due 5/31/12. Rudolph encouraged committee members and staff to attend.

**Approve out-of-county travel requests:**

Brewster:

5/10/12	ND Family Living In-service	Price County*
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Winkler:

5/15/12	ACA Camp visit	Stevens Point*
5/16/12	ND 4H Agent meeting	Ashland*
5/20/12	Camp Counselor Training	Langlade County*

Hansen:

TBD	WHIP LTE interviews	Vilas County*
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Committee:

6/8/12	North Central Assn. meeting	Antigo*
6/10-13/12	NARC & CD National Conference	Madison*

\*county expense

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

**Monthly budget reports:**

- Motion by Berard/Intrepidi to approve the LWC monthly budget report for the period ending 3/31/12 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.
- Motion by Martini/Berard to approve the UWEX monthly budget reports for the periods ending 3/31/12 and 4/30/12. All ayes; motion carried.

**Monthly invoices:**

- Motion by Martini/Intrepidi to approve the monthly invoices for LWC as presented. All ayes; motion carried.
- Motion by Berard/Martini to approve the monthly invoices for UWEX and the Oneida County Fair as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

**DATCP Grant Application for Calendar Year 2013:**

- Brewster reported the 2013 DATCP grant application was submitted by the 4/15/12 deadline. Funding was requested for a 100% time conservationist and 70% of a conservation specialist. She noted Oneida County took a substantial cut in the staffing grant allocation because of the vacancy created when Hollands retired. Brewster spoke with DATCP who indicated if the County Conservationist position is refilled by the end of November the staffing grant will reflect that projected amount for 2013.

**County Conservationist/CNRED Agent positions update:**

- Brewster provided a spreadsheet offering several hiring options for the County Conservationist position. DATCP provides funding for up to three positions in varying amounts. Discussion followed. Motion by Martini/Intrepidi to support Option 1 for the

prospective 2013 staffing grant and forward to LRES for approval. All ayes; motion carried.

- Brewster provided a spreadsheet offering several hiring options for the CNRED position. The State pays 60% and the County pays 40% for agent positions. She also noted there will be salary savings due to lower hire rate than what was budgeted for 2012. Discussion followed. Motion by Martini/Berard recommending a 100% FTE CNRED position and forward to LRES for approval. All ayes; motion carried.
- Brewster will present requests for both positions at the LRES meeting on 5/23/12.
- Other staffing updates:
  - Permission received from the HR Director to hire a 600-hour LTE to backfill LWC Secretary I position.
  - Winkler announced his retirement effective in early August.

**County Cost Share Program update:** Hansen has been doing site visits -- nothing for approval at this time.

**Youth/Teacher Scholarships:** Ison reported there is \$600 budgeted for scholarships. Youth camp tuition has increased to \$175 (early bird registration fee). Motion by Berard/Martini to fund one full youth camp scholarship and two teacher scholarships in the amount of \$200 each. All ayes; motion carried.

Hansen was excused at 4:34 p.m.

**Public comment:** None.

**Items to be included on next agenda:** Fair guidelines, carnival contract, staffing/ office location.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Berard/Intrepidi at 4:36 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kerri Ison, Recording Secretary

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Thomas Rudolph, Chair