

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
October 20, 2014
Minutes

Committee members present: Chair Tom Rudolph, Jim Intrepidi, Bob Mott, Scott Holewinski, Robb Jensen. Clint Zimbeck excused.

Others present: Jean Hansen, Tim Brown, Lynn Feldman, Jim Tharman, Bob Willging, Fred Heider, Karl Jennrich, Kim Brown, and Merry Lehner.

Call to order and Chairperson's Announcements: The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chairman Tom Rudolph noting the meeting has been properly posted and the facility is handicap accessible. As of Wednesday, October 15th, we have a signed contract for a Family Living Agent. Her name is Sara Richie and she will be starting on December 1, 2014.

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

Approve minutes: Motion by Jensen/Intrepidi to approve the minutes of 9/8/14 as amended. All ayes; motion carried.

Dates of future meetings:

11/10/14	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room
12/8/14	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room

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2015 WDACP Budget Approval

Jim Tharman provided a budget report with the federal and state; it is basically the same budget but line items are set up differently. The budget is Federal and State funded. There was a 1% increase from last year. This increase is for salaries. Bob Willging introduced himself to newer members of the committee. He supervises the Northern half of the state. He wanted to check in as he has not attended an Oneida LCC meeting in a long time. For December, the meeting agenda should include an approval for crop prices where approval will be needed for a deer damage claim. Motion made to by Mott/Holewinski to approve the budget as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Jim Tharman and Bob Willging were excused at 1:45PM

Re-purpose Request for Soil Map Fund

An amount was taken out of the Soil Map Fund for a preapproved purchase of a canoe. Normally a line item transfer would take place, but this payment came out of an account that was a contingency fund, which is segregated to pay only for certain things versus a general fund. Once committee approves this as a re-purposed, then it will go back to administration. A suggestion was made that Finance and Land Conservation communicate in advance to agree on proper wording of presentations to make committee discussion go smoother for decision making. Holewinski/Jensen made a motion to repurpose \$802.00 for purchase of the canoe from Soil Map Fund for the purchase of a canoe. All ayes; motion carried.

Farmland Preservation Plan - Final Draft

Fred Heider from North Central Regional Planning Commission presented an update of Final Draft to the committee. Karl Jennrich, the zoning director, Oneida County Planning and Zoning was also present. Counties are revising their farmland preservation plans to meet new requirements designed to better protect farmland. Plans are now to be updated every 10 years. Once certified by DATCP, these plans ensure access to program benefits, including landowner eligibility for farmland preservation tax credits.

Eligible farmers located in a designated farmland preservation area may enter into voluntary agreements with the state in order to claim farmland preservation tax credits. The farmer has to agree to keep land in agricultural use for 15 years. The land will be used for agricultural or forestry uses and land use maps were presented to show which areas are eligible or not eligible for a \$6,000 tax credit, depending on if they fall into the accepted qualifications of commercial, agricultural or forestry lands. Maps were presented and discussed at length. It was agreed that further discussion will be needed to address some questions. It will be reviewed more at next meeting on November 10th. It will be added to agenda for next meeting.

Schedule Public Hearing for Farmland Preservation Plan

The date of the Public Hearing will be determined after reviewing updates at the November 10th committee meeting. Motion made for Public Hearing on Farmland Preservation Plan scheduled for Thursday, December 18, 2014 at 6:00PM at the courthouse, by Mott/Holewinski. All ayes; motion carried.

Heider and Henrichs were excused at 2:31PM

LWCD Presentation

Due to time constraints, this presentation on the Emerald Ash Borer was postponed until the next committee meeting. Handouts were distributed. It was mentioned that the county forests have some black and white ash trees. Most of the Ash trees are found in the city where dying Elm trees were replaced with Ash trees.

Land & Water Conservation – Program Assistant Update Approval:

What was approved at the last meeting was the hybrid position the committee approved, but LRES postponed approval until budget time, but then was not approved by LRES. Jonna Jewell will remain an LTD for 2015. Further discussion regarding LTE hours worked and monetary figures that would be covered for the remainder of 2014 and projected coverage for 2015 ensued. In order to clarify some questions the committee telephoned LRES during the meeting via teleconference. Committee would like to have a position available to give the department some help through the end of the year. LRES can make this Conservation Specialist position available and approve it for 90 days for the remainder of this year. Hansen and Charbarneau will have a meeting to go over the wording to support an additional LTE available through the end of the year and if additional money is needed, it will have to go to Administration. Motion was made that Jean Hansen will work with Lisa Charbarneau to provide

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LTE Conservation Specialist Services not to exceed 216 hours; if additional funding is necessary; it will be brought to Administration, by Jensen/Holewinski. All ayes; motion was carried.

Continuation of Fall/Winter Hours for AIS LTE Position – Michele Sadauskas

Michele is at Midwestern Invasive Species Conference in Duluth, so could not attend meeting today. Her LTE position is approved for 800 hours. She had extra money in budget from a carryover grant and the DNR approved for her to add some extra hours. She only has one LTE left now; there are more during the summer. Grant cycles have been changed and now approvals are in December. Discussion on funding and fall/winter hours went on and it was felt that Michele should be present at the next meeting. It will be put it on the agenda for the November 10th meeting.

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Consent Agenda Items:

- a. Approved out-of-county travel requests

Michele Sadauskas	10/19-10/22/14	Midwest Invasive Species Conference in Duluth, MN	
		Grant funded	
	11/5-11/6/14	State AIS Meeting, Stevens Point	Portage, Co
Tim Brown	10/07/14	Network Training in Wausau	Marathon Co
	10/22/14	Local Government in-service training	Dane Co
	10/28/14	CNRED Conference Wisconsin Dells	Sauk Co
Lynn Feldman	11/06/14	AODA Northern Coalition Meeting-Antigo	Langlade Co
Kim Brown	10/07/14	Regional Meeting in Wausau	Marathon Co
	10/28/14	Family Living Conference Wisconsin Dells	Sauk Co
	Weekly	Langlade County programming	Langlade Co

- b. Approved Monthly budget reports
- c. Approved Monthly invoices/purchase orders
- d. Approved Line item transfers

Motion to approve the consent agenda items a, b, and c was made by Jensen/Mott. All ayes; motion carried.

Motion to approve item d was made by Holewinski/Mott. All ayes; motion carried.

Agency Reports as Needed:

- Lake Districts: Jensen will get copies of last meeting for Bear Lake and will report at next meeting. Rudolph reported that Horsehead Lake is being stocked lake with Blue Gills and Crappies. No new report from Lake Nokomis, Bear Lake, and Mid Lake.
- USDA: Presented earlier in meeting.
- FSA: Not here to report.
- NRCS: No one present to report.
- OCEDC: Tim Brown relayed that he and Roger Luce spent many hours preparing a grant application for the broadband project up in the Northwest corner of the county.

They put together a very competitive application and came up with matching funds and user data, and economic impact data. This is to put up the WIMAX towers. If it works then they will know they can apply it countywide. They will find out if the state will give the funding and approve it, in the next few weeks.

- LWCB: Had a meeting on Oct 7th in Madison and went over a number of requests for extension of land and water resource funds from three or four counties. Vilas County presented their plan for a 10 year Lupine update and that was approved. Much of other discussion on the allocation of cost share grants. Looks like the figures they have now are going to be final. This is good for the county budget; to know where we are at. Next meeting will be Tuesday, December 2nd in Madison. It may be Rudolph's last meeting as he has been on board for 14 years.
- WI Land+Water: Formerly WLWCA. Rudolph is no longer on this board.
- RC&D: A meeting was held Friday, October 17th out at the Lumberjack Council meeting. Bob Mott reported on the presentation on the Forester or the Year Award and Friends of Forestry Awards, and both were well received.

There was a presentation on Oneida and Vilas County Roadside Invasive Species Survey and Management Plan. It involves surveying invasive species but also treating invasive species; a little bit different approach. He is looking for funding for it.

Another topic is collaboration between the Potawatomi and all people involved in forestry management and the national forests to improve local input and interaction during public meetings. It includes all the people that hate what is going on and love what is going on all being in the same room to talk. The goal is not to have to go through possible court challenges, but rather that it can be successfully accomplished.

Another topic was the Bike Trail proposal. Joel Knutson presented that the county will not have opportunity again until 2020 to apply for a grant for the bike trails that could be extended to different parts of the county that are not in place now. He was asking for support as he will be writing the grants and going out to people with land, and to groups and organizations in the county. Knutson was asked to bring a more explicit, specific plan to the board which will meet on Nov 5th. The Executive Committee will have a second meeting in January. Hopefully it will go forward as Oneida County has had this grant money available since 1993 but has never asked for grant money. So it is time to put something together.

- WACEC: A board meeting was held on Oct 10 in Stevens Point. One of the things discussed was how to improve the outreach for UW Extension. Yvonne Horton was there and it may be her last meeting. She is retiring and will be a hard person to replace. Other thing talked about is the PILD (Public Issues in Leadership Development) nominations. Tim Brown will be nominating Bob Mott later this week. It is held Washington DC where one can meet with legislators, other people, and learn of programs from all over the country. WACEC members attend with the Dean and Associate Dean of UW Extension.

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Regional Planning Commission Study

North Central Regional Planning is to evaluate both Land & Water Conservation and UW-Extension Departments. Tom Rudolph suggested that as a committee they need to come up with what they believe they would like to see studied. Tim Brown offered to assist the com-

mittee in talking about the department's work and accountability, but will need some guidelines. Is there an outline of what will be covered? Very minimal information seems to be available. If staff will be interviewed, both Land Conservation and UW Extension need to know what the timeline will be and more clarification on what the objectives will be. The staff is busy this time of year and they are happy to provide information but need specifics ahead of time.

Rudolph/Mott suggested a motion to direct Hansen and Brown will prepare a memo to LRES and Lisa Charbarneau asking what timeline and parameters will be expected of staff. They will need to know specific questions will need to be responded to in the study. Rudolph will co-sign memo. It was agreed that a written response is required. At the next meeting the committee will have a response.

Distribution of Fair Premium Checks

This was covered in the consent agenda items cover sheet. Fair premium checks consist of money that any entry receives. They are reimbursed 60% by the state and 40% by the county. For 2015, there will be individual department sponsorships that will cover premium checks, ribbons, judging fees, etc. This will eliminate this cost out of the county budget next year.

Fair Contract Renewal/Approval

Per the Corporation Council it is not necessary to bring contract renewal/approval to this committee or to the county board, because it was approved last year and it is an on-going year to year approval. It would be good for this committee to validate approval on a fair coordinator. It was agreed that the committee continues to support the Fair Committee. Mott suggested that a competent co-coordinator be found to replace Swisher for next year. Also, the tent purchase was approved. A letter is to be sent out for a strategic planning committee to bring people to the table regarding the 2015 Fair. A plateau has been reached where it has to be asked if the Fair is sustainable; without more funding can the county do it or are there corporate sponsors here that will help. There is a possibility that Gehrig will not come back as coordinator and that the treasurer Angell will not return next year. Money will continue to decrease per the budget hearing so the question is will the fair become sustainable. Carry-over money will be less than \$7,000 for 2015. Fair associations exist where there is land and buildings and Oneida County currently does not have this. More volunteers will be needed. Mott agrees with the idea of strategic planning. Rudolph supports public input and involvement and a tentative date for a planning meeting is November 10, 2014.

Office Space/Air Quality

Vents were cleaned at the building and they removed over 200 pounds of dirt and debris from the ventilation systems. The corrugated ducts will be replaced, once pieces are delivered to the airport. The wall is scheduled to go up in the next few weeks. The McNaughton crew is scheduled to transport the masonry bricks downstairs so construction can start. UW-Extension signage was quoted at \$1,000 for the big signs. Building and Grounds will not be paying a portion of this so the department will work on getting this accomplished. The capital improvement committee looked at the phones and office space renovations. There was discussion on what will occur dependent or independent of the Regional Planning Committee Study. Questions on whether the phones will be approved dependent on the

study results or will they definitely be replaced in 2015. Several questions were addressed regarding the building renovations, whether we will stay at this building or relocate to a more suitable location with better signage, or if there exists square footage issues related to staffing or number of positions in the department. It was proposed that there might be a study on the study and that shall be put on the agenda for next committee meeting.

Hiring Update:

Sara Richie has been hired as our Family Living Agent, as announced at the beginning of the meeting. Please refer to her resume. We are looking forward to her starting on December 1st. Also, Anne Williams was hired on September 22nd as support staff, replacing Anna. She has worked for newspapers, with 4-H at Extension offices in Minnesota and is a very good graphic designer. Merry Lehner has been with us since August and replaced Kerri. So on December 1st the office will be fully staffed.

Public Comment/Communications

Nothing further

Items to Include on Next Agenda

Farmland Preservation Plan

LWCD Presentation

Regional Planning Commission Study- Response to Memo Questions

Approval of 2015 UW Extension Long Range Plan Update

Adjournment: Motion by Intrepidi/Jensen to adjourn at 4:46 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Merry J Lehner, Recording Secretary

Thomas Rudolph, Chair

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