

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
November 12, 2012
Minutes

Committee members present: Chairman Tom Rudolph, Jim Intrepidi, Bob Mott, Greg Berard and Bob Martini (2:20 pm).

Others present: Erica Brewster, Tim Brown, Holly Schepp and Kerri Ison.

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

Rudolph circulated a handout from the County Farm Bureau regarding role of County Land Conservation Departments.

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

Introduce new CNRED agent: Brewster introduced Tim Brown, new CNRED agent for Oneida County. Brown began with Oneida County on 11/5/12. Brown is originally from the Madison area and recently received a master's degree in international affairs from Marquette University. He served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic and recently worked for Menominee Valley Partners. Roundtable introductions were held.

Approve minutes: Rudolph a correction on Page 4, WI Conservation Board Nominations should be corrected to read WLWCA Nominations. Motion by Intrepidi/Berard to accept the minutes as amended. All ayes; motion carried.

Dates of future meetings:

12/10/12	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room
1/14/13	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room

Fair update: Brewster reported three members were approved to attend the WI Assn of Fair Convention in early January and discussion was held regarding contracts. Ison reported the Fair is hosting a craft show, as a fundraiser, on December 1st at the Senior Center. Ison worked with Corporation Counsel regarding the exhibitor agreement and insurance issues. The agreements require Committee Chair and County Board Chair signatures. Brewster noted the fair equipment stored outdoors at Pioneer Park has been moved to the Highway Shop since it was not economically feasible to build a fence to secure the equipment. Future plans include working with the Fair Committee and Finance Director to sell off unneeded/excess equipment.

Agency reports:

- Lake Districts: Intrepidi noted Lake Nokomis Lake District invoices were recently mailed to landowners. Each landowner was billed \$56, regardless of number of parcels they own. Rudolph noted the Horsehead Lake meeting will be held 11/15/12 in Lake Tomahawk. Berard noted Bear Lake met 11/1/12; discussion was held on fish planting and pier ordinances. Mott noted has been unable to find information regarding the meeting dates for Mid Lake.

- FSA: Written report was provided. Rudolph noted the Farm Bill may have some impact on departmental programming.
- LWCB: Rudolph participated in recent conference call to plan a forum regarding frac sand use and its impact on LWC efforts.
- WLWCA: Recent Board meeting was held on 11/2/12 to set up committees and finalize the program for the State Conference in March in WI Dells. The WLWCA Poster/Speaking state contest was held on 11/3/12. Grace Ribbe, first place winner in Oneida County, placed second at the state contest. Discussion was held regarding the future of the contest.
- RC&D: State Association meeting was held in Stevens Point recently. Election of state officers was held; Rudolph remains as Vice President. Statewide raffle drawing will be held 11/15/12.

Monthly staff reports:

- Brewster will present final survey results for "Raising a Thinking Child" programming at the Family Living/4H all-staff conference in WI Dells this week. This past month her main focus has been administration. Good news: Hansen was appointed to County Conservationist effective 12/31/12; Schepp will stay on staff at 40% until the end of the year with the District covering salary; and the CNRED position as been filled and orientation is underway. The office move has been put on hold; however the office is experiencing space issues at the Airport with the department merge.
- Schepp reported on recent youth activities: Project Discovery Day 1(10/20) with 10 participants; 4-H promotion booth Trig's Fall Festival; and the Annual 4H Awards Banquet was held on 11/11/12 preceded by a club meeting. Schepp is helping the Leader's Association create an enrollment binder to help with communication and is also working on upgrades to the website.
- Sadauskas provided written report.

Out-of-county travel requests:

Brewster:

11/14-15/12	Family Living All Staff Conference	WI Dells**
11/20/12	Meet w/Steven Nelson CNRED/4H Agent	Forest County*

Brown:

11/14/12	Grow North membership meeting	Forest County*
11/20/12	Meet w/Steven Nelson CNRED/4H Agent	Forest County*

Hansen:

TBD	Meet w/area County Conservationists	Forest County*
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Sadauskas:

11/12-13/12	State AIS Coordinator meeting	Stevens Point***
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*county expense
 **district/state expense
 ***grant funded

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

Monthly budget reports:

- Motion by Intrepidi/Mott to accept the LWC monthly budget reports for the period ending 10/31/12 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.
- Motion by Berard/Martini to accept the UWEX monthly budget report for the period ending 10/31/12 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Monthly invoices:

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

2013 budget: Brewster reported the LWC and Fair budgets were approved at budget hearings without issue. During the UWEX budget presentation, a question was raised regarding the 4H agent vacancy followed by a motion to reduce funding for the position by 50%; thus decreasing the UWEX budget by \$17,000. This cut represents 16% of the overall department budget, although the proposed budget was already 10% less than 2012. Brewster's main concern is that this cut took place in the budget hearing process and not the vacancy review process. She noted Forest County currently has a 50/50 CNRED/Youth Development agent and are exploring an increase to the Youth Development position, which may provide an opportunity to consolidate a Youth Development position across two counties. Discussion followed.

Committee members felt the \$17,000 should be reinstated to meet the needs of Oneida County youth. The cost of this program is minimal compared incarcerating one youth for one year. Lengthy discussion followed. Martini suggested focusing on the entire youth development program, not just the 4H component. Discussion continued. It was the consensus of the committee to support the budget approved by this Committee at County Board. Brewster provided talking points for committee members.

Staffing updates: Nothing further.

Lumberjack RC&D grant proposals in Oneida County: Lumberjack RC&D Council has requested see that project proposals be placed on the County Land and Water Conservation Committee agenda for discussion. A handout was provided detailing two such projects:

- WHIP proposal for financial assistance to hire an LTE to create an invasive species management plan for County Highway Rights-of-Way.
- Town of Three Lakes proposal for financial assistance to survey 130 miles of town roadsides for invasive species. Includes hiring an LTE, supplies, use of a Trimble GPS unit, public awareness and development of a plan.

Motion by Martini/Mott to endorse both projects. All ayes; motion carried.

Application to lay out road to land-locked property: Ison reported LWCD received a letter dated 10/31/12 from Houlihan Law Office informing the County of a hearing before the Woodruff/Arbor Vitae Town Boards regarding a road lay-out to landlocked property pursuant to WI Statutes Sec 82.10(4). The meeting will be held on 11/14/12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Woodruff Town Office.

Public comment: Rudolph expressed disappointment at the lack of Committee attendance for the county-wide speaking contest in October.

Items for next agenda: None at this time.

Adjournment: Motion by Intrepidi/Berard to adjourn at 3:55 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Ison, Recording Secretary

Thomas D. Rudolph, Chair