

MINUTES OF THE LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Oneida County Courthouse – 9:00 a.m. – Committee Room 1

Members Present: Chairman Tom Rudolph, Wilbur Petroskey, Matt Matteson, Jack Martinson, and Gary Baier.

Members Absent: (Rod Kuczarski-excused absence).

Others Present: Nancy Hollands (County Conservationist); Jean Hansen (Conservation Specialist) Barb Payne (Secretary); and John Potters (County Coordinator)

Call to Order

Chairman Rudolph called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room #1 on the second floor at the Oneida County Courthouse. He noted that the meeting of the Land and Water Conservation Committee has been properly noticed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law and meets the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Approve Agenda/Approve Minutes

Motion by Petroskey, second by Baier, to approve the minutes from the November 18th meeting and the current agenda with the order of agenda items at the discretion of the Chairman. Motion carried; all ayes.

Set date for next meetings

Chairman Rudolph noted the next meeting date will be Wednesday, January 20th at 9:00 a.m.

Public Comments

No one present to comment.

Wildlife Damage Program Services – Agreement with USDA/APHIS for 2010

Hollands reported she is still working with Bob Willging, APHIS; and Brian Desmond, Corporation Counsel; to finalize the Wildlife Damage Program services agreement between USDA/APHIS and Oneida County. Hollands stated she recently met with the Finance Committee for approval to waive the insurance requirement for USDA/APHIS.

County Cost Share Program/Landowner Contracts/Extension Request

Hollands reported that Oneida County has a 2009 DATCP grant for Land & Water Resource Management Plan funding in the amount of \$61,394.00. Hansen reported she has been busy getting all the monies committed before the December 31st deadline. We are currently working with six landowners to finalize their contracts for funding. Hansen handed out the contractor cost estimates for five shoreline projects. Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey to approve the lowest cost estimates for the following shoreline restoration projects; Goelz, Miller, Newlin, Samoset Council Phase I, and Weber Phase III. Motion carried; all ayes.

Hansen explained that one more potential project is needed to commit all of the 2009 funds. Motion by Baier, second by Matteson to provide authorization for Chairman Tom Rudolph to sign the Skye landowner contract utilizing the lowest contractor cost estimate. Motion carried; all ayes.

Hollands stated that we must submit our 2009 cost share carryover request to DATCP by December 31st. Motion by Baier; second by Petroskey to authorize Chairman Tom Rudolph to sign the 2009 Oneida County carryover request, and to also approve submitting the request to DATCP. Motion carried; all ayes.

Report on Terrestrial Invasive Species Meeting, November 18 - Woodruff

Rudolph gave a brief report on this meeting as he was present representing Lumberjack RC&D. Rudolph reported the main purpose of this meeting was to organize a steering committee.

Martinson arrived at 9:25 a.m.

Review Department Goal Action Plan

Hollands had provided copies of the 2009 Department Goal Action Plan for the Committee to review. Copies of the plan were previously sent to the Committee. Motion by Petroskey, second by Martinson to approve the 2009 Department Goal Action Plan. Motion carried; all ayes.

Municipal License for Anchor Chain Scarifier Trailer

Hollands reported that we will have to eventually purchase a municipal license for the anchor chain scarifier trailer. A landowner who rented this equipment was pulled over, but no ticket was issued. Hollands stated with the recent snowfall, we won't be renting out the equipment until spring.

Update on status of AIS Coordinator Position

Hollands stated that Oneida County received 56 applications for the AIS Coordinator position. Lisa Charbarneau, Employee Services Manager, has narrowed them down to twenty five applicants. Hollands stated she recently met with Dan Kuzlik, UWEX. They narrowed the twenty five applicants down to ten people to interview. Hollands commented the difficult part now is to try to schedule dates to do the interviews. The interviews will be conducted by a panel of five. Committee discussion followed.

Update on Status of AIS grants/Budgets/Activities

Hollands reported the AIS grant paper work has been signed and returned to the DNR for the 2010 AIS Grant. We will be receiving a 25% advance. Committee discussion followed.

DNR Secretary Appointment

The Committee reviewed the letter they requested be sent to our legislators, Holperin, Meyer, and Friske, stating LWCC went on record to support overriding the Governor's veto of the DNR Secretary bill. The Committee supports restoration of the DNR Secretary appointment to the Natural Resources Board. Committee discussion followed.

Report on WLWCA Annual Conference, December 9 – 10, La Crosse

Rudolph, Petroskey, and Martinson reported on the WLWCA Annual Conference. It was noted there were quite a few absences because of the major snowstorm in that area. Baier explained that he had canceled his reservation earlier due to the threatening weather. Rudolph noted that six breakout sessions were scheduled and only two were canceled. It was reported the Hogers attended the conference as planned. Both Grace and Cassandra gave their speeches at the conference.

Lake Districts/Agency Reports (FSA, NRCS, LWCD, UWEX, DNR, LWCB, WLWCA, & RC&D)

Bear Lake District – Martinson reported the pending case was denied and it could be appealed if the parties involved wanted to pursue it further.

Mid Lake District – Petroskey had nothing to report.

Thunder Lake District – Baier had nothing to report.

Horsehead Lake District – Rudolph reported Horsehead Lake District is moving forward with the recommendations on their lake study. The aerator has been repaired and is running. Rudolph stated that proper warnings have been posted near the site.

FSA – No one present to report this month.

NRCS – No one present to report this month.

LWCD – Hollands stated the reporting for the department was covered earlier in the meeting. Hollands commented that we should meet the December 31st DATCP cost share deadline without any problems. Hollands reported the department received approximately \$1,600 from the rental of the anchor chain scarifier in 2009. We are currently finishing up the work from the Speaking and Poster Contest.

UWEX – Hollands reported Kuzlik sent an email correspondence explaining that he was attending a meeting in Wausau today, and would not be able to attend the LWCC meeting.

DNR – No one present to report this month.

LWCB – Rudolph reported he attended a board meeting the first week in December. They went over the report that is required to be submitted to the legislature in January. The LWCB report is in the final stages of completion. The deadline is January 1, 2010. Rudolph stated there will be one more conference call to go over the annual report before the deadline.

John Potters, County Coordinator, was present at 10:00 a.m. He commented he was available to answer any questions concerning the AIS Coordinator job position. Potters was excused at 10:45 a.m.

WLWCA - Rudolph reported that WLWCA is still in financial distress. The WLWCA Executive Director is in jeopardy of losing his job. Some of the previous grant funding used to help support the position is no longer available. The Executive Director does legislative lobbying in Madison on conservation and funding issues that can have a financial impact on each county. They have a financial shortfall of \$45,000. The Association has asked if the Counties would be able to come up with a one time additional contribution of \$800. Committee discussion followed. It was decided to put this on the January meeting agenda.

RC&D – Rudolph reported the next Lumberjack RC&D meeting will be held on January 28th in Forest County. The Lumberjack RC&D Council hosted the annual state conference in September here in Rhinelander. The Ponce Company made a sizable donation for the harvesting demonstration they did for the conference. The Lumberjack RC&D meeting date was changed due to the North Central Association's Annual Planning meeting being scheduled for January 29th in Merrill.

Monthly Budget Review

Motion by Petroskey, second by Matteson to approve the monthly budget review for November for the Land and Water Conservation Program, the Wildlife Damage Program, and the Aquatic Invasive Species Program. Motion carried; all ayes.

Travel Authorization

Motion by Petroskey, second by Martinson to approve attendance at the following meeting (s). Motion carried; all ayes.

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| • January 15, 2010 | WHIP Meeting | Woodruff, Wisconsin |
| • January 28, 2010 | Lumberjack RC&D Meeting | Forest County |
| • January 29, 2010 | North Central Association Annual Planning | Merrill, Wisconsin |

Approval of invoices, purchase orders, and line item transfers

Motion by Petroskey, second by Baier to approve the invoices as presented. Motion carried; all ayes.

A list of the approved bills is kept on file and is available upon request.

Items for the next meeting agenda

Items will be determined as suggested during current meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m. Motion by Baier, second by Petroskey. Motion carried; all ayes.

Thomas Rudolph
Chairman

Nancy Hollands
County Conservationist