

**Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee  
August 10, 2020 at County Board Room  
Minutes**

**Committee members present:** Chairman Bob Mott, Jim Winkler, Mitch Ives, and Bob Thome, Jr. Stephanie Sowatzka via Zoom.

**Others Present:** Michele Sadauskas, Karl Jennrich, JoAnne Lund, Stephanie Boismenu, Myles Alexander. Roise Page attended via Zoom.

**Call to order:** Chairman Mott called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. The meeting was posted properly and the facility is handicapped accessible.

**Approve Agenda:** A motion by Winkler/Thome to approve the agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

**Approve Minutes:**

Winkler/Thome made a motion to approve 7/13/20 CUW Committee meeting minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

**Future Meetings:**

Monday, September 14, 2020	1:00 p.m.	County Board Room
Monday, October 12, 2020	1:00 p.m.	County Board Room

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**Public Comment:**

No public comments were made at beginning of the committee meeting.

**Wisconsin Headwaters Invasive Partnership (WHIP):**

Rosie Page, WHIP Coordinator, gave an update on three current projects in Oneida County. They partner with both Land and Water and Extension several times a year. WHIP is a cooperative group managing invasive species in three counties; Oneida, Vilas, and Lincoln working with governments, non-profits, and schools. Their mission is dedicated to the conservation of native species and landscapes. They battle invasive species through outreach and control methods. Their fiscal sponsor is Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council (Lumberjack RC&D). WHIP has 16 partners who are in agreement with their mission and share their input on finances and decisions. The first project, Get Outside and Look (GOAL) is a statewide program to challenge teens and children to participate in conservation work. Extension's 4-H Coordinator, Anne Williams, is partnering in this August project. It is sponsored by Extension 4-H, WHIP, Lumberjack RC & D, and Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center. Youth will be offered prizes for hours of participation completed. Some funding came from the Conserve School, Three Lakes, WI, for youth education. The second project, with the town of Newbold, is to assist in identifying and eliminating invasive plant species in their town. Newbold approached WHIP several years ago for help in better plant awareness and control. Page, with other partners worked to obtain funding through Lumberjack for the hiring of an employee to conduct a roadside survey. WHIP assisted in walking along local roadside to identify any invasives. They came up with an action plan and scheduled workshops and meetings. Lastly, they offered plant identification training for the local road crew. WHIP recently received renewed funding from the DNR for weed management which includes site visits to provide assistance in control of invasive species. Work days were scheduled to remove weeds. Ed Hammer was mentioned as an instrumental part of this efforts and should be remembered for his contributions.

A new, third project, the Invasive Survey at the Scout Camp approached WHIP for assistance to identify invasive plants at the camp property. It is associated with a 1200 acre forested property. They are engaged in renewed conservation activities in planned forest management. Camp roads and hiking trails were surveyed and only small numbers of invasive plants were found. They will provide control and management methods to the Scout Council. They will install boot bushing stations and signage to protect this beautiful property.

Two short projects concluded on the elimination of plants that are high priority invasive plants, which included cut leaf teasel on Hwy 8 last fall into spring. An Amur cork tree planted as an ornamental at a Youth Camp in Woodruff. It was identified and new saplings of this invasive tree were eliminated on the Raven Recreational trails.

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**LWCD Update:**

River Grant – JoAnne Lund

Lund is the River Specialist who has been working on the Great Lakes Roadway Stream Crossing inventory. She has been out in the field working for the past month. They are surveying roadway stream crossings in five townships: Minocqua, Woodruff, Hazelhurst, Lake Tomahawk, and Lynne. The inventory goal will be to check the structural integrity of the crossings. She will assess any fish barriers, invasive species. She shared the database created by the DNR that she will be using. She has completed the initial inventory of the first four townships and will begin with Lynne next week. An intern from Trout Unlimited will be assisting her. There are 30 targeted crossings they will assess in Minocqua in the next two weeks, looking at erosion. The information on the DNR database is updated and available to the public immediately after Lund downloads her assessments.

AIS Update - Stephanie Boismenu

AIS has two of their three LTEs, Rachel and Aubrey, working Monday through Friday conducting Clean Boats and Waters inspections at various landings in the County. These are landings that are not represented by an active lake association. They are conducting invasive species and water monitoring at 15 water bodies this summer. Shoreline monitoring is restricted to vulnerable lakes. The Snapshot Day event takes place on Saturday, August 15, 2020 at the Boom Lake boat landing from 9:00 am until noon, where they will be supplied with the tools and paperwork needed for the project. Training was provided ahead of time by the River Alliance of Wisconsin. They will monitor different lakes and then return with their results to AIS. Regarding Covid-19 concerns, interaction will only be with five volunteers and with no interaction while out lake monitoring. Some interaction will just be with AIS before and after the event. They will sanitize the tools after the event. The group will be outside, will wear masks and practice proper distancing, and are with family members. Boismenu is involved with a new group that is being formed with the DNR to provide an official lake service outreach group. A group of five representatives from around the State were chosen and Boismenu will be working with the outreach group.

Their DNR grant for the upcoming year 2021 has been restructured and renamed from Education and Planning grant is now the Lake Protection Monitoring Network. Oneida County is being allocated approximately \$22,000 each year. The new program is 100% cost share with not match required by the County, as in the past. The DNR pays for it and the grants are based on a calendar year. Their current grant does not end until June, 2021, so there will be some overlap. The new grant therefore, will not start until July, 2021. The new grants will cover the same programs. They will be completing the application process. More information on this will be presented next month with budget information. Discussion over the effectiveness of the underwater cameras used for lake monitoring and the Clean Boats Clean Waters efforts took place.

**Lake District Reports:**

- a. Thunder Lake – Jim Winkler stated their meeting was postponed until Saturday, September 19, 2020.
- b. Bear Lake – Bob Thome reported their meeting was held last Saturday, August 8, 2020. The treasurer’s report was reviewed, there were some AIS inspections postponed until the end of August. They will be posting photos of invasive species on their website to educate the public. They worked on their budget to be presented at the annual meeting scheduled for September.

**Septage/Stella Update – Bob Mott:**

Mott asked the Health Department to send a letter to the town of Stella regarding the septic spreading. This topic has been in discussion for two years now. The topic had been delayed and Mott then spoke with some of the town supervisors and the topic was put back on the agenda for July. Todd Troskey, Environmental Health Specialist with the County, was there to make a presentation. A State representative shared information about nitrates in wells. The information was taken well and Mott just received a request for additional materials, which was a positive step. Mott stated it is his job to inform and it is up to them, as elected officials, to decide to share the information with the public. There has been no enforcement action or investigations updates to report.

### **Lumberjack Council Meeting Report – Jim Winkler:**

They had their first meeting July 30, 2020 at the Quality Inn, Rhinelander. It was interesting and informative with the voting members representing nine counties. Winkler was able to meet people and ask many questions. Minutes were supplied from the last several meetings including budgetary items and future goals. The next meeting will be in October.

### **Consent Agenda Items: (Land and Water Conservation).**

No out-of-county travel requests or line item transfers at this time. They are working on budget with LRES and Finance, she is investigating with the AIS grant adjustments. A motion was made by Thome/Winkler to approve the monthly budget reports and invoices/purchase orders. All ayes; motion carried.

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### **Oneida County Fair Report/Discussion**

The Virtual Fair continues through August 28, 2020. A listing of the winners of the drawings will be announced and proceeds will go toward the 2021 Fair. The far range goal is to have a new Fair Grounds. Meanwhile they will work on further fundraising. They are working with a lawyer pro bono for 501(c)(3) status, which will be near completion by the end of August. The Fair Committee is very strong and they are bringing in new members with fresh ideas. They will be presenting their budget and the 5% decrease budget per the request of Finance for the September. There was question over whether Fair budget would be requested for 2021. This will be reported on in September. Winkler encouraged all to look at Fair website regarding the virtual fair. Tom Barnett, as contracted Fair employee, despite not having the traditional fair, has been working on business plan with Myles Alexander and other future projects.

### **Update Fair/City Contract, Business Plan, 501(c)(3) Conversation:**

The contracts are all still pending with the City and the the 501(c)(3) should be completed by the end of August. Alexander stated that the Executive Committee of the Fair Board will be updating the business plan and will be near completion by October. Mott stated that the business plan should address the 2021 budget and how it will be handled. That it should clear up the question over whether the former \$16,000 allocated for the Fair in the past will be presented as the 2021 Budget or if it will be something else. There was questions about this and Andrist was not present to clarify the pending budget. Winkler said that if the Fair is the Oneida County Fair, there will be some form of support from the County. Liability insurance is a concern for the Fair and this is where County funding with for next year needs attention.

### **Consent Agenda Items Fair:**

Request for the approval of the monthly budget report monthly invoices/purchase orders was made. A motion to approve consent agenda items a and b was made by Thome/Winkler. All ayes; motion carried.

### **Extension 2021 Budget:**

Alexander stated that the budget is in process. As mentioned earlier, there were some clarifying questions that have now all been answered. Art Lersch feels that he now knows what the Oneida County Budget will look like. The spreadsheet will present it at 100% and then at the 95% as requested by Finance.

### **Educator Reports:**

#### Myles Alexander: Community Development

He has been very busy with Three Lakes this month. Design Wisconsin was re-invented to an on-line public engagement from the original two day in-person event. It will give a variety of opportunities for people of all ages to participate in and make it an engaging experience. This week they will begin promoting children's drawings of their ideas. Extension educators from different counties and 4-H educators who have worked with community vitality placemaking, will make visits to work with the youth SWAT team analysis. In addition, they have eleven other experienced volunteers who will participate. They will use a GIS state of the art recording system where they will learn about placemaking and will go to locations that exemplify the principles of such locations. The application will locate where that example of placemaking exists. Alexander is developing the protocol for youth and adult photo surveys. They will invite youth and adults to reply to the photo examples of what works in Three Lakes and what would work better. The design volunteers will have to look at those pictures when they do their design work. They also will be launching a community survey. Then that information will be uploaded and ranked and commented upon, which will be useful to see what other people in the community think works and does not work. The final presentation will be Wednesday, November 18, 2020.

A report was distributed to the Committee on the other educators' on-going program areas.

Terri Kolb: Health & Well Being Educator serving Oneida, Forest, and Vilas Counties

Kolb completed Taking Care of You training and will begin offering the program virtually in September. She will train for the Strong Bodies program in September, which has been very successful and well attended in Oneida County. Kolb completed training in August for QRP suicide prevention and education for adults. She continues training for the youth programs CAST and Learning to BREATHE as mentioned last month.

Carrie Kubacki: Health and Wellness educator in Langlade County, Positive Youth Development, Oneida County

Teen court has held training of five new panelists during two virtual sessions. Kubacki continue recruitment of panelists once school begins. All of the Teen Court activities will be virtually following University of WI Extension guidelines.

Anne Williams: 4-H Program Coordinator-Oneida County

Williams has been very active in facilitating programs to encourage 4-H families and volunteers to get involved with program offerings. Twelve youth have registered for the "Get Outside and Look!" challenge. She is developing great partnerships. Williams is increasing the visibility and access to the 4-H programs

Karly Harrison: FoodWise Coordinator for Florence, Forest, Vilas, and Oneida Counties

The Oneida County federally funded FoodWise program does not have a report this month.

**Progress Report on Extension/Nicolet Move:**

The staff had to go through about 30 years of stuff and cull. There is a lot of stuff and no place to put this accumulation of program materials. There are many bulky items that take up much space for once a year events such as Family Fun Fishing Day or three archery targets. There is not storage available at Nicolet right now due to Nicolet having to take furniture out of classes to maintain the new distancing requirements for classes to reconvene. There are also two remodeling projects happening this year, making storage a premium at Nicolet.

**Consent Agenda Items:**

A motion was made by Thome/Winker to approve the Extension monthly budget report and monthly invoices/purchase orders, consent agenda items a and b. All ayes; motion approved.

**Public Comment:** None

**Items to Include on next Agenda:**

Land and Water Budget, Lake District Reports as needed and project approvals. County Fair Report/Discussion. Clarification on Fair Budget, Fair Update on Contracts, Business plan, and 501(c)(3). Extension Nicolet move/storage update, Educator Reports and Extension budget.

**Adjournment:** Mott adjourned the meeting at 2:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Merry Lehner, Recording Secretary

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Bob Mott, Committee Chair