

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee

FEBRUARY 10, 2020

Minutes

Committee members present: Vice Chairman, Alan Van Raalte, Robb Jensen, Jim Winkler, and Mitch Ives. Bob Mott attended by phone.

Others Present: Steve Nelson, Myles Alexander, Terri Kolb, Karly Harrison, Michele Sadauskas, Karl Jennrich, Stephanie Boismenu, Eileen Lonsdorf, Karl Fate, Tom Jerow, Steven Schreier, Fred Andrist, and Merry Lehner.

Call to order: Vice Chairman Van Raalte called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was posted properly and the facility is handicapped accessible.

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

Approve Minutes:

Winkler/Ives made a motion to approve 01/14/2020 CUW Committee meeting minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

Future Meetings:

Monday, March 9, 2020	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room, Nelson and Lehner excused
Monday, April 13, 2020	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room

Regarding 9.92-C1 Change of Shoreland/Wetland Restrictions from 15 to 5 Feet:

Agenda item 7 was addressed next to take comments from the public attending with regard to 9.92. This is related to the disturbance of soil next to the wetland. No grading of the land closer than five feet from the edge of a shoreland wetland, which was formerly 15 feet and grading activities less than 25 feet shall require silt fencing.

- Eileen Lonsdorf: Attended the 2/6/20 P & Z meeting on the resolution for Shoreland Protection Ordinance 9, Section 9.92. Line 24 regarding the fifteen-foot grading set back to shorelands and wetlands has caused construction difficulties for a lot that may contain a shoreland wetland. The purpose of the resolution is to protect wetlands critical to the environment. It provides for habitat for animals and plants, purifies surfaces and sub-surfaces of waters, and natural appearance of the woods. There is concern over the change in wording to line 29. Wetlands are designed to protect the environment not local condominiums. She feels the law should be kept the way it is or even go back to the 25 foot setback.
- Karl Fate: He does not think it is good public policy to have a particular issue that may or may not involve a shoreland wetland, where there is an issue with no specifics. To take a single case and use that as an excuse for reducing the setback across the entire County, is horrible public policy, in his opinion.
- Tom Jerow: Spoke on behalf of Green Fire and his former DNR expertise with wetlands regarding silt fencing. A silt fence is an effective tool, if maintained and installed correctly, for protecting wetlands, for the short-term impact of construction. With his past DNR experience, his first concern is that many isolated wetlands do not show up on a zoning map and are often filled in, sometimes inadvertently. The result is that later the Corp and DNR will come in and require that the area be restored at great expense. When constructing so close to a wetland boundary, the wetland must be properly identified by an expert in the field. A USDA document presented the science of converting wetlands to, essentially, urban environments and the resulting impact. The impervious surfaces contribute to nutrient loading; it is a tenfold increase in phosphorous runoff, such as a lawn. This is his second concern, the long-term impact upon the wetlands. Short-term construction impact can be managed through a storm water management plan, properly constructed.

Sadauskas stated that there is more information to be gathered on this topic, she is in communication with a DNR contact. Mott wondered about an official reply from Green Fire; Jerow will have a representative wetland expert look into this further with good science about the concerns specifically for Wisconsin. Mott asked how many properties are affected by the ordinance. Mott proposed the Committee postpone any decision until the April 2020 County Board Meeting to allow further study by the Conservation department. As a result of Committee discussion, there was a consensus there was no carefully studied proposed changes and information was missing to discuss further to make a vote at this time. Van Raalte said it will be postponed until there is more information.

2020 Land & Water Conservation Board Election Vote:

Four candidates for the Land & Water Conservation Board were reviewed by the Committee, where a vote for three was requested. A motion was made by Winkler/Jensen to approve the candidates Bob Mott, Craig Conroy, and Michael Hofberger for the 2020 Land & Water Conservation Board. All ayes; motion carried.

Manure Storage Ordinances Update:

Planning and Development looked at the Manure Storage Ordinance and no comments were received except from the last LWC meeting where Mott asked about increased rain events and the size of manure storage structures. Jennrich was asked to send letters to three un-zoned towns. The towns of Sugar Camp and Monico do not support a manure storage ordinance, and Enterprise gave a verbal position of neutrality because they do not have any of this type of agriculture. The ordinance has not been sent to any of the industry. A medium size beef operator from Sugar Camp said to let the State, NRCS, and DATCP regulate. His concern was the definition of an unconfined manure stack. Currently, the ordinance defines it as 175 cubic feet of manure at a depth of two inches and cannot be in a water quality management area. The beef operator said that any barnyard would be a water quality management area. The Planning and Development Committee wants Jennrich to research where this standard came from and he believes it is the NRCS or DATCP standards. At the February County Board meeting there will be a moratorium ordinance language being brought forward and it can be voted on whether there should be a moratorium for the next 12 months on CAFOs.

Lonsdorf and Fate excused.

Wisconsin Headwaters Invasive Partnership (WHIP) Update:

Lincoln County has joined Vilas and Oneida Counties and this group is working with invasive species across all three counties now. WHIP receives a number of different grants that are strictly project related. Additionally, each year WHIP approaches Lumberjack RC&D asking for funding for coordinator support. Starting in 2020, Lumberjack decided to not have WHIP and TIP be eligible to compete in their grant program for coordinator support, but instead would delegate an amount into their yearly budget. WHIP will receive \$10,000 for 2021 and the same for 2022. The annual meeting will be in Lincoln County on March 18, 2020 in the town of Bradley.

Lumberjack RC&D Update:

Van Raalte reviewed funding regarding WHIP and TIP if there will be concern over if they will need any other grants. The rest of the meeting covered policy. A new code of ethics and conflict of interest were covered. The grant procedure was streamlined as well.

LWCD Update:

The Area Poster and Speaking Contest took place in Antigo. Three students who placed first at the County level placed third at the Area level. Our first place County speaker, Kaylee Cornelius, also took first place in the Area contest and is going to State. The Annual Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association Annual Conference and State Speaking contest will take place in Green Bay March 4-6, 2020. The poster award party will be at the County Board Room on March 3, 4:00-5:00 p.m. The grants applied for, Lake Classification and the River Planning culvert grant, AIS education and planning will be announced very soon, and it sounds promising. Stephanie Boismenu agreed all sound promising.

Lake District Reports:

Bear Lake – Robb Jensen. They had a good meeting in January. Fish stocking of walleye was completed late in the season. A copy of the last minutes from August 21, 2019 were shared with the Committee.

Consent Agenda Items: (Land and Water Conservation).

A motion by Jensen/Winkler to approve Consent Agenda items a, b c, and d as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

County Fair Report/ Update/Discussion – Jim Winkler:

The Fair held their meeting last Tuesday, February 6, 2020. Andrist said they are looking into a 501 (c)(3) for the Fair. He will be reporting on this for upcoming Fair meetings. If there is any Committee input he would appreciate their contributions. The Fair Coordinator contract was reviewed with Corporation Counsel and the contract will remain the same as last year. He will ask to have the Fair Coordinator contract on the agenda for approval next month. Barnett is

running for City Council. There should be no conflict of interest where decisions would be at the City level. The Fair has it in their language and there may be times where Barnett might have to recuse himself from voting.

Fair Business Plan:

There is not an update at this time. This coming month they will finish the long-range plan and then address the business plan. Fundraising will be part of the future business plan where the additional carnival in Minocqua will be included in those plans.

Jennich, Sadauskus, Jerow and Schrier excused.

Fair/City/Contract Update/Action:

Andrist has been in contact with Brian Desmond on the contract. There are still issues on regarding the yearly installation of electrical needs for the Fair where they are removed afterwards. They want this temporary installation to stop and install permanent additional electrical that is needed year round. This Friday, Andrist will meet with Tom Gaber. This was visited in the past regarding the City where there was concern over the Fair continuing at Pioneer Park. There are installation requests also pending regarding portable potties, where the State standards will be checked. The last issue, is regarding garbage pick-up, now provided in-kind.

Consent Agenda Items Fair:

A motion was made by Winkler/Ives to approve items a and b as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Auxiliary Extension LTE:

Ashley Croner, is helping out at the Extension office as an LTE, in Bonnie Tillmann's absence. There are many additional tasks to be completed with the move to Nicolet in the next several months, and Ashley has been assisting us very well in this regard. She is currently completing an involved project for Myles Alexander.

Introduction of New Health & Well Being Educator, Terri Kolb

Kolb started on January 1 as the Health and Well Being educator for Oneida, Vilas, and Forest Counties. She has scheduled and is attending many coalition meetings, trainings, and meeting with partners in the community. Her responsibilities from Madison and Steve Nelson, are to find out what is happening in the areas of mental health, suicide and AODA prevention, which will be the new focus. She needs to find out what the current status is and what is not taking place. Then she will see what Extension in Madison and her background experience can offer the County. Kolb has been involved in the tri-county CHIPs program in the past and that program is coming to an end. There is a new need assessment process in this field. Kolb was previously employed at Extension for 12 years in a position similar to Karly Harrison's as a FoodWise Coordinator. She is busy finding out what her plan of work will consist of for Oneida County. The existing programs and areas from the past, such as Food, Nutrition and Strong Bodies are now shifting their focus to behavioral and mental health. Those programs that are in place will not fall from the wayside and she will continue to support them.

Appoint CUW Committee Members for 4H Position Interviews:

The 4-H Coordinator position was recently posted and applications will be accepted until February 28, 2020. Steve Nelson has requested that if any members of the CUW Committee would like to attend interviews for the final candidates, to please notify Extension. The interviews will take place at the Extension office in Oneida County in the month of March with an April 1 start date. Mott and Winkler are interested in attending these interviews.

Facilities Discussion and Progress Report on the Extension Move:

The contract should be finalized in the next few days. It will take at least five weeks for the systems furniture to be ordered and another five working days to install it at Nicolet. Then there will be the actual move, which will take additional days. The estimated move date will be sometime between the end of March and the month of April. Madison, Nicolet, and the County technology people are working together and feel the move will not be as complicated as was earlier perceived. Nicolet will not be providing printing and copying services and Extension has contacted Jason Rhodes in IT about the moving of this equipment. Color printing is a must for educators and the current copier prints only black and white, although it can function as a printer.

Sandy Bishop had mentioned at an earlier meeting that there is a storage garage available for 4-H outdoor equipment. The Committee asked that official notice be given to the Airport for Extension explaining that we anticipate moving. The Buildings and Grounds and IT departments will be copied on the letter. Jensen/Ives made a motion to request that the Chairman Mott will draft a letter and send it indicating the intention to move Extension into Nicolet College sometime between April 1 and May 1, 2020. All ayes; motion carried.

Educator Reports:

Myles Alexander distributed an update on his activities to the Committee prior to the meeting. Karly Harrison distributed summary of the FoodWise 2019 year. The majority of people served are youth along with the amount of direct contacts made in the last year. Adult contacts are counted now as outreach where in the past it was included under direct education. They are trying to recruit adults to attend a series of education sessions instead of just one. She gave an update on the 156 fifth graders; only 28 children ate vegetables and after three months, that amount increased to 112 students surveyed about eating vegetables. Nutrition and food preparation at the Food Pantry has continued in a positive direction.

Office Air Update:

There were eight reports of diesel fumes at the Extension office for the month of January. Half were for diesel fumes and the remainder were solvent and other odors related to Airport construction. The report was sent to Matt Leitner and LuAnn Brunette.

Consent Agenda Items – Extension:

Van Raalte/Winkler made a motion to accept items a and b as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Items to Include on next Agenda:

Nitrate concern of county wells, Manure Storage Ordinance update, Poster/speaker State Contest, Lake District Reports as needed and project approvals. County Fair Report/Discussion and update Fair/City Contract, Progress Report on the Extension Move, Educator Reports, Office Air.

Adjournment:

Van Raalte adjourned the meeting at 3:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merry Lehner, Recording Secretary

Alan Van Raalte, Committee Chair