

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
JANUARY 14, 2020 at Nicolet College
Minutes

Committee members present: Chairman Bob Mott, Alan Van Raalte, Jim Winkler, and Mitch Ives. Robb Jensen excused.

Others Present: Steve Nelson, Catherine Neiswender, Sandy Bishop, Myles Alexander, Michele Sadauskas, Karl Jennrich, Fred Andrist, and Merry Lehner.

Call to order: Chairman Mott called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. The meeting was posted properly and the facility is handicapped accessible. The Extension portion of the meeting will go first and a tour will follow of the area where Extension will be located at Nicolet College Northwoods Center. The Conservation portion of the meeting will occur next to ensure they will have a quorum present.

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

Approve Minutes:

Van Raalte/Winkler made a motion to approve 12/9/19 CUW Committee meeting minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

Future Meetings:

Monday, February 10, 2020	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room, Mott excused
Monday, March 9, 2020	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room, Nelson excused

Review Rules of Quorum:

Robb Jensen requested a review of rules of quorum for two departments. There are six people members scheduled for a quorum for the Conservation Committee, including the Farm Service Agency (FSA) position. This would require CUW to have four committee members present for a quorum for Conservation. Simac's term as FSA representative is open and has remained so since her departure. Sadauskas had Jonna Jewell contact the FSA Committee one last time for an interim representative. There are two individuals that can fill-in for 2020. Both gentlemen have full-time, off-farm employment making the 1:00 p.m. CUW Committee meetings difficult. One person lives in Crandon and the other in Niagra, which is 90 miles away. Given the circumstances, it is probably best to not count on FSA representation through 2020. The Conservation department will send agendas. There currently is one Vilas-Oneida Representative for this position. There are three committee members required for Extension. New FSA elections will not be held until 2021.

Final State Approval of Oneida County LWRM Plan:

Sadauskas announced the Approval of the Oneida County Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan through December 31, 2029, contingent on a LWCB review in 2024. She said they have completed work and are now officially working under the new plan for 2020. No action from the committee was needed.

Packet Materials – Electronic or Hard Copy:

Committee members were surveyed about receiving meeting materials electronically or in paper form. Printing out the LWRM and resolutions can use up large amounts of paper. All agreed to receive electronic copies except Winkler and Mott, who would prefer paper copies from the Conservation department. Hard copies will be available at the courthouse mailboxes.

LWCD Update and Up-coming Events:

Tomorrow, January 15 on Wednesday, there is a Culvert Workshop in Vilas County, who received a grant for culverts to save money and protect streams. It is from 8:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at the Conover Town Hall. Also tomorrow, is the County Speaking Contest, which takes place in the Oneida County Board Room, Courthouse, 2nd floor, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. The Area Speaking Contest date will be on Friday, January 24, 2020 at Northcentral Technical College, Wood Technology Center Room WT 108, in Antigo, Wisconsin. Registration is due on Thursday, January 16, 2020. Call 715-369-7835 to RSVP.

Draft Manure Storage Ordinance discussion/decision:

Karl Jennrich sent email of the draft Manure Storage Ordinance to the Planning and Zoning (P & Z) staff for input. The LWCD received it as well for their input. Jennrich sent draft copies to the un-zoned towns of Enterprise, Monico, and Sugar Camp to solicit their input. Originally, Oneida County was to create a confined animal feed operation (CAFO) to regulate large scale feed lots. After speaking with other counties, they suggested that if the concern was over water quality resulting from CAFOs, they recommended a manure storage ordinance. A majority of Wisconsin counties developed manure storage ordinances and recommended rejecting the CAFOs and adapting a manure storage ordinance. The Iowa County ordinance document was used as a template to create the document to match our county needs. He asked the Committee and Conservation that if they have any technical concerns to let him know. The way the ordinance is written today, will apply county-wide. It will be a Stand Alone chapter in the Oneida County general code. If any of the un-zoned towns do not want it the P&Z and/or the County Board will have to make a decision on whether those towns are excluded or incorporated them into it. The application and fees will come into the P&Z and LWCD will perform the technical review. The department as a whole will then issue the permit. Enforcement will be from P&Z. If a violation occurs, it is referred to the Conservationist. A letter sent to notify and correct would follow with a citation or revocation of permit. The Committee had questions on specific sections and discussion ensued. An annual review would be preferred. Chapter 28 requires the operations to comply with the County. Horse operations apply more to our county, where years of manure are shoveled up and stacked and could affect wetlands. Clarification on what is commercial agriculture and what is not and final drafts will be sent to towns for comment. Another point was forestry 1A zoning does not allow year round living. There was discussion about the NRCS standards, and about 100 year flood plains that do not apply to current trends anymore. The agenda item will continue for meetings in February and March. Exhibit B is Clark County's Manure Storage Ordinance.

County con Meeting Report December 12-13, 2019 Stevens Point:

WI Land+Water hosts two meetings each year for the state's conservationists to join together and discuss statewide issues on land and water conservation implementation. Bob Mott attended the meeting on December 12, 2019 in Stevens Point, WI. He attended several breakout sessions on climate change and nitrate in private well water. Each county discussed concerns. The frequency of water rain flood events and the resulting runoff has increased. Road bridge construction may need to be adjusted to handle more water. Nitrate can turn into nitrite and when levels are above 10 milligrams per liter, it can affect one's health. Thyroid and colon cancer is on the rise from nitrites. Eastern counties and SW counties' wells are affected the most. He learned that manure in Marathon County has had 20 over flowing pits. They are trying to find places to contain it but there are not adequate facilities. Economic limitations have made these matters worse. There was a talk about separating and then recycling the water. Digesters, as an alternative, do not always work well. A herd of 1,800 cows will affect water treatment where the cost can be up to three million dollars. Both Trempealeau and Vilas Counties held a discussion about culvert inventory. For our county the western edge has the most concerns.

The topic will be put on the next agenda for how this might affect wells in our county in the future. Nitrates and private well testing will be added to a future agenda.

Lake District Reports:

Squash Lake District - Mott reported on their meeting held on Sunday, January 12. Two rare plants have been found on lowlands and they want to protect it. They may purchase the land and use it as a flood abatement area. To do so it will need to be added to their charter and mission statement. They will address a change in their statement to allow them to buy land to preserve it at their next annual meeting.

Lake Nokomis Lake District - Van Raalte reported on that work continues by Onterra on the Lake Management Plan. A planning committee to work with Onterra was formed. There are two to three separate plans for different areas of three water bodies for treatment of EWM. There are cattails, southern abatement of the lake. A vote in favor of retaining a law firm in case they run into any legal issues was suggested, with a fee of \$1000, with Wheeler, Van Sickel and Anderson out of Madison, WI. A new website, lakekin.net, was approved

Thunder Lake District - Winker reported on the meeting held last Saturday, January 11. Minutes from Sept 28 were submitted for the CUW records. The District has concerns with the dam which is a simple construction with two boards that control the water. Even after an expensive, but simple repair on one of the boards, the water is still running around the dam. The dam is breached and the fear is that the water will run into the Thunder Lake marsh. A problem exists with ownership. None of the area is

owned by the Lake District, the Town of Three Lakes owns dam, and DNR manages the marsh and the water. The District is sending a letter to Senator Tom Tiffany to address the breach and stabilize the shoreline due to high water, as well as the protection of fish and water aeration. Thunder Lake is a wide and shallow lake. The District is trying to motivate all involved to get something done. There are grant applications open through DNR and the Town will be in contact with Jeff Bruss. Winkler suggested lake specialist, Pat Goggin, attend their next meeting.

Consent Agenda Items: (Land and Water Conservation).

Sadauskas will attend the Area Speaking and Poster Contest in Langlade County and Whip Meeting on January 17. Scheduled events and requests were reviewed. Mott will attend items one, three, and four. Van Raalte will attend January Lumberjack meeting on January 30.

A motion by Van Raalte/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 Thursday, January 9, 2020. They are continuing with plans for the 2020 Fair and the contract for Tri State Amusements is in place. Tom Barnett is taking in vendor inquiries and planning for events. Winkler addressed whether the Airport will allow the Fair Office to remain in the small conference room in the lower level. Andrist spoke with Matt Leitner who indicated they could continue staying there temporarily. Theresa Seabloom and Meg Sprecksel attended the Wisconsin Fair Association the first week this month at Wisconsin Dells. They came back with fresh new ideas for the 2020 Fair. Winkler asked anyone on the CUW Committee if they could attend the next Fair Meeting on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Airport. Winkler will be out of the state and cannot attend.

Developing a Business Plan for the Fair:

The Fair Committee is working on an internal document they can use outlining what responsibilities of officers and members have along with guidelines and expectations. They are working on position descriptions for the upcoming year. The Fair Committee is working on a business plan for the possibility of the Fair being more self sufficient in the future. There is a national organization that is a clearinghouse for all different documents that Fairs use, such as business plans, safety, and liability forms. They will be looking at that business plan. They will google for a non-profit Fair for projected budgets. Mott mentioned Vilas County Fair is changing how they operate. Steve Nelson noted that Vilas County Fair operates outside the County statutes and operates as a private entity and they are looking at diversifying their Fair. Vilas will plan on diversifying the Fairground more often for other events. They are building on their committee and their new member Kerri Bloerdorn, is active in Fair planning for Oneida County.

Fair/City/Contract Update/Action:

Brian Desmond has contacted the city administrator and will continue to do so until they can discuss the City/Fair contract further. The Fair Contract expired December 31, 2019. The new contract will have a year-to-year renewal. It will re-occur if there are not any significant changes. The one outstanding item is regarding the permanent installation of electrical needs and upgrading the facilities. Mott had a discussion with Tom Wiensch and they discussed how there is not a county employee on the Fair Committee, but Andrist will take the lead and make every effort to address all contracts as the primary contact and provide a designee in his absence. Tri-State Amusement contract is signed and approved. Tri-State will plan on having an additional event in Minocqua the end of August, 2020.

Consent Agenda Items Fair:

The Fair ended the year with \$3,794 deficit. Andrist reviewed the two outstanding 2019 approved vouchers that did not go to Finance. One is pending the return of a W-9 form which Finance cannot pay out until received. The other involves a contract concern with the McNaughton crew who did not work the number of days that they charged the Fair. A request for an adjustment is pending. The Fair approved an application for a new Fair Committee member, Amanda Colon. A motion made by Van Raalte/Winkler to approve items a, b, and c as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Extension Facilities Discussion:

Steve Nelson introduced Catherine Neiswender, the Northern Region Assistant Dean for UW Madison Division of Extension. This was her first visit to the new site at Nicolet. They are grateful for where the conversation has been and where we are at now. Kate Sullivan, Senior Institutional Planner, Office of the Vice Provost for Extension and Public Media, has been very active in planning this new office layout and floor plan. An overview of the projected Nicolet office

space re-location was distributed to all. The IT departments have been in contact with each other. The County IT Department and Madison and Nicolet do not want anyone else touching their systems. Essentially, Extension will tunnel out to the County just as they have at the Airport.

Sandy Bishop, Executive Director to the Economic and Community Development at Nicolet College, stated that the phone system will most likely work out of Nicolet phone system. There will have to be a new phone number for Extension. There will be one line to contact Extension during the transition period. VOiP costs will be through Nicolet where they will provide the phone system to Extension as the landlord. A new port assigned to the County will share and access the County network. The Northwoods Center is being groomed for economic and community development. The lower level will be an innovation/collaboration space where organizations such as Grow North and Regional Economic Development Corporation are currently located here. There are ample conference rooms for programs and meetings for engagement.

The Committee Meeting was paused while Sandy Bishop conducted the tour of the new site on the first floor.

The move is planned to take place around March 15, 2020. The systems furniture order through Nicolet and the State takes about five weeks. Design work is being collaborated and loaded into a CAD system. Nicolet has a vision of the building to be set up with the same office modular furniture for the whole building, where they could provide the set up to any organization.

Educator Reports:

Steve Nelson announced the new Health and Well Being Educator, Terri Kolb to work as a tri-county position in Vilas, Forest, and Oneida Counties. Kolb was not able to attend the meeting today for introductions. Her headquarter office will be in Vilas County. Kolb was a previous Extension employee for twelve years. She was the FoodWise Coordinator in the tri-county area five years ago. She is working on a master's degree in behavioral health. She recently served as the State-wide Coordinator for the Great Lakes Inter-tribal Council FoodWise program. She will work in Oneida County .4 of the time. Her main office will be at the Vilas County office.

The vacant 4-H position was approved to be posted as a half time position for Oneida County only.

Myles Alexander will arrive later as he is returning from the DATCP Emergency Management meeting in Merrill, WI.

Office Air Environment:

There were seven reports for diesel fumes at the Extension office for the month of December. The report will go to Matt Leitner and Brunette. Mott commented that this is the time of year when most reports occur.

Media Coverage on the Extension Move:

Jensen asked that when the time was appropriate, Extension shall contact the media about the new facility and perhaps have an open house to show the benefits of the new location.

Consent Agenda Items – Extension:

The 4-H On-line annual fee occurs each year to track enrollment of youth, leaders, and volunteers. It also offers access to national programs as well. Extension is approximately \$22,000 under budget. Budgeted money was less due to Carrie Kubacki not being hired until May, 2019, Sara Richie leaving in September 2019, and Bonnie Tillmann worked 16-17 instead of the 22 hours anticipated. These factors influenced a smaller amount of workshops and programs, supplies and travel normally budgeted for in a year. The laptop used by support staff will require a computer upgrade due to the Windows 7 operating system being retired or invest in a new laptop. Van Raalte/Winkler moved 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 contest, Lake District Reports as needed and project approvals. County Fair Report/Discussion and update Fair/City Contract, Fair Business plan. Extension Facilities discussion, Educator Reports, Office Air, Progress report on Extension/Nicolet move.

Adjournment:

Mott adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Mott, Committee Chair

Merry Lehner, Recording Secretary