

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
JULY 13, 2020 at County Board Room
Minutes

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

Others Present: Michele Sadauskas, Karl Jennrich, Fred Andrist, and Merry Lehner. The following attended via Zoom: Baerbel Ehrig, Myles Alexander, Anne Williams, Terri Kolb, Carrie Kubacki, and Karly Harrison.

Call to order: Chairman Mott called the meeting to order at 1:41 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 6/15/20 CUW Committee meeting minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

Future Meetings:

Monday, August 10, 2020	1:00 p.m.	Location pending
Monday, September 14, 2020	1:00 p.m.	Location pending

Public Comment:

Mott announced a new policy to place the public comments at beginning of committee meetings. No comments were made.

Meeting Frequency:

The question of whether a monthly meeting for both departments is necessary. Both Land and Water Conservation and Extension could submit approval of vouchers monthly without a meeting, if this could have to be considered. Michele Sadauskas said her department could be flexible. Myles Alexander stated that the Chair and Department Head could meet monthly for expense approval. Monthly meetings during budget process will be required. Otherwise, every other month of meeting could work.

Lumberjack Pollinator Grant Wrap-Up:

Baerbel Ehrig presented on Promoting Native Pollinator Conservation across Northcentral Wisconsin. A grant was submitted to Lumberjack RC&D who funded Vilas, Langlade, Lincoln, Iron, and Oneida Counties and the US Forest Service to promote protecting pollinators. The grant ended in June. Best management practices were shared through publications, workshops, media, school presentations and activities. Three major areas were addressed: Educational Outreach, Chemical Control, and Restoration and Conservation. Events included Pollinator Week - June, 2019, an Open House for the new Pollinator Garden at the Oneida County Courthouse. Another event was transplanting native wildflowers and a native wildflower seed sowing party. Ehrig directed the committee to view the YouTube videos on the department website. Lastly, the poster contest included pollinators as a topic. A new postcard was shared that will be available to educate the public on the prevalence of Mosquito Control businesses and the impact it has on pollinators. They had some extra time and money from the grant to inform the public about its effect on good insects.

LWCD Update:

a. WHIP Meetings. Virtual meetings are working well for Vilas, Oneida, and Lincoln Counties. The next meeting is Friday, July 17 at 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

b. Zoom Workshop (6/24 & 6/25). This was the very first one held and it was a success and an easy way to share information. There were 86 people signed up for the event. They had DNR, private citizens and pollinator groups in attendance. A survey sent out indicated that they liked the zoom aspect.

Another virtual meeting is being held for AIS Monitor Training on July 15, 2020. The AIS Annual Banquet will tentatively be held on August 20, 2020. It is the AIS 12th Annual Oneida County Stewardship Awards Banquet at Holiday Acres.

Lake District Reports:

- a. Mid Lake & Squash Lake – Bob Mott. Mid Lake had their annual meeting on July 4. There were three commissioners up for election. There are five members on the board. They decided to keep it at that number and not increase board members. There were 40 people in attendance. They purchased a new harvester.
Squash Lake had their Quarterly Board Meeting on Sunday, July 12, 2020. Hand pulling of weeds continues and the divers still work on weeds as well. There was no chemical treatment in the lake and they continue to win the battle with EWM. There will be training for a new diver for 2021. The Annual meeting is scheduled for Aug 8, 2020.
- b. Bear Lake – Bob Thome. The June 2020 Commissioners meeting was held in Hazlehurst. AIS inspections, educational programs, bulletin boards, and bill boards are some of the ways they educate public. There are many old records, which they will be digitizing soon. September 4, 2020 is the date for the annual meeting.
- c. Lake Nokomis – A report was submitted by Alan Van Raalte. It is available in the packets for the record.

Cost Share Update:

- a. Completed Project – The Charest project is complete and some before and after photographs were shared showing the improvements on the shoreline that were made due to erosion, where vegetation was sluffing off into the river. The After pictures were shared showing all the plantings in place. The bag walls on the banks were not included in the Cost Share Funding.
- b. There are three Projects for Approval: Stachowicz, Jelinek/Clausen, and Pulver. The Stachowicz project is on Diamond Lake where there is a concern with erosion issues. Native plantings and rain gardens are planned near the house. A grid matt will be placed where plantings will be inserted. The Jelnick/Clausen project is on Two Sisters Lake where an impermeable surfaced will be removed, such as pavers and vegetation will be planted. The Pulver project is on the Wisconsin River where erosion is present. The workshops they have offered recently have increased the amount of people interested in Cost Share.

A motion for approval on all three of Cost Sharing properties was made by Thome/Winkler. All ayes, motion approved.

Consent Agenda Items: (Land and Water Conservation).

There were no out-of-county travel requests for staff and/or Committee members and no line items. Request was for approval of the monthly budget reports were included June included in packets and monthly invoices/purchase orders. There was the river grant and AIS purchases this month. A motion was made by Winker/Thome to approve b and c. All ayes; motion carried.

Oneida County Fair Report/Discussion

Winkler announced “virtual fair” kickoff was July 9 at Pioneer Park through August 28, 2020. A listing of activities is available on the Fair website. Many of the contests are still happening virtually, such as the kilt contest and plant container contest. The virtual fair is being used as a fund raising event as well as just fun fair activities. There is a fair raffle on ten items where the drawing occurs on August 28. Mott complimented the Fair on their innovative virtual Fair for this year.

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

Fred Andrist continues to work with Tom Wensch on an inventory list of Fair items. The use of Pioneer Park has been put on hold since Covid-19.

The Fair continues to work on obtaining a 501(c)(3) status for the Fair to be a nonprofit organization so the Fair would become an LLC, limited liability corporation. An email from their lawyer indicated that it should be completed by the end of the month. The \$16,000 will not be part of the 2021 Budget. There will be some support from the County. Liability insurance is a concern the Fair would like to have funding with for next year as well as legal advice from Tom Wiensch. All of this will need to be clearly written out in any pending agreement. The budget period is Aug 5 thru Oct 8, 2020.

Consent Agenda Items Fair:

Request for the approval of the monthly budget report monthly invoices/purchase orders/vendor contracts. There are two new fair committee members: Susanne Tjugum and Stevie Lee Henk, who were approved at the Fair meeting at on Tuesday, July 6. One has photography background and the other a girl-scout leader. A motion to approve new member as stated pending background check, was made by Thome/Winkler. All ayes; motion carried. Winker/Thome made the motion to approve monthly budget report and invoices. All ayes; motion carried.

Educator Reports:

Myles Alexander said that the information packets included an update from all the educators on their programs. They will all verbally give a quick comment now as well.

Anne Williams: 4-H Program Coordinator-Oneida County: 4-H activities. Children and adolescents will be affected by the pandemic. Students will lose about 30% reading skills and about 50 % of math gains. There will be an effect on mental health and well-being. Their sense of identity threatened.

Williams listed four ways that 4-H helping:

1. Addressing isolation. They are offering programs such as Camp in a box. They did not simply scrap the program.
2. Addressing the needs of youth feeling deflated. Small group activities are offered that are affordable and accessible.
3. Kids and Teens. They have one 4-H volunteer who is committed to help and guide them.
4. Parents and kids are missing out on leadership opportunities county-wide conservation services to allow well-being.

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

Kubacki will help youth develop resiliency. Mindfulness and coping skills will be developed to face mental health issues of youth. She plans to have a September virtual teen court program for youth and families in the community. If kids are back to school, they will return to the traditional method, practicing Covid-19 guidelines.

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

Kolb, upon hire, was directed to place a focus on mental health issues in her role as an educator. There will be programs offered virtually or in person for Taking Care of You, Strong Bodies, and Mental Health First Aid. She will continue to partner with Social Services for work related to AODA and to recognize mental health challenges in these especially difficult times. Several programs, CAST-Coping and Support Training, Learning to BREATHE, and Raise Your Voice are being developed to reduce risk factors that lead to youth mental health issues and suicide. She is training for CAST at through the Lakeland School District and she plans to share it with the Rhinelander Schools District.

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

In response to the question of how much money the SNAP-Ed Food Share brings to Oneida County through the federally funded FoodWise program, the amount is \$38,000. FoodWise is reaching out to partners such as Social Services and Economic Support supervisors to provide budgeting, food safety, and nutrition information to people with limited resources. FoodWise has started a conversation with Oneida County's FoodShare Employment and Training program to potentially provide participants with education in budgeting for food and living expensed. Its will help people be aware of available resources and educational programs. She is reaching out to all organizations and schools with programing that will follow all Covid-19 guidelines of Extension, school districts, and the federal programs. She is publishing newspaper articles with the mentioned information as well.

Myles Alexander: Community Development - Communities Senior Outreach Specialist

Alexander is helping organizations work better to make a better community. Three Lakes is the example. Many new opportunities are available in helping the Three Lakes group know what is important to them. The loss from fires and how Covid-19 has affected their community are two areas of concern. Alexander leads WATR advisory group on public information about the PFAS presence in our drinking water. Dr. James Tinjum presented at their recent meeting and explained the concern along with Mark Pollack with the DNR, with the goal of environmental remediation. Alexander works with the Fair on strategic planning. They have had to make adjustments with the cancellation of the Fair. He will continue directing the Fair on developing a business plan. Food availability is another concern to be addressed. A new group in Rhinelander is working with the Nicolet College trustees on a community garden. A field location at Nicolet

has been selected and the decision will be made this fall. The new garden will partner with FoodWise and Social Services. Alexander will participate with Jeff Veerdorn, OCEDC, and the Grow North housing committee and obtain an Urban Development Block grant funding.

Progress Report on Extension/Nicolet Move:

Catherine Neiswender and Nicolet College agreed on a move date of: July 23, 2020. Arrangements with Buildings and Grounds to move office equipment and arrangements for IT to remove computers and phones from the Airport will be on Friday, July 17. Jason Rhodes is in contact with Nicolet College. Many boxes have been packed and the culling of items no longer needed continues. There is still not permission from the University of Wisconsin-Division of Extension for the educators to begin work at the new office. All staff have received their key cards.

Report on LRES and Administration Committee actions:

Mott reported that LRES approved the contract for LTEs.

2021 Budget Process:

The administration committee stated that the budget will be worked through, as always, during budget process. The Extension office will appear before the Budget Committee on October 5-8, 2020. Extension will need to justify expenditures to keep Extension operating. Mott has been in contact with Karl Martin regarding the budget concerns. Mott reviewed that it is not different than any other year except that the current budget shortfall will increase the need to for all departments to trim their budgets. The stumpage fees have been affected due to the closing of two mills. There is also a shortfall in tax revenue. It is possible they could look to the prisoners as increase in money. Justification for what for the things that Extension does will be necessary.

Mott is excited for the move to Nicolet. He said that we need to continue to fund Extension. A sympathetic public should talk with their county supervisor about any concerns they may have. The 2021 budget process was reviewed. We will need to specify when we will present budgets. There will be a request for a normal budget and one at 5% reduction for all departments. They do not know what the shortfall will be.

Furniture and Equipment forms must be submitted before July 31. The timeline was discussed on budget items. It gives us a chance to look at and to garner what programs we present. It is not one department but all the departments who will be called upon for budget reductions. There will be a Zero percent increase in staffing. We are in this together. The final Budget will be voted on in November. The Public hearing will be on November 10, 2020.

Consent Agenda Items:

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

Public Comment: None

Items to Include on next Agenda:

Meeting frequency. Lake District Reports as needed and project approvals. County Fair Report/Discussion. Update Fair/City Contract, Business plan, and 501(c)(3) conversation. Extension/Nicolet move, Educator Reports.

Adjournment: Mott adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merry Lehner, Recording Secretary

Bob Mott, Committee Chair