

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
Wednesday, October 14, 2020 - VIA ZOOM ONLY
Minutes

Committee members present: Chairman Bob Mott, Jim Winkler, Mitch Ives, and Bob Thome, Jr.

Others Present: Michele Sadauskas, Stephanie Boismenu, Baerbel Ehrig, Jonna Jewell, Brian Desmond, Mike Romportl, Ryan Peterson, Eric Rempaula, Dan Butkus, Art Lersch, Myles Alexander, Meg Sprecksel, Becky Gaskill, and Merry Lehner.

Call to order: Chairman Mott called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was properly posted. The Chair will have the right to move agenda items up at his discretion.

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:

Thome/Winkler made a motion to approve 9/14/20 CUW Committee meeting minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

Future Meetings:

Monday, November 9, 2020	1:00 p.m.	To be Determined
Monday, December 14, 2020	1:00 p.m.	To be Determined

Public Comment:

No public comment was made at beginning of the meeting.

Electronic Signature Approval for October 14, 2020 meeting:

Chairman Mott requested that each Committee member verbally permit their names to be represented as their signature on all documents for this virtual committee meeting. Names will be typed on the documents/motions in place of their signatures. Winkler/Ives made motion to approve all electronic signatures for October 14, 2020 meeting. All ayes; motion carried.

Wildlife Damage Program:

- a. Venison Donation Program Agreement – The agreement is renewed each year for Oneida County to participate in the WDACP venison and to administer the program as set forth in the Wisconsin Deer Donation County Information Packet. The County is fully reimbursed for all administrative and venison processing costs associated with the deer donation program. 2020 agreement was presented.
- b. 2021 Oneida County Budget & Financial Plan-Oneida County
The 2021 budget was included in the packets to the Committee.

A motion was made by Mott/Ives for approval of the Wisconsin Deer Donation Program 2020. All ayes; motion carried.

A motion by Thome/Ives was made to approve the 2021 Onieda County Budget and Financial Plan as presented for the Wildlife Damage Program. All ayes; motion carried.

Proposed Crescent Lake District:

Crescent Lake is in the process of forming a Lake District. The Lake Association will send a petition to the County for the formaiton of a Lake District. It was suggested that a separation of the duties of the Association and the Lake District will need to take place. The CUW Committee will review the petition when submitted, and hold a public hearing within 30 days of the completed petition. A Lake District can be formed by the County Board if the petitioners present a petition signed by persons constitutuing 51% of of the landowners located in the boundary of the the proposed District. The petition must be submitted to the County Clerk who will have to create a receipt for the documents. Taxroll data determines the number of eligible landowners in the proposed Lake District. Signatures will need to be verified. It was requested not to submit signatures verification to Land Information until December due to tax time, when they are very busy. Once the hearing is held, if all is in order, it will go to the County Board within three months. Approval of all the

elements of submission will have to be reviewed before submitting to the full County Board for approval. The County Board will have six months from the time of the submittal date.

Brian Desmond and Mike Romportl Excused.

Ryan Peterson joined the Zoom meeting after discussion took place about dates. He plan to submit all documents by the beginning of November to the County Clerk. Peterson stated that 62% of property owners in their proposed district have signed on in support of the Lake District. They are working on the legal description. The CUW Committee will need a motion on the Lake District at the November 9, 2020 meeting. After Ryan's input, it was agreed to schedule a Public Hearing on December 5, 2020 date, in the County Board Room at 1:00 p.m. The option of a Zoom only meeting will need to be determined.

LWCD Update:

AIS Report – Stephanie Boismenu. An update of summertime activities was shared. Only two LTEs were hired due to Covid-19 this summer. There were 15 lakes where AIS Shoreline Surveillance Monitoring lakes took place this season. The Clean Boats Clean Waters took place at 24 boat landings where they contacted 2036 people. A total of 442 hours of work was accomplished and 927 watercraft were inspected. Data collection and control of Eurasian Watermilfoi, Yellow Iris, Phragmites, and Purple Loosestrife continued as well. Statewide Snapshot Day monitoring took place at ten lakes. Boismenu is involved with a water fowl outreach program for hunting groups. She has been in contact with dock and boat lift providers recently in an effort to give them outreach and education. She tracked down 27 businesses with letters drafted by DNR and Boismenu. Minnesota has an excellent program requiring permits for companies that move equipment on waters. There are two types of permits, one for the owners and one for the laborers who move the watercraft. A pilot project, in partnership with Vilas County, is underway for a similar outreach to dock and boat service businesses. The goal is to look for any gaps in AIS activity they may have. Certificates will be given to those that practice good lake stewardship. They are also working on AIS grant applications.

Cost Share Update:

Sadauskas announced that most of the staff is working remotely but they are all are available by phone and email. For the Cost Share projects, there are some properties that will not be completed until next spring or summer. Some of this was related to Covid-19 and staffing. There was a problem finding available contractors this past summer. Funding will carry over to next year. They have the option to waive the projects into next year.

2021 Surface Water Planning Grant Resolution – Continuation of Culvert Assessment.

The resolution was included in information packets along with a Talking Points page for the Surface Water Planning Grant. The application will go in on November 1, 2020. The grant is similar to the culvert stream crossing project at the Willow Flowage. The one-year grant is for \$9,000 from the DNR where one LTE will be hired at 443 hours. Joanne Lund will evaluate approximately 91 road crossings, looking at fish passage, erosion, culvert condition, placement and sizing. Stream crossings will be evaluated in south eastern Oneida County, including Townships of Crescent, Pelican, Monico, Enterprise, and Schoepke. A motion was made by Winkler/Ives to submit the resolution for the WDNR 2021 Surface Water Planning Grant project and to forward to the County Board for their approval. All ayes; motion carried.

2021 Healthy Lakes & Rivers Grant Application and Resolution & Contract.

Sadauskas has not presented these small grants of \$1000 to the Committee before. It is a reimbursement grant, similar to Cost Share. The homeowner requires a sponsor and cannot apply for the grant on their own. An established Lake Association can be a sponsor in some instances, if they qualify. They will apply for three projects at \$1,000 each within the 2021 grant application. The County would administer each grant, providing technical assistance, collecting receipts and reimbursing landowners, ensuring project is installed properly and with the homeowner providing the match. The Committee would be asked to be a sponsor for the three projects.

Barebel Ehrig described the three projects. She will promote the projects employing five practices: Fish Sticks, 350 square feet of Native Plantings, Diversion and Infiltration practices, and Rain Gardens. One is on the Rhineland flowage, homeowners are interested in naturalizing the shoreline. WHIP will assist in eradicating the established buckthorn. The second project is a condominium site called Lakeside Landing on Lake Tomahwak for a native planting project as a buffer zone. Their Lake Association did not qualify as a sponsor on this project. The third project is on DL Lake, where they will use native plantings. There are a total of six proposed projects Land & Water is helping on

(sponsoring 3). Once the grant is approved the DNR will allow for additional projects to be added up to \$25,000. The projects are at no cost to the County.

Motion by Winkler/Ives to approve the submission for the application of the 2021 Healthy Lakes & Rivers Grant and Resolution & Contract and forward to the County Board. All ayes; motion carried.

Lake District Reports.

a. Thunder Lake-Winkler attended the meeting on Saturday, September 19, 2020 attending by 16 people. The budget was submitted and treasurer's report. They are back on schedule with their meeting quarterly meeting and the next meeting is on December 5, 2020. Jon Stauner is looking for the original hydrology report on the dam in Three Lakes.

b. Squash Lake - Mott reported they had their quarterly meeting on Sunday afternoon October 11. They are in good standing financially, Dan Butkus is treasurer. The divers have had much success in hand pulling Eurasian water milfoil and poundage is down significantly. A bid was approved for the storage of the divers' boat. The next meeting is January 10, 2021.

c. Mid Lake - The last meeting was September 23, 2020. Mott gave an update on the Annual Meeting. Weed harvesting cost \$35,000 to operate and dispose of the weeds. A harvester was purchased last year at a cost of \$300,000. He reviewed the treasurer's report. Curly leaf pondweed is prevalent in their lake. The management plan was discussed with Onterra. Phosphates reduction will help keep weeds down.

Consent Agenda Items: (Land and Water Conservation).

A motion made by Thome/Winkler to approve b and c, as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Newbold Resolution on Metallic Mining:

Thursday, October 8, 2020 Newbold Town Hall meeting presented a Proposed Metallic Sulfide Mining Resolution by Mr. Rempaula and Karl Fate. Chairman Kroll will draft a more specific Town Resolution and place on the Town Board meeting agenda for October 8. Kroll asked if Winkler could submit a proposal to this CUW Committee, asking permission to share it with other County Supervisors to address to their towns regarding mining. Winkler will place information in the Supervisor's mailboxes with a note asking them to address it in their districts. The goal is to protect the waters in the northern regions. Eric Rempaula, on Zoom, stated that he and Karl Fate have been speaking to the towns, who do not quite understand changes regarding protection and reading the resolution would be helpful. Rempaula stated that Act 134 covers other mining as well but the sulfide mining is what affects us in this area. Mott said the Committee did not need to give permission.

Oneida County Fair Report/Discussion:

Fred Andrist will step down as Fair President in December and Meg Sprecksel will take on the role as Fair President. The election of new officers will take place in December 2020. Theresa will be stepping down as Fair Secretary and the Treasurer position will be open. Sprecksel stated that the 501 (c) (3) has been filed and she is waiting for processing. The application can take up to eight months to be processed. Applications are backdated to the date it was originally submitted.

Winkler reported on the Fair Committee meeting last night, where they are working with Myles Alexander on business plan. Current office space will end at the Airport site December 31, 2020. They are pursuing office space at the Curran Building. The trolley and tents need a storage location. A discussion took place about Fair storage space and whether the County would continue to provide storage, if the Fair goes independent. The 2021 approved Fair budget is based on the assumption they are unable to go independent in 2021. Fred Andrist is working on an exit agreement with Tom Wiensch but that will not be ready until 2021. If the exit agreement goes through, there will not be funding except for the carryover money. There will be certain assets of the Fair that the County will address as the process continues. The committee cannot address the storage request at this time. If the County has some space interim, they must put in a request for it. Winkler asked for a donation towards storage. They are also asking to keep the name Oneida CO. Fair.

Fair Privatization and Fair 2021 Budget:

Addressed above

Update Fair/City Contract, Business Plan, 501(c)(3) Conversation: The Business plan and 501(c)(3) addressed above. No updates on the Contract.

Consent Agenda Items Fair:

A motion to approve consent agenda items a and b was made by Winkler/Mott. All ayes; motion carried.

2021 Extension Budget and Process:

Art Lersch had to leave the meeting at 3:00 p.m. This agenda item was included only if there were new updates. The Administration Committee passed the budget onto the County Board Supervisors. There has been no further discussion. The contract for the educators will not be signed until November 10 at the County Board budget meeting. The Airport Commission found way to absorb the previous Airport rent of \$40,000 so the County will not have to pay that rent. The 2021 Nicolet rent is \$18,000, of which the State will pay half and the remainder of \$9,000 is due to the County.

2021 Extension Contract Status:

No update. Mott said that LRES decided not to approve until discussion takes place when the at budget review.

Educator Reports:

The Committee received the written educator reports in their packets. Educators were not able to attend today's re-scheduled meeting except for Alexander.

Alexander - Three Lakes Design Wisconsin has transitioned to on-line project and it is going well. There are Extension educators from across the State who are helping on the project. Last week they held 20 different focus groups. Their final presentation is on November 18, 2020, with break out groups the next day, to follow up on project ideas. On October 23, the volunteers, planners, landscape architects, will start putting things together as the virtual design team. The design team will work the first two weeks of November and will present on the 18th. New information is on the website as it occurs. The Shared Vision for Three Lakes will focus on how a small town can survive, with a seasonal economy, and whether new housing is worthwhile. The result is not the plan but the planning element. Over 600 people participated in looking at their survey and over 500 completed it. Children sent drawings of their vision of the new town and adults posted photos. Alexander continues to work with the City of Rhinelander regarding PFAS, and is involved with the new Northwoods Community Garden, Economic Development, and Growing Rural.

Extension-Nicolet Move/Airport as a Storage Facility: No new updates. Storage is still a concern but things are being stored within the office for now. There was a request for Extension staff cell phone numbers. If one calls to a specific desk extension, there is an option to roll over the call to the Educator cell phones. Email remains the second best option. Lehner will check into contact options of staff.

Consent Agenda Items:

A motion was made by Winkler/Mott to approve the Extension consent agenda items a and b. All ayes; motion approved.

Public Comment: None

Items to Include on next Agenda:

Nov 9 CUW meeting and Nov 10 County Board budget meeting. Setting a time for the LWCD, Crescent Lake, Cost Share, Crescent Lake updates. Lake District Reports as needed and project approvals. County Fair Report/Discussion and Contracts, Business plan, and 501(c) (3). Extension Nicolet update, Educator Reports.

Adjournment: Mott adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merry Lehner

Merry Lehner, Recording Secretary

Bob Mott

Bob Mott, Committee Chair