

**Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
September 14, 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, Stephanie Boismenu, Art Lersch, Myles Alexander, Terri Kolb, Carrie Kubacki, Anne Williams, Mary Stys, and Merry Lehner. Ben Niffenegger, Brian Desmond, Amanda Kasperek, Ryan Peterson, Becky Gaskill, Mike Romportl, and Dan Butkus attended via Zoom.

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

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 8/10/20 CUW Committee meeting minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

Future Meetings:

Monday, October 12, 2020	1:00 p.m.	County Board Room
Monday, November 9, 2020	1:00 p.m.	County Board Room

Public Comment:

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

Agenda Items 7 a/b and 15 were moved forward to accommodate Brian Desmond.

Lake Monitoring & Protection Network – AIS Grant

7a. 2021 Resolution Approval

Boismenu reviewed the changes to the DNR Surface Water Grant Program. Money is allocated for each county in a specific amount to use for their AIS projects. This money is used for Clean Boats Clean Watetr (CBCW) Citizen Lake Monitoring Network, (CLMN), etc. where Oneida County has been allocated \$22,003.33, effective January 1, 2021. Their current grant ends in June, 2021. There is an overlap of the grant money from 2020 and 2021. Because of that overlap, the 2021 funding will not be available until July, 2021 and it will be at a reduced rate. There are other grants available for AIS.

7b. 2022 Partnership with Lincoln County

Sadauskas provided the background regarding Lincoln County currently not having an AIS program. Since Land and Water has taken a little hit with new AIS funding system, she has been communicating with Lincoln County because Lake Nakomis straddles both Oneida and Lincoln Counties, as does Post Lake. If the two counties were to partner together, they would be helping each other out. A handout was provided with possible talking points. This grant will be reviewed again in 2021 but will not go into effect until 2022. Sadauskas wanted to start the conversation with the Committee. It will be a great collaboration and for CBCW and AIS monitoring.

Sadauskus asked Brian Desmond about the contract the DNR has that the County would have to work with. Desmond said he will have to speak with Lincoln County's legal department regarding specific programs and funding. A vote by Committee will be needed to ask that to allow discussion with Lincoln Co proposal. Lincoln is under an AIS grant through the end of 2021. The goal is for the protection of connected waters. It will be essentially the hiring of an LTE who will do most of the work. Boismenu will have a dual role where she will represent both counties at AIS meetings and related events. Lumberjack is working with other counties in the region for such partnerships. Amanda Kasperek, Conservation Program Manager with Lincoln County, is in favor of the joint county proposal and is very positive about sharing resources.

Winkler/Ives made motion to continue working on cooperative agreement for shared AIS services with Lincoln Co. (2022 Partnership with Lincoln County) All ayes; motion carried.

A motion for the 2021 Resolution Approval in the amount of \$11,100.66 was made, where there will be a carryover from this year's grant so the amount will be approximately \$33,000 and to approve the resolution by the committee and send on to County Board by Winkler/Thome. All ayes; motion approved.

Fair Privatization. Agenda Item 16. Andrist had started the conversation for privatization last week with Oneida County. Any money left over from this year, 2020, will be added to the 2021 money budgeted for the Fair. There is also carryover. He distributed a list of items to be considered for the budget. An area discussed was money left over from this year, 2020, with any 2021 money unused, added to it. Equipment was included in the request. If the Fair is able to become an independent entity, they will not expect the money requested on the 2021 Budget. If the Fair *does not go public*, then the Fair will need the 2021 Budget request from the County. The 2021 Budget requested amount of \$15,191. The primary cost of the Fair this year was \$11,000 plus cost of the Fair LTE's.

Andrist's conversation with Tom Weinsch touched on an agricultural component available to the Fair. This would be an exception that would allow a public entity like the County, to turn the Fair over to a private county Fair. Per Desmond, this is old language in the statutes, for exhibition of poultry. Modern day 501 (3)(c) statutes do not specifically call for it now, like back in the 1920's. The Administration Committee would have to address this and ultimately to the County Board. It was recognized that the final decision was up County Board. The Fair is asking for a separation document to be drafted. By way of example, Desmond said it could include such things as a leasing of the trolley to the Fair for a small amount. If the County were to donate such an item, Desmond said it would need a public purpose. Andrist said the items in the white garage at Pioneer Park garage are used every year. Putting a value figure on those fair assets is difficult. Mott advised the Fair to check with Darcy in Finance about listing the value.

Mott summarized that if Fair is allowed to carry-over money from the past year, and they go independent, they will not ask for money in the 2021 budget. A motion was made by Winkler/Mott to allow the Oneida County Fair to continue the process to go independent and any left over funds and equipment will go with the Fair. There are six items on Andrist's list to go forward to whoever in the County approves it. All ayes; motion carried.

An amended motion by Thome/Mott was made to approve the left over money from the 2020 Fair budget to be added to the accumulated carry over money. Back to the original motion, seven items are included on the motion. All Ayes; motion carried.

Willow Flowage:

- **2022 Surface Water Restoration Grant**
Extreme erosion problems exist on the Willow that would be a candidate for the 2022 Surface Water Restoration Grant. Sadauskas is presenting it today, but they will not apply until next fall. It takes time to get all the moving pieces together. Ben Niffenegger, Stacy Dehne from DATCP, and the Conservation department will work together. There will be a grant application. Niffenegger, the manager of Environmental Affairs for Wisconsin Valley Improvement Project, spoke about the details of restoration. They provide uniform flow of all reservoirs in the state. They operate the Willow, which is unique. A collaboration formed and DNR was used to fund the Willow Flowage Scenic. They donated 6,000 acres of recreational, environmental, and licensed agreements to use the shoreline. They maintain restrictive covenants. Sadauskas said money will be coming from the WDNR and they have to apply for this competitive grant for Sept 2, 2022.
Erosion issues will need to be addressed and are very specific on the property in this case. A condo group is just south of the dam or on the eastern side of the flowage. This will take much planning and to inform the home owners. There will need to be community support. It is a big project with a big price tag. That is why she is telling committee now. She will revisit next summer. Sadauskas asked for a pre-approval that they have committee support. There will be no details or resolution until next summer. WVIC will assist in kind for plants. Motion by Winkler/Ives that they support the request for 2022 Surface Water Restoration Grant.
- **Cost Share Project Approval – Joe Mack/Bill Shnowske**
6b. Joe Mack property on Willow Flowage. WVIC has footage on this property. A photo was shared that shows the erosion wash out. High water levels, in part, contribute and there is sandy area along with boat traffic. There is a 50 to 80 foot boarder on the reservoir. Property owners will need to be notified and then they will start

the approval process. This will be funded with next year's Cost Share money. Sadauskas is contracting with owners and WVIC. WVIC is the actual owner, but the home owner (land owner) is paying for the improvements. She is asking for approval to admit into Cost Share program. The \$1,000 deposit has been received and they want to move forward with surveying. Winkler/Ives made a motion to approve as stated in 6b on agenda. All ayes; motion carried.

2021 LWCD Budget

The two budgets were presented as a zero percent increase and a 5% reduction. An explanation was given regarding a change in the way grants are given. The department is going from a Competitive Grant to a Contract Grant, and due to Covid-19, they asked if could use some of excess funding to subsidize the AIS position in the amount of \$6,628, with the zero increase budget. With the 5% reduction, they added another \$3,318 to it. They would contribute \$10,000 to their budget. They are reducing the 2020 budget by 10,000, but they were not putting that towards Steph's position. The \$47,000 was cost share funds that was not utilized by the department due to 2020 being an unusual year and \$63,099 is the bottom line of reduced budget.

A motion for the approval of the 2021 LWCD budget as presented was made by Thome/Ives to be passed onto the Administration Committee. All Ayes; motion carried.

Workers Compensation Report Update

Sadauskas shared this document with the committee and there is nothing listed for Land and Water.

3:10 p.m. break –

Excused: Carrie Kubacki, Mary Stys, Fred Andrist, Stephanie Boismenu, Brian Desmond, and Amanda Kasparek.

Discontinue Portion of Gauge Avenue in Town of Pine Lake

Karl Jennrich reviewed procedure on when a town board wants to discontinue a road, there is a statute to follow. Land and Water Conservation is notified as a formality. A notice is sent to each adjoining property owner. The Town Board of the Town of Pine Lake will conduct a meeting on September 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Pine Lake Community Building located at 4197 River Road, Rhinelander, for the purpose of a public hearing on the Town Board's resolution to vacate a portion of Gauge Avenue described in the resolution. Thome asked if the area might be landlocked.

A motion by Thome/Winkler was made to review PL 583 which might be landlocked. Also it was moved to review to the Town of Pine Lake. The Committee just needs to know if it will not be landlocked. All ayes, motion carried.

Cost Share Update

Project Approval

- Fostner – Lake Tomahawk: Committee approval for Fostner, not too bad, but plantings are recommended up the slope, with additional vegetative rock rip rap, which is more protective and better for the habitat and animals.
- Turco – Crystal Lake: The shoreline is soft and eroded with an undercut. They will be looking at protective upland matting to protect the shoreline as well as path improvement. The properties will be surveyed and designed over winter.

Winkler/ Thome make a motion to approve the process to begin looking at funding for the said 2021 cost share improvements. All ayes; motion carried.

Lake District Report:

Bear Lake: 44th Annual meeting was held on Sept 5, 2020, outdoors in Hazelhurst, 30 attended. Brian Schulz was nominated and elected by the owners to fill the open commissioner's position for the expiring term of Tom Church. At the Commissioner's meeting, held immediately after the Lake District's Annual meeting, Mic Austin was elected Lake District Chairman by the Commissioners, Treasurer is Rick Klein and Brian Schulz is the Secretary. The 2021 Budget was and approved. The 2021 tax levy will be \$8,600. The next Annual meeting is on Sept 4, 2021.

Thunder Lake: Winkler will be at the meeting scheduled for next Saturday, September 19, 2020.

Consent Agenda Items: (Land and Water Conservation).

A motion was made by Ives/Sowatska to approve b and c, the monthly budget reports and invoices/purchase orders. All ayes; motion carried.

Proposed Crescent Lake District – Discussion Only

Sadauskas had conversations with her department, Mike Romportl, and Ryan Peterson about the proposed Crescent Lake District. Peterson is Chair of Crescent Lake Sub Committee. He and five others started researching the formation of a Lake District. They gathered petitions, and used the same structure as Squash Lake. They have 211 signatures on their petition of the 216 required. Once they reach their 51% goal, they will present to the County in November. When the petition is signed, the Land Information Department will verify the signatures are legitimate. It will be forwarded to the County Clerk who stamps and dates, and then is referred to Land Conservation. Signature verification will be completed before the end of the year. Romportl will not get involved until the petition is submitted to them. A consultant and the association will have to provide parcels in the description. They will need a description of the boundaries. An improved boundary map is pending. Romportl has parcel descriptions but will need the improved map. They are following the State Statute. Peterson would like an itemized list of expectations from Romportl. They are working off the 2019 tax roll. The County cannot provide a legal consultant to the proposed Lake District, they will have to get their own legal counsel. Mott referred Peterson to the timeline provided by Dan Butkus, which will be shared. Certain parcels require a better legal description. Peterson requested those parcels be sent to Sadauskas and Romportl. Peterson will submit in late October and once submitted there will be a public hearing. Sadauskas said they could reference the schedule used by Squash Lake District. She will share with Peterson.

Excused: Mike Romportl and Ryan Peterson.

Oneida County Fair Report/Discussion

Winkler reported that the Virtual Fair was well attended with successful participation. The Fair continues to work with Alexander on strategic planning and a business plan. The 501 (3)(c) plan is expected to be approved by year end. Two new Fair Committee members who passed their background checks and were approved. The new people are Susanne Tjugum and Stevie Lee Hens. Andrist has worked well getting members involved and Barnett continues to recruit .

Fair 2021 Budget:

Andrist researched back to the 2019 budget. The advertising amount was changed for the 2021 budget. The 5% budget reduction was included as well. Asked about the three day at Minocqua Carnival revenue, Andrist said it was estimated to be at \$2,000. The Carnival percentage will be Fair income. Fund raising this year was successful. Winkler/Thome made a motion to approve the Fair 2021 budget as presented and pass on to the Administration Committee. All Ayes; motion carried.

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

Tom Weinsch has been out so there will be further update at next meeting.

Consent Agenda Items Fair:

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

Extension 2021 Budget:

Art Lersch introduced the Extension staff. Myles Alexander, is full time Communities Senior Outreach Specialist, Terri Kolb Health and Well Being at 40%, Anne Williams, 4-H Coordinator at 50%, Carrie Kubacki, Positive Youth Development and Mary Stys, FoodWise had to leave earlier. Terri Lindner was not able to attend. Karly Harrison, FoodWise Coordinator on via zoom. FoodWise is federally funded and not included in budget. Extra packets were distributed. The zero percent budget of \$182,977 was presented for 2021. The contracted State funds were explained to the Committee. The \$10,000 discount from the State to the County was applied again for 2021. The 5% reduction budget amounted to \$9,150 in savings. The reduced rent at Nicolet was discussed where the County will need to negotiate the \$18,000 rent with Nicolet College. The State is paying for the Extension rent through year end. There was a discussion regarding a lack of storage space, for now, for 4-H supplies and Fair related items. The staff continues to consolidate 4-H supplies due to

storage not being included in the budget. A motion was made by Thome/Ives to approve proposed Extension 2021 at a 0% increase and the 5% reduction as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Extension Contract:

Lersch presented the contract noting there are no changes in the language from last year. The County and University rights and responsibilities were reviewed. The final total cost is the same as what was presented on the budget. Both the County and State contribute portions to the full Extension budget. A motion by Winkler/Thome was made to approve the 2021 Extension contract between Oneida County and the State of Wisconsin, and Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, as presented. Stephanie Sowatzka was not present at the time of the contract vote. All Ayes; motion approved.

Educator Reports:

The educator reports were included in the Extension packets to the Committee. Lersch distributed partnership lists from each educator.

- Williams reported 17 new youth have been added to 4-H. She has succeeded in involving children with virtual programs.
- Harrison's main focus is reaching out to all partners to provide virtual education.
- Kolb has been on-boarding/training where mental and physical health as it relates to responding to and adapting to the pandemic mentally and physically with stress reduction
- Alexander's focus continues with Three Lakes Discovery project.

Extension/Nicolet Move/Storage Update:

This was covered under the Extension budget agenda item.

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:

Cost Share, Pine Lake, 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 4:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merry Lehner, Recording Secretary

Bob Mott, Committee Chair