

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
Monday, April 12, 2021 Minutes
Courthouse County Board Room and by Zoom

Committee members present: Chair Bob Mott, Bob Thome, Jr., Jim Winkler, Mike Roach, Mitch Ives, Alan Van Raalte, and FSA Representative, John Engel.

Others Present: Karl Jennrich, Michele Sadauskas, Baerbel Ehrig, JoAnne Lund, Stephanie Boismenu, Jonna Jewell, Joe Steinhage, Dan Butkus, Tracy Beckman, Jeff Verdoorn, Ryan Peterson, Dave Schmitz, Paul Fiene, Alan Janssen, Steven Schreier, Art Lersch, Myles Alexander, Anne Williams, Sharon Krause, Terri Kolb, Karly Harrison, Thomas Barnett, and Merry Lehner.

Call to order: Chairman Mott called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was properly posted.

Approve Agenda: A motion by Thome/Winkler to approve the April 12, 2021 agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve Minutes:

Winkler/Thome made a motion to approve March 8, 2021 meeting minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

Future Meetings:

Monday, May 10, 2021	1:00 p.m.	County Board Room and Zoom
Monday, June 14, 2021	1:00 p.m.	County Board Room and Zoom

Public Comment: None

Electronic Signature Approval for April 12, 2021 meeting:

Chairman Mott reviewed that Committee members will permit their typed in names to be represented as their signature on all documents when attending meetings virtually. Thome/Winkler made a motion to approve electronic signatures for today's meeting. All ayes; motion carried.

Introduction of John Engel, New Farm Service Agency (FSA) Representative

John Engel is new FSA Representative, included a short biography in the information packet.

Lumberjack Grant Submission Approval:

Friends of Town Line Lake Park, Dave Schmitz, Fundraising Committee Chair spoke to the Committee. The initial grant from Lumberjack is one of many grants in efforts to save the park. There currently is no dock at the public landing. The landing itself is steep and rocky. An estimate provided from Crandon Docks is an example of the cost for a new dock and landing. Other bids will be submitted later. The dock will be a permanent structure, not the portable type, rolled out for winter. Paul Fiene, Forestry Department, asked if the dock will be located on County land, and if so, they must present to the County. Mott requested a break down of the cost of dock and boat landing. Winkler/Thome made motion to approve the submission for approval of the Town Line Lake Park Lumberjack grant. All ayes; motion approved.

Crescent Lake District:

The Crescent Lake District will be submitted on April 20, 2021 as a recommendation to County Board. The resolution will be included as an agenda item.

Lake District Reports:

Lake Nokomis Lake District: The Commissioners meeting was held on March 11, 2021. The new board is taking on new

issues. The fiscal year will be changed to a calendar year January through December. They are working with the DNR for information on no wake zones and the placements of bouys. Bouy management plans and a safety sheet were updated. Dave Nycz presented the Lake Management plan on invasive species update. A motion was passed on a resolution affirmed parcel NO-1177 does not have lake access was withdrawn from the Lake District. Van Raalte excused.

Thunder Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District: Minutes from December 5, 2020 and March 6, 2021 were reviewed. Reports were on fish stocking at James Lakes Farms and the dam and breach. John Stauner discussed the size of the dam, culvert ability to vacate water, and breach integrity during a heavy rain. An Inspection date will be scheduled. Concerns about weeds, snails, the overseeing of water sampling and aeration were discussed. There is confusion over the dam which is owned by the Town of Three Lakes but it sits on DNR property.

Mid Lake Protection and Management District: The Annual Meeting was held July 4, 2020, with 27 people attending. Costs for the 2020 season and mill rates were discussed. The 2021 budget was approved with a .5 mill rate. The Lake Management report reviewed the services Onterra provides. Goals discussed were to maintain and preserve water quality, keep navigation lanes in open water to retain natural environments, and to curb invasive species. Election of three commissioners took place. Their terms will be staggered. Wakeboats continue to be an on-going issue. A discussion on who can vote during a district election under different circumstances took place.

Squash Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District: A virtual meeting was held on January 10, 2021. The DNR Grant Report was presented. A motion was approved to test water at the creek at north end of the lake. Bob Thome presented on the shoreline protection ordinance ammendment of Oneida County to align with the State. Butkus with the Wisconsin Lakes Assoc., discussed having the lake monitored by DNR several times a year for boating regulation violations. A meeting was on Sunday, April 11 discussed the wages of divers.

LWCD Update:

River Planning Grant 2020/2021 JoAnne Lund, River Grant Specialist

From June to October, a total of 105 stream crossings were surveyed, including 12 bridges, 92 culverts, and one dam in six different towns, where a summarization of passability, structural integrity, and erosion were reported. A March 5 Townhall meeting had a workshop with a wealth of training and information. Culvert repair costs were questioned on how each town will handle payment and more information will be forthcoming.

AIS Grant Awards – Stephanie Boismenu

Boismenu gave an update on the Surface Water grants. In Oneida County there were sixteen lake groups, two districts, one town, and the Land Water Conservation department that were awarded a total of 34 surface water grants, totaling a little over \$400,000. Boismenu listed the lakes involved in Oneida County that will be protected. Ten CBCW watercraft workshops are scheduled and she is working on citizen lake monitoring workshops scheduling as well. COVID signs will be posted at the boat launches and volunteers will practice social distancing.

Cost Share Update:

Sadauskas stated that a number of variables led the department to reconsider the cost share cap. They would like to propose a Cost Share 2021 cap increase to \$12,000 per project. This will be forwarded to next month.

Definition of Vegetation:

There was concern over type and amount of vegetation removed at Two Sisters Lake site and a definition of vegetation was requested by the Two Sisters Lake Association. Information was gathered using data from other counties in the area. They looked at number of shoreland protection ordinances. A request to research the term vegetation as used in shoreland protection ordinances (SPO) was made. A slide presentation of non-compliant lots was provided and compliant ones with natural vegetation. It is not a recommended or good practice to have grass growing down to shoreline, which is considered compliant under the current ordinance.

Four Recommendations:

1. Define vegetaiton/vegetated as: Native or non-invasive live plant material which will mitigate erosion or stormwater runoff.
2. Mandate: The access and view corridor must be maintained with vegetation. Sand, gravel, rock or other similar materials shall be prohibited.
3. Include definition of compliant vegetatibe buffer under 9.95a: Shall contain three distinct layers including a tree

canopy, shrub layer, and groundcover layer, except for closed canopy forest types such as pine and hemlock.

4. If possible, establish a provision to reduce/prohibit cutting of trees over a certain dbh (diameter at breast height) in the access and view corridor.

Regulation for removal of vegetation in shoreland areas were discussed. The first thirty-five feet is the vegetative buffer zone. The access and viewing corridor is a 35 x 35 foot box for safe access to the water. There are no current quantitative descriptions on how many trees or shrubs are required for a given amount of square feet. Established viewing corridors cannot be altered. Land disturbance is defined as any digging to the soil. Land and Water is in the business of restoring shorelines and it is best if they provide this definition. The purpose of the revision is to preserve the environment and to mitigate erosion or stormwater runoff. Mott asked the committee to accept the vegetative description presented by Sadauskas. Any clarifications will be addressed next month. It will then be forwarded to Planning and Development Committee.

2021 -2023 State Biennial Budget – L & W Priorities:

There will be a meeting in the Hodag Dome on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm of the Joint Committee on Finance-Public Hearing. Governor's 2021-2023 Biennial Budget. They will be working through the State Budget. Sadauskas asked if the Committee wants to send a member with her to testify.

Agenda Order of Extension and LWCD:

A previous discussion about the option of having two meetings for LWCD and Extension was rejected. Mott asked the Committee if Extension can present first at times. A motion made by Ives/Winkler agreed to have the Extension present first every other month starting in May, 2021. All ayes; motion carried.

Consent Agenda Items: (Land and Water Conservation:

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

Motion made by Thome/Winkler to approve line item transfers as listed. All ayes; motion carried.

Land and Water, and related public excused.

Oneida County Fair Report/Discussion:

The Fair meeting was on Thursday, April 8. Winkler clarified that per Tom Wiensch, the correct official title of the Fair is the "Exhibition and Education Sub Committee", per County Code. They should not call themselves the Oneida County Fair Committee. It will eliminate confusion when the Fair is independent, using the title Oneida County Fair, Inc. Other meeting decisions included a vote for the removal of a fair member and a decision to employ a new animal farm this summer. Thank your notes were sent to contributors to the recent fundraiser. There was a discussion on beer garden options and the handling of vendor contracts. In May, the fair will start meeting twice a month.

Fair Resolutions:

Winkler is working with Tom Wiensch the fair becoming independence and fair property lease resolutions. Oneida County parcel PE-69 the Fair is interested in leasing. Winkler feels the Fair should go before the Land Records Committee first. Tom Barnett wishes to know where the Fair stands with parcel since the Fair is still under the County. Mike Romportl, Land Information Director, identified available properties last year. Both the Land Records Committee and the County Board of Supervisors will make final decision and approve the parcel. Wiensch requested Romportl to write a description of the parcel, which will go to the Land Records Committee for review, put it on the agenda and present it to the County Board as "for" or "against". If the Fair constructs any buildings on county land, and then became independent, who would own those buildings? It is the intention of the County will support the Fair to become independent with a smooth transition. Mott asked the Fair to consult their own legal counsel regarding becoming independent of the County. For 2021, the Fair is under the County and jurisdiction. Mott advised for a property lease proposal and for Tom Wiensch to present

to Land and Records for May. The CUW Committee meeting Monday, May 10 and the Land and Records will be on Tuesday, May 11, so the proposal will need to be prepared in advance.

Fair Privatization:

Mott received a letter from Tom Wiensch with several concerns, some already discussed regarding privatization. Winkler will be working with Wiensch on transitioning from a public fair to a private fair.

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

The 501(3)(c) is complete. The City sent over the contract to the County and it is complete. Desmond, Mott and Hintz signed the contract in March. The rest of the Committee will receive copies today. The Business Plan is reasonably set between the Fair and the Score project volunteer. Once an independent entity, money will no longer go through the County for the Fair.

Consent Agenda Items Fair:

A motion was made by Winkler/Ives to approve consent agenda items a, and b. The March monthly summaries were not available. All ayes; motion carried.

Extension Area 4 Extension Director Position Update:

Lersch said a very strong pool of candidates applied for the Area 4 position. They will begin preliminary interviews this week and next week. Lersch hopes to have an answer by June. The AED is an administrative position paid by the State.

Teen Court Update and Introduction of Sharon Krause, New Teen Court Educator

Lersch introduced Sharon Krause who spoke to the committee. Krause born and raised in the Minocqua area. She started with Extension in Douglas County and worked as 4-H using the STEM program and was the Positive Youth Development educator, training youth in government. She moved to Vilas County Extension as their Teen Court representative. She has a background in alcohol and drug prevention and education. Most recently, she has been building relationships with the Lac du Flambeau tribe as a positive youth development educator. Currently, she is working on April Teen Court cases in Oneida County. She is recruiting for Teen Court panelists at Rhinelander High School. Krause looking into other programming that prevent kids from ending up in Teen Court. She is working along with the Oneida County Extension educators to give an overview of programming to the Coordinated Services Coalition. Anne Williams and Krause plan to meet with the YMCA on a youth advisory council. Other areas of work are youth mental health and civil engagement.

Extension Strategies:

Lersch had the CUW Committee make introductions to Sharon Krause. Lersch asked the other educators involved in the presentation tomorrow with the Oneida County Children’s Mental Health Initiative CST Committee to add their comments. They include involvement of with other county departments and stakeholders. Anne Williams gave a presentation on 4-H inclusion and access efforts at the Northern Regional Center for Youth and Special Healthcare Needs. She and Krause will work with the YMCA Youth Advisory Council. Karly Harrison presents tomorrow about food insecurity with children in Oneida County and the effect of mental health and what programs they might add to address that. She is presenting programs with the Social Services staff and potential partnerships. When there is an event, Thome asked educators to quantify how many people are involved at future meetings. Mott thanked educators do for the community.

Educator Reports/Report Format:

Lersch announced the new format that is a statewide effort where Oneida County is a pilot. Educators will be reporting monthly instead of quarterly to the State.

4-H held a youth speaking demonstration. Jim Winkler judged and Anne Williams was grateful for his help.

Myles Alexander asked for input on his work with the Rhinelander PFAS Response group. He will speak, at the request of the mayor, at the Joint Finance Committee meeting on April 21, and asked what role is appropriate for him to speak? Mott advised to highlight the role Extension plays in this effort on the health and welfare of the community affected by PFAS. Thome asked Alexander to track the towns involved with his work with OCLRA involving 50 to 75 people, to capture the broad reach of Extension.

Karly Harrison met with the YMCA and the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry for food access to Rhinelander youth, where the YMCA received \$15,000 towards this effort. FoodWise will provide a refrigerator to the YMCA and a State Food Safety specialist for guidance. This summer, food distribution will take place at parks and FoodWise will provide food and present an education piece.

Terri Kolb working on ROTA (Rural Opioid Technical Assistance) Grant and working directly with ADOA, a subcommittee of the COPE coalition. They completed a coalition review and see where they can improve. Much of their work requires collaboration from partners or organizations. UW-Madison is providing specialists to help them function more efficiently. Training continues and they recognize a need for more members to be active. She participated in listening sessions with ADRC on available services and resources. Directors are working on a 15-year vision.

Extension-Nicolet update:

Nicolet's presidential search is continuing. The campus remains closed to the public, although there is traffic into the Extension office. Extension is working with Sandy Bishop for signage. Requests for signs outside the building and one before the turn into the parking lot is necessary. The State is starting to loosen some of their restrictions. Some classes are up to a third capacity. The Extension office is following Oneida County policies.

Consent Agenda Items: Extension received the first half of educator invoice from the State. A motion made by Winkler/Thome to approve Extension consent agenda item b. All ayes; motion carried. A motion by Thome/Winkler approved the monthly budget reports for January and February. All ayes; motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Items to Include on next Agenda:

Extension is first on agenda in May. Extension updates on Area Director, Nicolet, Educator Reports and Strategies. LWCD updates, Cost Share. County Fair Report, Privatization. Update on Fair resolutions needed. Land Records meeting is May 11, 2021.

Adjournment: Chair, adjourned the meeting at 3:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merry Lehner
Merry Lehner, Recording Secretary

Bob Mott
Bob Mott, Committee Chair