

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
Monday, October 11, 2021 – Courthouse County Board Room and Virtually by ZOOM
Minutes

Committee members present: Chairman Bob Mott, Bob Thome, Jr., Mike Roach, Jim Winkler, Mitch Ives (partial attendance), and John Engel.

Others Present: Alan Van Raalte, Michele Sadauskas, Stephanie Boismenu, Dan Butkus, Amber Rehberg, Myles Alexander, Terri Kolb, Karly Harrison, Allison Wilson, Becki Gaskill, Jonna Jewell, 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 Winkler/Thome to approve the October 11, 2021 agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

Announcements: Alan Van Raalte stepped in as a substitute and was approved by the County Board Chair as a substitute for the Conservation portion of the meeting when Ives was not available.

Approve Minutes: Thome/ Winkler made a motion to approve the September 13, 2021, CUW Committee meeting minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

Future Meetings:

Monday, November 8, 2021	1:00 p.m.	Courthouse County Board Room
Monday, December 13, 2021	1:00 p.m.	Courthouse County Board Room or TBA

Electronic Signature Approval for October 11, 2021 meeting:

Committee members present will sign documents while those attending virtually will permit a typed or written name to represent their signatures. The Resolution signatures apply as well. Thome/Winkler made motion to approve electronic signatures. All ayes; motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Manure Storage Ordinance Update – K. Jennrich/ M. Sadauskas/D. Butkus/ T. Jerow

Jennrich said they were pleased to hear back from DATCP and they provided valid comments and did not see any problems with the ordinance. Sadauskas noted that at the last meeting there was a discussion about adding compost into the ordinance. While looking into that she noticed some of the setbacks were not included for stacks less than 175 cubic feet. The yellow highlighted portions are those setback corrections and the compost updates. Sadauskas reviewed each of the pages. The definition for compost was added to 28-4 letter E. For letter F, "stacks of any size". Page 28-10 had to re-work letter D, page 28-11 re-worked letter E as mentioned regarding setbacks. For 28-15 and 16, there are four instances where a permit is not required. Setbacks will apply to all of those except for compost. A compost pile does not need a setback or time limit.

The Summary of DATCP recommendations for MSO was distributed to the Committee. There was discussion to clarify and answer any questions. An email from Lisa at DATCP on 9/30/21 asked if they wanted to remove the performance standard from 28 1-4 and just keep Manure Storage Facilities Prohibitions. For performance standards 28-11, taking out 1-4 per DATCP, will leave enforcement of NR 151 to the DNR. The County would retain the permitting process, but enforcement would be through the DNR.

We could leave the prohibitions, which are not standards, on 28-13. No overflow. DNR would be the enforcer. Once performance standard in 28-13 H if left in, the County would have to enforce part H. Mott said this is what we are trying to do. With this ordinance, we would have to make it a priority. It is more of a public health related issue.

Sadauskas said if we decide to pull out the performance standards, they could be inserted later. Mott feels the more we can do at the county level the better. There were questions wondering if the DNR will enforce. It was questioned what benefit there was by taking it out. Both Sadauskas and Jennrich recommended taking them out.

A motion made by Thome/Winkler to remove the performance standards except for chapter 28-13 letter H, 1-4 would remain the same. All ayes; motion carried.

One final comment on Page 28-1, they will be striking 51.12 if performance standards are removed. Corporation Counsel will have to review now that DATCP has submitted report. A public hearing both in-person and virtually is scheduled for Dec 2, 2021 Thursday at 6:00 p.m. at the County Courthouse boardroom. An explanatory page about the ordinance should be published, like a white page, on why we are doing this and the input of all parties.

Wildlife Damage Budget Approval/Signature:

Jim Tharman. They currently have 13 enrollees in the program. The only thing in the budget that changed from last year is the increased amount to \$30,687.98 due to cost of living increases. The rest remains the same. Motion by Winkler/Thome to approve the wildlife budget for 2022. All ayes, motion carried. A side note: some fence repairs are pending.

Lake District Reports:

Nokomis – Alan Van Raalte. The Annual meeting was on August 14, 2021. The lake management plan was prepared with public input totaling \$52,846. The State pays 75% and the Districts pays 25%. The board developed a budget for the remainder of 2021. The Fiscal year begins with January to December per the DNR. The 2022 budget was approved at the annual meeting. Safety and Education will be added to the District; a no wake town ordinance and the replacement of buoys was discussed. There has been a 30% turnover in lakefront owners, who will need information. The treatment of Eurasian Milfoil will be part of the Comprehensive Management Plan. Nominations for the election of officers took place at the LNLB Board of Commissioners meeting on August 14, 2021.

Squash/Mid Lake Update – Bob Mott. The Mid Lake meeting was yesterday and there are no minutes for Mid Lake. The Squash Lake Treasurer's report was simplified to show revenue and expense categories and a review the 3rd quarter. The divers clocked 429 hours and collected 1100 pounds of Eurasian Milfoil at a cost of \$15,000, which was under budget. There was about three times as much of the weed due to an early spring. They are looking at training new divers.

Crescent Lake – Bob Thome. The meeting was on Oct 4, 2021. A new Treasurer, Jim Ketterson, reported the checkbook balance of \$1,281.91. The assessment received from the State is a bit higher than previous reports and it will decrease in mill rate a little bit. The main purpose of meeting was to transfer a grant from the Association to the District. The District will take on funding for the Clean Boats Clean Water program in 2022. They discussed some website improvement and establishing some structure for volunteers as a contingency fund. The next meeting Jan 4, 2022.

Resolution Approval:

Surface Water Restoration Grant- Willow Flowage – The Committee approved this grant a few months ago. The department was looking for help from DNR monies to restore two properties on Willow Flowage. The resolution has to go before the County Board. For the fiscal impact, the total expense is 76,318 and the total revenue is \$29,168. It is a typical grant. Motion to approve the resolution and send to the County Board for their approval by Winkler/Thome. All ayes; motion carried. They will have four resolutions for the County Board for September. An electronic signature will be on file for Ives and Roach.

Shoreland Protection Ordinance – Definition of Vegetation Update – P & D Committee Reaction. Karl Jennrich

Sadauskas addressed some questions posed earlier by the Planning & Development Committee. Land Water Conservation sent a memo on Aug 6 to Planning and Development and their committee discussed it on August 25. A summary of those discussions from Dan Butkus, states that the committee agreed with definitions/recommendations provided by the County Conservationist. Planning & Development wanted easily understood language about what is allowed or not allowed in the ordinance. Allowed in the 35-foot corridor are cut trees, brush removal, ground stumps, and plants for vegetative cover. Removal of stumps or roots are not allowed in the 35-foot corridor. Stump removal takes away a lot of soil. Grinding stumps is okay. There was discussion of all shoreline clearing with a possible permit. Planning and Development wants the issue addressed but the department cannot do anything with this right now. Until they have staff place, they will not take any further action. They are in the middle several projects including training a new assistant zoning administrator only on the job for a month. Defining vegetation is three quarters complete. Estimated completion will be February/ March 2022, before the building season. A request for a land disturbance definition was an included handout.

Cost Share Update:

Reimbursement Approval – Pulver Project: The Wisconsin River Project is nearing completion. They asked the Committee for reimbursement. Staff will be on site to inspect it but they want the approval upfront due to invoicing and a change in the accounts payable schedule by Finance. A motion by Thome/Winkler to approve the Pulver Project reimbursement with staff assurance that the property was properly completed. All ayes; motion carried.

2022 Project Cap: There is a \$31,000 cap for 2022. They need to know from Committee how to distribute those funds. Sadauskas recommends three project at a \$10,333 cap. She prefers the higher cap because of staffing. They have been seeing larger projects that cost more. If the project turn out not to be that much, they could add more projects. They are looking at about 15 sites but most are not under consideration. A motion by Winkler/Thome made for the approval of the 2022 Project Cap of three projects. All ayes; motion carried.

2021 Kornack Project (Nokomis) There is one slot left in the 2021 monies and requests project approval to replace an old seawall. A motion by Thome/Winkler to approve the 2021 Kornack project. All ayes; motion carried.

2022 Town of Stella Culvert Project A similar project was completed in the town of Lynne on Scott Creek last year as grant funding for a stream crossing. Due to this prior history, the request came about. The estimate is \$150,000 for the culvert replacement. There is Cost Share funding of \$75,000 through the Highway Department. LWCD has money and it is a priority culvert project. They will need approval by DATCP for this to be a Cost Share project. Sadauskas is asking for this as one of the three projects for 2022. This project could show ecological benefits for the watershed surrounding Spur Lake. The final cost to Stella is \$70,000 (with \$10,000 in County Cost Share money going toward the project). A motion by Thome/ Winkler to approve the Town of Stella project as a priority culvert to be completed in 2022, contingent on the Town of Stella proving their share of the cost estimated at \$70,000. All ayes; motion carried.

Consent Agenda Items (LWCD)

A motion made by Winkler/Thome to approve agenda item b and c. All ayes; motion carried. An amended invoice included a wildlife damage invoice.

Fair Committee Update:

The Fair had a meeting last Tuesday night. They are getting the last of their bills paid off. They have not received an invoice from the person who does overnight security. A deadline for the invoice will be set and if not received, the service will be written off as a contribution. The Treasurer's report is showing a \$12,000 balance but the year-end expenses such as Barnett's salary, office rent, and other outstanding bills have to be deducted. On 12/31/21, there will be approximately \$6,775 in accumulated carryover, which will be the estimated transfer. The Fair Privatization resolution was approved by Committee last month and was signed at the closed session. A question about if all signatures were complete was raised so the resolution was signed again, for the County Clerk. Winkler said a November 9, 2021 "Fairwell" Committee meeting is planned.

Consent Agenda Items – Fair

A motion was made by Winkler/Thome to approve agenda item b. All ayes, motion carried.

Area 4 Extension Director Update:

Rehberg had no new updates. The 136 contracts will need signatures in November after the final budget is approved.

Budget Transfer Request 2021:

Rehberg decided to make it a separate agenda item instead of the Consent Agenda. The LTE assigned hours went over budget this year due to having two LTEs the past year to handle the workload. An increase in hours is expected for 2023. To cover the overage, a request to transfer money from Mileage Reimbursement account, where there was less travel due to Covid will go to LTE wages. The line-item transfer will be for \$3,600 to cover LTE costs for rest of year. A motion by Winkler/Thome to approve the line-item transfer for \$3,600 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Extension Communication Strategies:

Rehberg reviewed that in the last few staff meetings, they have worked on a communication plan for 2022. Extension has a presence on Social Media and have great ideas about the capacity of Extension. They are looking closely at who and where their audiences are in the County. They are planning to get out into the Community to strategize and to gather data. By end of year, they hope to have a comprehensive plan for 2022. November is coming. Strategy for partners and stakeholders will be present. The monthly County Reports distributed could be condensed to an annual summary report but if those are not being read now, they are not going to read more paper. Extension staff has decided

on one pager report. A map will be on one side showing areas where Extension has programming and the other side will list the details. It will show an overview. It will be available to the County Board and the Community. Rehberg asked Committee if they wanted anything else. The Extension at the State level has a marketing director, Matthew Call, and there are resources, materials and staffing available. Mott said the County Reports are helpful and wants some highlighting of activities this past year. It is helpful to show dollars spent to the County that they do not need to take from the General Fund. It will make the transition easier. What would be lost dollar equivalent, if Educators did not offer services to the County? It should be available upon request along with the usual testimonials. Make sure the Train the Trainer is a concept understood as something Extension offers.

Educator Reports:

The committee received the County Reports.

Karly Harrison: Introduction-new nutritional educator-Allison Wilson started on September 20, 2021. The position is at 65%. The CUW Committee introductions took place. Harrison gave an update that FoodWise finished their fiscal year September 30. As of October 1, FoodShare benefits have increased and families will see an increase of 6-25% in benefits. The USDA reviewed the cost of living for first time in 40 years. Shopping at the Farmers Market used to have the EBT system to purchase food and Mary Stys is working on getting SNAP FoodShare dollars back to the Farmers Market. From 2020 to 2021, there is an average increase of 600 more individuals receiving FoodShare. As of August 2021, there are 4,117 recipients.

Allison Wilson: Social worker and background working at Crescent school. She grew up in Appleton. Her husband works at Nicolet and their kids are in the school system for the past 8 years.

Anne Williams: A new 4-H fiscal year.

Sharon Krause: Balancing Teen Court and exploring other Community Development Youth programs are building out.

Terri Kolb: Terri spoke at YMCA at Active Aging Week and she explained who Extension is to the group. The group was very interested in what Extension does. One commented about the value of Extension. A woman from Children's Hospital stated that children need more food programs at the hospital. Kolb presented Active and Health Aging. She starts training for a class called "Stand Up and Move More" that focuses on less sedentary behavior, which starts in October. She continues to collaborate with Social Services and ADRC partnership, where there is a purchase of Services to address various health promotion programs. Thome said Social Services approved the proposal and it is in the 2022 budget.

Myles Alexander: Conversations with the Northwoods Roundtable Group have started and they had some good leads with State players. Sick childcare and after school childcare are things that the County is not offering now.

Extension – Nicolet Update:

Rehberg has been in meetings for continued partnerships and where we can collaborate and build on partnerships.

Consent Agenda Items – Extension

Motion by Winkler/Thome to approve agenda items a, b and c. All ayes; motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Items to Include on next Agenda: November 8, 2021

Updates for LWCD, Cost Share, MSO, new zoning district for commercial agriculture. County Fair Report and review of Privatization Resolution. Fair and Extension Oct-Nov monthly reports. Extension Director and Nicolet update, Extension Strategies, Educator Reports. December-budget hearings results.

Adjournment: Mott adjourned the meeting 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merry Lehner, Recording Secretary

Bob Mott, Committee Chair