

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
Monday, September 13, 2021 – Courthouse County Board Room and Virtually by ZOOM
Minutes

Committee members present: Chairman Bob Mott, virtually, Bob Thome, Jr., Mike Roach, Jim Winkler, Russ Fisher, Steven Schreier, and John Engel. Mitch Ives excused.

Others Present: Michele Sadauskas, Stephanie Boismenu, Dan Butkus, Tom Jerow, Amber Rehberg, Myles Alexander, Terri Kolb, Sharon Krause, Karly Harrison, Jonna Jewell, and Merry Lehner.

Call to order: Chairman Mott called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. The meeting was properly posted.

Approve Agenda: A motion by Winkler/Thome to approve the September 13, 2021 agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

Announcements: None

Approve Minutes: Thome/ Winkler made a motion to approve the August 9, 2021, CUW Committee meeting minutes with one minor change as noted. All ayes; motion carried.

Future Meetings:

Monday, October 11, 2021	1:00 p.m.	County Board Room
Monday, November 8, 2021	1:00 p.m.	Nicolet Northwoods Center or TBD

Electronic Signature Approval for August 9, 2021 meeting:

Committee members present will sign documents while those attending virtually will permit their typed or written names to represent their signature on all documents the meeting. Winkler/Thome made motion to approve electronic signatures today. All ayes; motion carried.

Public Comment: Dan Butkus submitted a written comment. Of 72 counties, 62 have manure storage ordinances. Of the 10 that do not, 6 are in North Central Wisconsin, the area with inland lakes of which Oneida County is one of those counties. If counties with more agriculture found it wise to pass a Manure Storage Ordinance, then Oneida should as well. Butkus urged the Committee to approve the ordinance so it can begin enactment.

Introduction of Todd Troskey- Assistant Zoning Director

Troskey was formerly with Planning and Zoning and stepped in to help Karl Jennrich with permit and Shoreland Zoning Ordinance and complaints. Listed goals for the next six months. Mott commented on his very impressive background of hydrogeology and mining geology. He will be helping Jennrich in the department.

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

At last month's meeting, John Engel asked for a review of Code 318, Sadauskas, Butkus, and Jerow discussed and reviewed how to include the code into the ordinance. Attempts to codify made it more confusing and restricted and not more flexible for small farms. Trying to bring Code 318 into the document became a bit burdensome and seemed to defeat the purpose. They decided to approach it differently.

Butkus and Jerow tried to incorporate it into the ordinance. It is a guidance document with good information. However, it became cumbersome due to the very detailed instruction on covered manure stacks. They tried to carve out that an uncovered manure stack is allowed, if it is *not* in a water quality management area. In this case, a permit is not needed. If a stack is located in a water quality management area, you must cover it. They did not specify how to cover it in order to keep it flexible. It is based on a manure stack that is greater than or equal to 175 cubic feet. The changes made are as follows: if the stack is below 175 cubic feet it is unregulated meaning there is no permit needed. A larger stack can be uncovered if not in a management area, and setbacks are away from surface water and wetlands. You can have a manure stack there but they must be covered and you do not need to have a permit. They felt this summarized it. Butkus said the original intent was to prevent larger farm manure storage. They do not want to trap or ensnare a small

farmer in the process. A diagram was shared where no manure storage facilities and no unconfined manure stacks could be near wetlands, streams, or lakes. John Engel liked the ordinance better than a month ago. He thinks they adopted the key elements of Code 318 well. He found the summary very helpful. He was confused about compost and if this ordinance will apply to manure and compost as well. Engel spoke with farmers for their general feedback and they wondered why they need this restriction. The assumption is that lake is clear now and why do they need this in the future. Jerow thinks we need a compost definition as a best professional judgement. There will be some interpretation. There are a dozen farm sites close to lakes, rivers, streams, and the DNR in past, worked with the County LWCD and even formed grants to help farmers in such areas. Give compliance advice. Farmers may not be aware that what they are doing may cause a problem. A farmer may reason that their methods were the same as how their grandfather did it and do not see any harm being done. Education can explain to those who have lack of understanding of the impact manure has on the watershed, and provide the solutions. We want to protect the waters as a resource and to look ahead as a preemptive measure if large CAFOs arrive. The Timeline shows when information from DATCP will be back by the October meeting. They will also provide a map showing farmers with livestock in the County.

Lumberjack Project Approval

Proposal: Environmental Education Pavilion at Tesomas Scout Camp on Crystal Lake – Matt Hansen
They started about four years ago to promote conservation and environmental education on their properties. Hansen the provided information showing where they want to build an education pavilion. In 2020 the North Trail Boardwalk was constructed to provide access to the future North Trail Educational Outpost. They want to build a 20 x 20-foot outpost with an enclosed storage area, and a shelter with seven benches for seating up to 42 students. It will have an amphitheater and be handicap assessable. The shelter will be located next to lake. They will utilize previous open area, where they will control erosion and have native plants. They will restore surrounding forest, practice invasives prevention with WHIP and avoid damage to wetland/riparian zones. The total for the project is \$14,750. It will enhance natural resources, which is the mission of the Lumberjack summary. Motion by Winkler/Thome to approve this proposal and pass on with a letter of recommendation to Lumberjack. All ayes; motion carried.

Proposal: Town of Crescent Community Pollinator Project – Joel Knutson
Knutson presented the Pollinator project for the Town of Crescent. Their intent is to build on the small measures of progress to create pollinator plots. The town has experience to write the grant. A no-mow policy that came into place this summer and they have designated a spot for saving Milkweed and Brown-eyed Susans. The town staff is on board with the project and has past knowledge of pollinator planting and there is a demo site at the town hall. They received compliments on their efforts. The previous plantings are producing more flowers and insects. They are requesting the grant to create greater pollinator plots. The grant request is for \$10,000. The total project is \$16,300. Just producing the plots increased the interest levels in of-lake neighborhoods. Self-sustaining gardens are a showcase of the final efforts of the project. There were monarch location discrepancies, different from what was expected. Pollinator gardens make a dramatic difference, and collaboration with monarch tagging brings many people interested in producing data on this sort of thing. It encourages people to become involved. Winkler/Thome made a motion to approve the grant application from the Town of Crescent and forward to Lumberjack. All ayes; motion carried.

Report on 2021 County Fair:

The Fair does will not need to dip into their overage balance from last year. They had 15,000 people attend, which is a record high. There are in the black financially now but still have some outstanding expenses to pay. There is a small amount of revenue to trickle in as well. In Minocqua, they had limited attendance at the carnival due to rainy weather. It cost them more money up front but they were able to break even. Part of the resolution was to provide a business plan, an inventory of Fair assets, and the left over cash from 2020 and 2021. The Fair balance is not reportable yet. It will up to Lehner and the Finance Director, Smigielski, to determine the bottom line. Winkler said the Fair Inc. is now fully insured. The business plan will document the insurance. A Fund Raiser, Octoberfest, brought more money into the Fair 2021 running balance.

Fair Privatization Resolution Discussion & Approval:

Mott asked if after Tom Wiensch put hours of work into Fair file, if they are meeting his concerns outlined. It is felt that they are meeting this with a straightforward resolution. Thome said Fugle reviewed the Fair file and feels that they addressed items. There was concern about off casting off county property, but the Fair now has a very detailed inventory. The most pressing issue is with cash and the inventory. Technically, they will need the amount on resolution,

but if Fair is holding more fund raisers and a final, balance cannot be determined until December 2021. Winkler commented that there is an additional waste or septic expense for payment this year. A motion made by Thome/Winkler to approve and pass on to the County Board for Fair Privatization. All ayes; motion approved.

Fair Budget 2022

If the resolution passes, this committee will not have a say on the budget. The Oneida County Fair Planning Committee submitted their budget. In 2021, the Fair had a carryover amount, the County typically gave the Fair \$15,000 but since there was a carryover of \$5,000, the Fair received \$10,000 for 2021. Schreier asked about the request by the Fair for \$165,000, a four-year recovery plan and if it is part of the budget. No the relief funds of are separate from the budget and the resolution. The relief funds would be paid through the 501 (c)(3) Corporation. If their resolution does not pass, then it would be rescinded except for an amount of losses due to Covid. Thome and Winkler will look into this about these funding opportunities, not related to the Fair budget. A representative of the Fair will have to present their budget on October 4, 2021. A motion by Thome/Winkler to approve the 2022 budget request from the Oneida County Fair Planning Committee assuming the resolution does not pass. All Ayes; motion carried.

Consent Agenda Items – Fair

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

Area 4 Extension Director Update:

Amber Rehberg announced the retirement of Bonnie Tillman and the open LTE position. Currently, 1040 LTE hours are shared between two LTEs. It is preferred to post the position to hire one person to work 20-29 hours per week. The Extension contract will need to present to Committee once the Extension budget is approved and be completed by mid-December and returned to the State.

Extension 2022 Budget:

The budget is coming a little bit less than last year. A missing item from the budget is the rent of space at Nicolet. That rent fell under Building and Grounds before and now will appear under the Extension budget. Rehberg spoke with Tina Smigielski who will add a line item of \$18,000 to the budget. The reason the budget is lower is related to insurance and retirement benefits listed for two part-time positions where the second position was reduced to LTE hours with no benefits. That adjustment made around \$6,000 available. The State contract has a 3% increase for professional services. The savings was applied to the contract line item and to other accounts that were cut significantly in previous budgets. The current budget for Extension is \$185,140; however, with the rent transfer from Buildings and Grounds to Extension, the balance will need an adjustment. Rent is between the County and Nicolet. Rent is half of what it was at the Airport. The State paid for rent the first half of 2021. The addition of rent will appear on final budget at the budget hearings. A motion by Thome/Winkler to approve the Extension budget as stated, including rent at Nicolet, was put forth. All ayes; motion carried.

Extension Communication Strategies:

Myles Alexander directed the educators and staff to create a mailing outlining the programming and services offered by Extension to be sent to all of the non-profits. It gives an overview of each educator's area of expertise. The overview is easy to adapt to send to other groups. This is the major strategy of concentration this past month. Budget hearings are early October then in November discussion comes up about each department. There will be discussion on Extension, number of citizens reached by Extension and the different communities that are served. Specific examples shall be provided and made clear to the Oneida County board members. An annual report for November is planned. In summary, sell the services of what Extension does in the community. Board members will like to see who is served in their districts. Another selling point to show partnerships, specifically of how many people, townships, etc. are involved. November is the time for public to come forward to make comment.

Educator Reports:

The committee received the reports ahead of time and they are distributed monthly to all County Board Supervisors. Educators verbally reported items not listed in the written report generated by the State.

Carly Harrison: She is working thru process to get new nutritional educator. They had verbal confirmation and just received written approval to announce Allison Wilson, who will starts September 20. She is from our community and

previously was a social worker and worked at Crescent School. Allison gave a nutrition lesson as part of her interview. It is a 60% position and a federal program where no county funds are spent. Oneida County offers office space and supplies to FoodWise.

Anne Williams: A new 4-H year has started. She had several families join her for information on 4-H Community Clubs. Anne will work with families forming a new 4-H community club and provide leadership. She will provide education and training to adults who will be leaders and volunteers. Welcome Event is pending for late October or in November. They have had a good year for growth. This month everyone is re-enrolling for 4-H right now.

Sharon Krause: Teen Court and Juvenile court had zero cases for the month of September. A good problem to have. Social Services and Law enforcement feel it is due to Covid. Fifteen students took applications from Lakeland HS. Excited about training in person. Expanding the Raise your Voice club next week in Minocqua. She is working with Melinda Childs ArtStart getting youth involved in community placemaking.

Terri Kolb: Lots of programming in September. A few virtual classes and more in-person classes are taking place so she is on the road. Currently, she is facilitating Aging Mastery, two Strongbodies classes, and two We COPE classes. She just started StrongBodies in Three Lakes in a partnership with ADRC. She is training for a class called "Stand Up and Move More" that focuses on less sedentary behavior. It starts in October.

Myles Alexander: A brochure went out for a series of workshops developed with Eric Giordano, director of the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service. Participants will look at problems from different perspectives. He also will be working with Wisconsin County Forest Association on a strategic plan. They could not gather since 2020 due to Covid. He introduced a program to Tony Van Dorn at Nicolet growing a rural innovation and diversity network. It helps incarcerated people to become entrepreneurs.

Extension – Nicolet Update:

Sandy Bishop and Amber had initial discussions on collaborating and programming. Myles is already working with Community Garden and the new class he just gave an update on conducting. Mott would like to see this type of activity shared with the County Board. Nicolet campus requires masks in common areas and room capacities are at 50%.

Consent Agenda Items – Extension

July and August monthly budgets were presented. There have not been as many expenditures as more in-person programs come into place. Motion by Winkler/Thome to approve agenda items a and b. All ayes; motion carried.

Lake District Reports:

Squash Lake – Bob Mott. The reports were distributed ahead of time and only highlights need to be covered. Quarterly meeting date was on October 10, 2021. Tax levy is about \$14,000.

Crescent Lake – Bob Thome. The 2022 budget proposal was presented at the August 21, 2021 meeting. A review of voting procedures for the annual meeting will need an agreement. Crescent Lake, as their first year, is transferring grants from association to district. Tax levy is about \$86,000. There is quite a discrepancy between the lakes

Bear Lake – Bob Thome. Tax levy is about \$14,000. The focus of the meeting was on stocking of fish in Bear Lake.

Thunder Lake – Jim Winkler. He has an addendum he wants to add. Two issues; stocking fish and low water levels, which have dropped down ten inches and caused sediments to fill up in the lake. They plan to research cutting weeds in the lake. The next meeting is January 8, 2022. Their budget stands at \$22,756.05 with a \$10,000 tax levy per year.

LWCD 2022 Budget:

Sadauskas referred to the second page of packet received, notes the bottom line for the budget they are asking for \$75,188.00. They kept expense categories at zero percent increase except personnel increased as it did with all departments. There was not much change from 2021 to 2022. There were different materials sent from Finance and she offered to answer any questions. They received additional money for staffing from DATCP funding for JoAnne, but it is at no cost to the County. Motion by Winkler/Thome to approve the LWCD proposed budget of \$75,188. All ayes; motion carried.

Resolution Approval:

DNR River Grant–Sadauskas had asked for Committee approval to apply for this grant. This is the resolution that she will submit to the DNR. The Surface Water Planning Grant is related to the stream crossing project and one more year is

needed to complete it. JoAnne Lund has completed the Western portion of the county and the Eastern portion will be finished this summer. The fiscal impact is at no cost to county. Motion by Winkler/Thome to approve the WDNR Surface Water Planning Grant as stated. All Ayes; motion carried.

AIS Lake Management and Protection Network Contract- Stephanie Boismenu

The DNR started this program in 2021 where State changed it to an annual AIS contract to submit for grant funding with no cost to the county. The resolution authorizes the county conservationist to submit the application to the DNR to receive the 2022 funds. The allocation is for \$22,003. The funds will be used for annual support monitoring and AIS activities. They will be able to hire two LTEs, cover mileage, provide early education, and continue with the same core activities as in the past. A motion to support the resolution, as presented, was made by Thome/Winkler and it will move on to the County Board. All ayes; motion carried.

Clean Boats Clean Waters Grant: They just decided to apply for the 2022 grant. It will allow them to hire two LTEs at 1500 hours to inspect 10 boat landings with the Clean Boats Clean Waters program. The waterbodies are the heaviest used and part of the WVIC waters that helps with a grant match of \$3,000. They are asking the full amount of \$24,000. Motion by Winkler/Thome to approve the CBCW grant application and move on to CB. All ayes; motion carried.

Shoreland Protection Ordinance - Definition of Vegetation Update – P & D Committee Reaction: Tabled to October

Cost Share Update – Completed Project Photos:

Brocker –Lake Tomahawk: Photos show bags placed on the shoreline to promote vegetation. Just an update no motion.

Zoning Violations Update: Sadauskas is working with the Planning and Zoning Department. Three Violations:

The Zagzebski property is on Lake Minocqua. Sadauskas approved their plan and a permit was issued. Zoning will be out there after the landscaping is complete to sign off.

The Menzel project is on Two Sisters Lake. Sadauskas received and reviewed their plan and gave recommendations to Zoning to determine allowances on the property.

The Shulfer property on Hoststradt Lake is still pending. Stacey from DATCP is having technical issues with the survey.

Consent Agenda Items: (Land and Water Conservation):

Sadauskas will visit a Soil Test Pit investigation Training in Mason, WI in Bayfield County. A motion made by Winkler/Thome to approve agenda item a, b, and c. All ayes; motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Items to Include on next Agenda: October 11, 2021

Updates for LWCD, Cost Share, CAFOs, manure storage, vegetation. County Fair Report, Five Fair items are due on Oct 11 including resolution. Extension AED update, Nicolet update, Extension Strategies, Educator Reports. Budget hearings will be completed and Mott will report on that.

Adjournment: Mott adjourned the meeting 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merry Lehner, Recording Secretary

Bob Mott, Committee Chair