

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
Monday, December 12, 2022 Minutes
Nicolet College Northwoods Center Rm 207 & Virtually by ZOOM

Committee members: Chairman Jim Winkler, Bob Thome, Jr., Linnaea Newman, Collette Sorgel, and Tommy Ryden.

Others Present: Michele Sadauskas, Karl Jennrich, Rosie Page, Joel Knutson Stephanie Boismenu, David Schmitz, Tracy Beckman, Derek Thorn, Beckie Gaskill, Amber Rehberg, Terri Kolb, and Merry Lehner. Dan Butkus and Jonna Jewell on Zoom.

1. Call to order and Chairperson's Announcements:

Chair Winkler called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was properly posted and handicapped accessible and ADA compliant. The symbol /s/ represents a valid virtual attendee's signature.

2. Approve Agenda: A motion by Sorgel/Newman to approve the December 12, 2022 Amended Agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

3. Approve Minutes: Newman/Ryden motioned to approve the November 14, 2022 minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

4. Dates /Location of Future Meetings:

Monday, January 9, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Nicolet Northwoods Center Room 207

Monday, February 13, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Courthouse County Board Room

There will be discussion about location of 2023 CUW Committee meetings in January.

5. Public Comment: None.

6. Lumberjack Grant Submissions: The minutes will reflect WHIP attended today. Vilas County has been approved and Forest Co will happen next month. A period for any question or answers is after each presentation.

a. Friends of Town Line Lake Park – Combination ADA Fishing Pier and Kayak Launch.

Presenters: Tracy Beckman and Dave Schmitz. The County owns this public park but caring for the infrastructure is not in their budget. The Friends of Town Line Lake Park (FTLLP) raises funds for improvements/amenities outside the County budget. The proposed improvements will enhance the park and offer safe recreational opportunities. A dock installation and a new path to the shoreline will make it easier for people to have better access to the lake. Funding will be for a dock and graded path and interpretive signs. Funds needed is \$31,208.00 and FTLLP has received \$20,000 so they are applying for last \$10,000. Current access to the lake is rocky and there is no level path. Motion by Ryden/Sorgel to approve and forward on to Lumberjack RC&D. All Ayes; motion carried.

b. WHIP (Wisconsin Headwaters Invasive Partnership) – Presenters: Rosie Page, WHIP Wisconsin

Headwaters Invasive Partnership and Derek Thorn, FLOW (Forest, Langlade, Oconto, Waterways) AIS Coordinator, wish to collaborate in 2023 for the control of invasive purple loosestrife, an exotic plant, choking shorelines and wetlands. They are applying for funding to use biocontrol using beetles on purple loosestrife. They have worked on purple loosestrife with Lumberjack on this for 10 years and want to keep it at a manageable level. They are proposing an updated growing system known as "mass rearing" where beetles are raised in a tent on host

purple loosestrife and then transferred to infestation sites in the wild to feed on the plants. Funding will be for staff time, supplies, and travel, making up the budget total of \$4,605. They have a 90% match and only need to have 50%. No motion needed at this time. The project is occurring in Vilas and Forest Counties and Oneida County is not providing any match.

- c. **Town of Crescent** – Presenter: Joel Knutson, Town of Crescent Chair.

The Crescent town board, its town crew, and local residents hosting pollinator sites want to create natural preserves to protect insect pollinators. Working around the town budget where no mow areas were created the last few years. The town wants roadside wildflowers. As a result, no mow and pollinator areas were requested as naturalized roadways. Families and Bike trails would benefit by establishing public spaces with pollinator roadside areas. There are six sites selected for roadside native plantings. They will monitor Monarch reproduction areas and will collaborate with Oneida County LWCD for consultation and recommendations. The town is requesting \$10,000 and the percent match total/Lumberjack request is 67%. The total expense would be \$16,700.00. Motion by Thome/Newman to approve and move forward to Lumberjack RC&D. All ayes; motion carried.

7. Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board: Robert Thome

The LWCB meeting was held December 6, 2022. Reports from four different counties on their 5-year review and update of their L&W Resource management 10-year plans were presented. Thome found them very interesting. They set the agenda/meeting dates for 2023. February 2, 2023 is next meeting.

8. Cost Share 2024 Approvals: Three 2024 project installations for Committee approval.

- a. **Marnocho**. Project approval for 2024 on a 122 foot parcel with an all timber seawall with grass behind it. They hope to replace the seawall with rock rip rap and establish at least a six foot buffer. The homeowner is interested in establishing a larger buffer area and they will work on that next year. A vegetated native plant buffer would be helpful.
- b. **Fronek**. A Lake Nokomis property for 2024 has 100 feet of shoreline. They will survey and report back on actual footage for the project. They will do a planting buffer, add rock rip rap and vegetated soil filled bags.
- c. **Held**. Pelican Lake 2024 project. There is rock rip rap where the bank slipped down two or three feet from the 2019 storm Pelican Lake experienced. There is a crevasse on top that has slipped down. There is much open space amongst the vegetation on the shoreline. They will discuss cost with the homeowner but they hope to remove wall and rebuild rip rap and install vegetated soil bags, making a living wall.
- Motion by Newman/Sorgel made to approve the proposed projects. All Ayes; motion carried.

9. Lake District Updates:

- a. Horsehead Lake. Report was distributed. A second pump aerator bidding was discussed.
- b. Nokomis. Report was distributed. Newman gave additional information. A new herbicide, ProcellaCOR EC was applied with good results. Onterra sent out a 182 page report and what they plan on doing in 2023.

10. Consent Agenda Items: LWCD

November Monthly reports for approval and monthly budget and invoices. Consent Item a. and b. Revenue will be coming in as reimbursements come in such as DATCP funds. Reimbursements coming in January will be applied to the 2022 budget. A motion by Ryden/Newman to accept agenda items a. and b. as presented. All Ayes; motion carried.

11. LWCD Items for Next Agenda:

Mid Lake, Squash, Lake Nokomis Lake District Reports and Thunder Lake the following month. Land and Water Board meeting update. Cost Share.

12. Public Comment: None.

13. Area 4 Extension Director Update – Amber Rehberg

Rehberg thanked the Committee for their support on the Community Development position. The State contract dollar amount was corrected to reflect the removed position. The County (Educator) Report will be distributed next week. Due to the educator conference last week, not all educator data was entered into the State Planning and Reporting Portal. It is designed for educators to enter their activities monthly. That data is then used to share with the County in our Oneida Monthly Report. There was discussion on whether the Educator Report be quarterly. State reporting was designed for educators to report monthly.

1. Staffing and Communication Plan.

The full time County Support position will be posted soon. Extension would like to have someone hired in early 2023. Lehner will stay on to train into the New Year. County Reports are being distributed to the County Board Supervisor mailboxes and other locations. Radio/TV communication will continue informing the public of events that are planned.

2. Nicolet Collaboration. The updated lease with Nicolet was reviewed by Mike Fugle, Corporation Counsel. There are no real changes. The payment is made in two installments to Nicolet. The Committee commented on the Extension sign size is small but there is a now a sign.

14. Programming Report: Substance Abuse Community Assessment Results – Terri Kolb

Oneida County Health Department, in partnership with the COPE Coalition, recently completed a Community Substance Use Assessment in the county. COPE (Community, Outreach, Prevention and Education) serves and supports all people affected by mental health and substance abuse through education, intervention and prevention. The four main objectives of COPE are to decrease suicide and depression, decrease alcohol and drug abuse, and to increase access to AODA and mental health services, and to strengthen data about mental health and AODA. Terri Kolb was involved in the Community Assessment on Substance Use. The survey's resulting study shows what people's perceptions are about Substance Use. The report is not on raw data. Five key findings of the survey are shared in a video form at the public health website: <https://publichealth.co.oneida.wi.us/coalitions/mental-health-aoda/> Kolb was involved in the *Social and Community Connectedness*, supporting individuals experiencing substance use concerns. There are four dimensions of recovery: Community, Purpose, Home, and Health. Findings revealed "Addiction Isolation" in the community and a misunderstanding of substance use, addiction and recovery. There are limited recovery support and groups available. Some harmful social norms exist around substance use, which are risk factors associated with a higher likelihood of developing substance use. A barrier is the *stigma* attached to substance use and COPE's key partners are working on the goal of stigma reduction. There is a need to establish a recovery oriented system of care and employ early interventions for high-risk groups. Recovery matters and people need help on getting the message right. Mental health and substance abuse are interconnected and can no longer be separated. The Study showed what people's perceptions are about Substance Use.

15. Consent Agenda Items: Extension

A motion by Sorgel/Newman for the approval of invoices, agenda item a. monthly reports item b. will be reviewed for approval in January. All Ayes; motion carried.

16. Extension Items to include on next agenda.

Staffing and Communication Plan, Nicolet Collaboration, Extension Annual Report to the County Board.

17. Public Comment: None

18. Adjournment: 3:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merry Lehner, Recording Secretary

Jim Winkler, Committee Chair