

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
Monday, January 10, 2022
Amended Minutes
Courthouse County Board Room & Virtually by ZOOM

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

Others Present: Karl Jennrich, Michele Sadauskas, Tom Jerow, Dan Butkus, Scott Holewinski, Amber Rehberg, Myles Alexander, Mary Stys, Terri Kolb, Jonna Jewell, and Merry Lehner.

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

Approve Agenda: A motion by Thome/Winkler to approve the January 10, 2022 agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

Announcements: None

Approve Minutes: Winkler/Thome made a motion to approve the December 13, 2021 CUW Committee meeting minutes. The February meeting is the second Monday 2/14/22 not 2/7/22. Correction noted. All ayes; motion carried.

Future Meetings:

Monday, February 14, 2022	1:00 p.m.	Nicolet NC 207-08 Double Book at Courthouse as well
Monday, March 14, 2022	1:00 p.m.	TBD

Meetings will be double booked in the County Board Room as backup due to changing Covid guidelines at Nicolet.

Electronic Signature Approval for January 10, 2022 meeting:

Committee members present will sign documents and virtual attendees' written names on documents will represent their signatures. Thome/Ives made motion to approve electronic signatures. All ayes; motion carried.

Public Comment:

Winkler asked if the Land and Water Resource Management Plan 2020-2029 should be upgraded to include animal farmers, who should be contacted annually. Any discussion will be under agenda item 7 MSO. Scott Holewinski has comments to make under agenda item #7 MSO.

Manure Storage Ordinance Update – K. Jennrich/ M. Sadauskas/Bob Mott

M. Sadauskas: Housekeeping information. Paul Daigle (Marathon County Conservation Services) notes are to be discussed under agenda item #7 MSO. Notes from Tom Jerow were posted to the LWCD website. Sadauskas announced that the minutes from the Public Hearing on January 5 are complete for review and discussion. The CUW Committee decided to approve the minutes as an agenda item for February 14, 2022 meeting.

a. Review of Public Hearing:

Jennrich reviewed the comments and most of the small farmers were not in favor of the ordinance. Most felt there are sufficient rules with DATCP and DNR. Sweeney's comments were the only ones that listed specific reasons or sections he was against in the ordinance.

Roach and Ives sided with small farmers who felt the ordinance was not necessary; State guidelines are in place.

Winkler said there are not any issues in Oneida County and the six small farmers he spoke with were not in favor of it.

Thome said none who opposed it gave any specific details on how the MSO would affect their operation. There are 62 other counties with manure storage ordinances and we do not have one. Our most trusted asset is our water. The MSO applies to larger operations and he doubts it will affect small operators unless stacks are too close to a Water Quality Management area. If CAFO comes, we need have something in place. How will a MSO specifically affect a small operator? It is a good proposed ordinance.

Engel opposed to any ordinance. He represented farmers well on the Committee, and wonders if this "what if" situation is necessary. The more regulation there is, the more it will financially affect small farmers. Engel feels it is unrealistic seeing CAFOs come here.

Mott said the vast majority of comments came from Mr. Sweeney and the right to farm law. Mott reviewed his concerns and he has two questions: Planning and Development (P&D) elected not to address this as it related to CAFOs. To handle the CAFO question, first is to have a CAFO ordinance in place with State Law and the other is to have a Manure Storage Ordinance, because the real concern for the future is over an indiscriminate farmer with 100 animals or more, could pollute County waters. Tourism depends on clean water in the County as a \$220-\$250 million industry. The recent Sales Tax information reveals that new owners want clean air and water. Mott believes we cannot create an MSO after a CAFO is already established. Who regulates 199 to 400 animals? A CAFO is over 500 animals. The Moratorium ends March 2022. Mott is sympathetic with the small farmer. It is not our intent to harm, take punitive action, or put them out of business. We should be able to help and educate. If someone is polluting, we need to refer to the document shared in the information packets. The headings: "Prohibitions already in State Law" listed on the left side and on the right side, "Proposed Setbacks Specific to Oneida County. Will setbacks protect our waters? A farmer needs to look at that document and ask if this affects him on his farm and set back areas. Mott quoted Tom Jerow who said that the "State has *one* representative, Terri Kafka, to manage nine counties. If complaints come in, they should all be investigated," which is difficult for one person to do. Mott asked Committee to review the MSO one more time. See what their constituents' real concerns are and what to eliminate. Review letters and caller records to see what is wrong. Mr. Sweeney mentioned the Right to Farm Law as it relates to water pollution. How does that mesh with MSO? What specific adjustment does the County need to make? If a large operation comes in, 100-499, are there any adjustments. He asked Sadauskas to visit farms and ask what in the ordinance would currently affect them both at the State or County level. He asked her to speak with Mr. Daigle in Marathon Co. for his expertise on MSOs. After the County Board meeting, another specific meeting on the MSO shall be held for a final decision. Mott asked Sadauskas, Jennrich, Butkus, and Jerow to reach out to citizens to review the same as CUW members.

Roach said we all want clean water and air. What does the State already mandate and what is currently in place? If that person comes here with 100-499 animals, what is missing that the State does not have in place? Another thing affecting small farms is lot lines and where the placement of stacks are located. Winkler estimates we have 75-100 animals in the County. There is no public information on the private registries that lists the number of cattle on a farm.

Scott Holewinski asked Jennrich a number of questions. Does the MSO affect all small farms in Oneida County who replied, yes, it applies to all the towns zoned and un-zoned and it does not regulate the number of animals - it regulates manure. He asked Jennrich how many County farms were investigated. The only complaint was a small farm on Blue Lake Road about 10 years ago, where there were no corrective actions taken. How many farmers were involved in the writing of the ordinance? John Engel, FSA Rep. and farmer, reached out to other Oneida County farmers to gather information. Did DNR attend any Committee meetings to answer questions about enforcement? Mott said they had DATCP review for their opinion. Sadauskas said Terri Kafka read over and weighed in with his advice. Holewinski wondered why posted as a public hearing when it was a listening session. People had three minutes to comment. Why was the State Statute excluded related to incorporated or unincorporated towns under Land and Water. Jerow will look into if there was a feedlot or a slaughtering house involved. He asked why 92.11 was left out and if it was an oversight regarding regulation. Jennrich will look into it. He asked about 28.01 and Jerow will look into it. Holewinski asked about several other statutes and Jennrich asked Holewinski to share the details of that with him to look into further. Holewinski said the ordinance has Land and Water doing the technical advice and Planning & Zoning (P & Z) doing permitting, fees, and enforcement. It was not discussed with the Planning and Development Committee to date. He reviewed county code procedures and introduction of ordinances; was it followed. He said it cannot be put forth by LWCD without P & Z input. Holewinski did not think the County Board would pass the MSO. Mott replied that if P & Z had taken this up, LWCD would not have done so. It is something that LWCD was able to do. If Holewinski wants to quote 14 different subsections of county code, Committee will do so. If it needs to go to P & Z first, Committee will again do so. Mott wants an ordinance that protects the County. They are not looking to hide or subvert anything. We learned that LWCD could take on this role, so they did. State does not have the sufficient staff to enforce regulation. Holewinski said P & Z must review it before it goes to the County Board.

- b. Next Steps/Timeline: Mott wants a date to discuss. Friday, Jan 21st, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at Courthouse. Timeline will depend on the meeting results.

Holewinski dismissed at 2:05 p.m.

Consent Agenda Items: (Land and Water Conservation).

A motion by Thome/Winkler to approve agenda items c. One additional amount came in for \$6,096.38. All ayes; motion carried.

Sadauskas and Jennrich excused at 2:15 p.m.

Area 4 Extension Director Update:

Amber Rehberg reviewed the current LTE position is still open. The position was re-posted and they have received no responses. Rehberg has a possible **plan** to fill the hours needed between now and February. She is working on educator performance reviews.

Extension Communication Strategies:

She has a draft of 2022 Oneida County Extension Communication plan ready to share with Committee. She will email it out to all. She will send it out to the CUW Committee. The purpose is to make the public aware of who Extension is, what we are doing, and what programs are available for people to participate in this year. She asked for the input and additional ideas from the Extension staff. It will be broken down by month. They will highlight specific programming each month instead of all educators reporting monthly. Mott reminded that cumulative contacts should be included in each monthly report. Terri Kolb had over 15,000 contacts for 2021. They will continue to compile that for 2021. The visits to the Extension office in person have started to increase with ten to twelve visits per month.

Extension-Nicolet Update:

Rehberg is scheduling two weeks in February with Sandy Bishop regarding future collaboration opportunities. The Oversight Committee is invited to attend this meeting. She will have the dates shortly. Alexander has taken advantage of several collaborations with Nicolet. The Committee asked how Extension is interfacing with other technical colleges in the State. Rehberg will check into this. She is still in contact with Matthew Cull on Extension signage, but Nicolet is very particular on how their signs are posted. They prefer that all their signs blend. It is important to have signage out on Highway G, and they are working on this relationship. Mott suggested a deadline on signs for perhaps in April of 2022. Winkler suggested contacting the State Highway Department about a sign. Mike Roach works as an engineer for the DOT and will check into seeing about obtaining signs on Highway 8 or G.

Educator Reports:

Terri Kolb: It has been a month of wrapping up programs and planning for 2022 classes. She shared highlights on her outreach to remote communities. She has connected with volunteers for remote areas. She worked Strongbodies instructor volunteers with Holy Family in Minocqua and the library to continue programming. Strongbodies continues at Three Lakes and ADRC in Rhinelander. She is working on establishing a new class Walk with Ease at the ADRC, tailored for those with arthritis. She continues her work with the COPE Coalition. ADOA Coalition to wrap up the survey results. She is working with UW Stout for session on Rural Opioid Technical Assistance (ROTA) grant to put towards prevention activities. Strategic planning will put dollars to their best use. Working with Nicolet Mental Health with a date in place on a suicide prevention presentation.

Myles Alexander: He met with Northwoods Future thinkers. The group are covering Diversity, Access, Equity and Inclusion topics. They are looking at where there is action they can support. Childcare updates will dovetail with future grant funding through Grow North to support daycare providers. Workshops held in partner with Nicolet in late November on "How to Improve Meetings". The Water Action Team, PFAS, had a public education forum on the research conducted last summer. The City has its own decision-making process regarding the water issue and most towns have wells so they are different. Future testing may be through the DNR.

Anne Williams: Reviewed the 2021 Advisory Release by the US Surgeon General regarding pandemic. Millions of youth continue to face challenges. It has a negative impact on who are vulnerable. There are higher mental health risks and a disruption in school and social life. Youth in rural areas and groups at risk in Oneida County low-income youth. She plans

programming that will empower youth and families and expand mental health programming in community settings. 4-H is designed to help communities. They offer free training for adults to support youth mental health. Planned activities are ongoing in the County with the goal for kids to thrive.

Sharon Krause: Last week she was able to start a Raise Your Voice Club at Rhinelander High School. The existing Lakeland Group is planning some activities. It is important due to the Surgeon General report just quoted by Anne. She edited the Teen Court brochure for clarity to families. If families do not complete paper work, it is a "Failure to Proceed." Those who use Teen Court have an 85% success rate. Parents have commended the appropriate sanctions made by panelists. They are still recruiting panelists. Panelists graduated but most recruitment is peer to peer. They have 12 panelists countywide. Three panelists see each case. Covid influence played a part in panelists, where many graduated. Channel 7 aired a piece on Teen Court in December.

FoodWise: Allison finished her first session at Central Elementary school. It went great she just finished some surveys and evaluations. Teachers and parents appreciated the lessons. They learned a lot and it was good to have the refresher. She just started at NCES, starting a new batch of nutrition lessons. She is scheduling for Crescent Elementary next. Mary Stys will collaborate with Allison at Crescent doing some of the nutrition lessons there. Stys continues working with Rhinehaus and the Food Pantry providing food and healthy eating recipes. Winkler asked if they have reached out to home school organizations. They will follow up on this suggestion.

Consent Agenda Items: (UW-Extension).

Motion by Thome/Winkler to approve monthly invoices. Jim Winkler signed as Vice Chair. The budget reports were not available. All ayes; motion carried.

Consent Agenda Items: (Fair)

Final payout balance for the Fair overage account needed approval. The only invoice was the billing statement with payout amount of \$6,794.09 to Oneida County Fair, Inc. Now, the Billing Statement can be forwarded to Finance. The Fair was interested if they qualified for ARPA funds set aside in a draft version of \$165,000 discussed at the Administration meeting. A motion was made by Winkler/Roach to approve agenda item a. All ayes, motion carried.

Public Comment: Dan Butkus: Agenda item 7. The internet recording was lost. A written comment will be provided later.

Items to Include on next Agenda:

Approval of Listening Session Public Hearing Minutes - January 5, 2022. Information for Specific MSO meeting and farmers. Update 2020-2029 LWC Resource Plan. Updates for LWCD, Cost Share, MSO, Vegetation Status/Planning & Development. Update of Extension Director, Nicolet, Strategies, and Educator Reports.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting by Winkler/Roach. At 3:00 p.m. Zoom connection lost and Mott gave the third aye; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merry Lehner, Recording Secretary

Bob Mott, Committee Chair