

**Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee**  
**Monday, March 14, 2022 Minutes**  
**Courthouse County Board Room & Virtually by ZOOM**

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

**Others Present:** Michele Sadauskas, Stephanie Boismenuue, Dan Butkus, Amber Rehberg, Terri Kolb, Myles Alexander, Karly Harrison, Jonna Jewell, and Merry Lehner.

1. **Call to order:** Chairman Mott called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. and the meeting was properly posted. Myles Alexander, Community Development Educator with Extension, is leaving his position. Mott thanked Myles for all the work he has done for Oneida County. We wish him the best in his new endeavors.
2. **Approve Agenda:** A motion by Winkler/Thome to approve the March 14, 2022 agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. Due to a quorum, LWCD will go first and then Extension. All ayes; motion carried.
3. **Approve Minutes:** Winkler/Thome made a motion to approve the February 14, 2021 CUW Committee meeting minutes, with two amendments on page 3. All ayes; motion carried.
4. **Future Meetings:**

Monday, April 11, 2022	1:00 p.m.	Courthouse County Board Room, Mott will be present.
Monday, May 9, 2022	1:00 p.m.	Courthouse County Board Room
5. **Electronic Signature Approval for March 14, 2022 meeting:**

Committee members present will sign documents and virtual attendees' written names will represent their signatures. Thome/Winkler made motion to approve electronic signatures. All ayes; motion carried.
6. **Public Comment:** Dan Butkus, Squash Lake Rehabilitation. District, thanks Mr. Mott's service for the last five years as commissioner for their lake district. Mott helped in them in their process of submitting their petition in 2016 at the county level. The District was formed five years ago this month and Butkus on behalf of the District, thanks Mott for being a good mentor, who helped him understand on how to work with small government. They chose Mott over others and his assistance has been valuable. Butkus thanks Mott for his friendship.

**7. Area 4 Extension Director Update:** - Amber Rehberg

Extension Communication Plan and Report: Myles is retiring from Extension and we will discuss under agenda item 8. Karly is back, with new baby, Mabel, and is busy with emails. The Extension Communication Plan and Report is coming together and Anne is working on this project. Extension was on "Up North at 4" this month four times. Myles spoke about the Northwoods Roundtable survey, Anne spoke about Extension and 4-H offerings, and Sharon presented Teen Court and Raise Your Voice. All the educators are finding different ways of informing the public what Extension does in the community. Winkler asked to share the County Report with others in the community such as the libraries. Last September we sent a mailing about Extension describing who we are and what we do to potential community partners. We will check that mailing list for potential recipients. The Committee to share an Extension article in the Dome News. Anne is keeping Website and Facebook up to date and social media in her function as County Support. The State has outreach staff available to tap into about Extension resources. Mott attended the Board of Visitors quarterly meeting and commented on the wealth of Extension programs available from the State that Oneida County could use. We need to see priorities that the County wants from those State resources.

Nicolet College Signage Update: Part of the delay on signage is due to some changes at Nicolet. Sandy Bishop is retiring the end of the year. With this has come reorganization and shifting of responsibilities at Nicolet. Bishop will be moving to the Lakeside Center building. Nicolet under President, Kate Ferrell, has had some shifting of their leadership. There is an internal person at Nicolet that will be taking Sandy Bishop's place. They are committed to follow up with signage.

Extension-Nicolet College Collaboration Update: Addressed above.

**8. Staffing Update & Discussion for Options/Possibilities projection:**

Winkler thanked Myles for all his work. Rehberg said with Myles leaving the office there is an opportunity to ask Committee if they want the position filled in the same capacity or if there is anything new they would like to see. Extension plans to assess the County needs and what educators can offer. We will need to decide whether the position will be full or part time. We can look into what is happening nationally or at the state level and what fits for the next year. Mott thanked Alexander for all he has done at Extension. Some opposition to funding Extension occurred in the past and that is why sharing Extension's attributes is important. Rehberg said they re-evaluate the mission of Extension in Oneida County annually. Rehberg and Alexander will prepare a report with options on what the future position could entail next month. They will conduct an educator needs assessment for the Committee. Can the Youth in Governance reconvene at County Board Meetings? Currently the Positive Youth Development and 4-H are two part-time positions. They can only fit in so much. Extension always looks at it as a priority and certainly can bring it back. Present request to Committee who then can recommend it to the County Board if Extension should bring the program back.

**9. Educator Report – Terri Kolb**

Kolb provided a history of how the priorities of her position have changed. She initially worked under the Health & Well Being Institute and then the Human Development and Relationships Institute. Health and Well Being has three program areas of focus: 1. FoodWise, 2. Healthy Eating and Active Living, and 3. Behavioral Health. Strongbodies has been in Oneida County and still is, as part of Active Living. Behavioral Health is her focus. There was a lack of programing and support for it in the County. It is hard to report with numbers due to the long-term outcomes. She presented two programs:

COPE (Community Outreach Prevention and Education) The Northwoods COPE Coalition focuses in the areas of Alcohol and other Drug Abuse. This is a multi-county effort. One activity that started as a result was a local coffee shop that used "Coffee Sleeves for Youth Suicide Prevention" week. May is Mental Health Month and on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, a film called "Hone Alone" is about Milwaukee's Hone Bridge, notorious for suicide attempts.

ROTA (Rural Opioid Technical Assistance) Grant: WiRose project uses a multilevel approach in Rural Wisconsin to address opioid and stimulant use. The project focuses on training adults and youth on mental health awareness and stress and coping practices. Suicide numbers in the county are rising. The largest group is in males in the 45-55 age range, where there are more completions. Attempts by women of the same age group are not completed. The Sheriff's Department spends 80% of their time on drug related activities. Kolb said they do not see that changing. A dual diagnosis of Substance Use and Mental Health incidents are definitely present. Other prevention programs are Mental Health First Aid, for both youth and adults offer virtual classes and instructor lead meetings follow. The WeCOPE program is a 7-week class to manage challenges in life in healthy ways. Community Sense Making is a virtual session held March 29, 2022. CUW members are welcome to attend. Law Enforcement, Emergency Management, Social and Human Services, and teachers will attend first.

**10. Consent Agenda Items: Extension**

A motion was made by Thome/Winkler to approve monthly budget reports and invoices, a & b. All Ayes; motion carried.

**11. Worker's Compensation Report Status:** Land Conservation does not have any open/current claims. This is for information purposes listing claims the County has through Wisconsin County Mutual Insurance Corporation.

**12. Resolution to Initiate Process for Laying Out Town Highway:**

The meeting is tomorrow, Tuesday, March 15, 2022 in the town of Minocqua, to decide upon the resolution about the extension of a road. A letter from Harrold, Scrobell & Danner, S.C. was sent with a resolution and a Notice of Meeting of Supervisors to Decide Upon Highway Resolution. A copy of right-of-way extension map depicts the 810-foot extension of River Pine Road proposed in the resolution. The Town Board of the Town of Minocqua adopted by a majority on a roll call vote to lay out a highway as described over an area previously improved by maintenance and use by the town. A

scale map, an aerial view on GIS, and a survey map were included. There is an existing private road, which will be made a public road. There are not any issues related to water quality.

A motion by Thome/Winkler sees no reason to object to the extension of this road. A letter will be mailed to the Town of Minocqua Clerk voicing no objection by the CUW Committee to the extension of River Pine Road in the Town of Minocqua. All ayes except John Engel abstained; motion carried.

**13. Farmer Education Outreach Update:**

An analysis was completed of the ag-assessed properties from the proposed manure storage ordinance. They had 270 mailings to ag-assessed properties. A photo showed the parcels. They wanted to parse-out and see how many were within the water quality management area, defined as within 1000 feet of the lake or 300 feet of a stream. The number of unique mailing addresses was 216. About 80% of the original 270 addresses fell within a water quality management area. Of 801 parcels ag-assessed, 600 parcels were within 1000 feet of the lake or 300 feet of stream. A visual of parcels showed where they have close, direct, or distant water accesses. Some were not easy to tell if animals were present as related to manure storage. They will work on the type of educational outreach to use. Sadauskas will talk with Michael Stinebrink, NRCS Conservationist for his input. The Antigo USDA is a resource per Engel.

**14. LWDC Updates:**

WLWCA (Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Assoc.) Annual Conference Report March 2-4, 2022. Lachlan Mauw was the conservation speaker who took first place at the Speaking Contest in Oneida County, at the Regional level in Lincoln County and at the State level. He is a fifth grader from Sugar Camp Elementary School. He spoke on the Chinese Mystery Snail.

**15. Consent Agenda Items: (Land and Water Conservation).**

Out of County Travel: Wisconsin Lakes Convention (S. Boismenu) April 6-8, 2022. Monthly Budget Report, invoices and purchase orders, Line Item transfers, 2021 clean up. A motion by Winkler/Thome to approve agenda items a, b, c, and d. All ayes; motion carried.

**16. Items to Include on next Agenda:**

Updates for LWCD, Farmer Education Outreach, and Lake District reports. Update of Extension Director, Nicolet, Communication Strategies, and Educator Report, Educator position needs assessment.

**17. Public Comment:** None

**18. Adjournment:** Motion at 2:29 p.m. to adjourn the meeting by Winkler/Roach. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Merry Lehner, Recording Secretary

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Bob Mott, Committee Chair