

**Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee**  
**Monday, January 9, 2023 Minutes**  
**Nicolet College Northwoods Center Rm 207 & Virtually by ZOOM**

**Committee members:** Chairman Jim Winkler, Linnaea Newman, and Collette Sorgel. Bob Thome Jr. and John Engle on zoom. Tommy Ryden, not present.

**Others Present:** Karl Jennrich, Rosie Page, Stephanie Boismenu, Baerbel Ehrig, Beckie Gaskill, Michael Tautges, Amber Rehberg, Allison Wilson, and Merry Lehner. Jonna Jewell on Zoom.

**1. Call to order and Chairperson's Announcements:**

Chairman 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 Newman/Sorgel to approve the January 9, 2023 Agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

**3. Approve Minutes:** Sorgel/Newman motioned to approve the December 12, 2022 minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

**4. Dates /Location of Future Meetings:**

Monday, February 13, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Nicolet Northwoods Center Room 207

Monday, March 13, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. To be determined.

**5. Public Comment:** None.

**6. WHIP (Wisconsin Headwaters Invasive Partnership)** – Rosie Page, Coordinator for WHIP, gave an update on WHIP as Oneida County is a key partner in their activities. Michele Sadauskas is their Chair of their Steering Committee and WHIP works closely with the County. WHIP began in 2010 addressing the large reports of invasives in the area. A Co-Op was formed called a "CISMA" Co-operative Invasive Species Management Area for Vilas and Oneida Counties. Many CISMAs are in Wisconsin and nationally. In 2013 WHIP secured DNR funds for a temporary WHIP Coordinator position. Lincoln County was added in 2020 and the Coordinator position has been funded ever since. A Slideshow, Battling Invasive Species in Oneida, Vilas, and Lincoln Counties was presented. Their mission is to conserve native species, habitats and landscapes in the three counties and to provide education, monitoring and invasive species control. They have 16 partners who work together with other CISMAs. The Town of Newbold is their first town level partner. Recent partners are the Northwoods Land trust and the DOT, which is important since invasive spread along transportation corridors. WHIP is fiscally funded as a non-profit through Lumberjack RC&D, who administer all of their grants. The DNR grant assists with a Weed Management Area Program and funding requests are every April 1<sup>st</sup>. A federally funded Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is through the Forest Service. Funding sources for 2022 consisted of 57.8% Federal, 16.9% from the State, 11.3% Corporate, and 14.1% from local sources. WHIP provides presentations to town meetings, training for road crews, and provides boot-brush signs in affected areas. An identification brochure was distributed to local town people to educate them on terrestrial invasives. WHIP provides education and outreach to the media and the general public. They have been awarded a Landscape Scale Restoration grant through Lumberjack RD&C Council for \$287,000 which includes the matched funds. It involves invasive removal and installation and restoration of native plantings. Demonstration sites and online education are offered to landowners.

## 7. Yearly Approval of Out-of-County Travel

A blanket approval form was created for out-of-county travel for staff and County Board supervisors. Motion by Sorgel/Newman to approve, as long as it is within the budget. All ayes; motion carried.

**8. Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board:** Robert Thome – The Next meeting is February 2, 2023.

**9. WLWCA 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Announcement:** March 1, 2023 – March 3, 2023 - Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells. The Full Conference is three days and prices are on line. There was discussion to approve Staff and Committee attendance. The registration information was sent with the information packets. To register on-line see: <https://wisconsinlandwater.org/conservation/annual-conference> . Motion by Newman/Sorgel to approve staff/committee attendance, if within the budget. All Ayes; motion carried.

## 10. LWCD Update:

### a. AIS 2022 Year End Review - Stephanie Boismenu

AIS had a busy year. The 2022 LTE's were Aubrey Nycz, Madeline Hetland, and JoAnne Lund. For CBCW (Clean Boats Clean Water) for six water bodies, there were LTEs: Amy and Emma Squires, Jacques Tulowitzky, and Trent Neveaux. The LTEs had almost 2000 hours of work completed. Outreach Education is in partnership with State of Wisconsin, DNR, and Wisconsin Lake Association and includes education media to bait shops, campgrounds & resorts, Citizen Lakes Monitoring, CBCW, and the newest program is the Dock Service Provider Outreach program. It was created looking at the Minnesota model where any business on the water such as dock installers or fishing guides require a mandatory education program and certification at completion. Outreach and events include the Drain Campaign, Landing Blitz, AIS Snapshot Day and ice anglers. AIS Removal and Management Projects were discussed with the each lake and corresponding invasive species. The CBCW inspected 75 watercraft in Oneida County totaling 8,499 volunteer hours. They visited 39 boat landings in 33 water bodies. Boats were inspected while entering and leaving the lake. They asked boaters if they used their crafts on different waterbodies and identified steps to take to prevent spreading of invasives. AIS educated 6,389 total contacts. Workshops and trainings included two virtual classes with 65 attendees and seven in-person trainings as well. The Citizen Lake Monitoring Network held two classes. Early detection and water quality monitoring, new AIS discoveries, DNR AIS signage, and Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol, and Youth Field events were discussed.

### b. Cost Share: Follow-up Site Visits - Baerbel Ehrig

Ehrig announced she is working with the DNR Lake Management Grant for 2023 where additional funding will be added to the Lakeshore Restoration work being done. On task was follow up site visits to areas that had received Cost Share funding in the past. It appears to be the first time follow up has been done on completed projects to see if restoration is helping, to see how they are holding up, and to see how owner maintenance is progressing. Fifteen visits were made to thirteen different sites. The years of installation span from 2013 to 2020. A slideshow of previous projects showed how they look now and if more upkeep or improvements are required. Positive notes are that soil bags last well over 10 yrs. And that rock rip rap holds up well. Native plantings depend on maintenance and surrounding habitat. Non-biodegradable netting is a wildlife hazard, lasts long and will not be used anymore. Sediment and fiber logs last less than 10 years. There was a problem with a shed placed on a buffer zone on a past Cost Share project, but due to ownership through WVIC, it must remain. They will work on more communication with WVIC in the future. Another site had sparse native plantings which needs additional vegetation to improve shoreline protection. She observed invasive species are showing up over time. The Scott Creek culvert project has erosion damage that will need to be addressed. The site visits helped to gain information for future sites and to assess compliance with agreements.

### c. Land and Water Speaking/Poster Contest – Jonna Jewell

The theme is One Water. There are 74 Posters being judged tomorrow, January 10 at the Courthouse. The Speaking Contest will be held on Wednesday, January 11 at James Williams Middle School. Six Sugar Camp students will speak starting at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend. The event was posted in the case of a quorum. The Area Contest is on January 26 with the NCLWCA meeting at the Marathon County Parks Department in Wausau. NCLWCA agenda and information will be available Tuesday.

#### **11. Lake District Reports**

- a. Mid Lake. Minutes were provided.
- b. Squash Lake. The report was emailed to committee.
- c. Nokomis. The ProcellaCOR herbicide was very successful and plan bidding for it again next year.

#### **12. Consent Agenda Items: (LWCD)**

A motion by Newman/Sorgel to accept agenda items a. and b. as presented. All Ayes; motion carried.

#### **13. LWCD items to include on next agenda**

Lake District updates. Crescent Lake and ProcellaCOR information-B Thome. WI L&W Assoc. update, Land Conservation Board, and a Grass Works grant update. LWCD excused at 2:40 p.m.

#### **14. Public Comment: None.**

#### **15. Area 4 Extension Director Update – Amber Rehberg**

Extension Status Update. Extension is doing a strategic plan and we went through a reorganization several years ago. Rehberg asked the oversight committee for feedback since last strategic plan five years ago. In connecting with county partners to see where things are at, how they are going, and suggestions and ideas for moving forward. The following questions were asked for Extension Strategic Planning Input:

Question 1: What is *one word* or image that comes to mind when you think about your partnership with Extension? Answers: 4-H, Teen Court Symbol, Small; not a lot of input or help for such a large county. Necessary.

Question 2: What do you value about the partnership? Answers: Education, Evidence-based education, teaching children good values. What Extension offers and combat ignorance. People do not know what Extension does positive or negative because they do not know. In the past, some Extension presenters were too flat. A facility that encourages forward thinking. Extension trains the public who then train others and the credit does not go to Extension. Forward thinking value.

Question 3: What can we do together to strengthen our partnership? Sell what it Extension does; most might know one or two things and many services are unrecognized. Sell the sizzle not the steak. Share topics that are relevant to board. List Extension metrics over and over. List the dollar amount of services offered. Information about soil samples, plant diagnostics, tree health, insect identification. How much does it cost per contact; it is a huge profit margin difference and it is a resource available right here locally. Lack of marketing.

#### **b. Staffing and Communication Plan.**

There will be some additional transitions in the office. We have a contract with the ADRC at 33% that helps support our Health & Well Being Educator, where the focus is on evidence programs offering nutrition education at meal site options as a partnership. The position also is 27% in Forest County who is looking to increase Health & Well Being. This is one area in the upcoming year for continuing this partnership. There is not a monthly County Report available due the State database and our Committee meetings not being in sync and the end of the year lag. The next report will include a wrap up of the year. We are looking for more partners to share the report with locally. We

want as many as possible to be aware of what we are doing. State Specialists are working on community resources locally. An example was the advice Bill Klase gave a resident on White Pines or information on maple syrup production.

c. Nicolet Collaboration.

Review and Approve 2023 Lease. Signatures were obtained and now back to Nicolet for their signature, which will be forthcoming. Motion made Newman/Thome to accept the Nicolet Contract as presented that was returned by Corporation Counsel. All ayes; motion carried.

**16. Extension Annual Report to the County Board**

A discussion on when Extension could offer an annual report to the County Board for 2023. It was suggested to ask for a February Annual Report. It was suggested to provide a one page report with bullet points showing what each staff member, with photos, does; be clear and concise with metrics listed. Rehberg can make a short presentation before the board what Extension does in Oneida County. Include a map where programming occurs. Committee asked Rehberg to present the County Board Report to CUW on February 13 and then present to the County Board meeting on February 23, 2023.

**17. Programming Report – FoodWise – Allison Wilson**

Will be presented next month, due to time constraint.

**18. Consent Agenda Items: Extension**

A motion by Newman/Thome for the approval of invoices, agenda item a. and the November and December monthly reports item b. All Ayes; motion carried.

**19. Extension Items to include on next agenda.**

Extension Annual Report for review. No Program Report in February. FoodWise will be in March. FoodWise Coordinator intro in March. Alternate LWCD/Extension order of meetings. Staffing and Communication Plan, Nicolet Collaboration.

**20. Public Comment: None**

**21. Adjournment: 3:29 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Merry Lehner, Recording Secretary

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Jim Winkler, Committee Chair