

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
Monday, July 10, 2023 Minutes
Oneida County Courthouse, County Board Room and Virtually by ZOOM

Committee Members: Chairman Jim Winkler, Collette Sorgel, Robb Jensen, and Linnaea Newman. Tommy Ryden and John Engel on Zoom.

Others Present: Karl Jennrich, Michele Sadauskas, Amber Rehberg, Jessica Young, Stephanie Boismenu, and Anne Williams. Beckie Gaskill and Jonna Jewell on Zoom.

1. Call to order and Chairperson's Announcements:

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

Announcements: Northwoods Six-County Lakes Meeting on Friday, July 14, 2023 from 9am-12:30pm. If a majority of Committee members will be attending, it should be posted. Jonna will post notice.

2. Approve Agenda: A motion by Ryden/Newman to approve the July 10, 2023 Agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

3. Approve Minutes: A motion by Sorgel/Newman to approve the minutes of June 12, 2023. All ayes; motion carried.

4. Dates/Location of Future Meetings:

Monday, August 14, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Oneida County Courthouse; County Board Room

Monday, September 11, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Oneida County Courthouse; County Board Room

5. Public Comment: None.

6. 2024 Staffing Requests:

Only minor changes to the numbers compared to last year. All staffing requests for 2024 are grant funded. The Project Coordinator is the only position that is county funded. Positions that are grant funded will only be filled if grant is received.

There will be a cut to the DATCAP Staffing Funds in 2024, and no update on how much will be received in cost-share grants, but a request for \$50,000 will be submitted.

Sorgel/Jensen made motion to accept as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

7. 2023 Wisconsin Deer Donation Program Participation Approval:

Sadauskas reached out to Jim Tharman for next year's deer donation form, but has not received a response yet. Sadauskas would like the Committee's approval to participate in the Deer Donation Program this fall. Deer meat donated to the program will go to local food pantries to help decrease food insecurity in Wisconsin communities.

Sorgel/Jensen made motion to approve Deer Donation Program. All ayes; motion carried.

Discussion: 520 pounds of deer meat donated to the food program last year.

8. Grassworks Grant Update:

The Grassworks Grant has hired a Regenerative Agriculture Specialist; hired through Golden Sands RC&D, and will be reaching out to conservationists to assist with communication and provide contacts.

Chair Winkler would like Sadauskas to pass along the idea of an educational program to farmers that will teach best practices regarding manure management and run-off.

9. Awards Banquet DRAFT Announcement:

Boismenu discussed the revitalization of the Oneida County Stewardship Awards Banquet. The banquet had taken place for eleven years and then disappeared with COVID and grant funding changes. They will be hosting the 12th Annual Oneida County Stewardship Awards Banquet to recognize stewards on the lakes that have done outstanding work, or have been long-term stewards. Several lake groups have sponsored a table to help with the cost of the banquet. The banquet will take place at Holiday Acres, there will be door prizes and a speaker to give a presentation.

The cost to sponsor a table is \$150, does not include the cost of dinner for guests, but will include wine for the table, advertising, and 8 hours of water craft inspections at their boat landing for the group sponsoring the table. Would like to have sponsorships wrapped up by Thursday, July 13th so that the announcement can be sent out.

10. Lake District Reports:

There was one report submitted, no questions about it.

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

- a. Monthly Budget Report(s).

- i. No line item transfers this month; no longer need to request approval for invoices, Sadauskas will check to see if approval is need for LIT's.

Jensen/Winkler motion to approve consent agenda items as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

12. LWCD items to include on next agenda:

- Boismenu will give a brief report on the Citizen's Monitor Network
- Crescent Lake July Report
- Squash Lake July Report
- AIS Program Mid-Year Report
- 2024 Budget
- Lake Nokomis Annual Meeting Report

13. Public Comment:

None.

14. Programming/Educator Report – 4-H –A. Williams

Oneida County 4-H Updates:

- During the spring, Williams led a training to recertify adults to become 4-H volunteers. Adults wanting to become a certified volunteer with 4-H are required to submit an application, complete a background check, and participate in a multitude of trainings that introduces them to UW-Extension and 4-H. Trainings include the Mandated Child Abuse Reporter Training, Building Safe Spaces for Youth, mental health trainings, and Title IX Sexual Misconduct Training. There were four new volunteers being certified, and two prior volunteers being recertified.
- Williams provided training to counselors and general camp support during the 4-H Regional Camp. The camp was held at Crescent Lake Bible Camp, there was a group of youth and one teen leader as a counselor from Rhinelander in attendance.
- The Youth Summer Theater and Art Programs were held at the end of June. There were eighty youth registered for the theater program and fifty-nine participated; these numbers have increased from last year. There were fifteen youth that participated in the art program. Both programs were successful and garnered a lot of support from the community. The theater program was done in partnership with Missoula Children's Theater and the art program was done in partnership with the Old School Arts & Learning Center.
- The Northwoods Explorers 4-H Club incorporates the elements of the 4-H pledge in every activity and event they participate in. Their focus is on *hands to larger service*, the club worked with the Master Gardeners of the North (MG) to plan and coordinate the planting of flowers in downtown Rhinelander to create a beautiful community area.

Members learned about the Master Gardeners and many new friendships were made; they learned that their community has groups that do really cool things and they learned the basic essentials of gardening.

- Chair Winkler suggested that the MG and 4-H put some type of signage on Brown Street that highlights both groups and recognizes their service to the community. Signage would also provide the members of 4-H a sense of ownership and pride in their hard work.
- OverIt! Skateboard Group is an incredible group of youth that has been focusing on creating new youth development spaces in the local community for the past two years. Their current goal and overarching vision focuses on developing an action park or skate park in the Rhineland area. Williams is connecting with this group to see if there is an interest in developing into a 4-H Community Club and/or other ways that Extension can support their efforts and engagement in the community. Williams is looking to work with local youth groups to increase awareness and expand access to community resources.
- Williams will be working on a new initiative *Developing Teen Leaders* through 4-H. Having teen leaders is exceedingly important because of what they bring to the community; they relate well to their peers and children, they bring fresh ideas and new perspectives to decision making processes, they are energetic and enthusiastic, and they take on responsibility.
 - Chair Winkler would like to have teen leaders attend the next Committee meeting in August to share their experience and impact of the programming.

15. 2024 Extension Budget Proposal:

Draft budget has been started. There will be adjustments to the amounts budgeted for staffing. There will be savings in some areas, such as workshops and programs, due to not having an FTE for the Community Development Educator (CDI) position.

We are waiting to hear from Finance about costs for staffing. Travel expenses have been cut back, development and training has also been cut back. Health insurance costs may also be cut, depending on discussion with Finance. We are cutting where we can while also making sure there is enough in the budget for our educators needs for their programming efforts. All in all, doing best to budget what is needed to provide quality educational programs with current staffing available.

Jensen suggested including information on how cutting Extension from the budget in other counties has impacted them, if those counties eventually reinstated Extension due to county needs, and if not reinstated, how it affects the community.

The Community Development Educator position needs affirmation that the Committee wants to move forward with reinstatement so a staffing request can be put in.

Chair Winkler called for a straw vote on whether or not a staffing request should be put in for the Community Development Educator position. Chair Winkler and Newman are supportive of reinstating the CDI position. Jensen and Sorgel would like more information before commenting further. Ryden will support it if we can fit it into the budget.

What is demand for this position? What external jobs are competition for this position? What is the increase in budget for employment cost? What would the CDI be working on? Is duplication of services real or perceived?

16. Area 4 Extension Director Update – A. Rehberg.

- a. Staffing & Communication Plan:
 - i. Health & Well-Being not filled yet, would like a Committee member to serve on the screening committee. Next month we will begin interviewing. Newman is willing to serve on committee with small caveat of having interviews lumped into one day. Chair Winkler will try to make himself available for screening committee as well.
- b. Nicolet and Other Collaborations:
 - i. Nicolet is waiting to hear back on the Outdoor Learning Education Grant. Nicolet has requested support from Community Development for this grant, but there is a gap in service without having an educator to assist. Chair Winkler would like to know if Nicolet would be willing to share the cost burden of hiring a CDI.

17. Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) Extension Steering Committee Update:

Steering Committee is focusing on the UW-Extension contract, disconnect from the counties, 2018 document on partnership with counties, and county partnership guidance. There is an ongoing conversation in regards to strengthening the partnership between Extension and counties.

18. Consent Agenda Items: (UW-Extension)

- a. Monthly Budget Report(s).
 - i. Nothing out of the ordinary or major expenses or purchases expected. Everything has been within budget, with no line item transfers.

Sorgel/Newman motion to approve consent agenda as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

19. UW-Extension items to include on next agenda:

- 4-H Youth Present at Next Meeting for Staff/Program Report
- 2024 Budget
- Draft CDI Position Proposal and Staffing Request

20. Public Comment:

None.

21. Adjournment: Chairman Winkler adjourned meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Young, Recording Secretary