

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
Monday, November 13, 2023 Minutes
Oneida County
Courthouse, County Board Room and Virtually by ZOOM

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

Others Present: Michele Sadauskas, Karl Jennrich, Laurel Parins, Amber Rehberg, Jessica Young, John Richter, and Bob Schell. Jonna Jewell and Dan Butkus on Zoom.

1. Call to order and Chairperson's Announcements:

Chairman Winkler called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. The meeting was properly posted and handicapped accessible and ADA compliant. The symbol /s/ represents a valid virtual attendee's signature.

Chair Winkler acknowledged and recognized Stephanie Boismenu (*not present*) for having an article published in the Wisconsin Lakes Association publication the *Lake Tides* on AIS.

Chair Winkler acknowledged and welcomed the Wisconsin Lakes Association members in the room.

A listening session at Rhinelander District Library where Senator Felzkowski and Representative Swearingen will be present has been listed on the agenda, if there is opportunity after the CUW Committee meeting for members to attend.

2. Approve Agenda: A motion by Jensen/Sorgel to approve the November 13, 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 September 11, 2023 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

4. Dates/Location of Future Meetings:

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

5. Public Comment:

Committee agreed to let John Richter and Bob Schell, members of the Wisconsin Lakes Association, make their comments during agenda item seven.

6. Recap of Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) 5-year Plan Review to State – October 3, 2023:

Sadauskas met with the state for the 5-year Plan Review. LWCD did their review at the four-year mark, and were approved to go through 2029. LWCD will begin to look at a new Land and Water Resource Plan in 2028.

7. Wakeboat Update:

Public Comment: Bob Schell resides in Vilas County and is the chairman of the Lakes Association. Wisconsin Lakes are taking a cautious approach to the proposed Wakesports bill, they believe it is inadequate based on facts coming in from independent studies on the issue. Wisconsin Lakes has gathered research and compiled a list of recommendations to share with legislators:

1. Allow for local control of the lakes to help enforce standards of protection.
2. Minimum standard should prohibit wake creation within 500 feet of the shore.
3. Minimum standard should prohibit wake creation in waters less than 30 feet deep.
4. AIS control

Schell encourages lawmakers to take these into consideration.

- a. *(Legislative Resource Bureau) LRB-3518/1 – Relating to: the regulation of Wake surfing and Wakeboarding.*

Chair Winkler is concerned that the proposed bill does not address depth; Minnesota, Vermont and one other state had research conducted where it was recommended that the depth be no less than 25 to 30 feet. Chair Winkler shared these concerns in a communication sent as a private resident to Senator Felzkowski and Representative Swearingen. Senator Felzkowski asked Chair Winkler to join them in the springtime in Madison to talk about the issue further.

Newman addressed the concern of not having all the information needed about how wakesports affect lakes and the natural environment because it is a new sport. The information available is limited, such as the safety issues, disruption to loon nests, and wakes loosening the phosphorous on the bottom of lakes which promotes algae growth. Newman would like the legislator to keep the communication channels open going forward, with two-way conversations happening in order to address issues as they are noted.

Representative Swearingen told Chair Winkler that this proposed bill was shared as a starting point, and the listening sessions are being held to gather local input and concerns.

- b. Land & Water Conservation Department/CUW Committee Recommendations Letter

Any input from the CUW Committee to the legislator needs to be sent in before the end of February 2024.

Sadauskas would like to draft a recommendation letter to send to Senator Felzkowski and Representative Swearingen. Jensen suggests that the Committee specifically addresses the proposed bill's outline when creating the recommendation letter. Chair Winkler suggests focusing on what the proposed bill is lacking and addressing those issues with facts and

evidence from resources that can be attached to the recommendation letter. Doing this will create a strong support-base, and recommendations will not be based solely on hearsay.

Committee agreed to have suggestions ready by the January CUW Committee meeting.

Engel would like to know if the local guidelines for smaller lakes would still hold with the new possible legislation. Chair Winkler suggested that the guidelines of lake classification currently being worked on by LWCD could be useful to legislators in regards to that concern. Sadauskas will begin drafting recommendations to present in December, with the main points of concern addressed by the Committee.

Jensen would like someone to ask the Senator and Representative if they would have capacity to accept recommendations and input mid-February to allow more time to communicate recommendations.

8. Cost Share End of Project Review:

Sadauskas shared with the Committee a few end-of-project photos, before and after, of Cost Share projects completed in 2023.

- a. Framke
- b. Pulver Phase II
- c. Dibbs/Lakewood Condo

An estimated total of 500 feet of protection was provided in completion of these cost share projects.

9. Lake District Reports:

(Nokomis submitted report)

Thunder Lake added \$10,000 worth of fish, fish were larger than anticipated. A potential donor might help with getting more fish next year.

10. LWCD Office Reports:

- a. Budget Actual – *(September & October)*
- b. Invoices Paid – *(September & October)*
- c. Worker's Compensation – 8/31/23

Committee acknowledged and received items 10a, 10b and 10c.

11. LWCD items to include on next agenda:

Wakeboarding update with a draft of concerns, issues, and recommendations.

12. Public Comment: None.

13. Area 4 Extension Director Update – A. Rehberg

- a. UWEX Status Update: Extension Oneida County is fully staffed and continues to work on opportunities for programming. Oneida County 4-H has a new sewing program in Minocqua that was promoted on the radio, and also runs the LEGO League program at Rhinelander District Library.
- b. 2024 Contract: The 2024 contract can be signed once the budget is finalized at the Oneida County Board Annual Meeting and Budget Approval. The 2024 contract was submitted to Corporation Counsel.
- c. Staffing & Communication Plan: Extension Oneida County is working to promote events, programming, and services by creating a marketing plan that includes building out an events calendar, creation of marketing materials, and communication guidelines. Extension continues to work towards finding ways to better communicate the services and programming offered to Oneida County.
- d. Nicolet and Other Collaborations: Nicolet has no further updates about the grant for outdoor classrooms, they have not received a response yet. Nicolet is currently looking for ways the community can utilize the spaces on campus, as more students are doing online courses. Extension Oneida County had a chance to gather with Nicolet colleagues to create connections and share ideas.

Chair Winkler mentioned that the new Health & Well Being educator, Laurel Parins, might connect with Nicolet to create a food security program that would allow use of the kitchen area in the Northwoods Center for food education services.

14. Possible Relocation of Extension Office:

There was discussion at the budget hearing in regards to Extension Oneida County paying \$18,000 per year in rent, which is an expense coming out of Extension's budget. In order to save on rent expenses, Extension was asked if they would be open to moving to the courthouse. Moving to the courthouse would allow for better connectivity between departments and might increase the capacity to collaborate with other county services; however, moving away from Nicolet might create distance that would negatively impact potential future collaborations.

Once Nicolet staff have had the chance to adjust to the recent staffing changes, and once they receive the grant for outdoor classrooms, there will be an opening to further collaborate with them.

Sorgel suggests Extension schedule time with Nicolet to work on collaboration efforts.

Jensen commented that there is better potential for Extension to collaborate with Nicolet if they work in the same spaces.

Rehberg suggested doing a space study over the next year to see what each option would look like.

15. UW-Madison Division of Extension All Colleague Conference:

- a. Staff Participation Approved by Committee Chair Winkler on 10/31
- b. Report from Staff:

Jessica Young gave an overview report on the All Colleague Conference that took place in Madison on 11/1/2023 through 11/3/2023. Young shared her experience at the conference and how it ties in to the work she does in Oneida County.

16. Health and Well Being Educator Introduction and Program Overview:

This item was moved up on the agenda above UW-Madison Division of Extension All Colleague Conference (#15).

Laurel Parins is the new Health and Well Being Position shared with ADRC. It is a 70% position (30% funded through ADRC and 40% funded through Extension).

Parins gave a brief overview of her experience, background, and education to the Committee.

A portion of Parins' work will be with the aging populations using evidence-based approaches to programming. The partnership with ADRC ensures that these services are not being duplicated, but instead are being collaborated on by different departments and agencies.

17. UWEX Office Reports:

- a. Budget Actual – *(September & October)*
- b. Invoices Paid – *(September & October)*

Committee acknowledged and received agenda items 17a & 17b.

18. UWEX Items to include on next agenda:

Update on the Youth and Governance program.

19. Public Comment: None

20. Adjournment: Chairman Winkler adjourned meeting at 2:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Young, Recording Secretary