

**Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee**  
**Monday, September 11, 2023 Minutes**  
**Oneida County Courthouse, County Board Room and Virtually by ZOOM**

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

**Others Present:** Michele Sadauskas, Amber Rehberg, Jessica Young, Stephanie Boismenuue, Jim Tharman, and Sharon Krause. Jonna Jewell on Zoom.

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

Chairman Winkler called the meeting to order at 1:02 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 would like the Invoices Paid Report and the Budget Report to be put back on future agendas so that they may be acknowledged by the Committee.

**2. Approve Agenda:** A motion by Ryden/Jensen to approve the September 11, 2023 Agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

**3. Approve Minutes:** A motion by Jensen/Sorgel to approve the minutes of August 14, 2023. All ayes; motion carried.

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

Monday, October 9, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Oneida County Courthouse; Committee Room 2

Monday, November 13, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Oneida County Courthouse; County Board Room

**5. Public Comment:** None.

**6. Wildlife Damage – Jim Tharman**

a) 2023 Budget Update - (Fencing)

The Bacon Farms Contract was notarized and signed by Chair Winkler during a meeting with Tharman a few weeks ago. Approval for the permanent fence project was received earlier in the year; however, the final numbers have come in and Tharman is sharing those with the Committee today. Chair Winkler stated that it is okay to keep things as they are now, and that the original approval for the amendment is still relevant.

b) 2024 Budget Approval

The budget for 2024 is \$35,736.35 and was \$33,445.93 for this year; a minor budget increase that covers salaries and mileage increases.

Jensen/Ryden made a motion to approve the Wildlife Damage 2024 Budget as

presented and forward on for consideration at the budget hearing. All ayes; motion carried.

c) Cooperative Service Agreement – 2024-2028

The Cooperative Service Agreement is between Wildlife Services, Oneida County, and the State of Wisconsin. The document explains the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved. The County will be responsible for approving pricing via appraisals, claims, proposals, budgets, and line items. Tharman will take on the role of “employee” by taking in the damage reports and bringing them to the Committee’s attention. Compared to the last Cooperative Service Agreement, there are no changes, according to Tharman and Chair Winkler.

Ryden/Winkler made a motion to approve the Cooperative Service Agreement for 2024-2028. All ayes; motion carried.

d) 2024 Deer Donation Program Approval

The 2024 Deer Donation Program must receive approval from Committee in order to reinstate the program again next year. In January 2024, Tharman will report the statistics of the 2023 program to the Committee (i.e. donations, participation, etc.). Jensen/Ryden made a motion to approve the 2024 Deer Donation Program. All ayes; motion carried.

**7. LWRM (Land & Water Resource Management) 5-Year Plan Review:**

On October 3rd, Land & Water Conservation will present the 5-Year Review of their 10-Year Plan to the Land & Water Board. The plan is being shared with the Committee for review, it does not need to be approved by the Committee. The plan is an overview of accomplishments and completed activities by Land & Water Conservation.

CUW Committee has received the plan; they would like an update in October.

**8. Ag/Forestry Foreign Lands Ownership:**

a) Clark County Resolution (adopted 8/17/2023)

There is concern that foreign businesses and individuals buying land will have a negative impact on local farmers; it would be best to consider the restrictions in place that prevent foreign powers from purchasing land. Chair Winkler would like to revise the Clark County Resolution for Oneida County.

b) Oneida County Resolution

Corporation Counsel has reviewed the resolution and made two suggestions:

1. Add the statute that restricts land ownership by a foreign entity to 640 acres (on line 6 of the Clark County Resolution).
2. Be specific on what the County wants when it comes to resolution; communicate in detail what is being requested of the state legislators at their next biennium.

The concern centers on the US farmer and how foreign land owners purchasing

ag/forestry land will affect new farmers coming into the fold in regard to pricing. The following will need to be completed to amend the resolution:

- Add the statute to lines 20 and 21.
- Delete the words “and” from line 39 and “revise” from line 40.

Jensen/Ryden made a motion to amend line 21 to add the applicable state statute, and to delete the word “and” from line 39 and the word “revise” from line 40. All ayes; motion carried.

Ryden/Sorgel made a motion to forward the resolution to the County Board. All ayes; motion carried.

### **9. Grant Resolution Approval:**

Sadauskas provided an overview the DNR Grants Land & Water Conservation will be applying for within the next month.

#### **a) LMPN (AIS)**

The Lake Monitoring and Protection Network Grant (now AIS) is a contract grant for \$22,003; it is the same grant as previous years and there is nothing new to report on it.

Ryden/Sorgel made a motion to approve the Lake Monitoring and Protection Network Grant. All ayes; motion carried.

#### **b) Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW)**

This is the third year applying for the CBCW grant; it will provide 200 hours at six under-served boat landings that are all on high priority AIS waters.

Jensen/Sorgel made a motion to approve the resolution to apply for the DNR Clean Boats Clean Waters grant and forward on to County Board for their consideration as a Consent Agenda. All ayes; motion carried.

#### **c) Surface Water County Lake Grant**

This grant will help with cost-share projects, healthy lakes projects, lakeshore restoration, and water quality. It will be no more than \$50,000, will likely be considerably less than that. County will match 67% of the cost.

Sorgel/Ryden made a motion to approve the Surface Water County Lake Grant. All ayes; motion carried.

#### **d) Healthy Lakes & Rivers (HLR)**

This grant was applied for in previous years; there is one project for \$1,000 with additional projects possible.

Jensen/Sorgel made a motion to approve the resolution to apply for the W-DNR Healthy Lakes & Rivers grant, as a Consent Agenda. All ayes; motion carried.

**10. Lake District Reports:**

(Thunder, Nokomis, Mid, Bear, Crescent, Squash, Horsehead).

Boismenu spoke at the Horsehead Lake Meeting and answered many questions about AIS.

Chair Winkler encouraged others to have the AIS Program speak at their Lake District Meetings.

**11. LWCD items to include on next agenda:**

Include the Budget Report and Invoices Paid Report on the next agenda for Committee to acknowledge. Report on the Land & Water Board Meeting from October 3rd.

**12. Public Comment:** None.

**13. Teen Court Update – S. Krause**

The Teen Court panelist scheduled to speak at the meeting was unable to attend due to a medical issue.

Krause gave the Committee an update on the Teen Court Program. Following are some statistics on the outcomes for 2023:

- 87% of youth that participate in the Teen Court Program have completed it.
- Fail to proceed means youth who chose to go through Teen Court did not hand in the required paperwork.
- Out of the 33 youth processed through Teen Court last year (2022), only 1 youth has re-offended.
- 81% of the youth who have participated in the Teen Court Program did not reoffend.
- There are 4 virtual panelists, 9 Rhinelander panelists, and possibly 10-12 Lakeland panelists.

Krause attended the recruitment days that took place last week at RHS and Lakeland Union High School.

Only one case came through this month, Krause will provide additional training to panelists due to the minimal case load.

Teen Court is not only beneficial for offenders, it is also beneficial to the panelists who receive training and experiences that build skillsets that may lead to future careers. The program is a benefit to the County as it supports positive youth development and provides an alternative recourse for youth who have minor transgressions, giving them the opportunity to reflect and learn from past mistakes. Teen Court is also a cost-effective alternative to traditional Juvenile court for some young offenders because of reduced recidivism and the use of volunteers/peers to hear/try cases.

#### **14. Area 4 Extension Director Update – A. Rehberg**

##### a) UWEX Status Update

The 2024 136-Contract will be made available for the October Meeting; Rehberg will send the contract to Corporation Counsel for review beforehand. There are no major changes, there has been a signature authority added to the contract due to Rehberg not being a county employee.

Extension leadership will be attending the WCA Conference next week, sharing the opportunities and services that are being provided to the local communities.

##### b) Staffing & Communication Plan

The Health & Well Being Educator position has been extended to September 15th due to lack of qualified applicants. The position is being promoted online and throughout the community. It is an Oneida County only position that focuses on the aging population and will be building out the evidence-based programs with ADRC. Would like a Committee member to sit on the search and screen committee for the hiring process, will give Committee members times/dates needed to see who may be available to sit in. We are being conscious of how we are getting information out to the community and realize we need to reduce the amount we print to help conserve resources. Right now the County Report is being printed in color and dispersed per the Committee's request to do so. We need to consider alternative options of sharing these updates that would reduce waste, such as posting the report online or printing in black and white only.

##### c) Nicolet and Other Collaborations

Nicolet is hosting a Workforce Development Workshop this Friday, we are lifting up and promoting that opportunity. We are having conversations with Nicolet on where and how we can connect; right now we are at the level of information sharing and relationship building. We are planning a building potluck with our Nicolet colleagues to help build relationships and create an opportunity for connection around further collaborations.

#### **15. UW-Extension items to include on next agenda:**

Include in the next agenda the Budget Report, the Invoices Paid Report, and the 2024 136-Contract.

#### **18. Public Comment:** None.

#### **19. Adjournment:** Chairman Winkler adjourned meeting at 2:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jessica Young, Recording Secretary