Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
Monday, October 12, 2026 Minutes
Oneida County Courthouse, County Board Room and Virtually by ZOOM

Committee Members: Chair Robb Jensen, Linnaea Newman, Dan Hess, Levi Rhody, and Collette Sorgel. Oneida County Youth in Governance Representative Lucas Deede.

Others Present: Michele Sadauskas, Karl Jennrich, Stephanie Boismenue, Amber Rehberg, Sharon Krause, Tiffanie Ory, members of the Oneida County 4-H Northwoods Explorers 4-H Club and 4-H Robotics Clubs. On Zoom: Jonna Jewell, Jody McKinney, Sara Chiamulera (LIO), Steven Schreier (left at 1:40), Jess Young, Jason Hausler (left at 1:29), Rebeca Wold, Michael Tautges (left at 1:27), TLB

1. **Call to order and Chairperson's Announcements:**
   Chair Jensen called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was properly posted and handicapped accessible and ADA compliant. A quorum was confirmed with four members present. Introduced Youth in Governance Member, Lucas Deede.

2. **Approve Amended Agenda:** A motion by Hess/Newman to approve the October 12, 2026 Amended Agenda. All ayes; motion carried.

3. **Approve Minutes:** A motion by Jensen/Sorgel to approve the minutes of September 14, 2026 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

4. **Dates/Location of Future Meetings:**
   Monday, November 9, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. Oneida County Courthouse; County Board Room.

5. **Public Comment:**

   Nolan Ory, Rhinelander, shared comments regarding the **4-H Robotics Program**, highlighting the value of 4-H programming and its positive impact on youth participants.

   Tim Sauter, 4380 Wildwood Dr, Rhinelander, expressed appreciation to the Executive Committee for its continued support and funding of Extension programs. He noted that 4-H helps youth develop critical life skills and shared that his son has been actively involved in the program.

   Eric Rempala, N5776 Woodenware Rd, Irma, representing **Oneida County Clean Water Action**, stated that Oneida County Clean Water Action and the Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association (OCLRA) will be proposing an amendment to the Oneida County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance related to access viewing corridor language. He indicated that the organizations are seeking support and a sponsor for the proposed amendment. Both organizations also support proposed contouring and shoreline cleanup language.

Motion made by Jensen to suspend the rules and take UW-Extension agenda items first and seconded by Hess. Motion carried.

6. **Land and Water Website RE: Lake Districts:** A question was raised regarding whether Land Conservation should actively promote Lake Districts. It was clarified that Land Conservation's role is informational, providing resources and materials on its website for groups interested in forming or learning about Lake Districts. While new groups may utilize these resources, Land Conservation does not host Lake District websites. The Committee noted the importance of groups sharing information within their communities, and Land Conservation will continue its current practice of providing informational support and resources as it has done in the past.

7. **Proposed Kathan Lake District:**
   a. Final Report
      1. Added a map and tweaked figures. The Final Report was in the packet for Committee review. Also in the packet was a Recommendation Letter if the Committee would like to forward to the full County Board.
      2. Newman moved to accept the Kathan Lake District Final Report, Hess seconded. All ayes, motion carried.
   b. Recommendation Letter and Resolution for the Kathan Lake District to move to full County Board.
      1. Newman moved to forward the resolution and recommendation for the Kathan Lake District to full County Board and Jensen seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

8. **PFAs Update:**
   a. There wasn't much of an update at WCA.
   b. Rempala provided an update and handout.
      1. October 20, Stella is having a meeting with DNR, DHS and EPA; invited Committee to attend.
      2. DNR Grant Money will be available for towns and other municipalities; Oneida County is in a unique situation and may be in a favorable position to apply. Funds are first come, first serve. Still not sure what it looks like and whether we move forward as a county or individual towns. Land Conservation and Health Department have started conversations in order to be best positioned to move forward. As soon as information comes out, plan is to meet with DNR consultant.

9. Grant Resolutions Approval:

a. Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW)
    1. Oneida County applying for DNR Surface Water Program will fund 3 LTE Watercraft Inspectors. Seven designated boat landings. Extremely busy boat landings and high priority invasive species.

b. Lake Monitoring Protection Network (LMPN)
    1. Money that is given through DNR Surface Water Program. Allocation to each county. No cost to county and funds two AIS LTE project Assistants. Provide all the water quality monitoring and education.

c. Surface Water Restoration: *Town of Newbold Stream Crossing*
    1. Install new/wider structures to fix the stream crossing.

d. Surface Water Restoration: *Town of Crescent Stream Crossing*
    1. Install new/wider culvert for stream crossing.

e. Surface Water Restoration: *Town of Stella Stream Crossing*
    1. Install new/wider culvert for stream crossing.

f. Surface Water Education: *Communication Plan/Website Update*
    1. Applying for a small $5000 grant. ADA Compliance is required, this will help get the website updated and work on a communication plan.

Jensen/Newman made a motion to approve all six of the grant resolutions. All ayes, motion carried. They are all consent agenda.

10. Lake District Reports:

a. **Squash Lake:** A meeting was held on October 11 to review aquatic invasive species management activities. Approximately 24,000 pounds of Eurasian water milfoil were removed during the season. Conditions included very low snow cover during the previous winter, as well as warm temperatures and low water levels throughout the season. Onterra conducted mapping of the Eurasian water milfoil at both the beginning and end of the season to monitor its distribution and assess changes over time. The end-of-season mapping report indicated a significant increase in mapped milfoil areas, providing additional information for evaluating current conditions and future management efforts.

b. **Crescent Lake:** Meeting is Tuesday.

11. LWCD Office Reports:

- Budget Actual – *September, 2026*
- Invoices Paid – *September, 2026*

Budget Actual and Invoices Paid reports were received by the CUW Committee.

12. LWCD Items to Include on Next Agenda:

13. UWEX Upcoming Events:

Jess Young provided updates on upcoming Extension and youth development activities in the packet, including the kickoff of the Youth in Governance Program, which has eight youth participants enrolled. Additional programming including Northwoods Explorers, LEGO Robotics, and Teen Court Training.

14. UWEX Office Reports:

- Budget Actual – *September, 2026*
- Invoices Paid – *September, 2026*

Budget Actual and Invoices Paid reports were received by the CUW Committee.

15. 2027 UWEX Budget Discussion:

It was reported that when the Extension budget was presented to the Executive Committee on Tuesday, October 6, a motion to fully eliminate Extension funding passed on a 4-3 vote. The budget was brought back for further discussion on Wednesday by Chair Holewinski. Following discussion, a motion was made and approved on a 6-1 vote to retain the department and increase projected donations/revenue by $10,000. Still needs to go through full County Board. The Committee will continue discussions regarding strategies to generate the additional $10,000 in revenue.

16. UWEX Items to Include on Next Agenda:

17. Public Comment:

No additional public comment.

18. Adjournment: Chair Jensen adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amber Rehberg, Recording Secretary