

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
August 12, 2019
Minutes

Committee members present: Chairman Bob Mott, Robb Jensen, Alan VanRaalte, and Mitch Ives.

Others Present: Steve Nelson, Carrie Kubacki, Andrea Rippley, Michele Sadauskas, Stephanie Boismenu, Karl Jennrich, Rosie Page, Eileen Lonsdorf, Bruce Renquist, Judy Renquist, Norris Ross, Jacob Friede, Rob Broadhead, Marsha Obukowicz, Paul Tubbs, and Merry Lehner.

Call to order: Chairman Mott called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was properly posted and the facility handicapped accessible. Funding Opportunities-AIS was moved up on the agenda for public comment.

Approve Agenda: A motion by Jensen/VanRaalte to approve the agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve Minutes:

VanRaalte/Jensen made a motion to approve 7/15/19 CUW Committee meeting minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

Future Meetings:

Monday, September 11, 2019	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room
Monday, October 14, 2019	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room

Mosquito Spraying Concerns/Questions:

Local contractors were invited to attend today's Committee Meeting to address concerns about the chemicals used by mosquito spraying services in the area. Chairman Mott is looking for answers to a number of questions. It is unknown if it is a health concern, is regulated, or if it affects pollinators and other insects. Sadauskas sent a letter to the local mosquito spraying services, stating that the department has seen a growing number of advertisements for mosquito spraying services in Oneida County. There are questions on the type of chemicals sprayed, their safety around people, pets, and wildlife, and their effect on insects such as dragonflies and fireflies, and pollinators like bees, butterflies and moths. Contractors unable to attend were asked to forward any information on their mosquito spray product and any negative effect they may pose to beneficial insects, and what steps are taken to minimize those effects. One contractor replied, letter submitted to Committee member and included in minutes. Sadauskas said there is little information on the contents of the spray. Proprietary blend ingredients are unknown and it does not state what the risk is to other insects. There appears to be a lack of outreach to consumers. She said Vilas County spoke with DATCP and was able to glean some information on what is necessary for certification and licensing. More outreach to the public is needed to explain what chemical is being used and its effects to the environment. Mott asked if consumers are being advised on health risks, or effects on the pollinators. It cannot just kill mosquitos and ticks. Mott asked Sadauskas to contact the County Health Department for further information. Contact DATCP about the risks to consumers and to pollinators. There is public concern.

Three public comments regarding mosquito spraying:

Rosie Paige stated that she is a certified pesticide applicator and she sprays in an ecologically appropriate manner to eradicate invasive species. DATCP certification will allow her to broadcast spray. She would not, but has the certification to do so. The big issue is if the mosquito sprayers are doing things legally and with a conscience. DATCP does not state how much of a chemical to use or what is safe to combine. For this reason, a proprietary blend concerns her. Her training addressed that applicators are legally required to inform neighbors when pesticide spraying takes place. A landscape registry has this information available where application takes place. Customer notification of the ingredients is required. Enforcement falls under the scope of DATCP.

Norris Ross said the important element is that the public deserves to be educated on the subject. The public needs to know about this use through outreach and education. Educate the public so they can become involved.

Eileen Lonsdorf asked about the groundwater and our wells. Mosquitos breed in water so how will this affect pollinators and human health as well.

Alan VanRaalte asked about regulation and enforcement of mosquito spraying products. He would like to see more information available.

Nick Borski of Performance Pest Solutions was the only mosquito spraying contractor that attended the meeting. He performs structural pesticide application within a 10 foot barrier of a building. That is the only area he treats. There are many different divisions of pesticide application where larger areas are involved. Not all applicators are negligent. Borski is a responsible applicator. He stated that he cannot say that insecticides are totally safe. As far as proprietary blends go, his guess is that an insect growth regulator is part of the blend, he isn't sure. Most companies use the same chemicals. His product is residual for a few months. The product is broken-down by the sun and rain. Re-application is required about every 14 days. The product, Talstar P, is a broad spectrum pesticide, mixed with one ounce per one gallon of water. It is a blend and his guess is that an insect growth regulator is part of the blend, he isn't sure. A light spray only, is applied. The brand label and booklet, his method of spraying, and a statement of pre-application were left with the Committee for their inspection. He is a DATCP certified applicator and the training manual advises to list product and notification of application. He took his first exam 7 years ago and re-certified 2 years ago. DATCP has a huge part of regulation and can ask for his records going back two years. It documents what is being used, when, and where. Personal use of Talstar P is available on line and it is not a restricted use pesticide. Talstar has a similar product and is available at big box stores. Mott believed that there needs to be more investigation. Education and outreach for the public needs to occur.

Discussion/Response to Funding Opportunities – Committee Recommendations for AIS:

Mott provided an overview: the County, according to Carlson Dettman is short \$800,000 in order to arrive to a medium point in salary for employees. Revenue caps by state legislature allow us to increase spending of \$112,000 this year. A 2% cost of living projected increase would cost around \$208,000. That amount spent totally and will not get the salaries up to the middle level of what Carlson Dettman recommended. In order to do half, or \$400,000, it would actually be another \$200,000 or \$600,000, due to the reclassification of employees whose jobs have changed. This would be an annual occurrence. The Funding Opportunities Committee formed to examine options. First, they reviewed non-mandated costs, or anything that the State does not require the County to have, such as AIS. The second item is efficiencies, or how can the County operate differently to make it more efficient in order to save money. Mott then reviewed the spreadsheet developed by the Funding Opportunities Committee. Examples included health insurance and benefit adjustments, selling county land, changes to solid wastes, reorganization of departments, moving money from the tax levy to salaries, reductions of fund or elimination of services of non-county direct items based on the efficiency study. Mott read off the departments or areas listed for cost cutting. AIS, the Fair and Extension were included. Finally, they will examine whether or not or how they will implement the Carlson Dettman recommendations.

Jensen stated that they are not cutting anything at this point, they are looking at a long list of proposals that could researched to see what is important and what can be cut. Jensen would like to see budget management of all departments. Jensen said they are asking for validation why each program exists.

Van Raalte stated things not talked about: increase in tax levies, a wheel tax, "bundle and borrow" was not discussed either. Perhaps the County does not pay everyone a higher wage. The original study in 2014 took actions through a COLA arrangement. If we give up vital services to pay for other services, are we really ahead?

Mott asked that all 28 items listed on the spreadsheet list the pros and cons for a balanced view. Public Comments regarding AIS were as follows:

Cathie Erickson, President of Wisconsin Lakes Association wrote a letter on the importance of having

Norris Ross distributed the Three Lake Waterfront Association booklet. The last page it credits the participation and suggestions of the Oneida County Land and Water Conservation department, since 2010. The public needs to know what AIS is doing. Many members cannot believe that cutting AIS.

Tom Rudolph commented that none of the big ticket items such as highway department, law enforcement, and social services list cuts. Two thirds of the budget from those areas and a small 1% savings in each of those areas would more than take care of any shortfalls, rather than cutting an essential and successful AIS program.

Bruce Renquist stated that around 124 volunteers are working hard at monitoring the shorelines of the Three Lakes chain. There are 109 miles of shoreline and the property owners involved will not be happy to hear about AIS being eliminated. The education and training provided by AIS is a must. Examples were given how public is now able to identify Invasives.

Eileen Lonsdorf, as president of Hasbrook Lake Association, commented that if AIS and UW Extension, which represents education, are both defunded, a lot a harm to the community will result. She stated the dedication of the AIS coordinator in her training and expertise offering advice to the public. Data shows that the impact of water clarity and AIS efforts, directly impact property values. Both Extension and OCLRA have completed studies to prove that home values are improved by good water clarity and if water quality diminishes, property values may decline by as much as \$45,000.

Paul Tubbs from Lake George has an active lake association and they were trained by AIS for the Clean Boats Clean Water program. He wants to stress that AIS is a very good investment for the community's property values and tourism.

Rob Broadhead stated that the AIS program has been a tremendous resource. Their Lake Association has the AIS Coordinator come to speak at their meetings where they learn more about preventing Invasives.

Marsha Obukowicz stated that the outreach and education component of AIS at the school level as well as the lake associations has been well receive. She stressed how important outreach and educating the public is for the community.

Sadauskas stated that out the of the 2017 annual report, cost for the department was just short of \$54,000 and for the 2020 budget, with their staffing grant through DATCP, the county will be paying \$36,564 for the AIS program (AIS coordinator and the LTEs). Land & Water gives the County a 387% return on the investment.

Motion was made Jensen/Van Raalte that the CUW Committee gave consideration regarding cuts to the AIS program and that the Committee recommends the County continue to support the tax levy not less than what is currently is being supported. All ayes; motion carried.

Mott commended the public for their citizen involvement. The testimonials received may present to the Funding Opportunity Committee and to the County Board to maintain the AIS program. The next Funding Opportunity meeting is not scheduled but they believe it will be on August 28.

Excused: Lonsdorf, Bruce Renquist, Judy Renquist, Ross, Friede, Broadhead, Obukowicz, and Tubbs 2:35 p.m.

Discussion/Vote on Lumberjack Projects:

There are not any projects proposed at this time.

Squash Lake District Report – Bob Mott:

The Squash Lake meeting was on Saturday, August 10. They had 10 voters at the well-organized meeting. A plant management grant was refuse because they only would receive a quarter of the requested amount. They will re-apply for the grant. Squash Lake has no chemical treatment. Divers started pulling weeds starting June 10 and will continue through September. Concern over wake boats continues as a hot topic with high water levels. Mill rates remain flat.

Nokomis Lake District Report – Alan VanRaalte:

The Lake District had their meeting on Saturday, August 10. They have a membership of approximately 150 to 175 people. They approved the budget of \$70,600 and included a new line item for legal counsel at \$1,000. A vote to maintain the \$30/year landowner assessment took place, with an annual revenue stream of \$30,000. Eurasian Milfoil coordinator spoke on treatment process with over 37 acres involved. Chemical treatment is necessary due to the dark tannin present in the water that prevents manual removal. A Planning Committee with Ontera will be established. AIS coordinator, Dave Nitch, informed the members about possible AIS cuts. VanRaalte reviewed that Funding Opportunities and nobody favored dismissing the AIS position. The District made a motion to write a letter of support for the AIS program.

Discontinue Portion of Maple Street in Town of Pine Lake Notice:

A public hearing is scheduled on September 18, 2019 at the Pine Lake Fire Department meeting room on the resolution to discontinue a portion of Maple Street in the Town of Pine Lake will take place. The Committee is informed per statue. No action is necessary.

Cost Share:

- a. Kim-final payment/Deposit Return approval. Action item requires a motion from the Committee.
- b. Ebert-final payment/Deposit Return approval. Action item requires a motion from the Committee.

A motion to approve the Cost Share final payment and deposit return on the Kim and Ebert properties was made by Jensen/Van Raalte. All ayes; motion carried.

- c. Brice final project pictures. The client added hosta plants by the shoreline. Sadauskus had a discussion with the landowner and wanted to recommend vegetation with native plants or pollinator plants.
- d. Blue Waters. A certified letter was sent by LWCD per advice of the Committee last month and no response was received. Therefore, a forfeit of the \$1,000 deposit on file will occur.

Resolution Approval:

- a. Fee Schedule: Resolution for fee schedule. The Committee approved last month and now would like to present to the County Board as a resolution. Motion by VanRaalte/Ives to approve the resolution and fee schedule attached to pass on to the County Board for approval.

b. Land & Water Resource Management Plan (LWRM)

The LWRM plan was approved in Madison last Tuesday. The DNR said an outstanding document was missing, NR-151, agriculture performance standards addendum needs to be added, but the plan was still approved. The Committee can approve it without document or not. It can go either way. The Committee can take the resolution to the Board with the insert. If the insert is not with the plan by the time of the County Board meeting, it will be pulled. A motion by Jensen/VanRaalte to approve the resolution for the Land and Water Resource Management Plan, with understanding that the addendum will be added, and to forward to the County Board for their review. All ayes; motion carried.

Up-coming Events:

Events were included in the insert to Committee members. Sadauskas added another event, the Road Stream Crossing workshop. Boismenu's volunteers will pull Purple Loosestrife tomorrow, August 13, 9:00 a.m. at Lizzie T's on Hwy 47.

Water Quality Task Force Testimony – Bob Mott/Michele Sadauskas

Mott and Sadauskas testified, as part of the traveling committee, regarding seepage in Oneida County. Sadauskas said the Task Force was very supportive of land and water departments. The Task Force priority is how to help fund land and water departments further to help with water quality issues.

Lumberjack Report – Bob Mott:

The meeting was on July 25th. October 1 is the last day to nominate sustainable forestry award. There are three awards given out each year. The top award is \$10,000. This year \$41,052 was awarded for Terrestrial Invasives, WHIP, pollinator conservation, bell plain well testing kits. The Navarino Education Center, Town of Newbold, and Terrestrial Species Survey and Management plan were all supported.

Consent Agenda Items:

VanRaalte/Jensen moved to approve consent agenda items a, b, and c. All ayes; motion carried.

County Fair Report/ Update/Discussion – Fred Andrist:

Andrist reported on revenue from K & M Amusements, which made more money than last year. Their intake of donation revenue increased and there was more volunteer involvement as well. Attendance at the gates was up from last year. The new location of the exhibit area was received well and it was well attended. School outreach was good. The 4-H walk through traffic was up. The Fair meeting is tomorrow night, August 13 at 6:00 p.m. They will have a Fair review on went well and where improvements can be made. The financial report will be provided next month with exact figures. Mott liked the exhibit booth out on the grass at the Fair away from the hot pavement. There were many compliments on the layout of the Fair this year. There were some comments on the timing of the rides at the amusement area and they will address it at their meeting with K & M on Sunday. Due to a cancellation, a new provider from Minocqua, provided the portable bathrooms. The entertainment venue went well. Most people sat in the entertainment tent. They plan on arranging the entrance gates where donation boxes are by the traffic patterns. Andrist commented that he saw many people re-connect from last year. People had a good time.

Fair /City Contract Update:

They will follow up when Jim Winkler returns from Alaska. The information is needed for the County Board meeting.

Discussion /Response to Funding Opportunities Committee Recommendations- Fair:

The County support for the Fair last year was \$16,000 and that was the amount quoted to be cut for the Fair by the Committee. Other County entity monetary cuts were listed, but only the Fair had the total amount cut. The job of the Committee is to come up with ideas to continue to support the Fair. The objective was to see if the Fair could absorb some of the expenses of that \$16,000. The structure of the Fair has changed how sponsorships are obtained and carnival operation. The Fair seems to be on the right track financially, but the numbers and reasons need to be compiled by the Fair Committee and presented to this Committee, the Funding Committee and the County Board. Andrist reviewed their Movie Night, CT's Deli and Pat's Tavern, who all contributed to fund raising. They will present up to the end of this quarter on finances for the Fair proper. There will be some outstanding bills. The costs will be about the same as last year. In round figures the Fair runs around \$40,000. Mott asked that Andrist to prepare a proposal for the committee for how the Fair has improved. The Fair will most likely have their amount lowered and Andrist said they will "sharpen their pencil".

Consent Agenda Items Fair:

Motion by VanRaalte/Van Raalte to accept agenda items a and b, as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Office Air Environment:

The Google document tracking air quality must be re-created due to the State moving to a new Google Drive. There were two diesel air reports documented before the change. Monthly reports will go out to Luann Brunette and Matt Leitner.

Steve Nelson had a meeting with Richard Nelson from Nicolet and Catherine Neiswender, Northern Assistant Dean from UW Madison Division of Extension. Nicolet College student populations are shifting to on-line class attendance over the past few years, which have made more space available at Nicolet. UW Extension and Nicolet discussed opportunities for co-location of staff and office space for Extension at Nicolet. Nicolet thought it would be a benefit of shared services of office staff for walk-in visitors requesting information and there may be opportunities for UW to support or offer non-credit courses. Nelson also met with Leitner and Brunette about the possibility of a relocation of the Oneida County UW Extension office to Nicolet to provide more opportunities and better accessibility to Extension for the public. The current conference room is difficult for the handicapped, with the elevator so far away. Nelson discussed finances with Brunette about how to include this in the budget, currently there is \$40,000 in the facilities budget as an allocation of space for Extension, not to the Airport. The benefits of Extension being in a higher education setting, include the possibility of housing UW Extension State program managers and specialists in the future. Extension Dean, Karl Martin is familiar with the current office condition and has also had conversations with Nicolet College. UW-Madison Employee Health office has recommendations including notifying employees, if there is a concern and if there is an anticipated air quality issue, such as floor stripping. Upgrading the lower level HVAC to improve air flow and increase the pressure in the office space higher than the rest of the building and separating the airport luggage handling system from the office space. Nelson expects to receive a proposal including cost for a rental rate at Nicolet by the end of August.

Discussion/Response to Funding Opportunities Committee Recommendation – Extension:

Mott commented that the idea that the County does not need Extension has gone on for years. The mandated program argument continues as well. Mott suggested that we need a rationale on the pros and cons of Extension, listing the accomplishments of each educator program. A presentation on this to the County Board just took place, but Extension has to continue to justify its worth. Each educator shall list what they do on paper and substantiate it by numbers. It should list specific programs or tasks and the names of people helped and the date. Educators shall list places served in the County and organizations they partnered with in the past two years. If possible, list the dollar amount of the value an educator offered the Oneida County citizens. If some other facilitator or organization had to provide what Extension provides for free as part of our commitment to the County what would it cost? There is the duplication of services arguments. State why it is not a duplication of services or if a collaboration, that is not a duplication of services. Letters of support of at least five people supporting educators is another helpful document to provide. Such advocates could also speak to the Committee and County Board as well. Testify the services offered and the good it did for the County. Mott spoke with Tom Rudolph, and he said that each educator will need to sell their job and that what educators do is important, to preserve Extension in this County. Draw on the support of County Department heads; Complimentary services are not the same as "Duplication of Services". Mott said that Karl Martin said that there is help from the University and the Committee suggested we look into that. Jensen encouraged educators represented by UW Madison, show how they are helping the people of the county, and present to the Board. Follow the lead of the AIS presentation today and have the public speak to the Committees. How are the funds paid by the County, benefiting the County; we must prove the economic benefit. Extension positions are difficult to defend because they often work behind the scenes. Nelson pointed out that the Research University, helped in providing the publication, Citizens Guide to Watershed, and that Extension representative, Patrick Goggins, teaches and assists AIS.

Nelson stressed that one cannot overlook the education and out-reach component of Extension. He agreed that Extension will need testimonials and many people recognize the impact of the information or instruction they received from Extension. It is difficult to put dollars and cents to changing someone's life. It is said, "Everything can be counted but not everything that counts can be measured." What is the value of a special needs child who was helped by a 4-H camp experience and did not burden social services, because intervention and aid provided by attending 4-H? Is there

value of having 104 young people that went through Teen Court, did not re-offend, and did not become part of the judicial system? What is the value of the reduction in costs to social service if a senior participated in the 12 week Strong Bones Program and has gained the strength to tend to daily tasks? If a senior or elderly person has a fall, it costs approximately \$30,000 in medical costs; the Strong Bones program prevents falls, where 80 people participated. How do you put a price on that? Alexander has been hard at work on the Three Lakes small town project. The cost to do a small town community design by a private consultant will run over \$60,000. Alexander attended the Administration Committee and this meeting and feels there are options. The Funding Opportunities Committee, other than mentioning a wheel tax, had no conversation about funding. There is the positive way of going about a referendum. A well done referendum works, if you look at the school district.

A motion made by Mott/VanRaalte that the CUW Committee gave consideration regarding cuts to the Extension program and the Committee recommends the County continue to support UW Extension, knowing that the staff will provide evidence of the value of UW Extension Education, with significance in dollars included. All ayes; motion carried.

Extension 2020 Budget and Educator Contracts:

Nelson presented the budget shared in the information packets. Last year the County contract cost \$182,203 and this year it is \$184,375 and the difference is in the flat rate fee from the educators. There are 2.4 educators. Cost savings in training purposes through Zoom conferences will save money. They are investigating co-location with Nicolet, which will show cost savings over time. Now that Extension is fully merged, it will increase efficiencies. County support staff was asked to provide a list of things they are no longer able to offer due to the 2019 reduction in budget. As the staff is reduced and budgets are cut, county support staff can only provide a level of service at a reduced time allotted. There is \$3,600 carry over money or Continued Appropriations, which is from grants that will need to be carried forward. The budget includes support staff, 2.4 educators, and associated expenses, which Nelson reviewed. Mott asked for a timeline to put together information should be before the next meeting. Nicolet is a separate issue from the budget. They should be able to approve the budget as the contract amount is set.

A motion to approve the Extension 2020 Budget as presented was made by Jensen/VanRaalte and forward contracts onto Administration for their consideration. All ayes; motion carried.

Educator Reports:

Carrie Kubacki: Commented on follow up from last month. Training for new Lakeland Union HS panelists is August 20.
Sara Richie: Accepted a new position as the Life Span Outreach Program Manager and she will temporarily work out of Vilas Co. Lehner will support the Strong Bodies Program.
Andrea Ripley: Has ideas to improve the 4-H presence at the Fair and it unique form most other counties.

Consent Agenda Items – Extension:

Jensen/Ives moved to accept items a and b, monthly reports and expenses as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Public Comment: none

Items to Include on next Agenda:

FSA Representative, LWRM updates, Cost Share update, LWCD update, Bell plain water test kits. County Fair Report/Discussion, Fair/City Contract update. Educator Reports, Facilities Discussion. Office Air update. Funding opportunity discussion continues for Fair, AIS, and Extension.

Adjournment:

Mott adjourned the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merry Lehner, Recording Secretary

Bob Mott, Committee Chair