

**Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee**  
**October 4, 2019**  
**Minutes**

**Committee members present:** Chairman Bob Mott, Robb Jensen, Alan Van Raalte, Jim Winkler, and Mitch Ives, excused.

**Others Present:** Steve Nelson, Carrie Kubacki, Andrea Rippley, Myles Alexander, Pam Engstrom, Stephanie Boismenu, Karl Jennrich, Lynn Feldman, Theresa Seabloom, and Merry Lehner.

**Call to order:** Chairman Mott called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. It was properly posted and the facility handicapped accessible.

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

**Approve Minutes:**

Jensen/Winkler made a motion to approve 9/11/19 CUW Committee meeting minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

**Future Meetings:**

Monday, November 11, 2019	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room
Monday, December 9, 2019	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room

**Cost Share:**

Minocqua Shores Final Reimbursement, recommending \$10,080.70. The deposit of \$1,000 will be returned. A motion was made to approve to pass through money for the final reimbursement by VanRaalte/Jensen. All ayes; motion carried.

**LWCD Annual Membership Dues/costs:**

A request went out to all departments to review their memberships and fees paid. Jennrich reviewed the association dues. The largest amount is for the Land and Water Conservation Association dues of \$1,732.00. The organizations are worthwhile for networking for specific operations. A motion by Jensen/Van Raalte to support membership dues as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

**Up-coming Events:**

Stephanie Boismenu promoted an event called the YMCA Not so Scary Halloween Trail. It is on Friday, October 25, 2019 starting at 5:00 p.m. AIS Coordinator, Boismenu, will be a rusty crayfish. The Lumberjack Quarterly meeting is at Mole Lake Casino on Thursday, October 31 in Forest County. Additional information will be forthcoming.

**Wildlife Damage – Jim Tharman**

Pam Engstrom, from Wildlife Services, represented Tharman to present the 2020 Budget Approval in the amount of \$28,973.13, where there was an increase of 2.6 percent and the total budget went up \$500.00. The Venison Program Approval request also presented. There are two processors for Oneida County. This year, adult deer must be tested for CWD before they can be processed. The reimbursement is \$74.00. A motion by Winkler/Van Raalte to approve the 2020 Budget as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

A motion to approve the Venison Program as presented by Jensen/ Van Raalte. All ayes; motion carried. Engstrom excused.

**2020 AIS Surface Water Grant Resolution Approval:**

A surface water grant resolution approval request by Jennrich for the Oneida County Board of Supervisors is to authorize the County Conservationist to submit an application for a one-year grant to the Wisconsin DNR. It is not to exceed \$50,000 for an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) education, planning, and prevention program. This authorizes the conservationist to sign documents, choose any necessary action to undertake, direct, and complete the AIS control grant,

and submit reimbursement claims along with necessary supporting documentation within six months of the project completion. Oneida County's portion of the grant is 25% and the State portion is 75%. The AIS Coordinator's time to oversee the project is 600 hours or \$21,270.00 and the estimated volunteer time is 100 hours or \$1,000.00. Van Raalte/Winkler made a motion to approve the AIS resolution as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

**AIS Update – Stephanie Boismenu:**

The Invasive Species Awards Banquet held on August 22, 2019 was a success with 72 people attending. Photos of the event included Bob Mott, who presented the opening message and welcome. A presentation, "Fish Sticks – Adding Wood Structure to Lakes", was given by Zachariah Woiak, a Fisheries Biologist with the Wisconsin DNR. Brett Hanson of Hanson's Garden Village presented Shoreline Habitat Restoration. The Department's Lead AIS LTE, Aubrey Nycz, presented a stewardship award to her father, David Nycz.

**Confined Animal Feedlot (CAFO) Ordinance and Manure Storage Ordinance**

Karl Jennrich presented both together. The Planning and Development Committee will be working on the ordinance. There are two ways they can regulate the ordinances. Some counties have CAFOs others have a manure storage ordinances. Eau Claire and Iowa Counties do not have CAFOs. They have manure storage facilities. A power point presentation to the Committee from the Eau Claire County Land Conservation addressed 17.04 Agricultural Performance Standards and Manure Storage. They updated their manure storage ordinances. The Ag Ordinance Special Review Committee recommends: incorporate NR-151 Ag Performance standards and prohibitions into the county code. They recommend updating the Manure Storage Ordinance, in addition to making several changes to the current permitting process for construction, alteration, and closure of manure storage facilities. They do *not* incorporate livestock siting into the county code. Livestock Siting standards only apply to new or expanding facilities over a certain number of animal units (under 500) animal units, and to farms without livestock. Three Oneida County towns are un-zoned. The question was posed, if there should there be some sort of ordinance in these towns. There are currently no CAFOs or manure storage ordinances on the books. Eau Claire County did not go CAFO because they would be mirroring DNA and DATCP regulation. They went with the manure storage ordinance instead because it applies to any size farm and applies county wide. Regardless of adopting Livestock Siting, Shoreland-wetland, manure storage, erosion control, and storm-water ordinances apply both county-wide and to all storage facilities. The Planning and Development Committee will decide and then present to the CUW Committee. Mott asked for the septage issue update at next meeting because winter will be here again.

**FSA Representative Update:**

The Farm Service Agency is responsible to find someone who goes through an election process for the FSA position. Someone who had served previously as a FSA representative was contacted about the position.

**Consent Agenda Items – Land and Water Conservation:**

There is a stream bank training on October 19 at the Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland, Bayfield and Ashland Counties. Jensen/Van Raalte moved to approve consent agenda items a, b, and c, as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Jennrich and Boismenu excused at 2:00 p.m.

**County Fair Report/ Update/Discussion – Jim Winkler:**

Committee met earlier this week. They approved a new member, Bonnie Breivogel, has a desire to be involved with the Fair. She has volunteered for the Fair the past few years. The budget projected to be over budget by approximately \$4,000 but may be as low at \$2,000. Winkler said perhaps if they had received the \$20,000 they had requested, they would have broken even. It takes money to run the Fair. The dates for the 2020 Fair are July 30 thru Aug 2, 2020. They are exploring a possible new amusement park vendor. The Coordinator is looking for newer activities and different entertainers for next year. The Fair is working on an internal document to use a guide for doing business for next year. They have completed their Vision, Mission, and Value Statement that they formulated with the help of Myles Alexander for the long term vision of the Fair. They came up with a list of things that went well and things they need to work on for next year. A dedicated fairgrounds is still a topic for the future. There was a discussion about the Fair being over-budget and what actions were being taken to address this for the budget meeting. They will concentrate on a better means of

focusing more on interest groups. They experienced more fund raising this past year. Barnett is exploring applying for grants for next year. The Committee advised that the Fair will have to convince the County Board even for the \$16,000 for their 2020 budget. Plus, the support staff of Extension currently put many hours of work into the Fair and may not be able to continue to do so. The Committee is working very hard at cost savings. A clarification, in order to have a DATCP sponsored fair, you must have judging. You do not need 4-H to have a county fair. However, without UW-Extension, you cannot have 4-H.

**Fair /City Contract Update:**

Andrist met with the City Administrator. Brian Desmond was gathering data and will come up with a plan with the new City Attorney regarding the contract. By next month, they will be able give a fuller report on the contract. The City will be asking for a yearly contract going forward, that will roll annually. The Parks Department is working on a plan for Pioneer Park and plans were revealed at the October 1 meeting. There are plans for green space, a pavilion, a stage, and a larger playground. There are plans to improve traffic flow and parking. The elimination of the South entrance may impact the Fair.

**Fair Annual Membership Dues/Costs:**

Total Fair memberships are \$554.70. Wisconsin Fair Association of Fairs and three Chamber of Commerce fees from Minocqua, Three Lakes and Rhinelander are necessary memberships to plan and promote the Fair. A motion by Winkler/Van Raalte to support membership dues as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

**Consent Agenda Items Fair:**

A motion made by Jensen/Van Raalte to accept agenda items b and c, as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

**Extension Budget Proposal Approval:**

Mott, Nelson, Alexander, and Lynn Feldman met together to discuss the value of Extension and assess letters of support written by the community. There were letters from Richard Nelson, President of Nicolet College, Three Lakes Community Foundation and their board resolution, to support Extension continuing in Oneida County. Brian Diel, a local businessman, the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry, Master Gardeners, The Rhinelander Central School District supporting the FoodWise program, all support Extension at its current level.

Alexander presented a Power Point to Committee that will be given at the Budget Hearing Committee. He asked them to view it and provide any feedback. Purpose of presentation is to show the value of Extension showing real numbers from each program in monetary terms. Nelson will give an introduction and Alexander will present the slides. It will be a 15 minute presentation. The three questions asked by LRES and the FOC Committees: Why does a county fund Cooperative Extension? What is the cost of Cooperative Extension to Oneida County? And what are the benefits of a move to Nicolet College?

Extension programs are developed for the following reasons: To build stronger communities, food safety, security and health, resilient and productive environments, and thriving youth, families, and communities. In Oneida County, we emphasize a positive business climate, prepare for our aging population, encourage youth and emerging leaders, and promote local business and industry careers.

The cost of Extension to Oneida County is \$182,203. The County cost for the 2020 Budget is \$184,733. Regarding Sara Richie's vacancy, Extension is planning on re-filling as one full time position divided amongst all four counties. The number of educators in this County is 3.1, but since FoodWise is not a county funded program, it brings the number of educators down to 2.4 positions.

The benefits of moving to Nicolet are many. It will allow for program collaboration where Nicolet, Grow North, and Extension economic development can be co-located. It will be easier to offer fee-for-service and non-credit courses for personal enrichment and business and professional development. There will be a variety of meeting rooms with state-of-the-art technology for on-site and distance education. The potential to engage students as interns and volunteers will increase. Sharing services and joint marketing will save money. Ample parking and good public access make it an ideal location. The cost benefits of leasing space will save money. Current rent at the Airport is \$40,000 per year and at Nicolet, the projected cost is \$18,000, with an annual savings of \$22,000 per year. Extension will fund six months of rental. Revenue or in-kind help where educators help teach classes. The decision was to keep the educators at their current level. The only question is whether or not Health and Well Being educator will remain or at

the same level.

Van Raalte said that the cost of an educator to the county is less than what a county employee is paid. The dollar value of Extension is \$430,000 total contributions that Extension provides to the County, including Master Gardener and 4-H volunteers.

**Extension Office Relocation:**

This was addressed above regarding the benefits of a move to Nicolet. The college is still encouraging re-location and thinks it will be a positive move. It is not the responsibility of Extension to maintain a lease at the Airport.

**Extension Annual Membership Dues/Costs:**

Total memberships are \$1,185.00. There could be a possible \$300 reduction; a letter will be sent to Finance. A motion to support Extension memberships as presented was made by Van Raalte/Winkler. All ayes; motion carried.

**Office Air Environment:**

There were nine reports for the month of September. Due to some HVAC issues, the doors were propped opened to keep the air moving in the basement. Some musty smells lingered in the lower level and air seemed to be stagnant.

**Educator Reports:** None

**Consent Agenda Items – Extension:**

Van Raalte/Winker moved to accept item b as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

**Public Comment:** none

**Items to Include on next Agenda:**

FSA Representative, LWRM updates, Cost Share update, LWCD update. County Fair Report/Discussion, Fair/City Contract update. Educator Reports, Facilities Discussion and office air updates. Lake District Reports as needed and project approvals. Update on Budget Hearings, Septage issue update.

**Adjournment:**

Mott adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Merry Lehner, Recording Secretary

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Bob Mott, Committee Chair