

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
Monday, April 11, 2022 Minutes
Courthouse County Board Room & Virtually by ZOOM

Committee members: Chairman Bob Mott, Bob Thome, Jr., Jim Winkler, Mike Roach, and John Engel. Mitch Ives absent.

Others Present: Michele Sadauskas, Karl Jennrich, Stephanie Boismenu, Baerbel Ehrig, Dan Butkus, Amber Rehberg, Sharon Krause, Terri Kolb, Karly Harrison, Allison Wilson, Anne Williams, Moria King, Stephen Schreier, Linnaea Newman, Beckie Gaskill, Jonna Jewell, and Merry Lehner.

1. **Call to order:** Chairman Mott called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and the meeting was properly posted.
2. **Approve Agenda:** A motion by Thome/Winkler to approve the April 11, 2022 agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.
3. **Approve Minutes:** Winkler/Thome made a motion to approve the March 14, 2022 minutes. All ayes; motion carried.
4. **Future Meetings:**

Monday, May 9, 2022	1:00 p.m.	Courthouse County Board Room
Monday, June 13, 2022	1:00 p.m.	TBD
5. **Electronic Signature Approval for April 11, 2022 meeting:**

Members present will sign documents and zoom attendees' printed names will represent their signatures. Thome/Winkler made motion to approve electronic signatures. All ayes; motion carried.

6. Public Comment:

Michael Stinebrink, District Conservationist, NRCS, provided the third quarter fiscal year 2022 (April-June) report. The Committee will review later and comment or discuss directly to the NRCS or at next meeting.

Stephanie Boismenu, AIS Coordinator and Michele Sadauskas, County Conservationist with the Land & Water Department presented a certificate to Bob Mott to thank him for his service and honor him for protecting the lands and waters of Oneida County.

7. Lake District Reports:

- a. Crescent Lake – R. Thome – The meeting was rescheduled for tonight; they will report next month.
- b. Squash Lake – B. Mott
Financials are under budget and their bank audit balanced. Insurance costs will increase by 25%. The DNR approved the Aquatic Management Plan Update. Their annual meeting will be August 13, 2022. Next Commissioner's meeting is July 10, 2022. A document about state and county zoning requirements for lakefront properties was completed. Nomination sent to Oneida County Clerk requested that Robert Thome be representative of the Squash Lake District. LWCD will be meeting about new assignments for lake districts in May. Dan Butkus said the new representatives could be a County Supervisor currently on the Conservation Committee or any other Supervisor recommended by the Committee.
- c. Thunder Lake – J. Winkler
Their quarterly meeting was on April 9, 2022. S. Boismenu from LWCD discussed the process of the Weed Survey to be conducted mid-June. AIS will see what priorities are for the lake. They may do water sampling, clarity, and check for aquatic invasive species as well. There will be a walleye fish stocking and will consider sustainability of natural reproduction. The Treasurer resigned and Ingrid Weinfurter will fill the position for the remainder of the term. The next meeting is in July 2022.

8. Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council Representation:

The next meeting is coming up April 28, 2022 before the switchover in May where they will be assigning a new representative. A new member was not selected. Sadauskas asked if it is all right to have Winkler attend and be

the representative in April. Committee approved Winkler for April and then a new representative will be selected May 9, 2022. Mott will be applying for the citizen member to the Council.

9. Vegetation Update:

Karl Jennrich - With new board of supervisors, we will be seeing who will be on the new Planning and Development Committee. P & D had a meeting in Minocqua with landscapers and contractors who are concerned with the ordinance, how it will be administered, and the permits required. They prefer to do more within the zero to 75 feet corridor. Todd Troskey made a list comparing Oneida and Vilas Counties on what is allowed within the corridor parameters. The P&D Committee has those comments from the meeting. There should be progress on vegetation. State law still allows access and viewing corridor as an area between zero and 35 feet. The homeowner can have walkways and boathouses. The State still allows the access and viewing corridor to do various things you can clear-cut it as it stands. Landscapers are concerned with retaining walls within zero to 75 ft. opposed to earthen walls. There will be debate at the next meeting over what is allowed. The point is Oneida wants to preserve the first 75 feet of shoreline. Arborists are against any clearcutting in the viewing corridor or in the buffer area. The debate is whether it will be up to the landowner or County. Now it is back in Planning and Zoning and the issue will need to be brought back to County Board for a decision.

10. Site Evaluation of Installed Projects (Years 2010-2020) Baerbel Ehrig:

Ehrig reported on the Lake Classification/Shoreland protection and restoration. Site Evaluation of Installed Projects 2010-2020. The majority of sites were installed between 2010-2015. They visited fourteen sites in July/August of 2021. Rock rip rap holds up well and native plantings do too but depend on maintenance and surrounding habitat. Soil filled bags last very well, approximately ten years. Sediment and fiber logs are not as long lasting and are gone after ten years. Pervious walkways require maintenance. Non-biodegradable netting is a wildlife hazard and lasts a long time. They use jute netting now and it lasts a long time. Out of the 14 owned properties, 12 are in compliance. There is a 10-year period of observance.

11. Consent Agenda Items: Land and Water:

A motion by Thome/Winkler to approve agenda item 11-c as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

12. Area 4 Extension Director Update: - Amber Rehberg

Rehberg thanked Mott for his leadership and support for Extension. Communication plan update; all educators have been on Up North at 4 in the past month. The website up-to-date and staff is sharing resources Extension has to offer to Oneida County residents. The Committee commended Extension on the County Report and the numbers showing county residents served. They suggested sharing the County Report with Department Heads, Town boards, and libraries. Thome said the metrics listed could reveal the cost per contact, which is good information to share. Rehberg and Bishop reviewed the rent contract between Nicolet and the County. Bishop recommended reaching out to Jodi Fox, Nicolet Manager of Professional and Continuing Education and Mike Effinger, Theatre and Event Services Manager for community development collaboration. Bishop promised to complete signage for Extension on Hwy. G, pending development of their policy. She will contact the Facilities and the Director of Marketing to complete this task; it is included in the wording of lease.

13. Recommendation for Filling Community Development Institute Position – Discussion/Action

Myles Alexander and Rehberg reviewed the many needs of Oneida County regarding his position. The aging population and needs of youth are a priority. Per Grow North, one of the greatest needs is childcare, housing, and attracting young people to area who will contribute to the work force. With a new mayor in office, the PFAS issue continues as a topic where Extension could collaborate with city. Focus remains on leadership development and broadband expansion. Rehberg would love to add more percentage time to the other part time educators and make Community Development position a part-time but she feels it is best keep it as a full-time educator. The Extension CDI (Community Development Institute) in Madison will review our request. Benoy Jacob, Director of CDI, recommended we ask our oversight

committee for any preferences. Leadership, Community, and Economic Development are the three focus points. We should note any unique needs of our County. Alexander said organizational training has been beneficial in the Northwoods. Our educators and University specialists can continue to offer these trainings. Good contacts are Jeff Verdoorn, OCEDC and Brittany Beyer with Grow North, who can give direction and offer resources. Rehberg asked the Committee what their preference was in keeping the position full time. She needs to reply to CDI what the County needs. The Committee felt our Extension office should make the decision. Determine if it is more important for a full time Community Development educator or split time up amongst the other educators. The budget only allows Extension to offer select programs to benefit the County. The CUW Committee advised Extension to present the position to the new CUW Committee next month.

14. Oneida County FoodWise Partner Agreement Letter- Discussion/Action

Karly Harrison presented the Agreement between Oneida County Extension Office FoodWise Federal Fiscal Year 2023. The agreement letter has not changed. Last year, with covid, there were 383 people reached for in-person education; normally there are 800-1000 people reached. They receive \$36,000 to \$38,000 annually in federal funding through SNAP Ed to cover salaries. This year received \$58,000 due to increased educator hours. They will continue in the schools and target adults at the Farmers Market, Rhinehaus, Evergreen Manor, and Rhinelander Community Garden/Food Pantry. The County supports FoodWise with workspace and IT. A motion by Winkler/Thome to approve the Agreement Letter. All ayes; motion carried.

15. Educator Report – Sharon Krause

Krause Update on Teen Court. She is recruiting at the high schools and an 8th grade class. Current panelists are high school seniors and may help interview new applicants. She will train new panelists in May and June. There are six eligible families she explained the Teen Court process to, before their hearings. About half of the families in 2022 completed the process. Other families just pay the fine and avoid Teen Court. Some do not follow through with required paperwork and deadlines. She is creating new sanctions and is implementing feeling wheels for the participants to use.

Update on Raise Your Voice clubs. LUHS (Lakeland Union High School) gave out over 100 positive messages from student to student last week. A grant for \$1000 was awarded to Krause for Rhinelander High School and Adam Nowak, LUHS co-advisor received a grant too. The grant establishes peer led suicide prevention efforts. She is planning a summer training day with Debbie Moellendorf, Lincoln County on July 28, 2022 for LUHS, RHS, and Merrill High School club leaders. Committee asked about Youth in Governance reconvening. New county board member, Diana Harris, was a former of youth in governance participant. It becomes a matter of fitting it in Krause’s schedule.

Skyler Sorenson, Senior from Rhinelander High School spoke to the Committee about why the Raise Your Voice Club is important to her. She is president of the club. They have 15 new students participating in RYV. They are working on promoting and establishing mental health awareness. The Nicolet College mental health simulation was very helpful for her.

16. Consent Agenda Items: (Extension)

Motion by Winkler/Thome to approve 16 a, monthly invoices. All ayes; motion carried.

17. Items to Include on next Agenda:

June meeting location, LWCD Updates, Lake District reports. Beatle/purple loosestrife project and mosquito spray concern. Updates on Fair ARPA funding, status of the Solar Farm, and Farmer Outreach. Extension Director, Communication Strategies, Nicolet Contract, Educator Report, and Extension Comm. Dev. Educator recommendation to new CUW Committee.

18. Public Comment: None

19. Adjournment: Motion at 2:56 p.m. to adjourn the meeting by Winkler/Roach. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merry Lehner, Recording Secretary

Jim Winkler, Committee Chair