

DRAFT

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
Monday, February 14, 2022 Minutes
Courthouse County Board Room & Virtually by ZOOM

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

Others Present: Michele Sadauskas, Todd Troskey, Stephanie Boismenue, Amber Rehberg, Myles Alexander, Sharon Krause, Jonna Jewell, Tracy Beckman, and Merry Lehner. In attendance: Tom Barnett, Dan Butkus, Petra Pietrzak, Mike Tautges, and Beckie Gaskill.

Call to order: Chairman Mott called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. and the meeting was posted properly.

Approve Agenda: A motion by Winkler/Thome to approve the February 14, 2022 agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve Minutes: Winkler/Thome made a motion to approve the amended January 10, 2021 CUW Committee meeting minutes. All ayes; motion carried. Thome/Winkler made a motion to approve the amended January 21, 2021 CUW Committee/Special MSO (Manure Storage Ordinance) meeting minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

Future Meetings:

Monday, March 14, 2022	1:00 p.m.	Courthouse County Board Room
Monday, April 11, 2022	1:00 p.m.	Courthouse County Board Room

Electronic Signature Approval for February 14, 2022 meeting:

Committee members present will sign documents and virtual attendees' written names on documents will represent their signatures. Thome/Winkler made motion to approve electronic signatures. All ayes; motion carried.

Public Comment: None

2022 Staffing Requests:

Sadauskas is requesting approval and signatures on two staffing requests. Boismenue had applied for a Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) grant for \$18,000, which they received. It will be for three LTEs for this summer. The first is for one position at 200 hours and the other is for two positions at 512 hours each. A motion by Winkler/Thome to approve the staffing requests. All ayes; motion carried.

Lake District Meetings: Reports distributed with the information packets.

- a. Squash Lake – B Thome. Commissioner's meeting was January 9, 2022. Treasurer's report on 2021 included.
- b. Bear Lake – B Thome. Two notes on report were regarding walleye stocking this fall from Gollon Bait and Fish Farm, Dodgeville and about a dam where they are clearing out sediments from the lake.
- c. Crescent Lake – B Thome. There were two reports but the meeting from Feb 8 does not have minutes available. The meeting on Feb 5 was about the Eurasian Watermilfoil problem and the treatment plan for AIS in 2022. A special meeting on Feb 8 discussed the Crescent Lake Association giving a \$25,000 donation for AIS treatment; it was accepted. Another Special District meeting before April will discuss treatment locations. There are 4-5 hot spots to be treated and the donation will help cover more of the lake. They will track the money spent from the tax levy and/or the gift from the association for treatments.
- d. Thunder Lake – J Winkler. January minutes reviewed fish stocking of walleye in October where there was a 100% survival rate during transport. Boismenue spoke with the district president to offer education and citizen science. On-going conversation about the dam between the Lake District, the DNR, and the town of Three Lakes continues.

Famer Educational Outreach:

Sadauskas and Rehberg have come up with a name of an Extension Specialist for outreach. JoAnne Lund who worked on their river grant has 700 hours remaining on multiple projects. One task is for JoAnne to reach out to neighboring

counties for how they conduct educational outreach. Attendance at County Fairs and Farm Bureau meetings is another method. JoAnne is also working on the 270 Ag assessed landowners. They researched which lands had waters, but there were over 800 parcels and they narrowed it down to approximately 425 to target. At this time, they are looking at Cassian, Crescent, Stella, and Sugar Camp. Most of the parcels in Stella (207 of 208) did fall within a water quality management area. That does not say that all these are farms with animals. They will just target all and address other issues that may be present. The department is developing a Farm Living page on their website about showing training sessions, webinars, and other helpful information for farmers.

Lumberjack Update:

Tracy Beckman provided the Council Meeting minutes. Winkler asked if there were any questions. From the January 27 minutes, Mott asked about the \$81,475 was amount to spend on projects in 2022 and total assets of \$964,981 and a difference of 11,490 from last year. He asked if there was more money or less money from last year. Thome said the \$81,475 is under reserve policy review. Beckman said that figure is for the entire Council. The difference for the year 2021 to 2022 is the \$11,490. It is a positive amount and she will make the minutes reflect that figure from last year. Mott also asked if the \$81,475, using the formula, is money to spend this year on projects. Beckman said no, it was a completely different policy. It is not the excess project fund. It is a reserve fund existing for many years, with attached clear policy on how that money can be used. A different formula comes up with the project amount. Money for projects for 2022 was only \$6,000 due to covid conditions. Typically, income from forest surveys replenishes this every year. There are two at-large members open for Oneida County. Claudia Baker holds one position for our County. Mott may apply for the other position. Applications and the Member Nomination the form included in packet.

State LWCB (Land and Water Conservation Board) Ballot:

There are seven candidates on the ballot. Each county is allowed to submit one ballot. The Chair of the Land Conservation Committee or a designated member must complete the ballot. Three candidates must be selected. The ballots have to be in by March 4, 2022. Mott and the Committee read over and discussed the submitted resumes of the seven candidates. Winkler interviewed some of the candidates and asked them what they hoped to accomplish in their next term. Thome is primarily interested in the water resources for Oneida County. His focus is shoreland protection ordinances and manure storage ordinances. The North Central District is mostly water rich counties and it does not have any ordinances per the map of Wisconsin showing MSO counties. Financial stability and budgeting are of interest to Thome as a CPA. Mott recommended Monte Osterman, Rebecca Clarke, and Bob Thome. Winkler and Thome agreed on Clark as a third choice. **A motion** by Winkler/Mott that Oneida County support Monte Osterman, Rebecca Clarke, and Bob Thome for the vote on the position for the Land and Water Conservation Board. All ayes except one, Roach abstained pending interviews.

None opposed. The vote will be forwarded, with a signature on the floor from the Vice Chair.

Vegetation Status: Discussion only

Sadauskas reviewed the August letter from the CUW Committee that went to P&D Committee. In January, vegetation was on the Planning and Development (P&D) agenda as a recap and a refresh. She met with Todd Troskey on Friday, February 11, to further discuss a way forward. Mott said the purpose is for a “counter friendly” explanation available on what one can or cannot do in the viewing corridor, and define the buffer area. It addresses the buffer zone of 35 feet. It makes it easier for people to see what was acceptable or not acceptable. The research is complete and now we need to forward and have P&D to try to finalize before spring.

Todd Troskey shared a handout, a synopsis to show where P&D, LWC and P&Z stand on the topic of vegetation for the buffer zone and viewing corridor. The first paragraph explains why we are doing what we are doing and what property owners can do in their shoreland buffer zone and the access and viewing corridors related to vegetation. It relates to NR115 where a balance between property rights and the Public Trust (waterways) which can be negatively affected by a number of factors within the buffer zone, that effects the food chain and aquatic species. The first bullet point defines vegetation. The Committee discussed and made comments. The purpose is to prevent erosion and nutrients from entering waterbodies. Under CUW Recommendations: First bullet point is the access and view corridor must be maintained with vegetation. The second bullet defines vegetation as native or non-invasive live plant material to mitigate erosion or storm water runoff. Third point is compliant vegetative buffers of trees, shrubs and groundcover.

Roach: We have sufficient rules with NR115 and he does not want to define vegetation. He wants to preserve lake quality and prevent erosion, but does not want to be told how it ought to be done by definition.

Winkler: We do not need additional rules other than State law.

Mott: We want to be proactive. The State law is in place. In the corridor itself, we want to prevent runoff. What is best for the lake? Grandfathering is in place but for new boathouses like at Two Sisters property, we don't want runoff.

Sadauskas: P&D seems to be hung-up on sand, gravel, and rock materials. Vegetation was defined as broadly as they could but to stay away from invasive species. She suggested they could offer some very simple plant lists on their website. She believes the vegetation definition is acceptable.

Troskey: He wants to maintain an open mind and to establish what they see as issues on a daily basis to come up with the best definition. Regarding rock, sand, & soil, they can use riprap on shorelines. An alternative for boathouses are berms. Shoreline structures should be earthen berms versus a sea wall. Zoning already has walkway allowances.

Ives: More regulation is difficult because of different land structures. Ives clarified that one can clear-cut and wanted to know if one could use rock materials instead of vegetation. Erosion should be stopped but he does not want rules.

Thome: Two Sisters cut 70 ft. out of 200 feet of shoreline. They have not re-vegetated the 35-foot corridor resulting in erosion. Bottom line, not more rules, but the example shows how things can go wrong. Clear-cutting all trees is illegal.

The Committee decided to strike the words "sand, gravel, rock or similar materials" from the first bullet point but keep the rest. There remained debate over vegetation definition and the third regarding distinct layers.

LWDC Updates:

- a. WLWCA (Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Assoc.) Virtual Annual Conference March 2-4, 2022. The deadline to register is February 25, 2022. The cost is \$135. Sadauskas and Thome are attending.
- b. 10 Years of County AIS Grant Programming – Steph Boismenu.
This year marks the 15th year of the AIS program. She presented the AIS program projects funded through the Surface Water Grants. Counties will be getting less money now. LWCD are using money to be proactive. They still have their lake monitoring projects. AIS has two LTEs for CBCW and an AIS project lead. She showed a power point on how in last 10 years of AIS programming has made a difference. They have kept out the NR40 invasive species.
- c. DNR Grant Awards 2022/ LTE Staffing Update:
JoAnne Lund is still on staff for 700 hours including farmer outreach. The office received their third river grant and Lund will complete the remaining river crossings. She will work on pollinator surveys on some of gardens planted few years ago to check their status. Work on media releases and mosquito spraying too.
Baerbel Ehrig is working on the Lake Class Grant. She revisited 14-15 cost share completed projects to see what results and lessons learned. It will be interesting to see results. She will work on vegetation lists.

Consent Agenda Items: (Land and Water Conservation).

Received a revised monthly summary. An additional bill paid to AIS. Line Item transfers include 2021 and 2022. A motion by Ives/Winkler to approve agenda items b, c & d. All ayes; motion carried.

Consideration/Approval for Oneida Co. Fair Inc., ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds

Bob Thome reported Tom Barnett had worked with the Finance Department and completed the paperwork to receive payment out of ARPA relief funds through the Funding Opportunity Committee for the Oneida County Fair, Inc. Barnett worked with Tina in Finance to propose a resolution and fiscal impact statement, presented to the Committee. It is at no cost to County for \$165,000. A motion made by Thome/Winkler by approve the payout of \$165,000 from ARPA Funds and pass on to the County Board for approval. All ayes; motion carried.

Area 4 Extension Director Update:

Amber Rehberg announced that Anne Williams is the new Extension office LTE. Williams has a 50% 4-H program position as Extension 4-H Educator. She will provide administrative support for 4-H and she will help Communication Plan. She will work on press releases, website renewal and front desk duties.

Extension Department Long Range Plan:

Rehberg stated we still need to complete the LRP and it is on the staff agenda for Thursday, February 24, 2022. An overview of individual educator plans of work and then some collaborations. It is on the agenda for next month.

Extension Communication Strategies:

The Communication Plan mentioned above is one strategy. Rehberg will have a Finalized Plan for 2022 and has appreciated the feedback given by the Committee. With pending elections, they will take that opportunity to educate new board members about what Extension does. Rehberg is working with Sandy Bishop on Nicolet Signage. Nicolet has no a current policy on signage and they will form a sub-committee; they recognize our need for signage. Nicolet branding will play a role with signage. She asked again for a sign at the entrance of Nicolet. She is checking what other technical colleges have for signs. Mike Roach contacted Mark Bradley from the State to find out about posting a sign on the State Highway. If Roach has questions from the State, he will contact Rehberg who is working with Matthew Cull regarding Extension branding.

Extension-Nicolet Update: Rehberg is hoping to narrow down a date regarding collaboration and future opportunities with Sandy Bishop. She will make the collaboration available to CUW Committee by zoom. They plan to show the advantages of Extension working out of Nicolet. Myles has been active in some collaboration with Nicolet.

Educator Reports:

Rehberg said the written County Report provides an update on *each* educator. Only one educator will present in more depth at each Committee meeting. Alexander clarified EIT is Entrepreneur in Training. It assists people after incarceration to find careers. GRID workshops review a person's initial business plan. It is for state inmates; the counties are too varied. They were able to work with McNaughton facility.

Myles Alexander: Presented Northwoods Roundtable. It has its roots in regional efforts in 2017-18 led by Kimbal Goluska of Vilas County and the Local Government Institute of WI "Future Region" program. It will refocus on long-standing issues with the conversation being: "What can I Offer?" and "What I need". Topics are Broadband Internet, Workforce Development related to Child Care, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Housing, and Natural Environment and Climate Change. They needed to hear from the people so they did a survey with 173 good responses out of 463 people. Alexander highlighted work with Britany Beyer, Grow North Regional Economic Dev. Corporation to start thinking about how to get out of a post-covid phase. It was refocusing on how to understand in better detail the issues. They invited people and started conversation. Participants were Wisconsin Dept. of Children and Families, Northwest Connection Family Resources, and Wisconsin Early Childhood. They are looking for where they can make a difference.

Consent Agenda Items: (UW-Extension).

Motion by Winkler/Thome to approve a: monthly budget reports, the December report but the January report was not available, and b: monthly invoices. All ayes; motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Items to Include on next Agenda:

Updates for LWCD, Cost Share, MSO, Vegetation Status/Planning & Development. Update of Extension Director, Nicolet, Communication Strategies, Long Range Plan, and Educator Report.

Adjournment: Motion at 4:00 p.m. to adjourn the meeting by Winkler/Roach. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merry Lehner, Recording Secretary

Bob Mott, Committee Chair