

**Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee**  
**Monday, August 14, 2023 Minutes**  
**Oneida County Courthouse, County Board Room and Virtually by ZOOM**

**Committee Members:** Chairman Jim Winkler, Collette Sorgel, Robb Jensen, and Linnaea Newman. John Engel on Zoom. Tommy Ryden was excused.

**Others Present:** Karl Jennrich, Michele Sadauskas, Amber Rehberg, Jessica Young, Stephanie Boismenu, Anne Williams, Louis Malais, Quinn Williams, Elise Williams, Eva Hetland, Katie Thompson, Noelle Mayo, Adisyn Schoeneck. Jonna Jewell on Zoom.

**1. Call to order and Chairperson's Announcements:**

Chairman Winkler called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. The meeting was properly posted and handicapped accessible and ADA compliant. The symbol /s/ represents a valid virtual attendee's signature.

**2. Approve Agenda:** A motion by Newman/Jensen to approve the August 14, 2023 Agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

**3. Approve Minutes:** A motion by Newman/Jensen to approve the minutes of July 10, 2023 with one correction as the Amended Minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

**4. Dates/Location of Future Meetings:**

Monday, September 11, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Oneida County Courthouse; County Board Room  
Monday, October 9, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Oneida County Courthouse; County Board Room

**5. Public Comment:** None.

**6. Cost Share Update – (Kornack Final Reimbursement)**

Requesting the final reimbursement for the Kornack Project, specifically the upland work consisting of a vegetative bag wall and plantings, for the amount of \$4,945.30. Would also like approval to refund the \$1,000 deposit.

Jensen/Newman made motion to approve the final reimbursement for the Kornack Project of \$4,945.30, as well as returning the \$1,000 deposit. All ayes; motion carried.

**7. AIS Mid-Year Report – S. Boismenu**

Boismenu reviewed the Oneida County AIS 2023 Mid-Year Report.

- The Clean Boats Clean Waters Grant covered 200 hours at six boat landings. One of the watercraft inspectors, Jacques Tulowitzky, intercepted two pontoon boats this year that were covered with zebra mussels and prevented them from entering Lake Nokomis and spreading AIS in Oneida County lakes.

- AIS Early Detection and Water Quality Monitoring monitored 16 bodies of water to search for Aquatic Invasive Species. They collected water quality data and uploaded it to the DNR SWIMS database and the Oneida County GIS Monitoring website.
- Eurasian Watermilfoil was found in five waterbodies, a rapid response effort was put into place to help with control.
- Inspected twenty boat landings in Oneida County for AIS. Inspected and replaced DNR's signage.
- Controlled for, and responded to, the following AIS: purple loosestrife, yellow iris, aquatics forget-me-not, flowering rush, and mussels.
- Conducted Clean Boats Clean Waters trainings and Citizen Lakes Monitoring Network & AIS ID trainings.
- Attended the Six-County Lakes and Rivers meeting, was a guest presenter at a couple lake association meetings, conducted youth outreach and educational programming, conducted bait shop outreach, and held the Stewardship Awards Banquet.

#### **8. 2024 Budget:**

Sadauskas discussed the budget requests for 2024. Land and Water Conservation is requesting \$88,196 from Oneida County; there will be roughly a \$4,000 increase in the budget compared to this year. The increase is to cover personnel increase costs.

Jensen/Newman made motion to accept the 2024 Budget as presented for Land and Water Conservation, and to forward budget to administration for consideration. All ayes; motion carried.

#### **9. Lake District Reports:**

Thunder Lake is doing very well: in the 33<sup>rd</sup> percentile state-wide on fish type and in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile state-wide for yellow perch.

#### **10. Consent Agenda Items: (*Land and Water Conservation*)**

Saudaskas communicated that the Monthly Budget Report no longer needs approval from the Committee and asked for direction from Committee members. Would like to know if Committee wants to keep consent on the reports or if they should be emailed for informational purposes only. Chairman Winkler feels that it is no longer necessary to keep consent agenda items on the CUW Committee Agenda due to the fact that another department is looking at it and taking it over. Sorgel, Newman and Jensen also agree it is no longer necessary.

The consent agenda items will be taken off of Committee agenda's moving forward; however, hardcopies of reports will be included in meeting packets for review.

#### **11. LWCD items to include on next agenda:**

Committee approval for reimbursements, a presentation of the GIS website from Boismenu, Jensen would like to know if chemical application in lakes has an effect on walleye population, and the Land & Water Resource Management Plan 5-Year Review.

**12. Public Comment:** None.

**13. Welcome 4-H Youth – A. Williams**

*This item was moved up on the agenda just after Public Comment (#5) to accommodate the students who were in attendance at the meeting.*

Introduction to Oneida County 4-H youth; members shared their voices with the CUW Committee and talked about their experiences with Oneida County 4-H and the impact of the programming.

- Adisyn S. shared her experience with the Youth Summer Theater Program. She enjoyed the program and liked that the directors were patient and kind, they did not rush youth through running lines and gave them the space and instruction needed to have fun and be comfortable.
- Louis M. is the Vice President of the Leaders' Association and has been a part of 4-H for eight years. His participation in the program has helped shape his life and future career aspirations. He is grateful and happy to have been a part of the 4-H experience and speaks on how beneficial it is to youth in the area.
- Eva H. is a team leader with 4-H and is excited about doing a Confidence Building class with members that has an end goal of increasing public speaking skills.
- Quinn W. shared that she is the President of the Northwoods Explorers Club and has been in 4-H for four years. She likes to lead the meetings, ensuring everyone's voice is heard, and has learned about parliamentary procedures and how to create an agenda. She likes that each member has the opportunity to decide what to do in club.
- Noelle M. likes that 4-H gives you freedom to have fun and share yourself with others. She shares that being in 4-H has given her confidence, and that she is less shy now.
- Katie T. has been in 4-H for one year and her favorite experience is working in the community garden.
- Elise W. has been in 4-H for four years and enjoys 4-H because of the families in the program, and that she gets to meet youth from many different places.

**14. 2024 Budget:**

Rehberg discussed the budget requests for 2024. Cuts have been made where possible to better reflect what is being spent. There will be a 3% increase for educator costs on the overall UW-Madison contract. Increases in the 2024 budget are linked to staffing costs, which are unavoidable.

Jensen/Sorgel made motion to approve the UW-Extension 2024 budget request of \$159,706 and forward it to Administration for consideration in the 2024 county budget. All ayes; motion carried.

**15. Area 4 Extension Director Update – A. Rehberg**

- a. UWEX Status Update

175<sup>th</sup> Celebration for UW-Madison has officially started and there will be a celebration in Lac Du Flambeau next spring that Extension Oneida County will be a part of.

b. Staffing & Communication Plan

i. DRAFT CDI Position & Staffing Request

A .5 FTE CDI position will not be requested as part of the 2024 budget. With the current strategic planning process, it seems that it may not be the right time to bring back the position. A CDI educator can assist and facilitate partnerships in regards to grant writing, economic development, and other community needs by leveraging the resources of UW-Madison. The CDI educator would be an asset for the county, as they could work on issues such as, housing shortages and worker shortages and it leverages state funds for ½ of the salary and benefits of the educator. The county would have access to state specialists who could support other strategic planning needs, such as the SWAT Analysis, that would negate the need to pay consulting fees.

Chairman Winkler/Newman made motion to add CDI position back in and move it forward to administration. Two ayes and two nays from Sorgel/Jensen. Motion fails. CDI position will not move forward at this time.

Jensen requested Chairman Winkler mention at the budget meeting that the CDI position received much consideration.

ii. Anne Williams was offered the .5 position for 4-H in Forest.

iii. Applications are coming in for Health & Well-Being (closes Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>), ADRC co-funded position.

c. Nicolet and Other Collaborations

Nicolet was at USDA meeting and brought up that additional opportunities and funds available to help build out community grants. Continue to be open to possibilities/opportunities for collaboration and with limited staff it makes it difficult to build out partnership and additional programming.

**16. Consent Agenda Items: (UW-Extension)**

The consent agenda items for UW-Extension will be taken off of future Committee agendas, there is no longer a requirement to seek Committee consent for the Budget Actual or Invoices reports; however, there is still a requirement to share these reports with the Committee. The Committee will receive both reports in their packets each month before the CUW Committee meeting. The Budget Actual and Invoice reports will now be listed under a Reports section in the agenda.

**17. UW-Extension items to include on next agenda:**

Nicolet collaborations and what they would be, and an introduction to Over It! the youth leadership skateboard group in Rhinelander.

**18. Public Comment:** None

**19. Adjournment:** Chairman Winkler adjourned meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jessica Young, Recording Secretary

DRAFT