

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
Monday, June 12, 2023 Minutes
Oneida County Courthouse, County Board Room and Virtually by ZOOM

Committee Members: Chairman Jim Winkler, Collette Sorgel, Tommy Ryden, Robb Jensen. Linnaea Newman on Zoom.

Others Present: Karl Jennrich, Michele Sadauskas, Amber Rehberg, Jessica Young, Jim Tharman, Stephanie Boismenu, Madeline Hetland, Sabrina Becker, Morgan Hansmann, Terri Kolb. Jonna Jewell on Zoom.

1. Call to order and Chairperson's Announcements:

Chair 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 Sorgel/Ryden to approve the June 12, 2023 Agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

3. Approve Minutes: A motion by Jensen/Sorgel to approve the minutes of May 8, 2023. All ayes; motion carried.

4. Dates /Location of Future Meetings:

Monday, July 10, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Oneida County Courthouse; County Board Room

Monday, August 14, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Oneida County Courthouse; County Board Room

5. Public Comment: None.

6. Permanent Fence Proposal Approval – Bacon Farms CWL, LLC – *Jim Tharman, USDA APHIS:*

Jim Tharman with the USDA - Wildlife Division, spoke about the fence proposal for the Bacon Farms CWL, LLC. Tharman discussed the fence program that the USDA provides in assistance with the DNR and the County. Stated that it was rare that expenses are proposed. The expense report shows a cost comparison between the amounts of loss over the past fifteen years compared to the cost of putting up a permanent fence. Is it more cost effective to build the fence or pay for the claim? The projected cost is \$8.50 per linear foot, less than 1500 linear foot fence is proposed, total estimated at \$9,455. Once it gets approved it will go to contractors for bids, once it goes to bidding process they will have a better idea of actual cost.

Ryden would like to know average annual losses. The average annual loss is \$1,300 annually. The owner of the land has never requested a claim on this loss before; he may be underestimating the dollar amount of losses.

Ryden asks who is responsible for upkeep of fence. Mr. Bacon will be responsible for the upkeep of the fence, except for damage due to hail, tornado, and other natural disasters. The USDA conducts an annual inspection, and if they are non-compliant with the fence contract, they must pay the remainder of the fence off themselves.

Jensen/Ryden made motion to approve the Bacon Farms CWL, LLC Permanent Fence Proposal as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

7. Introduction of AIS LTE's:

Stephanie Boismenu from Aquatic Invasive Species introduced three of the five LTE's doing watercraft inspections this summer. They will be involved in an assortment of projects: AIS early detection monitoring, watercraft inspections, AIS management, control, removal, outreach programs, education programs, and purple loosestrife biocontrol.

Madeline Hetland – AIS Lead Program Assistant, she is a Rhinelander native and a sophomore at UW- Stevens Point where she is majoring in Water Resources, with a minor in Conservation Biology.

Sabrina Becker – AIS Program Assistant, she is from Iowa and staying on Manson Lake with family this summer. She is a sophomore at Iowa State University where she is double majoring in Environmental Science and Agronomy, with a minor in Forestry and a certificate in Soil Sciences.

Morgan Hansmann – Boat Inspector, she is from Tomahawk and going to Platteville to major in Mechanical Engineering.

Not present were Jacques Tulotwitzky and Jay Holtz.

8. Appoint LCC Representative for North Central Land & Water Conservation Association:

Michele Sadauskas stated that they need a representative from the CUW Committee for North Central LWCA. The association meets three times a year, with the next meeting being the summer tour on Friday, August 25th in Forest County. Last meeting was via Zoom. Looking to get representative from Oneida County on the Association.

The Vice President position is currently open, there may be a possibility, if interested to be the Vice President.

They do the Summer Tour, Public Speaking & Poster Contest, and a Zoom meeting. It's a chance to work with other counties in regards to conservation, and to learn more about the efforts made in other counties.

The Association is composed of eight groups that are broken down regionally to focus on conservation in a localized area.

Jensen would like to know if it is an advocacy group. It varies on the topic being discussed, the location, and the needs of the area. The Association is more about outreach in general.

Even if not a representative, Committee members can still be present for the Summer Tour.

Linnaea would like minutes from last meeting sent to her, would like to consider it. With zoom meetings, it might be a possibility.

Sorgel/Jensen made motion to appoint Linnaea Newman as the LLC representative for North Central Land & Water Conservation Association, if she decides to accept it. All ayes; motion carried.

9. Update on Proposed Ostrowski Campground on Lake Nokomis, Parcel ID NO – 469, 470, 472, 472-1- K Jennrich:

Jennrich gave an update on the proposed Ostrowski campground on Lake Nokomis. Planning & Development Committee decided to hold a public hearing at the Nokomis Fire Station on June 21, 2023 at 4pm. The hearing will explain what the proposal is for and go into further details. There is a meeting at the Town of Nokomis tonight where, if the division of property is granted, it will make the application for the campground moot.

Winkler would like to know if it will be a subdivision or a campground, there is conflicting information on this. The developer proposed a campground and also a division, what the applicant is trying to do to make it more economically feasible is to get a variance to the subdivision ordinance.

Jensen would like to know about the approval process. It will go through the Planning & Development Committee, where they base their decision on substantial evidence if they decide to approve it or not.

Winkler asked if this was an issue the Committee needed to be involved in. Jennrich stated that Oneida used to regulate piers, but the application shows no use of the water, therefore there is no jurisdiction. Sadauskas would like the Committee to weigh in on the AIS impacts and public access issues in regards to vegetation buffers.

Newman stated invasive species is the #1 concern for Lake District. Would like to know what kind of impact will this have on such a small area; they do not know how many boats will be utilizing the area. There is a propensity for numerous invasive species to come across. Main concern would be AIS and buffer for vegetation. Would like to know that whatever is decided, it will be decided with the greatest amount of conservation and with the least amount of impact on the Lake District.

Jensen would like to know if there will be development on the water. WVIC needs to be involved for the placement of piers and walkways, no information is available on this yet. They are waiting to get approval on the proposal before negotiating with WVIC.

Sadauskas would like to have these concerns recorded so that they can be presented at public hearing. Asks the Committee if they support LWC in providing a recommendation.

Sorgel/Jensen made motion to allow Sadauskas to represent the Committee at the public hearing to state concerns. All ayes; motion carries.

10. Cost Share Reimbursement:

a. Sachse Project – Up to 50% of Total, plus Deposit.

Sadauskas states the project just finished up. They worked with a land owner to get access to the lake. Would like to receive approval for the reimbursement. Will do final inspection on Thursday, so far everything looked good and no surprises expected. Request that Committee approves the reimbursement if the final check on Thursday goes as expected. Reimbursement cost will be \$6,884.81, plus the \$1,000 deposit.

Ryden/Sorgel motion to approve Sachse Reimbursement Project up to \$6900. All ayes; motion carried.

Discussion: None.

11. Upcoming June Events:

Land & Water Conservation sent out a flyer with upcoming events to Committee. The “Spring into Summer” series has three upcoming dates; June 17, June 22, and June 29.

AIS has seven events between now and August.

- June 19th at Horsehead Lake there will be an AIS Monitoring Workshop from 9am-12pm.

- June 30th to July 9th is the Great Lakes Landing Blitz

- July 6th at Mid Lake there will be an AIS Monitoring Workshop from 9am-12pm.

Comments: None.

12. Lake District Reports:

Winkler suggested in the future all Lake District reports will be listed, and when the Committee member’s district meets they can submit their report directly to Jenna, who will plug it in. Furthermore, anyone with specific information they’d like to share with Committee will still be able to do so.

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

- a. Monthly budget report(s) – *April & May included.*
- b. Approve monthly invoices/purchase orders.

Sadauskas notes that this will be the last time the Committee will be approving invoices in this format; County will be moving to the new system on July 1st, 2023.

Jensen/Ryden motion to approve consent agenda items a, and b, as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

14. LWCD items to include on next agenda:

Ag Grant, 2024 staffing requests, and cost share reimbursements.

15. Public Comment: None.

16. Programming/Educator Report – FoodWise Summer Programming – *FoodWise Staff:*

Mary Stys and Allison Wilson just wrapped up all their school efforts.

FoodWise is moving pretty heavily into summer programming. There is a shift in focus from youth and schools towards older adults and the food pantry.

There will be some youth focus and programming with the Hodag Mobile Pantry, an effort through the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry (RAFP) and YMCA to bag up lunches for youth during the summer, when their access to nutritious food might be limited once the school sessions end. Wilson and Stys will be heavily involved with this partnership; expanding the program by offering nutrition education and activities. FoodWise has a goal to explore larger conversations to face the feeding conundrum; would really appreciate partnerships with schools and other organizations.

Wilson is currently working with Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northwoods to develop programming for their members.

Wilson and Stys partnered with the food pantry to coordinate the program *Around the Table*; a trauma-informed approach to nutrition and cooking. They will be offering three sessions over the summer, each with four lessons.

Wilson and Stys will also assist the food pantry this summer with their produce table at the farmer's market. The educators will work to encourage community members to take produce, and will teach them what they can make with that produce.

In May FoodWise attended the Food Security Conference held by FORK. The goal behind the conference was to build a common perspective around the counties, answering the questions of what food insecurity is, what it looks like, and who the folks with the greatest need are. Deeper look into the root cause of food insecurity was discussed, as well as the larger issues. Food security issues are present for those not in poverty too; folks living on a limited income may have access to food, but may not be able to afford nutrient dense food. Food security is a nation-wide issue. Nutrition security is also an issue; over half a million people are dying due to diseases related to diet and poor nutrition. Eighty-five percent of health care spending is related to nutrition related diseases. Wilson is very passionate about these issues and will be getting heavily involved in this topic.

17. Area 4 Extension Director Update – A. Rehberg.

- a. UWEX Status Update:
 - i. County Report for January to May will be shared with all County Board members, library, and partners. County Report will be done either monthly or bi-monthly moving forwards. Sharing the County Report with partners will help reduce the duplication of services.
 - ii. Staff In-Service took place and led a discussion. Rehberg states that Extension is doing what it can, with the resources it has, to make an impact on the community.
 - iii. Dean Hausler came to visit UWEX in Oneida County to collaborate and listen and provide feedback.
 - i. Newman was present during the visit and stated that the informal nature of the visit provided a great opportunity for conversation centered on where extension is at and what direction we want to take it in. Also discussed the barriers facing Extension in regards to public awareness of services and how it can be corrected so we can be more present in local communities.
 - iv. Rehberg gave an update on the strategic planning packet and provided a brief overview on where Extension is at and where the focus will be going forwards. They would like local feedback and are open to suggestions.
- b. Staffing & Communication Plan:
 - i. Currently waiting for the Health and Wellbeing Educator position to be posted by HR; requests one of the Committee members to be present during interview process.
 - ii. The Community Development Educator position is no longer available, the funds have been reallocated elsewhere. The Dean' Leadership Team is looking into finding resources to reinstate, if county is interested in moving forward. Rehberg would like to know how Committee wants to proceed on this issue.

Ryden requested a bullet pointed list to bring to the County Board that presents the positives of having Extension in Oneida County. We need to get the position in front of the Finance Committee ahead of time so that room can be made for it in the budget.

Sorgel states that when a position is eliminated because it was not filled, rather than because it was not necessary, it is not really the best option for the community.

Rehberg states that when a department shrinks, so do the outcomes and outputs because there is not sufficient staff to address all the needs and concerns.

Jensen states that keeping Extension a priority is an ongoing issue; that when Extension is cut by counties, they eventually have them come back at some point.

Sorgel would like to see a list of what people are asking for, what it will take to fill the position, how many hours a month is needed to fulfill the needs of the community in this position, etc. Sorgel states that a computer can help a lot, but sometimes you need a community educator to go through the process step-by-step. For example building a Lake Association or assisting with the non-profit application process.

- c. Nicolet and Other Collaborations:
 - i. Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) Extension Steering Committee Update

Winkler/Sorgel made motion to postpone update until next month. All ayes; motion carried.

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

- a. Monthly budget report(s).
- b. Approve monthly invoices/purchase orders.

Winkler/Sorgel motion to approve consent agenda items a, and b, as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

19. UW-Extension items to include on next agenda:

Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) Extension Steering Committee update, educator report, and staffing for 2024.

20. Public Comment: None.

21. Adjournment: Chairman Winkler adjourned meeting at 3:08p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Young, Recording Secretary