

Agriculture & Extension Education/Land & Water Conservation Committee
August 15, 2011
Minutes

Committee members present: Chair Tom Rudolph, Greg Berard, Bob Evsich, and Romelle Vandervest.

Committee members absent: Carol Pederson and Paul Dean (excused).

Others present: Dan Kuzlik, Michele Sadauskas, Susan Hunter, Jean Hansen, Tina Werres, Jim Tharman, Erica Brewster, Jim Winkler and Kerri Ison.

Werres reported the fair was great and has received many favorable comments. Attendance was about 17,500 even with missing part of Saturday due to rain. There were a few issues with the carnival which will be addressed. Financial reports haven't been done yet. She thanked everyone for their support.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 1:46 p.m. by Chairman Rudolph, noting the meeting has been properly posted and the facility is handicap accessible.

Approve agenda: Motion by Vandervest/Berard to approve today's agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve minutes: Motion by Vanderest/Berard to approve the minutes of 7/18/11. Discussion followed. One correction was noted on Page 3, Paragraph 4. Sentence should read "*Plude has spent 150 hours at boat landings and distributing napkins and placemats*". All ayes; motion carried. Minutes approved as corrected.

Date(s) of future meetings:

9/12/11	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room
10/10/11	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room

WI Deer Donation program: Tharman discussed past participation of the WI Deer donation program noting levels are down due to low harvest totals. Processors receive \$55/deer to process the venison into hamburger which is donated to area food pantries. Local processors who participate in the program include TJ's Butcher Block and the Lake Tomahawk Meat Market. Motion by Vandervest/Evsich authorizing Oneida County's participation in the 2011 WI Deer Donation program. All ayes; motion carried.

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program – 2011 budget amendment:

Tharman reported a budget amendment is needed to cover the cost of the fence project at JJs Acres. Funding was allocated in the last budget cycle but will actually be spent during the current budget cycle. Motion by Vandervest/Berard to approve the wildlife damage abatement budget amendment as presented. All ayes; motion carried. Tharman spoke with the fence contractor and expects construction to begin within the next month. Once started, the contractor has 60 days to complete the project. Tharman will monitor progress. He also provided a summary of the wildlife damage program for the past year.

Monthly staff reports: Hansen reviewed written report. She recently spoke with the Highway Commissioner regarding invasive species on the right of way and he requested having a survey done of the county roads. WHIP is looking to secure funding for an inventory of nonmetallic mining sites.

Brewster noted Raising a Thinking Child classes will be held at the YMCA this fall as they have offered space and childcare. She reported that teaching numbers vary at the Frederick Place because of tenants' schedules, resident turnover and resident participation. She is planning a training session with their staff so that they can work with residents on a daily basis; however, scheduling and funding are an issue since they operate 24/7. Kuzlik noted Extension was extremely involved in getting Frederick Place off the ground and helped with focus groups to determine the feasibility of the shelter. Brewster shared results of the point-in-time homeless count conducted in July which showed two unsheltered individuals in the Rhinelander area. Discussion continued.

Winkler reported he has received calls from Teen Court parents seeking advice on raising their children and strategies to keep them connected to the family unit. He encourages parents to watch the video with the Teen Court offenders to open discussion within the family unit. He is unsure if this is a trend which needs to be addressed. Committee felt he should ask parents additional questions in an effort to investigate their needs to see if additional programming should be offered. Vandervest felt these families may be in a wage structure that does not qualify for social services. Evsich suggested guidance counselors fill this role. Brewster suggested collaborating with Winkler to get these parents into the classes she offers.

Sadauskas circulated written report and reviewed in detail. She noted a condensed version of the AIS grant was included in the committee packets. The DNR will begin to review applications soon. Future work plans include mapping of purple loosestrife and Japanese knotweed sites. Sadak, AIS Tech, will be on staff into September and plans to do some programming at schools. Rudolph suggested involving AIS topics in the annual poster/speaking contest and to encourage teachers to incorporate it into their curriculum to help bring greater awareness to the issue of invasive species. Kuzlik noted he has spoken to the Community Education Director regarding this issue and she will help with promotion.

Out-of-county travel requests:

Brewster:

8/25-26/11	Working Effectively with Tribal Communities	Lac du Flambeau**
8/30/11	FL/WNEP Western/Northern District In-service	Eau Claire*

Winkler:

8/24/11	Dept. of Youth Development Committee work	Price County**
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Committee:

9/15-16/11	RC&D Regional Conference	Stevens Point*
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*county expense
**district/state expense

Motion by Vandervest/Evsich to approve the out-of-county travel requests as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Agency reports:

Lake Districts: Rudolph reported the Horsehead Lake Association will meet on Saturday.

FSA: Hunter circulated written report and reviewed in detail.

LWCB: Rudolph reported LWCB met in early August. A forum followed the business meeting. Topic was spreading of septage on agriculture fields and about 35 people attended. Issues concerning trace amounts of prescription medications were discussed and it is hoped to have some type of regulation/monitoring come out of the forum. The next meeting is 10/4/11 in Madison. Oneida County's Land and Water Resource Management plan will be reviewed at that time. Kuzlik plans to attend.

WLWCA: Rudolph reported another meeting has been scheduled for 8/31/11 to continue work on the merger of WLWCA and WLWCE.

RC&D: Rudolph reported the Lumberjack Council has been put in charge of hospitality at the Northcentral RC&D Regional Conference in Stevens Point in September.

Agents 133 contract amendment: Each year the Agents 133 Contract between the University and Oneida County is amended due to salary and benefit changes. A copy of the amendment was provided for Committee review. Motion by Vandervest/Berard to approve the Agent's 133 contract amendment for the period 7/1/11-6/20/12 as presented. All ayes; motion carried. Kuzlik noted the contract will be forward to LRES for approval at the end of the month.

AIS Coordinator vacancy: Kuzlik noted the six-month vacancy period has passed for the AIS Coordinator position. During that time, LRES approved an LTE position to help fulfill duties during the busy summer season. Kuzlik recently attended an LRES meeting to discuss this vacancy. LRES did not approve the filling of this full-time position; however, they did approve an additional 600 hours for the remainder of the year. Kuzlik hopes to build a departmental budget which will provide savings to assist in gaining approval for a full-time AIS Coordinator during the budget process.

Rudolph was very discouraged with the LRES response to the request even though they have been urged by the public to fill the full-time position. Initially position was denied by LRES but authorized by full county board via resolution from the Land & Water Conservation Committee. He suggested this Committee draft a similar resolution requesting County Board fill this position as soon as possible, bypassing the LRES Committee. He believes continuity is needed and he has received recommendations from the public to move the current LTE into the fulltime position. The County is in danger of losing a good employee to the detriment of Oneida County. Discussion followed.

Motion by Vandervest/Evsich to draft a resolution to approve a full-time AIS Coordinator position to be presented at our Committee budget meeting if LRES doesn't approve the staffing request.

Kuzlik noted at this time the position must be posted -- an employee cannot be appointed. He is also concerned with proceeding in this direction during budget time. The Department has developed a staffing request for a full-time AIS Coordinator to be approved by this Committee

today and presented at LRES at the end of the month. He felt the Committee needs to be political and organized to show budget savings in 2012.

Rudolph felt that since the position has already been vacant for eight months, the County has already experienced salary savings. He is fearful if the position is not in the 2012 budget it will be lost.

All ayes; motion carried.

County Conservationist vacancy: The County Conservationist position is currently funded by the DATCP staffing grant. Kuzlik felt the CNRED position could take over a portion of the County Conservationist position by devoting 50% of duties to natural resources. He also believes there is room within the University to explore the possibility of doing this. He distributed a financial breakdown of a combined position for review. Under this proposal the State could save \$25,078 and the County could save \$16,719. Kuzlik feels he can do justice to the County Conservationist position but not the AIS position. He noted this is one option to provide budget savings.

Rudolph appreciated the proposal but questioned whether this has been passed by DATCP. Kuzlik spoke with DATCP and they agreed it would fit into the revised plan. Lengthy discussion followed. Vandervest asked to stop the debate. Berard fears it is a lot for Kuzlik to take on but feels he should have the chance to make it work. Hansen voiced concern over portion of salary eligible to DATCP.

2012 staffing requests: Kuzlik reviewed staffing requests in detail. Discussion followed. Motion by Vandervest/Berard to approve the 2012 staffing request as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

2012 equipment requests: The Department circulated a request for a new copy machine. Kuzlik noted the request submitted earlier this year was denied by the Buildings & Grounds Committee based on the fact that UWEX will be moving to the Courthouse and staff was urged to utilize the copier at the Courthouse for large jobs.

Ison reported staff used the copier at the Courthouse to run 10,000 copies for the Fair. The Courthouse copier runs at about the same rate as UWEX's current machine. Staff needed to interrupt printing to be fair to Courthouse staff members needing copies. It is an inefficient use of staff time to run copies offsite as staff cannot work on other duties while running copies as well as mileage costs to the department. The current machine is approximately nine years old and has run almost two million copies. The finisher/sorter broke earlier in the year and was costly to repair/replace. Another repair was necessary the beginning of August. Discussion followed. Motion by Vandervest/Berard to approve the copier request and forward to Buildings & Grounds. All ayes; motion carried.

Monthly budget reports: Motion by Berard/Vandervest to approve the UWEX monthly budget report as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Motion by Vandervest/Berard to approve the LWC monthly budget report as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve monthly invoices: Motion by Vandervest/Berard to approve the monthly invoices for UWEX and Oneida County Fair as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Motion by Evsich/Berard to approve the LWC monthly invoices as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

County cost share program update/approval: Hansen reported there are projects in progress and survey work for future projects.

AIS grant application/resolution 2012: Sadauskas worked closely with Kevin Gauthier, DNR, to complete the grant application which was submitted on time. The fiscal impact information was included in committee packets. The resolution will be submitted to County Board for approval this month.

DATCP 2012 contract changes: A revised copy of the 2012 preliminary DATCP contract proposal listing Kuzlik as Interim County Conservationist has been submitted to DATCP.

Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) plan: The public hearing was held on 8/8/11 with no public in attendance. Changes to the plan will be made by NCWRPC and then sent to DATCP for final review. Kuzlik will attend the meeting in Madison in October.

Update on Lake Nokomis proposed Lake District: Nothing to report.

Public comment: None.

Items for next agenda: 2012 budget, follow up on staff requests, public hearing minutes, resolution for LWRM plan for October County Board meeting.

Adjournment: Motion by Vandervest/Berard to adjourn at 4:20 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Ison, Recording Secretary

Thomas Rudolph, Chair