

**Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee**  
**December 8, 2014**  
**Minutes**

**Committee members present:** Chairman Tom Rudolph, Bob Mott, Jim Intrepidi, Robb Jensen, and Scott Holewinski. Absent: Clint Zimbeck.

**Others present:** Tim Brown, Jean Hansen, Sara Richie, Lynn Feldman, Dennis Lawrence, Coleman Peiffer, Matt Peplinski, Bob LeFebvre, Lisa Charbarneau, Rick Smith, Rodney Ingman, Phil Gauthier, Nancy Gehrig, Ken Krall, Jonathan Anderson, Jim Lillis, and Merry Lehner.

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rudolph at 1:30 p.m. noting the meeting has been properly posted and the facility is handicap accessible. Announcement was made regarding the large group; please speak so that all in the room can hear your comments.

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

**Approve Minutes:** Motion by Jensen/Intrepidi to approve the minutes of 11/13/2014. All ayes; motion was carried.

**Date(s) of future meetings:**

|                  |                           |                                     |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| January 6, 2015  | Public Hearing, 5:30 p.m. | County Courthouse, Committee Room 2 |
| January 12, 2015 | CUW 1:30 p.m.             | Extension meeting room              |
| February 9, 2015 | CUW 1:30 p.m.             | Extension meeting room              |

**North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) Study**

At the request of the Committee, Lisa Charbarneau from LRES was in attendance along with Dennis Lawrence and Coleman Peiffer from NCWRPC to answer any specific questions to help clarify the purpose of a pending Study.

LRES Committee instructed Charbarneau to work with NCWRPC to conduct a study on the Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension Office to address any duplication of services, staffing levels, and the value of the services provided, and recommendation on how to proceed/best practices. Questions were raised on duplication of services. How they approach this will differ with Land Conservation who has a five year plan and state requirements on each county, than how it will be measured for UW Offices. The UW Extension does have offices in every county. It was asked if any other departments will be subject to a similar study; it is unknown at this time. Has the NCWRPC ever done a similar study before? No, they performed a merging/consolidation of an ambulance company. This type of study is not their primary function. The study is to provide an unbiased opinion to assist the County in making decisions regarding resources (human and financial) for the Land & Water Conservation and UW-Extension offices. There will be no reports on specific persons; rather their focus will be on programs. NCWRPC will provide both a written and oral report to the LRES Committee with their findings. NCWRPC is looking at early to mid- January for preliminary results; they will attend next committee meeting with an update.

Introductions of all in attendance took place due to new attendees present at meeting today. Dennis Lawrence and Coleman Peiffer from NCWRPC and Lisa Charbarneau, LRES were excused at 2:05 PM.

## **Lumberjack RC&D Grant Requests**

Initial requests were presented to CUW Committee Meeting for RC&D 2015 Grants. Each request will go to its respective County Land Water Committee for preliminary approval. If approved, the requests then move on to the Lumberjack Council Meeting scheduled for January 23, 2015 in Lincoln County. All proposals need to be in writing and at the Lumberjack office before December 31, 2014. There is a cap on the grant money that they allocate each year; approximately seven to ten thousand dollars to requested projects. Each of the ten counties has two people per county to represent the Lumberjack Council.

- a. Bob LeFebvre from the Rhinelander School District requested \$10,000 for CAVOC, Cedric A. Vig Outdoor Classroom, for financial support necessary to complete the fourth phase of a paved trail for the School District's outdoor educational facility. The paved pathway will enhance accessibility, regardless of ability or disability to the facility. Blacktop trails will help young families with strollers, give seniors a safe walking surface and provide wheelchair access to the school forest. The trails are available with no fee to the public. Targeted time line to start the project is April and desired completion would be in August. Motion was made to support moving the grant forward to the Lumberjack Council for the School District of Rhinelander CAVOC trail project by Jensen/Mott. All ayes; motion approved.
- b. Bike/Pedestrian Infrastructure Coordinator Position- Joel Knutson has worked with local groups statewide on bike, pedestrian, and commuter route infra- structures in Rhinelander and Oneida County. There are very few family friendly trails across three fronts: adult commuting, family recreation, safe routes to school. The area is good for long distance bikers; however, it is difficult if family wants a shared experience. He has worked with city, town, and county governments, the University, the Chambers, DOT and others to try to get Oneida County caught up neighboring counties that already have trails in place. The challenge is to bring the concerns of these many organizations together. As a project manager he could accomplish what local government does not have the time or staff available to complete. He would like to submit to Lumberjack to dedicate himself full time as a single point of contact as a local bike and pedestrian coordinator and grant writer. It would be a resource position for Oneida and other counties in the region. The County will not have opportunity for funding again for 5 years. Grants are expiring until 2018 to 2020, so the County must act now. Since Lumberjack encompasses several counties, he can work with these other counties to connect to existing trails. Commitment and enthusiasm from the community is high but knowledge of the process is low. The challenge is that the City and County has sat out trail construction whereas most other counties are connecting existing trails. Trail construction is high, but existing town and rural roads can be used for most of trails. Identifying hot spots as connector routes will make the process easier. For example, Highway G could be utilized as a connector route for Nicolet College, Town of Pelican, Golden Harvest, the City, the Lassig area and Buck Lake. Only about 3 miles or new trail would need to be built. All private support will come from Wisconsin Bike, Silent Trail Associations, and others to match Lumberjack for full \$10K. (no public funding) The bottom line is this could be done but it hasn't been done. Motion was made to have the Committee move it forward to Lumberjack Council review the proposal by Mott/Rudolph. All ayes; motion approved.
- c. Bat Monitoring Project – Joel Knutson became involved with the DNR State bat inventory, habitat, migration, monitoring, and mapping project two years ago. In consulting with volunteers of lake associations who were monitoring bat populations, many experienced

volunteer burnout, so this brought about his interest in Bat Monitoring. The Citizen Science Monitoring Program is a tool to get residents, volunteers, and lake associations interested and engaged in their local environments. It is a good way to get people involved in a positive way. A pilot project was started with lake associations to monitor data on bat populations, shoreline habits and white nose disease. The AnaBat Sonar Device picks up bat chatter. It determines if bats are male or female, bat age, number in the nest, etc. People just go out on the lake at dusk and turn on the monitors to get bat data. Many people became involved in monitoring. The devices are expensive at \$3,000 per AnaBat device. It would be best to have the device be Lumberjack's property. Knutson obtained a grant last summer for town of Crescent but those monies are maxed out. He like to see grant money go to education. Having kids build bat houses would allow them to become familiar and see the benefit of bats rather than a fear of them. There are reports about bats in unwanted places; this is an opportunity to educate public about bat populations. He wants to use this grant money for education and bat house construction. A motion was made by committee to forward request on Bat Project to Lumberjack Counsel for review by Jensen/Holewinski. All ayes; motion approved.

d. Mobile Stage Unit – Rick Smith

Veterans Ceremony-Union Grove Cemetery, Inc. organizes and executes a Memorial Day ceremony each year held at the Union Grove Cemetery in Harshaw, WI. Their mission is to provide each attendee a memorable experience, created by exceptional participants that honor all aspects of America's past military involvements. Attendees are able reflect on the lives of their loved ones who have passed away. An effort is made to educate youth about this nation's history concerning its veterans and their contributions; for a nation that forgets it past cannot survive. With their focus on social and educational aspects of the community, they would request Lumberjack RC&D to consider funding for the construction of a Covered Mobile Stage Unit. The stage will greatly enhance the ceremony at Union Grove, for the benefit of all who attend to honor past loved ones who have served, are serving, and will serve in our Armed Forces. Construction of a covered stage, 18' x 20' feet, with a tandem axle, will cost \$8,000. Currently, they rent nine 3' x 6' foot pieces to make up the stage and have to transport, set up, and tear it down, using many volunteers. Veterans Ceremony members will donate \$1,000 and another \$1,000 in direct fund for total to equal \$2,000 which is 25% requirement of RC&D regulations for an \$8,000 grant. A motion was made by Holewinski/Intrepidi to forward request for Mobile Stage Unit on to Lumberjack Counsel for review. All ayes; motion approved.

Rick Smith, Rodney Ingman, Phil Gauthier, and Joel Knutson were excused at 3:00 PM.

e. Financial Assistance for County Fair – Nancy Gehrig

The Oneida County Fair is dedicated to providing an event for all ages that is an educational and entertaining experience within a safe and healthy environment. We want to make the Fair an effective showcase of our County's amenities and talents. The Fair will be held July 30<sup>th</sup> through August 2, 2015 at the Pioneer Park Historical Complex in Rhinelander.

The Fair Board Committee is looking for grant support to fund Fair electrical needs. The Fair has grown in attendance from approximately 10,000 to 20,000 people in the last six years. Currently there is a minimal amount of electricity available. There are two areas that have very little electricity: the South Pavilion/Horse Area and the East Pavilion/Kiddie Land. KM Amusements has been kind enough to allow the Fair to use their generators for The Family Land area that hosts UB to Band. We are not certain if this will continue to be available in the future. The second area of need is the 4H - Animal Alley area at the South Pavilion. Five years ago the City did install a little more electricity into the Park but is very minimal. Every year, as

a result, the Fair must take money out of its budget to provide temporary electricity. The annual cost is approximately \$4,500. It would make much better sense to spend that money once and have permanent electricity installed, that could be used by all, year round. Gaber Electric provided an estimate for those two areas at the following cost: South Pavilion proposed cost \$7,500 and Eat Pavilion/Kiddie Land at \$11,000. The Fair would like to request grant money to provide electricity for at least one of the areas if not both. The entire community could benefit from more permanent electricity, year round, for different events. A comment was made that Emergency Management may have generators available and the Fair might inquire further. A motion was made by Intrepid/Holewinski to pass request onto RC&D for installation of electricity for the Fair not to exceed \$10,000.

Review of grants is January 23, 2015 and the final decision will be in April.

### **Farm Service Agency- Matt Peplinski**

Peplinski is County Executive Director for Farm Service Agency that covers Oneida County. An announcement was made that they just completed their annual election where Clint Zimbeck was up for re-election. He lost, so there will be a new person on their committee, which will mean the CUW committee will have a new person appointed to our committee. The CUW representative will be determined at their January meeting. At that time they will inform us who our new representative will be. The Farm Service Agency Dairy Program that came out in September will be extended for two more weeks, so people can still sign up. There are seven registered locally to this dairy program. On November 17<sup>th</sup> a new program started called the Commodity Program which provides cost assistance to farmers who grow commodities. The deadlines are Feb 28 and Mar 31, 2015. Fruit and vegetables are not considered commodity crops, so cranberries and potatoes are not included in this program. Specialty crop growers, such as cranberry growers, do not want to be part of these government programs as a rule. Jean Hansen will be updated on the committee's new representative.

### **Oneida County Fair Final Report – Nancy Gehrig**

Terri Angell the Treasurer has resigned her position as Fair Treasurer for 2015 due to her full time employment duties. The Treasurer position on the Fair Board will be open position as of January 2015. The Fair Annual Report was completed and submitted to the State of Wisconsin. The spreadsheets were discussed. The bottom line revealed that after receipts and disbursements the Fair Cash on Hand was \$8,510.73. Gehrig stated that Fair will not be self-sustainable within the next two years. We can turn this around, but not by next year. Gehrig passed out the Strategic Planning Session handout. An amount of \$6,000 is needed every year to break even. Additional support and funding will be needed for the Fair to continue. Essentially it is a financial problem. More people are also needed to work on sponsorship and working with the Fair Board. It was commented that it cannot all be put on Gehrig's shoulders. Gehrig solely worked on the sponsorship the last two years. Looking at the five year plan is more realistic rather than just what will happen next year. People on the Strategic Planning Committee will be working on a long range plan. Volunteer lists need to be compiled and then we must engage these people. More involvement is needed from Minocqua, Three Lakes, and other communities to participate in future. The Fair Convention is scheduled for January 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and Gehrig, Seabloom, and Eades will be attending to explore 2015 Fair options. Jensen/Intrepid made the motion to accept the Final Report OCF for year 2014. All ayes; motion was approved.

### **Cost Share Program Update – Jean Hansen**

One cost estimate was requested for approval of Access Road Practice on property off of Squirrel Lake Road in Minocqua. Penny Warner owns three 40's and this is erosion control for two hills on her

existing access road. She has the forest plan in place. DATCAP does cost shares and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) also cost shares on access roads. Warner applied with them as well. NRCS approved a flat rate of \$6,685. All three cost estimates came in very close in price. The low cost estimate was Musson Brothers. So the flat rate being paid by NRCS was subtracted off of the \$15,447, which equals \$8,762. That is the amount that Land Water Conservation will cost share with the land owner. Half of that is \$4,381. The DATCP share and the land owner share will be the same amount. The approval amount to be requested from the committee is \$4,381. It was explained how the land owner contacts three contractors for cost estimates and can choose whoever they want to do the job. A motion to approve the low bid cost share was made by Jensen/Rudolph to accept the low bid of \$4,381 for the Patricia Warner access road project. The motion was approved with three ayes and two nays. The motion passed.

### **Speaking & Poster Contest Update**

The date of the upcoming Local County Speaking Contest will be Thursday February 12, 2015 at 5:00 PM held at the County Board Room. The local posters will be judged prior to the speaking contest and will be displayed at the contest. The Area Contest will be on February 20, 2015. Feb 20th will also be when the business meeting of the North-Central Land and Water Association will take place. There will be a news release put out regarding this meeting.

### **Farmland Preservation Hearing Update**

January 6, 2015 is the Farmland Preservation Public Hearing. Updated drafts for the meeting were circulated to committee members. Planning and Zoning will need to hold a public hearing after the 6<sup>th</sup> to amend the comprehensive plan for this Farmland Preservation plan to be approved. Cranberry and potato growers can come to this hearing to be heard. Hansen will have a news release in local papers as well.

### **Consent Agenda Items:**

Out of County Travel Items were reviewed.

Nancy Gehrig requested travel to the State Fair Convention January 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Purpose would be to possibly scout out a different amusement ride vendor. The public had complaints over condition of some of the rides. The total cost would be \$538 plus mileage for convention attendance and hotel stay in Wisconsin Dells. Motion made by Holewinski/Intrepidi to approve out of county travel and for three Fair Board members to attend State Fair Convention. All ayes; the motion was approved.

The remainder of Consent Items was approved as outlined in packets sent out ahead of time. Jensen/Intrepidi made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented. All ayes; the motion was approved.

### **Agency reports:**

Lake Districts: No new reports on Bear Lake, Nokomis, Mid Lake, or Thunder Lake. Horsehead Lake's stocking of crappies and blue gills were successful.

USDA, NRCS, WI Land+Water: No report.

FSA: Already addressed earlier in meeting.

LWCB: Tom Rudolph attended his last meeting Tuesday, 12/2/14. They had five county Land and Water Resource Management attendees present to update and some of them were to approve for a five year period and they are looking forward to incorporate the new plan the new plan along with the updates of the County comp plans.

OCEDC: The Governor's Northern Wisconsin Economic Development Summit was held in Minocqua where he supported tourism, but also was in favor of our project in Northwestern Wisconsin to

expand broadband Internet service in rural areas. He agreed it is a way to improve the economy and seemed to hint that there will be additional money available for projects like it in the future. It is important to provide support and service for the people who live here year round.

RC&D: The upcoming Lumberjack meeting was already discussed. Last Wednesday, 12/10/14, was the drawing for the RC&D State raffle.

WACEC: Conference call for the officers will be tomorrow, December 9<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 PM. The area meeting is coming up in Minocqua soon. Bob Mott was approved for the public leadership development conference in Washington D.C. April 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Introduction of Sara Richie, New Family Living Agent**

Sara Richie came here from Richland County where she worked as a Health Educator for the Public Health Department working on an obesity prevention grant called Transform Wisconsin Active Communities Impact Grant. She worked closely with partners in the community to increase physical activity in the schools and worked with smaller townships to get their Recreational Use Agreements off the ground for recreational programming. Her background as co-chair of the Healthy Living Coalition will give value to her work here in Oneida County. She is currently working on questions for her needs assessment and is looking over past programs, and will speak with people in the community to see what they are looking for in the area. She said she should be able to reach all people in the community, through use of her undergraduate degree in Family Living Education and Master's degree in Community Health Education. One point of focus will be on getting families to be active together. Richie will develop valuable programs that will serve the families here. This position allows her to tap into all the resources that UW-Extension has available that other programs might not offer.

### **Staff Report-Lynn Feldman**

Feldman reported on Diversity Club at Rhinelander High School that started a two of years ago. The purpose of it is to develop an awareness of bullying in the schools. Kids got involved in this and wanted to do something about it. She has been partnering as a facilitator along with the counselor at the high school to present an anti-bullying program called Be Safe, a curriculum from Michigan University.

The weekend of November 7-9, 2014 Feldman led an UW-Extension based leadership workshop called Youth as Partners in Civic Leadership Conference, in Upham Woods, WI, a UW-Extension camp facility. At this camp atmosphere, the students from various towns around the state represented their organizations to focus on a specific civic issue. For Rhinelander it was Diversity Club, other focuses were anti-bullying, anti-smoking, Teen Court, Native Americans, Acceptance of all people, etc. Students at the end had to teach a breakout session to teach others on their civic issue subject matter. It gave them a chance to work and learn to communicate, organize and network together, where youth teach youth. Everyone felt they benefited from this workshop where they learned to encourage and support each other as well as to learn and grow in their leadership skills. Six attended from Rhinelander.

Nancy Gehrig was excused at 4:30PM.

Jean Hansen was excused at 4:40PM.

### **Capital Connections Program**

It was just announced in April that the Deans and Chancellors of the UW-Extension would like to invite county committee members from all over the state to speak with legislature to see the benefits that the UW-Extension lends to the state. An invitation was extended to the committee to see if some of the members would be able to attend this event at the end of the April. More specific details will follow at the next meeting.

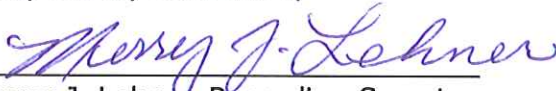
**Office Space/Air Quality:** The masonry bricks are now in the basement of the building and construction will begin this week. Now that it is winter, the fume issue will be more pronounced. UW-Extension has been informed that the wall will not resolve the fumes issue totally. A data recording system is in place so that when fumes are smelled or noted, staff will report the date and time of occurrences. With Sara Richie on board all available office space is full. Come May 2015, we will need another work space for our summer-time horticulturalist assistant; there will be no space available.

**Public comment:** The meetings are too long and fatigue sets in by the end of the session. Questions on some of items could be consulted ahead of time with members. Can comments after motions be kept to a minimum? Some items were late; this cannot be avoided if additional items are requested to be added to the agenda. Does the committee want to have two separate meetings? Rudolph and others requested to receive all the material and as a hard copy. All members, except Jensen, will receive agenda items by postal mail as well as email attachments.

**Items for next agenda:** Include LRES update. Meeting length will be discussed.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Jensen/Intrepidi to adjourn at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary

  
Thomas Rudolph, Committee Chair