

**MINUTES OF THE  
LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
February 18, 2009**

**Members Present:** Chairman Tom Rudolph, Wilbur Petroskey, Matt Matteson, Jack Martinson, Rod Kuczarski, and Gary Baier

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Nancy Hollands (County Conservationist), Jean Hansen (Conservation Specialist), Barb Payne (Secretary), Chuck Wickman (County Supervisor), Susan Hunter (Director, Farm Service Agency), and Tom Melnarik (NRCS Soil Conservation Technician). Jennifer Holman (AIS Coordinator) excused absence.

***Call to Order***

Chairman Rudolph called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room #1 on the second floor at the Oneida County Courthouse. He noted that the meeting of the Land and Water Conservation Committee has been properly noticed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law and meets the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Rudolph asked the Committee their thoughts on scheduling a meeting next week with Kevin Gauthier, DNR Water Resource Management Specialist, to have him answer any questions they may have about the AIS Grant Application Resolution, which was approved at County Board on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. Rudolph commented he thought it would be helpful to wait for Holman to be present to go over her AIS items on the agenda. Rudolph reminded the Committee that Holman was attending a meeting of the Mississippi River Basin Panel as approved at an earlier meeting. The Committee directed Hollands to contact Kevin Gauthier to see when he would be available to attend a meeting next week.

***Approve Agenda/Approve Minutes***

Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey to approve the current agenda and the minutes from the January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting with the order of agenda items at the discretion of the Chairman. Motion carried, all ayes.

***Set date for next meeting***

Chairman Rudolph noted the next meeting dates will be, Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. and Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. The Committee discussed what dates they would be available for a special meeting with Gauthier. Two dates were chosen; one was Monday afternoon and the other was Wednesday. Hollands tried to contact Gauthier from the committee room while everyone was present. Hollands was unsuccessful in reaching him, but she left a message indicating the two dates the Committee had open. Committee discussion followed.

***Public Comments***

Chuck Wickman, County Supervisor was present to pass along information concerning the Minocqua/Kawaguesaga Lakes Protection Association and the Lake Tomahawk Waterfront Property Owners Association. Wickman expressed his concern in what he felt is a lack of communication between the two groups. Wickman stated that in all due respect Ms. Holman and Watkins were active and attended fund raisers by these lake groups. Petroskey and Baier stated the lack of communication for those lake associations could be remedied by joining the Oneida County Lakes & Rivers Association. The Committee directed Hollands to have meeting agendas sent to Wickman and Murwin.

***Wildlife Damage Program Services for 2009***

Hollands asked the Wildlife Damage Program Services for 2009 be tabled until next month's meeting when there is some definite answers to the allocation of monies when the state budget is finalized. Hollands reminded the Committee an Annual Deer Herd Status meeting is scheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup> at the James Williams Middle School at 6:00 p.m. Committee discussion followed.

***County Cost Share Program***

Hansen reported there isn't much going on right now. Hansen stated letters were recently sent to all the landowners who had expressed interest in the cost share program for 2009, explaining the possibility of reduced funding for 2009. Rudolph stated he will be attending a Land & Water Conservation Board (LWCB) meeting on Friday in Madison in regards to funding allocations.

***Update on State Aid Program Cuts & Staffing Impact***

Hollands reported we have not received any final conformation on our DATCP for 2009. Hollands stated that apparently the State has a new department called the Office of Recovery and Reinvestment. Hollands and Hansen drafted a letter to Mr. Gary Wolter, contact, for the Office of Recovery. This letter expressed the concerns of the Land & Water Conservation Department's job positions are dependent of staffing grants and cost share dollars. Also expressed our economy and natural resources depend on sustaining these job positions and duties. Committee discussion followed. This letter is intended to show interest for our area to receive stimulus funds. This could possibly result in grant funding of \$100,000. Motion by Petroskey, second by Matteson to approving sending this letter regarding our interest in stimulus monies to the Office of Recovery. Motion carried; all ayes.

Motion by Petroskey, second by Martinson, to approve the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009 Northeastern Proposal Data Collection Form" grant application for \$100,000 which awards a \$100,000 in grant fund dollars with no county match involved. Motion carried; all ayes.

***Update on AIS Grant Application/AIS Grant Resolution for 2009***

Rudolph stated he had received communication from Kathy Pielsticker, Administrator of Agricultural Resource Management Division. Rudolph stated all members of the Land & Water Conservation Board were contacted for a brief update on budget cuts for 2009. Committee discussion followed.

***Fire Department Workshops regarding the Dry Hydrant Ordinance (10.55)***

This agenda item was tabled until next week, when Holman is available.

***Letter to Fire Chiefs Regarding the Workshops***

This agenda item was tabled until next week, when Holman is available.

***WI Lakes Convention Poster***

This agenda item was tabled until next week, when Holman is available.

***Holman's presentation for the MRB Panel & MRBP Boat Survey Grant***

Hollands reported Holman is currently in Texas doing an Oneida County's Dry Hydrant Ordinance presentation at a meeting hosted by the Mississippi River Basin Panel.

Rudolph presented to the Committee a grant application prepared by Holman submitting an application for a \$5,000 grant from the Mississippi River Basin Panel. Hollands stated there is a very narrow window to apply for this grant. This grant is a survey that will be specific in evaluating the risk of transferring aquatic invasive species by watercraft between the Great Lakes and Oneida County's lakes, rivers, and streams. The grant runs from June 1, 2009 – June 1, 2010. There is no county match required. This will be a survey to further understand how many of these lakes became infested with AIS as a result of the Great Lakes Basin, a boater survey through this grant would allow the Oneida County AIS Program the opportunity to observe how many boaters travel from the Great Lakes and launch in Oneida County water bodies. Committee discussion followed. Motion by Baier, second by Matteson granting approval for the AIS Coordinator to apply for this grant as indicated in the information submitted to the Committee. Motion carried; all ayes.

Tom Melnarik, NRCS and Susan Hunter, FSA were excused at 11:50 a.m.

***Update on AIS Grant/Budget/Activities/Dan Meyer Letter***

This agenda item was tabled until next week, when Holman is available.

***Soil & Water Conservation Stewardship Week, April 26 – May 3, 2009***

Hollands stated that this year's Soil & Water Stewardship Week Observance will be held the week of April 26 – May 3, 2009. This year's theme is titled "Dig-It." Hollands stated the approximate cost to purchase bookmarks and liturgy inserts this year will be \$600.00. Committee discussion followed. Motion by Petroskey, second Martinson to approve this year's purchase of Soil & Water Conservation Stewardship materials. Motion carried; all ayes.

**Lake Districts/Agency Reports (FSA, NRCS, LWCD, UWEX, DNR, LWCB, WLWCA, & RC&D)**

**Bear Lake District** – Martinson reported the Bear Lake District is still having meetings in regard to development around the lake. A meeting for the Bear Lake District is scheduled is scheduled for next.

**Mid Lake District** – Petroskey had nothing new to report this month from the Mid Lake District.

**Thunder Lake District** – Baier had nothing new to report from the Thunder Lake District.

**Horsehead Lake District** – Rudolph reported the next meeting will be held on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. The lake management study is continuing. The fishing has been good on the lake.

**FSA** – Susan Hunter, director for the Farm Service Agency was present to report. Hunter handed out folders to the Committee with a folder containing materials giving an overview the programs available and a brief explanation on each program listed in the handout folder. Hunter answered questions asked by the Committee.

**NRCS** – Tom Melnarik, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician, reported NRCS Hunter's repro the EQUIP Program is right in the middle of sign ups going on right now. The EQUIP deadline is April 17<sup>th</sup>.

**LWCD** –

Hollands reported she and her staff has been busy working on year end budget and reports. Hollands reported the DATCP reimbursement for the year has been sent in. We will be receiving \$109,000 in funding from DATCP for Staffing and Support for 2009 in a few weeks. Hollands stated we have been busy applying for new grants. Several lake associations have requested support letters. Hollands reported she has been in contact with Lake Nokomis lake association as they are moving forward again with becoming a lake district. Hansen reported she and Stacy Dehne had met with John Bilogan in regards to the Townline Park erosion project that they have been working on. Hansen commented Bilogan seemed pleased with the erosion design and gave permission to move forward. The next step will be contacting contractors for bids.

**UWEX** – No one present.

**DNR** – No one present.

**LWCB** – Rudolph reported he will be participating in a special meeting being held in Madison on Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. The LWCB will be going over the Governor's Budget concerning the staffing allocations that will be implemented for 2009 – 2011 budget years. Rudolph expressed concern with the fact the state wants to eliminate LWCB members and create a state council. Rudolph stated what that would mean is that we would loose our individual County representation. This would jeopardize the northern regions representation the most. Rudolph stated we needs and concerns are unique in the Northern areas with our numerous water bodies. Most of the areas involved are primary some type of agriculture.

**WLWCA** – Rudolph reported he had attended the national meeting New Orleans. Over 900 people attend the national meeting. Four resolutions were presented at the national level and three of four resolutions were adopted.

**RC&D** – Rudolph reported the Lumberjack RC&D will be hosting the September council meeting here in Rhinelander at the Quality Inn (formerly Holiday Inn Express). Tours are scheduled to be held on September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> to show some of our Conservation practices and how they are done up here in the Northwoods. There are some very good programs. There will also be a catered meal served.

Hansen was excused at 11:15 a.m.

**Monthly Budget Review**

Motion by Petroskey, second by Martinson, to approve the monthly budget summary for December of 2008, Adj. I for the Land & Water Conservation Department, Wildlife Damage Program, and AIS Program. Motion carried; all ayes.

Motion by Martinson, second by Matteson to approve the monthly budget summary for January 31, 2009 for the Land 7 Water Conservation Department, Wildlife Damage Program, and AIS Program. Motion carried; all ayes.

***Travel Authorization***

Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey to approve attendance at the following meetings. Motion carried; all ayes.

- February 25<sup>th</sup> Conservation Lobby Day Madison, WI
- February 26<sup>th</sup> Train the Trainer Workshop (AIS) Stevens Point, WI
- April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> County Conservationist meeting Stevens Point, WI
- April 30<sup>th</sup> Lumberjack RC&D Meeting Shawano County

***Approval of invoices, purchase orders, and line item transfers***

Motion by Petroskey, second by Matteson to approve the invoices as presented. Motion carried; all ayes.

A list of the approved bills is attached to the minutes.

Motion by Baier, second by Matteson giving approval for the vice chairman, Petroskey to sign line item transfers as needed in the absence of Chairman, Rudolph. Motion carried; all ayes.

***Items for the next meeting agenda***

Agenda items to be determined at a later date.

***Public Comments***

No public present.

***Adjourn***

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m. Motion by Matteson, second by Baier. Motion carried, all ayes.

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Thomas Rudolph  
Chairman

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Nancy Hollands  
County Conservationist