

**Agriculture & Extension Education/Land & Water Conservation Committee  
December 12, 2011  
Minutes**

**Committee members present:** Chair Tom Rudolph, Carol Pederson, Paul Dean, Bob Evsich, Greg Berard and Romelle Vandervest.

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

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. by Chairman Rudolph noting the meeting has been properly posted and the facility is handicap accessible.

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

**Approve minutes:** Motion by Dean/Pederson to approve the minutes of 11/21/11 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

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

January 9, 2011	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room
February 20, 2011	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room

**Wildlife Damage Program budget amendment:** Tabled until January. Tharman reported the permanent fence project at JJ's Acres has been completed.

**Equipment rental rates:** LWCD offers a portable timber bridge, anchor chain scarifier, tree planter as rentals to landowners. A contract is required and includes a deposit and rental fee. Manny Oradei reported rates have not been increased for about six years and believes that since the cost for repair has increased fees should also be revised. Discussion followed. Increases will be as follows: tree planter from \$30 to \$40/day; anchor chain from \$10 to \$15/acre; portable timber bridge from \$50 to \$100/month with deposit fees remaining the same. Motion by Vandervest/Berard to approve the rental agreements as amended. All ayes; motion carried.

**Agency reports:**

OCEDC: Luce presented at the Forestry Committee last week regarding the possibility of a rail yard for round logs. Rusk County currently has a site in the Village of Tony and Marinette County is working with Escanaba Lake States Railroad to build a site in their business park. OCEDC is looking at forming a railroad commission and also a facility that does biomass as well. He anticipates the OCEDC Board will pass a resolution to be forwarded to County Board asking that Oneida County join with nine other counties to form a Northwoods Rail Commission. A Commission would enable the purchase of track if abandoned by Canadian National using state funding from the WI DOT Harbors and Rail program fund. Following such a purchase, the track could then be sold or leased to a short line railroad to provide service, thus retaining service in the area.

Luce reported Hi Pro hired 45 additional employees in July and added machines over the summer months and now has 45-50 machines running. They do not have any more space to

expand. OCEDC has engaged UW Stout to do some preliminary design and flow work for them. Plans include a complete re-evaluation of the manufacturing system to help stave off a move to another facility, in turn giving OCEDC time to convince Hi Pro not to relocate.

Luce is also working with Oneida County Finance Director to create a five-county revolving loan fund which is now required by the Department of Commerce. Counties include Forest, Vilas, Oneida, Lincoln and Langlade, who are all involved with Grow North. The fund would be run out of Oneida County, but consist of decision makers from each of the five counties.

FSA: Susan Hunter noted the FSA newsletter will only be sent electronically beginning in January. She is concerned as only 2-3% of producers have their email addresses on file. FSA Board elections were held and Clint Zimbeck will replace Bob Evisch on their Board and this Committee. Hunter reviewed available programs.

LWCB: Rudolph reported a meeting was held on 12/6/11 in Madison. Much discussion was held regarding a proposal to cut to county staffing grants by 12.3% as well as changes to the funding formula. Proposals to decrease support for LWCB including cuts to per diem and mileage for Board members were also discussed. Rudolph authored a resolution for county board approval regarding the staffing grant cuts which will be presented at the December meeting.

WLWCA: Rudolph attended the WLWCA Annual Conference last week noting the staffing grant proposal was discussed with the lobbyist to visit the legislators regarding the issue. The merger of WLWCA and WLWCE passed on a 52/2 vote.

RC&D: Rudolph reported the Executive Committee met last week to approve additional projects. He noted there are openings for four members at large on the RC&D Board. Roger Luce has accepted a nomination.

### **Monthly staff reports:**

Brewster reviewed RATC evaluations noting participants took away what facilitators intended and parents wanted to continue connecting with each other. Plans include holding a class in Three Lakes and the Lakeland area early next year.

Winkler noted Crescent Lake Bible Camp provides an outlet for community service sanctions for Teen Court and commented on one youth's experience there.

Sadauskas presented a project to help open communication channels with area teachers via a survey to Leadership Oneida County participants for consideration and was accepted. The state has started a bait shop outreach program, even though Oneida County has been doing this for many years and she is working with the DNR on it. The final report for the 2010 grant has been approved and she will be submitting financial documentation for reimbursement. Sadauskas also discussed a state research project proposal regarding Eurasian Water Milfoil weevils and that Manson, Little Bearskin and Tomahawk lake groups are considering stocking them to use on their lakes.

Hansen also presented a project to Leadership Oneida County but was not selected.

Dean was excused at 2:50 p.m.

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

Brewster:

12/20/11      Langlade County 4H interviews      Stevens Point\*

Kuzlik:

1/13/12      Lumberjack RC&D meeting      Florence County\*

Winkler:

1/20-22/12      District Winter Camp      Bayfield County\*

TBD      Elementary school visits for Teen Court      Vilas County\*

\*county expense

**Fair update:** Werres reported Kim Swisher has agreed to assist with an electronic newsletter for the fair.

Motion by Pederson/Berard to approve the applications of Julie Holperin and Beverly Nichols to the Fair Planning Team pending a proper background check. All ayes; motion carried.

**Fair attendance at WI Association of Fair (WIAF) Conference:** Werres requested permission for six Planning Team members to attend the WIAF Annual Conference in January. She believes it is an opportunity to learn to run a good fair and is a way to build the future of the fair. A contingency has gone for the past two years and they have hired entertainment showcased at the convention. Expenses include mileage, lodging and registration which total approximately \$2,500. Kuzlik voiced his concern regarding the cost given the 2012 budget reduction. Discussion followed. Werres believes the Fair can recoup the expense of the conference and the knowledge gained at the conference will outweigh the expense. Discussion continued. Motion by Berard/Vandervest to approve the request for six fair members to attend the WIAF Conference as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

**Approve monthly budget reports:** Motion by Vandervest/Evsich to approve the UWEX monthly budget report for the period ending 11/30/11 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Motion by Vandervest/Evsich to approve the LWC monthly budget reports for the period ending 11/30/11 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

**Monthly invoices:** Motion by Pederson/Evsich to approve the monthly invoices for UWEX as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

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

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

**Approve line item transfers:** None.

**Approve long-range plans:** Motion by Vandervest/Pederson to approve the 2012 long-range plan for UWEX as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Motion by Evsich/Berard to approve the 2012 long-range plan for LWCD as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

**County Cost share:** Motion by Evsich/Pederson to approve low-cost estimate for the Brock project by Integrity Landscaping in the amount of \$26,402.31. All ayes; motion carried. Motion by Berard/Evsich to approve the low-cost estimate for the Meyer project by Outdoor Rooms, Inc. in the amount of \$11,426.00. Both projects are 50% cost share. All ayes; motion carried.

**DATCP Extension request:** Hansen noted there are a few more projects coming in yet so figures are not finalized. Contracts should be signed by the end of the year with all funding allocated.

**ROW Invasive Species Survey:** Hansen noted Nick Scholtes, Oneida County Highway Commission suggested doing a survey but funding has not been available. Hansen has been working with Ted Ritter, Vilas County AIS Coordinator on a proposal to submit to RC&D. A copy was included in committee packets for review. The proposal requests \$16,415 from RC&D with Oneida/Vilas County's contribution of \$14,750. Total project value \$31,161. As a partner to WHIP, Oneida County contributions would be a field computer, employee oversight, office space and computer use. RC&D would be the employer, and be responsible for final printing and reproduction of report. The proposal will be presented to RC&D on 1/13/12. Motion by Evsich/Pederson to forward the project proposal on to Lumberjack for consideration. All ayes; motion carried.

**LWRM Plan update/resolution:** Rudolph reported the amended LWRM Plan for Oneida County was approved at LWCB last week. Kuzlik, Hansen, and Heider connected via Polycom with Madison for the presentation. Motion by Evsich/Vandervest to approve the resolution regarding the Oneida County LWRM Plan and forward to County Board for approval at their January 2012 meeting. All ayes; motion carried.

**Lake Nokomis Lake District update:** Nothing new to report.

**Public comment:** Committee thanked Bob Evsich for his service on the Ag & Extension/LWC Committee. He is first alternate and will fill in when the representative is unable to attend.

**Items for next agenda:** Lake Nokomis update.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Evsich/Vandervest to adjourn at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kerri Ison, Recording Secretary

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Thomas Rudolph, Chair