

**Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee**  
**April 7, 2014**  
**Minutes**

**Committee members present:** Chair Tom Rudolph, Jim Intrepidi, Bob Martini and Bob Mott.  
Absent: Greg Berard (excused) and Clint Zimbeck.

**Others present:** Erica Brewster, Nancy Gehrig, Jean Hansen, Lynn Feldman, Michele Sadauskas, Tim Brown and Kerri Ison.

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. By Chairman Tom Rudolph noting the meeting has been properly posted and the facility is handicap accessible.

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

**Approve minutes:** Motion by Intrepidi/Martini to approve the minutes of 3/12/14 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

**Dates of future meetings:**

5/12/14      1:30 p.m.      Extension meeting room

**Consent agenda items:**

Additional out of county travel requested:

Brewster:

3/17-19/14	NCR All Colleague Conference	Green Lake**
3/21/14	Northwoods Research Summit	Treehaven*
4/1/14	Poverty Awareness workshop	Turtle Lake**
4/8/14	WNEP preliminary interviews	Stevens Point**
4/15/14	UWEX faculty tenure training	Stevens Point**
4/16/14	Poverty Awareness workshop	Wisconsin Rapids**
4/17/14	Poverty Awareness workshop	Chippewa Falls**
4/21/14	WACEC District meeting	Rothschild**
4/22/14	WNEP final interviews	Langlade County**
4/23/14	Poverty Awareness workshop	Phillips**
5/2/14	Financial coaching training	Stevens Point*
5/5-7/14	UWEX County Leadership Conference	WI Dells**

Committee:

4/17/14	Lumberjack RC&D	Florence
4/21/14	WACEC Regional meeting	Rothschild
4/23-25/14	WI Lakes Convention	Stevens Point
6/23-24/14	State WACEC Conference	Eau Claire

Sadauskas:

4/17/14	Lumberjack RC&D	Florence
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Motion by Martini/Intrepidi to approve the consent agenda items as amended. All ayes; motion carried.

### **Oneida County Fair update:**

- Gehrig reported the trailer for the office has been secured the trailer for the office, vendor applications are coming in, and entertainment contracts are underway. The Fair Committee was unable to conduct a meeting last week due to a lack of a quorum. Discussion followed regarding changing the bylaws regarding quorum requirements.
- Joe Berg submitted application for membership on the Fair Committee. Gehrig noted he has volunteered at the Fair for the last four years. Motion by Intrepidi/Mott to approve Berg as new Fair Committee member pending a clear background check. All ayes; motion carried.
- Brewster noted there has been no progress regarding the agreement with the City at this time. Item to be placed on next agenda.

### **Agency reports:**

- Lake Districts: Intrepidi reported Lake Nokomis received 1/3 of the total grant award (\$18,000). The group plans to spray two locations with Entera once temperatures allow. Mott reported no contact with Mid Lake. Rudolph noted Horsehead Lake is meeting this Thursday.
- OCEDC: Luce reported the broadband project is moving forward. A letter of interest has been submitted to FCC for a grant. OCEDC is planning to meet with the State of WI Department of Administration (DOA) to discuss forming a regional revolving loan program. The OCEDC office received another business application that does not meet federal criteria, proving a case for de-federalizing these funds to make them accessible to those in need. DOA is experiencing staffing issues to serve both the economic development and housing RLF funds. Oneida County is second highest user of HUD housing funds in the region with currently 30 applications submitted which have not been processed by the state. OCEDC is putting together trade show booth/marketing materials in conjunction with Florence, Oconto and Langlade Counties for a national wood show in Atlanta. Discussion was held regarding the business incubator project and the rail coalition.
- LWCB: Rudolph noted a teleconference meeting was held on 4/2/14.
- WLWCA: Rudolph noted an Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for 5/1/14 in Appleton.
- RC&D: Mott read letter from Brenda Wigglesworth, Program Assistant, which was sent to RC&D members. The next meeting is scheduled for 4/17/14 in Florence County. Rudolph noted several councils are experiencing financial issues and that Lumberjack may take on some additional adjacent counties to help alleviate the financial strain. Discussion followed. Sustainable Forestry Conference will be held in Florence on 4/10/14.
- WACEC: The regional meeting will be held on 4/21/14 in Rothschild. Rudolph and Mott will attend.

### **Office space update:**

- Hansen noted staff is getting settled and are working with Buildings and Grounds to finish off some things. Discussion followed.
- Brewster reported an inspector from the WI Division of Labor, Safety and Health conducted a walk through with the Airport Manager recently. Since then, a team from North Star Laboratories came to measure air pressure through the ventilation space. Testing for carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and particulates in the area will be conducted this week. Results will be available within 2-3 weeks. Staff participated in a phone conference with NIOSH 4/4/14. NIOSH has done some research regarding the Airport and has spoken with the Airport Manager and LRES. Brewster shared notes taken during the conference call including recommendations to move forward. NIOSH has offered to review test results by North Star Laboratories and will provide a letter of recommendation and resource packet in the next 2-3 weeks. Lengthy discussion followed. Mott voiced concern over the lack of communication

from the Airport regarding notification of testing. Motion by Mott/Intrepidi to send a letter to the Airport Commission regarding the testing process. Lengthy discussion followed. All ayes; motion carried.

- Brewster also discussed the offer of Buildings and Grounds to assist with moving into space vacated by Land Conservation. She felt air quality is the first priority.

**WHIP Roadside survey/management plan:** Plan was provided to Committee via email last month. Hansen noted the necessary committees in Vilas County have approved the plan as well as the Oneida County Land Information Committee. The Highway Department has yet to approve it. There is a commitment to attend the Spring Work Group to set the work plan for the upcoming season and provide training for the Highway crew each spring. Lengthy discussion followed. Motion by Mott/Intrepidi to approve the WHIP Roadside survey/management plan as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

**AIS grants:** Sadauskas noted she is waiting to hear regarding WEEB grant.

**DATCP Farmland Preservation Plan:** Hansen has contacted North Central Regional Planning regarding the process and is waiting to hear back.

**County Cost-Share Program update/approval:** Hansen has been working with a few farmers who are interested in the program for rotational grazing for chickens and other farming practices. Changes have been made to ATCP 50 (effective 5/1/14), making it mandatory that non-ag practices can only be reimbursed at 50% and ag practices can be reimbursed up to 70%. She discussed the possibility of reimbursing ag practices at 70% once ATCP goes into effect. She noted approximately \$5,000 of the cost share allocation remained unspent at the end of 2013. Changing the reimbursement rate would help allocate these funds. Lengthy discussion followed. It was the consensus of the Committee for all reimbursements rates to remain at 50%, but that ag practices could be reviewed for funding options on a case-by-case basis.

**WNEP Coordinator Interview:** Brewster reported preliminary interviews with four candidates will be held on 4/8/14 in Stevens Point. Final interviews will be held on 4/22/14 in Langlade County. Rudolph will participate in the final interviews.

**New Committee orientation/FSA Committee member:**

- Brewster noted Zimbeck has not attended a meeting in several months which raises quorum issues as the FSA representative is a voting member of the Committee. Both Brewster and Hansen have both spoken with him recently regarding the meetings. Committee requested Hansen talk with Zimbeck regarding his role on the committee.
- Brewster suggested a committee member orientation be done so newcomers know more about the organizations and appointments required of committee members. Brewster, Hansen and Rudolph will work together to devise an outline and list of acronyms.

**WACEC State Conference:** The WACEC State Conference will be held 6/23-24/14 in Eau Claire. Brewster shared potential agenda items noting additional information is forthcoming. Registration deadline is 5/23/14. Mott and Rudolph plan to attend.

**Monthly staff report:** Feldman provided a short presentation regarding her work with the Rhinelander High School Diversity Club including an anti-bullying campaign and dating violence. She discussed her work with NCSS students and the Be Safe curriculum. She also chaperoned four RHS

students at the 2014 Youth Summit in March and discussed transformations of students who attended. Mott suggested doing one of the skits or make a presentation regarding these efforts at an upcoming County Board meeting.

**Public comment/communication:**

- Discussion was held regarding political flier regarding dam removal.
- Martini stated he enjoyed the time he served on the Committee and learning about the departments, programming and staff. He noted his respect for the staff and the work the department does. Committee members and staff voiced their appreciation of Martini's efforts over the past two years and wished him well in the future.
- Brewster expressed appreciation for supervisor's efforts on the Committee noting their support made a big difference during the difficult times.

**Items to include on next agenda:** Agreement with City of Rhineland re: Oneida County Fair, WEEB grant, office space update/air quality issues, DATCP Farmland Preservation Plan, WACEC State Conference 6/23-34/14, 2/10 and 4/7/14 minutes.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Intrepidi/Mott to adjourn at 11:52 a.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kerri Ison, Recording Secretary

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Thomas D. Rudolph, Chair