

**MINUTES OF THE
LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
May 21, 2008**

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

Members Absent: Rod Kuczmariski

Others Present: Nancy Hollands (County Conservationist); Barb Payne (Secretary); Jennifer Holman (AIS Coordinator); Jean Hansen (Conservation Specialist); Keri Kerns (TAG representative); Lynn Grube (ITS); Mike Romportl (Land Information); Brian Desmond (Corporation Counsel); Mike Fugle (Corporation Counsel); Dan Kuzlik (UWEX); Ted Ritter (Vilas County); Ken Dirks (LNCC); Peter Lloyd (LNCC); John Russo (LNCC); Margaret Beals (Town of Nokomis); Michael Beals (Town of Nokomis); Pat Soward (Town of Nokomis).

Call to Order

Chairman Rudolph called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in County Board Room 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.

Approve Agenda/Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings

Motion by Martinson, second by Baier to approve the current agenda and the minutes from the April 23rd meeting with the order of agenda items at the discretion of the Chairman. Motion carried, all ayes.

Motion by Petroskey, second by Matteson to approve the minutes from the May 2nd Lake Nokomis Lake District Public Hearing making the change to the minutes listing those members who had an excused absence. Motion carried, all ayes.

Set date for next meeting

Chairman, Rudolph noted the next meeting date would be Tuesday, June 24th at 9:00 a.m. It has been changed to 1:00 p.m.

Public Comments

None

Lake Nokomis Lake District Petition

Hollands reported on the Lake Nokomis Lake District Public Hearing which was held on May 2nd at the Nokomis town hall. Hollands noted the hearing minutes were available upon request. Hollands read the signature verification of the preliminary results of the Lake Nokomis Lake District Petition which was prepared by county staff. Copies were distributed to those present. Romportl displayed maps and answered questions. Desmond answered questions. Motion by Martinson, second by Baier to accept the signature verification results. Motion carried, all ayes.

Desmond stated the Committee has only two options to base their decision on: Option (1) – The petition must be signed by 51% of the owners of the land within the proposed district, or Option (2) the petition must be signed by the owners of 51% of the land area within the proposed district? According to the signatures and the data available to the Committee, the Lake Nokomis Lake District Petitioners did not meet the required percentage for either option listed above. Ken Dirks, who represented the Lake Nokomis Concerned Citizens, questioned the number of signatures. He felt the number of petitions signatures filed should have been more. Romportl explained why some of the signatures on the petition were rejected. The original signed petitions were verified by Mr. Dirks. A motion was started and withdrawn by Martinson. More discussion was needed to help the Committee make a motion.

Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey to deny the formation of the Lake Nokomis Lake District based on the fact that the signatures filed and land ownership compiled within the proposed Lake District did not meet the required 51 %. Motion carried, all ayes.

AIS Illegal to Transport Law (Ted Ritter) Ted Ritter, Vilas County, was present and handed out proposed legislation he would like to see introduced in reducing the spread of aquatic invasive species throughout Wisconsin water bodies. The objective is to enact legislation complimentary to the provisions of NR40 pertaining to the transport and containment of

Aquatic Invasive Species so that all law enforcement agencies will have identical rules/laws to work with. The exact wording of NR40 is not known at this time as it will not be available for public review until after the Natural Resources Board meets on May 28, 2008. Therefore, this proposed legislation may need some modification to achieve compatibility with NR40 as it moves forward through public hearings to be schedule this summer. The proposed actions are listed as follows: (1) Modify or repeat and replace Chapter 30.715 (Placement of boats, trailers, and equipment in navigable waters) (2) Amend Chapter 346 (Rules of the Road) (3) Repeal the “illegal to transport” provision of the 2008 Budget Repair Bill (pending at the time this document was prepared). Committee discussion followed.

Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007

Hollands handed out copies of Resolution 2008-34 which was recently drafted and approved by the Vilas County Board of Supervisors on March 19, 2008. Vilas County would like to encourage Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Committee to draft a similar resolution and present it to the Oneida County Board of Supervisors. Motion by Martinson, second by Matteson directing Hollands and Jennifer Holman to draft a resolution using Resolution 2008 – 34 drafted by Vilas County as an example. The Committee would like the draft resolution brought back to the next LWCC meeting. Motion carried, all ayes.

Wildlife Damage Program

Hollands reported she had recently received a call about the WDP Program from James Lake Farms in Three Lakes. Their concerns were deer problems with crop damage and deer feces being collected when harvesting the cranberries. Hollands stated she had sent information to them and she will notify Wildlife Damage Consultant, William Ludwig, about doing an evaluation of the problems and solutions.

County Cost Share Program

Hansen reported she is currently working on a project on Lake Minocqua. She is working on the second half of the Verstegen’s project of installing the geo grid. She has completed several surveys with engineer, Stacy Dehne. Hansen reported there is currently some interest on Post Lake, Lake George, and Alva Lake for restoration projects using planting plans. Hansen reported her concerns with the permitting process involving the DNR. Hansen stated that Land & Water Conservation Department always does a site visit and we design our plans. The contracts require a ten year maintenance agreement. Hansen stated that the DNR doesn’t always do site visits and they rely on photos. Hansen stated the way the permitting process is handled by the DNR makes it difficult for the landowner in the restoration process. Committee discussion followed.

Select Conservation Youth Camp Scholarship Recipient

Hollands stated information packets were sent out to the area schools in May. A second press release was recently sent to the media. Committee discussion followed. Motion by Petroskey, second by Martinson approving Hollands to work with Rudolph in reviewing and selecting applicants for the Youth Camp Scholarship. Motion carried, all ayes.

Extension Request for 2007 DNR – AIS Grant

Hollands reported she drafted a letter requesting a grant extension of six months. Holman reported that she met with Kevin Gauthier, DNR Water Resources Management Specialist, in regard to granting a six month extension. Holman handed out a spread sheet she created as a time line listing the grant deliverables starting from task 1 - April 1, 2007 through the last task 20 - May 1, 2009. Holman explained how the time line she created works. Motion by Petroskey, second by Martinson to approve the letter requesting six month extension and Holman’s task spreadsheet. Motion carried, all ayes.

Update on Request for two LTE Watercraft Inspectors

Hollands reported the LRES Committee approved the hiring of two LTE Watercraft Inspectors. This DNR grant is 75% reimbursed, with the County paying 25%. Hollands explained that a LTE is a Limited Term Employee who works 600 hours in a year. Hollands stated the LRES Committee would only approve a \$9.00 per hour wage. Hollands indicated the Land & Water Conservation Committee requested a \$12.00 per hour rate. Hollands reported that the job interviews would be scheduled as soon as the applications are received from the Employee Services Department. Committee discussion followed.

Committee member, Gary Baier was excused at 11:45 a.m.

AIS Transportation Ordinance

Hollands stated the AIS Transportation Ordinance was adopted on May 20, 2008. Rudolph stated he felt that Oneida County needed to set the precedent. Committee discussion followed.

Update/Action on AIS Grants/Budget/Activities

Holman explained to the Committee about several grant options that she would encourage the Committee to apply for in the future. Holman stated there are vast amounts of grant monies available. Holman has been in contact with Governor Doyle's office regarding what's available. Rudolph encouraged Holman to move forward and bring back the information to the Committee. Holman reported she will be presenting a workshop for the Fishing Tournament Coordinators at the Taj Mahal on May 24th from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Holman explained there will be presenters from the Oneida Corporation Counsel, the Oneida County Sheriff's Department, and Department of Natural Resources. They will be covering various areas of interest to persons involved with fishing tournaments in Oneida County including the new AIS Transportation Ordinance. Holman briefly gave an overview of an awards ceremony which will be hosted later this summer to recognize the volunteers who have helped with boat inspections and other areas of AIS education. Representative Steve Kegan will be present at this ceremony to hand out the awards to the volunteers. Holman went over meetings and presentations she has completed. Holman stated she will keep the Committee updated.

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

Mid Lake District – Petroskey reported he contacted the Mid Lake District and told them to contact him if they had any concerns before their annual meeting on July 5th.

Thunder Lake District – No report was given, as Baier was not present to report.

Bear Lake District – Martinson reported the Bear Lake District has been having monthly meetings to resolve their concerns about development on the lake. Martinson reported the litigation concerning the development on the lake is currently being handled in Circuit Court. Martinson stated there were some zoning violations involving this development on Bear Lake.

Horsehead Lake District – Rudolph reported the Horsehead Lake District will be having a meeting on July 8th. Rudolph reported the Lake Study is still an ongoing process. He reported the Eurasian Water Milfoil that was discovered by the boat landing has been confined to the specific area.

FSA – Susan Hunter, Farm Service Agency Director, submitted the FSA report. The 2008 farm bill is now law since Congress overrode the President's Veto in May. There will be Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) signup yet in 2008. There will be new ACRE Program. Price support programs will remain basically the same. Most of the conservation programs that were in the past bill are also in this farm bill. If anyone is buying, selling or renting land other than they had in 2007, they need to notify the FSA office of such changes.

NRCS – Julie Malvitz, District Conservationist, notified Hollands that NRCS would be unable to attend this month's meeting because of other scheduled appointments.

LWCD – Hollands reported the 2008 Soil & Stewardship materials were sent to area Churches. The Department has been working on LTE Watercraft Inspector positions. The Lake Nokomis Lake District has taken considerable time by Hollands and her staff. Currently the Department is working on the 2008 Youth Camp Scholarship and Teachers Scholarships programs. The Department has been busy keeping up with compiling materials and folders for the AIS Coordinator. Currently the Clean Boats- Clean Waters Workshops are being conducted. Three workshops will be completed this year. They are being held in Minocqua, Three Lakes, and Rhinelander.

UWEX – Hollands reported Jim Winkler, UWEX, has contacted all the Oneida County Departments. Winkler is encouraging the departments to participate in the Oneida County Fair which is being held on August 13 – 15.

DNR – No one present.

LWCB – Rudolph reported the last meeting of the LWCB was held in April. Rudolph has been involved with conference calls. The Board has been busy working on Strategic Planning. Currently the Farmland Preservation is in the process of being revised. Rudolph will be attending the June 3rd meeting.

WLWCA – Rudolph reported that a board meeting will be held on June 19th in Pierce County. Rudolph reported that Dale Hood was not re-elected as President to the Board, however, he will serve on the WLWCA Board until June 1st. Rudolph

stated he had participated in a member training conference call on April 18th Rudolph noted there will be a Conservation Observance Day in Pierce County on June 20th

RC&D – Rudolph reported the Lumberjack RC&D meeting was held in Merrill on May 15th The Farm Fresh Atlas has been revised to N.E. W. (North East Wisconsin) Local Farm & Forest Products Guide. The application deadline was also extended to July 15. A sample of the guide was sent to the Land & Water Conservation Department.

Monthly Budget Review

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

Travel Authorization

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| • June 13 th | North Central Reorganizational Meeting | Antigo, Wisconsin |
| • June 16 th | WLWCA Supervisor Training | Oshkosh, Wisconsin |
| • June 20 th | Conservation Observance Day | Pierce County |
| • June 25 th | WLWCA Supervisor Training | Hayward, Wisconsin |
| • June 26 th | Lake Management Planning Workshop | Nicolet College, Rhinelander |

Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey to approve attendance at these meetings. Motion carried, all ayes.

Approval of invoices, purchase orders, and line item transfers

Motion by Martinson, second by Petroskey to approve the invoices as presented. Motion carried, all ayes. Motion by Baier, second by Petroskey to approve Jennifer Holman's personal expense voucher. This motion was made earlier in the meeting so the voucher could be submitted to Finance before the deadline. Motion carried, all voting ayes. A list of the approved bills is attached to the minutes.

Hollands presented a line item transfer for approval in the amount of \$15,000.00 to apply the carry forward balance for LTE's in the AIS program. Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey to approve the line item transfer. Motion carried, all ayes.

Items for the next meeting agenda

Agenda items to be determined listed at a later date.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m. motion by Martinson, second by Matteson. Motion carried, all ayes.

Thomas Rudolph
Chairman

Nancy Hollands
County Conservationist