

**MINUTES OF THE
LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
April 23, 2008**

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); Barb Payne (Secretary); Jennifer Holman (AIS Coordinator); Brian Desmond (Corporation Counsel); Mike Fugle (Corporation Counsel) Tom Melnarik, (NRCS Soil Conservation Technician) and Ron Eckstein (DNR Wildlife Biologist) and Keri Kerns (TAG representative).

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.

Approve Agenda/Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings

Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey to approve the current agenda and minutes from the March 19th meeting with the order of agenda items at the discretion of the Chairman. Baier abstained. Motion carried, all ayes.

Committee Reorganization

Tom Rudolph was appointed as Chairperson. Matteson nominated Wilbur Petroskey as Vice Chairman. Baier nominated Jack Martinson as Vice Chairman. There were no other nominations for Vice Chairman. Motion by Petroskey second by Matteson to close the nominations for Vice Chairman. Motion carried, all ayes. Paper ballots were handed out by TAG representative, Keri Kerns. Committee members cast their ballots as follows: 4 votes were cast for Wilbur Petroskey and 2 votes were cast for Jack Martinson. Wilbur Petroskey was chosen as the Vice Chairman for the Land & Water Conservation Committee.

Rudolph requested nominations for the North Central Land & Water Conservation Association representative. Matteson nominated Tom Rudolph. Jack Martinson nominated Gary Baier. There were no other nominations for Representative. Motion by Petroskey, second by Matteson to close the nominations for North Central Land & Water Conservation Association representative. Motion carried, all ayes. Paper ballots were handed out by TAG representative Keri Kerns. Committee members cast their ballots as follows: 4 votes were cast for Tom Rudolph and 2 votes were cast for Gary Baier. Tom Rudolph was chosen as the North Central Representative.

Rudolph requested nominations for the North Central Land & Water Conservation Association alternate representative. Martinson nominated Matt Matteson. There were no other nominations for Alternate. Motion by Petroskey, second by Baier to close nominations for the North Central Association alternate and cast a unanimous ballot for Matt Matteson. Motion carried, all ayes.

Rudolph requested nominations for the Lumberjack RC&D representative. Matt Matteson nominated Tom Rudolph. Jack Martinson nominated Gary Baier. There were no other nominations for Lumberjack RC&D representative. Motion by Petroskey, second by Matteson to close nominations. Motion carried, all ayes. Discussion by Committee to vote by a show of hands, instead of casting paper ballots. Gary Baier received (2) votes and Tom Rudolph received (4) votes. Tom Rudolph was chosen as the Lumberjack RC&D Representative.

Rudolph requested nominations for the Lumberjack RC&D alternate. Matt Matteson nominated Wilbur Petroskey. There were no other nominations. Motion by Martinson, second by Matteson to close the nominations for Lumberjack RC&D Alternate and cast a unanimous ballot for Wilbur Petroskey. Motion carried, all ayes.

Select Lake District Representative

The Lake District Representatives were discussed. Motion by Matt Matteson, second by Wilbur Petroskey to nominate the following LWCC supervisors to serve as the representative to the respective lake districts, and to submit recommendations to the county board for approval. Motion carried, all ayes.

Jack Martinson – Bear Lake
Gary Baier – Thunder Lake
Tom Rudolph – Horsehead Lake
Wilbur Petroskey – Mid Lake

Set date for next meeting

Chairman Rudolph noted the next meeting date would be Wednesday, May 21st at 9:00 a.m.

Public Comments None

Wildlife Damage Program & Consultant Contract for 2008

Ron Eckstein, DNR Wildlife Biologist, was present to report on 2007 Deer Harvest in Oneida County and the surrounding areas. Eckstein handed out informational packets to the Committee. Eckstein reported on the wolf populations in the area. Eckstein reported the wolf was recently taken off the endangered species list. Discussion followed by the Committee. Hollands reported we are able to proceed with the signing of the 2008 Wildlife Damage Consultant Contract with Bill Ludwig.

Lake Nokomis Lake District Petition

Hollands stated signed petitions were submitted to the County Clerk's office. The staff sent out approximately 1500 notices. Hollands would like to thank Land Information, Corporation Counsel, and Information Technology Services for all their help. The required legal notices are being published with the Rhinelander Daily News and the Tomahawk Leader. We are currently in the process of preparing an agenda for the public hearing. Gary Baier, Chairman for the town of Nokomis, stated that he would not be available to attend the public hearing on May 2nd. Baier stated Brian Desmond, Corporation Counsel and Mike Romportl, Land Information would be attending the public hearing. Hollands stated the Nokomis Town Hall has been reserved for the May 2nd hearing. Committee discussion followed.

County Cost Share Program

Hollands reported Hansen is currently attending the required Cultural Resource Training. Hansen has recently advertised Oneida County Cost Share Program on the radio. Hollands reported our Department has been approved for \$62,300 from DATCP for the 2008 Cost Share Program. Hollands gave a brief overview of the program for the benefit of new members.

SWRM Grant Contract for 2008

Hollands reported we have received our grant contract for 2008. We will be receiving \$109,474 for staffing and \$62,300 for Cost Share projects. Motion by Baier, second by Martinson to approve the SWRM Grant Contract for 2008 and authorize the Committee Chairman to sign and forward the contract to the Finance Department. Motion carried, all ayes.

AIS Transportation Ordinance

Hollands handed out draft copies of the Aquatic Invasive Species Ordinance prepared by Brian Desmond, Corporation Counsel. Discussion followed. Motion by Martinson to accept the resolution as presented without any additional changes at this time. Motion failed, for lack of a second.

Motion by Petroskey, second by Martinson to bring the AIS Transportation Ordinance back for approval at the next month's meeting. Motion defeated, all nays.

Motion by Baier, second by Matteson to move forward with AIS Transportation Ordinance after the necessary typographical changes are made by Brian Desmond, Corporation Counsel, and Jennifer Holman, Oneida County AIS Coordinator. The Committee will then approve and sign the Ordinance and it will be presented for approval at County Board. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Extension Request for 2007 DNR – AIS Grant

Hollands stated there are basically two options;

1. One option is to request a six month extension for the 2007 Grant.
2. The other option is to close the 2007 Grant.

Holman stated that sometimes the use of extensions can cause problems with the grant application process in the future. Discussion followed with the Committee and Holman, AIS Coordinator. Motion by Matteson, second by Martinson to authorize Holman to work with Kevin Gauthier, the Water Resource Management Specialist, to decide which option would work out the best. The Committee also authorized Hollands and Holman to work with Gauthier on the hiring of two LTE's with the 2008 grant. Motion carried, all ayes.

Request for two LTE Watercraft Inspectors

Hollands reported the DNR had granted approval for the Oneida County AIS grant for 2008. Two LTE Watercraft Inspectors were included in the 2008 grant request. Hollands is currently working on the LTE job description. This grant is 75% reimbursed, with the County paying 25%. Hollands explained an LTE is a Limited Term Employee who works 600 hours in a year. Motion by Baier, second by Petroskey to forward the request to the LRES Committee for two LTE Watercraft Inspectors. Motion carried, all ayes.

Update on AIS Grants/Budgets/Activities

Holman reported she would be sponsoring an AIS Booth at Wal-Mart on May 1st in the Sporting Goods Department. Holman called all the Lake Associations and has scheduled meetings from April through June. Holman will be meeting with the Rhinelander City Council and the Mayor on May 12th at 6:00 p.m. Holman will be giving presentations at the Lake Associations for the next several months. She will be giving a presentation at the Lakeland High School on May 16th from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. She will address identification of Aquatic Invasive Species. She will be participating in Eco Trek for youth at Kemp Station on May 13th. A presentation will be given to the Rhinelander Environmental Stewardship Academy on May 23rd. Holman reported she had done several interviews and had several requests for writing columns for magazines.

Hollands requested the Committee approve the printing of 13,000 AIS brochures to be handed out by Holman for presentations and workshops. Hollands stated that Island Bay Printing quoted a price of \$2,260.00. Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey to authorize the printing of 13,000 AIS brochures by Island Bay at a cost of \$2,260.00. Motion Carried, all ayes.

Hollands reported there were surplus funds in the AIS budget for 2007. The Finance Committee approved the carryover of these funds in the amount of \$15,000 from the 2007 AIS budget to the 2008 AIS budget for two LTE Watercraft Inspectors.

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

Mid Lake District – Petroskey reported Mid Lake only has one annual meeting which is held in July.

Thunder Lake District – Gary Baier was just nominated to represent the Thunder Lake District.

Bear Lake District – Martinson reported the developer who is currently trying to build Condos on Bear Lake District has taken his case to Circuit Court.

Horsehead Lake District – Rudolph reported that a meeting was held on April 7th on the update of their lake management study. Rudolph reported that Eurasian Water Milfoil has been found near the boat landing. It was pulled out and removed. They were concerned that AIS may have been brought in by the weed harvester that was used earlier in year. Their annual meeting will be on August 16th.

FSA – Kuczarski reported on current FSA programs and activities.

NRCS – Tom Melnarik, NRCS, reported the farm bill is still being worked on. Until it is finalized most federal agencies are working on a budget from week to week. This puts temporary restrictions on the NRCS budget until the Farm Bill is passed. Langlade and Lincoln County are being serviced by Oneida County's District Conservationist, Julie Malvitz.

LWCD – Hollands reported that she and her staff has been busy finishing year end reports due on the grants, and reconciliation of the County accounts. The Department has just completed the 2009 DATCP grant application and the year-end reconciliation for the 2007 DATCP grant for reimbursement. The Department has been busy working on the petition for the Lake Nokomis District public hearing on May 2nd. Hollands has also been working with the new AIS Coordinator, Jennifer Holman.

UWEX – No one present.

DNR – Ron Eckstein, Wildlife Biologist, gave his report as part of the Wildlife Damage agenda item.

LWCB – Rudolph reported the last meeting of the LWCB was held on April 1st. Rudolph reported Strategic Planning was discussed. Rudolph commented there is talk about eliminating the Farmland Preservation Program. Rudolph participated in a conference call on April 21st concerning Strategic Planning.

WLWCA – Rudolph reported the President, Dale Hood, was not reelected at the April 1st election. Dale Hood will serve until June until a new president is elected. Rudolph stated there are currently 59 counties that belong to WLWCA. A performance evaluation was conducted for the Executive Director, Julian Zelazny. A complete audit was completed and everything went well.

RC&D – Rudolph reported an ad hoc committee has been formed to develop a five-year work plan. They have completed half of the plan so far. Rudolph reported there is a State meeting in Plover on April 29th to go over the State Bylaws. Petroskey reported he had recently attended a RC&D meeting in Minnesota. Petroskey stated it was a very good meeting with a lot of useful information.

Monthly Budget Review

Motion by Petroskey, second by Martinson, to approve the monthly budget summary for December 2007 – Adjustment III for the Land & Water Conservation Department, Wildlife Damage Program, and AIS Program. Motion carried, all ayes.

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

Travel Authorization

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| • April 24 th | AIS Coordinator Meeting | Park Falls |
| • May 2 nd | Lake Nokomis Hearing | Nokomis Town Hall |
| • May 15 th | Lumberjack RC&D Meeting | Lincoln County |

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

Approval of invoices, purchase orders, and line item transfers

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

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

Items for the next meeting agenda

Agenda items to be determined at a later.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m. motion by Martinson, second by Baier. Motion carried, all ayes.

Thomas Rudolph
Chairman

Nancy Hollands
County Conservationist