

**Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee**  
**September 8, 2014**  
**Minutes**

**Committee members present:** Chair Tom Rudolph, Jim Intrepidi, Bob Mott, Scott Holewinski, Robb Jensen, and Clint Zimbeck.

**Others present:** Jean Hansen, Tim Brown, Lynn Feldman, Lynn Grube, Nancy Gehrig, Kim Brown, and Merry Lehner.

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chairman Tom Rudolph noting the meeting has been properly posted and the facility is handicap accessible.

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

**Approve minutes:** Motion by Mott/ Intrepidi to approve the minutes of 8/7/14 as amended. All ayes; motion carried.

**Dates of future meetings:**

10/20/14	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room
11/10/14	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room

Meeting for October was changed to 20<sup>th</sup> from the 13<sup>th</sup> and there were no conflicts with county board meeting following day, 10/21/14, in regard to any pending issues.

**Staffing Requests-Land & Water conservation:**

An update of the Program Assistant, as a new position, was reviewed. It was previously a 40% position as Secretary III and the 60% will be added to it, as new, to make it a full time position at 100%. In June it was decided to present it at 2015 budget time, and Hansen will be following up with LRES on 24<sup>th</sup> of this month. Comments and further discussion ensued. It will be on the agenda for next month for an update.

**2015 Land & Water Budget:**

A new spreadsheet was distributed at meeting due to a formula correction that was made shortly before onset of meeting. Questions on budget were brought up by the Committee and Hansen addressed them. Lengthy discussion followed. Motion made to approve Land and Water Budget by Mott/Intrepidi. Motion was passed with four ayes and two nays.

**Monthly Staff Report:** (Agenda Item 14)

E-commerce Education Report was presented by Tim Brown. This is a new project promoting and developing commercial trade over the internet in Oneida County. There are three types: Business to Consumer, Business to Business, and Consumer to Consumer. For example, a Three Lakes business, Northland Marine, has experimented with E-commerce by selling through Amazon.com and their sales have increased greatly, as a result. A grant for an educational program was available to four counties in Wisconsin and Oneida County was one

of the counties chosen. The counties will instruct small businesses on a monthly basis how to build a web-site, manage it, develop search engines, and social networking. Updates will continue at monthly meetings.

**Farmland Preservation Plan Update:**

Jean Hansen informed Committee that Fred Heider from North Central WI Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) has the maps ready for review. There will be a Farmland Preservation meeting at the Courthouse on September 11, 2014 at 5:30 PM. The meeting has been posted along with a news release to encourage public participation. Discussion on whether Tree Farming or Cranberries are included in Farmland Preservation Program. The benefit for participants is to be eligible for tax credits.

**2015 UW Extension Capital Improvement Proposal:** (Agenda Item 11)

Tim Brown introduced Lynn Grube, from Oneida County IT Department, to present facts on new phone system. This will not be a purchase of a completely new phone system but will add on to the existing data connection T1 line. It will attach to the existing file server, voice mail server at the Courthouse. This is the most affordable option, at \$21,709, which is under the \$25,000 ceiling of Capital Improvement Project and money would come from the General Fund. As such, it will not go through the regular process and could occur in 2015. Half of the expenditure would be for the telephones themselves, \$9,300, for licenses and phone switches. The \$12,404 would go towards replacing existing data switches that are here now, very old, and their ability to be supported ends in 2016 anyway. Therefore, since these switches need replacing, it makes sense to go forward with the plans in 2015. If approved then will go to the Administration meeting next, then the Budget hearing, then to the County Board. Motion to approve proposal was made by Holewinski/Mott. All ayes; motion carried.

**Oneida County Fair Update:** (Agenda Item 13)

Nancy Gehrig reported the 2014 Oneida County Fair was very successful, despite all the other events occurring the same weekend in the community. Admission was down from 20,000 to around 16,500 this year at the gates.

The budget was reviewed. Wristband sales were down this year compared to previous year. Vendor fees and sponsorships were reviewed that helped raise money for the fair. It was announced at the last Fair Board Meeting that Craig Mandli resigned as President of Oneida County Fair Board.

The largest expense is the carnival. Some of the amusement rides were broken and not running so a refund was requested and received. The cost of the fish fry, as requested from last meeting was \$2,920. Profit was \$423; it was a fund raiser where the food was donated by in-kind donations.

More volunteerism needs to be promoted for the 2015 Oneida County Fair. Participants from the county and city are encouraged. Asking for volunteers on the website did not work. High School volunteerism was very low and students need to commit before classes end for the summer.

Salaries of co-coordinators, Nancy Gehrig and Kim Swisher were discussed. Swisher set up the website, however, she resigned May 21, 2014, and Gehrig performed all remaining duties. Gehrig also proposed the purchase of a tent that is for sale versus the current rental of a tent. Motion to pay Gehrig the balance of the money allocated for overseeing the fair, and to have

the county purchase the tent, was made by Holewinski/Intrepidi. All ayes; motion carried.

**County Cost-Share Program Update/Approval:** (Agenda Item 8)

Hansen has some cost estimates coming in for approval by Rudolph where request was made at last meeting regarding conservation practices of land owners. Contract approvals will have to be complete in three more meetings. Planning on getting three landowner cost estimates. No cost estimates to approve today. Funding is a 50/50 split with County and DATCAP.

**Consent Agenda Items:**

Approved out-of-county travel requests

Jean Hansen	9/19/14	WHIP Trees for Tomorrow-Eagle River, Vilas County
	10/02-03	County Conservationist Meeting in Wisconsin Rapids
Michele Sadauskas	9/19/14	Trees for Tomorrow-Eagle River, Vilas County
	9/25/14	Vilas Partnership Meeting, Boulder Junction, Vilas County
Tim Brown	9/11/14	Peer Support Facilitator Training in Madison
	9/25/14	Regional Department Head Training in Merrill
	10/07/14	Network Training in Wausau
Lynn Feldman	9/25/14	Positive Alternative Workshop Day MHLT 6 <sup>th</sup> grade
Kim Brown	9/10/14	Meeting with Jill Hicks, WNEP Coordinator, Portage County
	9/16/14	WNEP Professional Development Day
	9/23-24	Langlade County programming

Approved Monthly budget reports  
Approved Monthly invoices/purchase orders  
Approved Line item transfers

Motion made to approve the consent agenda items by Intrepidi/Mott. All ayes; motion carried.

**Agency reports:**

Lake Districts: No new report from Lake Nokomis, Bear Lake, and Mid Lake. Horsehead Lake did not harvest weeds and will use money saved for additional fish stock.

USDA: No new report.

FSA: No new report.

NRCS: No one present to report.

OCEDC: No one present to report.

LWCD: No new report.

WLWCA: Rudolph is no longer on this board. Changed name to WI Land+Water

RC&D: Meeting coming up later this month.

WACEC: Looking for volunteers to attend the public leadership development conference in Washington DC in April. WACEC members go with the Dean and Associate Dean of UW Extension to attend meetings and learn about similar programs around the country.

**2015 UW Extension Budget:**

The Fair budget will stay the same as last year. The UW-Extension budget reflects the personnel costs down \$14,000 less due to a shift from full time to part time support staff. The state agents received a pay raise through the state contribution. Budget reflects the anticipated Family Living Agent position being filled next year. Motion to approve both the Fair and UW-Extension budgets was made by Holewinski/Jensen. All ayes; motion carried.

Jean Hansen, Nancy Gehrig, and Clint Zimbeck were excused at 4:40 p.m.

**Summary of Meeting Times Survey Results:**

Survey was implemented to measure public opinion regarding the time of day at which the County Board should conduct meetings. The resulting survey summarized the demographic data and the proportion that answered the questions. The survey was posted on the county website for two months, the link was shared with the local media, people at the fair were surveyed, and it was given to every county board supervisor to share with constituents. Conclusions suggest that County Board would see greater attendance at public meetings in the evening. Comments were made that 256 responses does not represent a true random survey, and that respondents were those who favored evening meetings. The best determination would be to hold a few meetings in the evenings and measure attendance. Some night meetings were held in 1989 and it there was not an influx of people and it was more money to hold them in the evening. Winter and driving distances affected attendance. It was asked whether the results shall be forwarded to the County Board; it was agreed to do so, no formal motion required.

**Air Quality/Office Space Report:**

There still continues to be reports by employees of smelling fumes, lightheadedness, and not feeling well. This is being documented. Changes will begin mid-October, per Building and Grounds, which will include vent cleaning and the construction of a wall. UW-Extension signs will be posted outside and inside airport directing visitors of our location. LuAnn Brunette, Building and Grounds, also informed Brown last week that a capital improvement project request has been approved to redesign, renovate and update the space UW-Extension occupies at the airport.

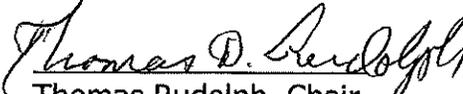
**Public comment:**

Interviews for the Family Living Agent are at UW-Extension on October 9, 2014. Support Staff positions are filled; by Merry Lehner and Ann Williams starts on September 22, 2014.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Intrepidi/Mott to adjourn at 4:51 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Merry J Lehner, Recording Secretary

  
Thomas Rudolph, Chair