

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee

May 11, 2015

Amended Minutes

Committee members present: Tom Rudolph, Bob Mott, Robb Jensen, Scott Holewinski, Jim Intrepidi, and Kim Simac.

Others present: Jean Hansen, Michele Sadauskas, Lynn Feldman, Sara Richie, Joel Knutson, and Merry Lehner.

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

Approve Agenda: A motion was by Jensen/Mott to approve today's agenda with the order of the items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve Minutes: A motion by Intrepidi/Jensen to approve the minutes of 4/13/15. All ayes; motion carried.

Date(s) of future meetings:

June 8, 2015 1:30 p.m. Extension meeting room

July 16, 2015 1:30 p.m. Extension meeting room

WEEB Grant Update

Sadauskas reported that last week they received a grant from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board for \$5,230. The program will target 1,400 students, 4th- 6th grade, where they will develop an AIS blog, have live streaming into the classroom, and field experiences between Ashland County and Oneida County students. They will use grant money towards a video camera, tablet, curriculum, and busing costs.

Farmland Preservation Plan Update

Hansen reported that the County application for the Farmland Preservation Plan certification has to be signed by Brian Desmond. She and Karl Jennrich will be meeting with Desmond on Thursday morning to follow up. After DATCP approval they will make one Resolution County Board approval. Approval of Farmland Preservation Plan Resolution has not occurred yet.

Approval of the Year end Summary Reports

A review of the year end close papers and line item transfers that took place before the audit were shared with the Committee. Discussion followed. A motion was made by Intrepidi/Mott to approve the presented reports. All ayes; the motion was carried.

Forward Services Work Study Resolution

Forward Services is an agency that provides work experience for people seeking help in finding a job. The Work Study position would come from Forward Services via Job Service as an applicant who would offer work for the Land and Water office. A decision was made by Hansen to utilize this position at a later time.

NCWRPC Study Results

Hansen stated that the hire of an LTE position for Land and Water has been tentatively approved. Mott stated that the request was for \$7,500 for an LTE of 487 hours to start as soon as possible, pending approval by Administration. This would be delayed until after the LRES meeting tomorrow. Hansen felt that currently neither Forestry nor Planning and Zoning have additional staff that could assist Land and Water in the capacity that would be helpful. Rudolph said he spoke with Dennis Lawrence regarding the upcoming meeting tomorrow, which is the Joint Meeting with LRES Committee. Sadauskas commented that while at the Lakes Convention, a person from Calumet County said they had a consolidation with reduced staff and it did not

seem to work for them. They would prefer to go back to a stand-alone department. Tom Rudolph spoke with someone in Chippewa County and their merger has worked in some areas. In many cases, however, the focus for Land and Water Conservation has been minimized or reduced. The main focus ends up being on regulatory issues and mandates and zoning restrictions. Hansen passed out a sheet listing the pros and cons of having a stand-alone department to the committee. They had previously received the same listing of pros and cons as a merged department. Jensen initiated a discussion on the disadvantages of keeping a separate department versus the advantages. Discussion about the cost effectiveness of either choice was also discussed. If there were to be a department merge or if the department remained as is, there will be additional costs involved. It was pointed out by Mott that all this initially came about because additional staff was requested. Additional personnel will be needed in either scenario.

Interim CNRED Position Update

Tom Schmitz participated in this update segment via Google Hangout regarding the interim CNRED position. This LTE employment will continue full-time through August 31, 2015. A position description was distributed to the Committee Members explaining that the position would be posted in mid-June. It would close in mid-July. Interviews will be in August and the permanent agent would be on board by October. Initial focus will be on Natural Resources protection along with the duties that were listed from the Visioning Session. As a Committee, they will have to agree on the language of this initial position. Additional requirements will be determined, as Will Andresen described in the Visioning Session, as identified needs. The hope is to keep agents in these positions for a long time.

Comments were made that there needed to be a larger representation and input from businesses in the Visioning Session than what occurred. It was asked if this could be looked into further. The Committee directed UW-Extension to send out a survey to county businesses to get their feedback on what the CNRED position initial focus should be. Schmitz stated this would slow down the hiring process but it could be done. Feldman asked how many businesses would they like feedback from for this task.

A question was raised regarding how the position vacancy would be affected by the \$3 million budget cut to the UW System. Schmitz said there would be a 7% hold and that this position is already in the cue as an open position. Local office positions tally up to around 80 people. There are some Administration and Specialist positions that shall remain if their performance is there. It was pointed out that they would not be going forward with this position if it were to be cut. It is clear that this position will be filled. A discussion regarding salary took place. Pay would be different for a candidate who had a Master's degree but no experience versus someone who had both. The budgeted salary range would be between \$43,000 to \$50,000 depending on qualifications, experience and other factors. Discussion followed. The interview and hiring process was described to the Committee. Because the salary range is set by UW Extension, Schmitz will determine salary not the county. What is needed now is to decide on a top range figure for the salary so they can go ahead with the hire. For this year, with two positions being vacant, the budget will be fine, but for 2016 the impact will be seen by a few thousand dollars when the office is fully staffed.

A motion was made to post the position at \$48,000 by Mott and seconded by Intrepidi. However, after further discussion, an *amended* motion was made to post the position at \$45,000 to \$48,000 by Jensen/Mott. The motion carried; all ayes.

Schmitz now has the go ahead to post the position. An additional motion was made by Jensen to approve the position vacancy as soon as possible. It was seconded by Holewinski. The motion carried.

Schmitz asked about if any progress had been made with the air quality issue. Feldman commented that air quality was not on the agenda today. Schmitz requested to be kept updated on this issue.

2014 Continuing Appropriation Balances

Land Conservation discussed balances forwarded from last year.

Consent Agenda Items:

Several clarifications were made to the committee and noted. A motion by Jensen to approve the consent agenda items as presented and was seconded by Mott. All ayes; motion was approved with the changes presented.

Agency Reports

Lake held their meeting, which Mott attended, and their annual meeting is scheduled on the 4th of July. The weed harvester may be replaced. The meeting for Lake Nokomis is scheduled for next week. Horsehead Lake's meeting will be in July. Bear Lake had its meeting on April 28th and the minutes will be forwarded next month. Simac stated that FSA programs are still available and the discussion of a Rhinelander office is still open. No decision has been made on that yet.

Holewinski inquired if all ATV clubs could be asked to put groups together from the county and if they can collaborate on actual trail projects. Knutson replied that he had collaborated with club groups for trail development and a grant was approved but was put on hold. Its goal was to get clubs north of the North Central Region and clubs south of Portage/Wood Counties together to share information, best practices, user groups and multi-sport activities and trail development. All people deserve access to trails in the county. The only club in Oneida County active on this is the Enterprise Club. These clubs would have to navigate state and federal requirements. Further discussion took place.

Three Lakes Opportunity with Oneida/Vilas County

There was no one to make comment on what this agenda item.

Agent Report

Sara Richie reported on her Needs Assessment of Oneida County. She previously had reviewed the organizations, schools, social services, and other programs where she met with people to find out what programs currently exist in the community and who they are currently serving. She wanted to find out where there are gaps in the community and what is being offered and who they work with. She also wanted to know what challenges are being faced in the community whether it was economic, substance abuse services, etc. Common trends found a need for parent education programs, healthy aging programs for seniors, food safety and canning, healthy living, and a budget education program for low income individuals. She has completed her 2 year work plan for the state. Her focus will be on Healthy Living among vulnerable populations in Oneida County, where The Strong Bones Program will target older adults for strength training. Another area will be a nutrition and disease prevention program. Other departments are not specifically offering what she will be offering but her programs would complement these existing programs. She is also looking to get involved in Cancer Clear and Simple. Oneida County has the second highest incident rating of cancer in the state and this new program through the Extension will be involved with this. Further details on various programs for the community were discussed.

Public Comments

No comments.

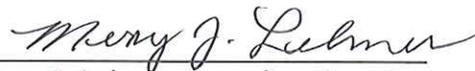
Items to include on next agenda

Updates on Study Results, CNRED position, Oneida County Fair, Office Space/Air Quality.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Intrepidi and Holewinski seconded it. All ayes and meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary



Thomas Rudolph, Committee Chair