

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
November 09, 2015
Minutes

Committee members present: Chairman Tom Rudolph, Bob Mott, Robb Jensen. Kim Simac, Scott Holewinski, and Jean Hansen were excused. Jim Intrepidi was absent.

Others present: Lynn Feldman, Sara Richie, Myles Alexander, Karl Jennrich, Michelle Sadauskas, Dave Hintz, Brian Paynter, and Merry Lehner.

Call to order: Due to not having a quorum at the time the meeting started, Chairman Rudolph opted to go ahead and cover agenda items not needing motions.

UWEX Staff Report – Master Gardener Program

Merry Lehner presented on the Master Gardener Program and how to qualify to take the Level 1 Training Course. The UW-Extension Master Gardener Program provides horticultural training to adults who, in turn, volunteer with horticulture-related projects that benefit their local community with program support from the County Extension office. Master Gardeners are volunteers trained by UW-Extension specialists and agents in the field of horticulture. In return for their training, Master Gardeners volunteer to help with UW-Extension educational programs on gardening topics in various community service projects. There currently are 48 Certified Master Gardeners volunteering in our county. Additional people, who have not kept up their certification, continue to volunteer their time and attend the meetings. UW-Extension Oneida County is scheduling a Master Gardener Training class to residents in March of 2016.

Introduction of New CNRED Agent

Myles Alexander gave an update on his first week. He wrote a piece for the UW-Extension Newsletter introducing himself and submitted one to the newspaper as well. He has sent out invitations to the Committee to meet with him one on one. He has also reached out to others in the community to get to know them. Later this week he will attend 2015 Cooperative Extension State Conference November 11-13 Wednesday through Friday. His goal for the next few months will be to listen, understand and see where he fits, where there are strengths to build on and relationships to facilitate. Rudolph said that the Committee will be meeting with him to go over priorities and expectations on December 16, 2015. The Committee members will start meeting with Alexander individually in the next several weeks. Alexander will be meeting the County Board Members.

Deer Program: There was no further action required by the Committee on this agenda item.

Oneida County Fair Update: No update available today.

Phone Update

ShoreTel Communication system has successfully been installed and the staff is very happy to have it in place. The Citrix system is to be installed by the end of the year. It will improve our connection to the county network. It will also enable users to access files remotely; however the agent's state owned laptops do not have Citrix installed. Note: Citrix will not improve internet service, but with Charter now available, our internet connection will be able to support the operation of Citrix.

Call to order and Announcements:

The meeting was officially called to order by Chairman Rudolph at 1:50 p.m. noting the meeting has been properly posted and the facility is handicap accessible. County Board Chairman, Hintz, arrived so the Committee would have a quorum.

Rudolph is on the Conservation Hall of Fame, Board of Directors, where they had their Wisconsin annual meeting last Saturday. They reviewed six nominees for next spring's inductions into the Conservation Hall of Fame. Rudolph, while reviewing the nominee's biographies, found a quote he wished to share. It said, "Most of us are put on this earth to do one simple thing, and that is to be a good ancestor both from a biological and moral standpoint. We cannot and must not do less."

Approve Agenda: Motion was made by Jensen/Mott to approve the agenda with the order of the items at the Chair's discretion, with the understanding that some items have been covered that required no action. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve Minutes: Motion by Mott/Jensen to approve the minutes of 10/12/15. All ayes; motion carried.

Broadband Update

Roger Luce met with Myles Alexander to review the current issues and the vision of broadband. Luce should know by later this week about the pending grants. Some of the grants were turned down due to not being scalable projects. This was related to the amount of megabytes used where the state can meet the federal standards as data amounts change. They will be upgrading the current project they've been working on for the past year so that it will be scalable. It is also a part of the pending grant application. There were \$4.4 million in requests for grants, just in Wisconsin, where \$1.5 million was available in funds. More telecom companies applied for grants this time around. Centurylink will be doing work in the next 24 months in the Three Lakes area.

The news out of Three Lakes is that there is no broadband service for people located to the North and North East side of town. There may be a group addressing this at the next budget hearing to include towers in this year's budget.

Date(s) of future meetings:

December 14, 2015	1:30 p.m.	UWEX Conference room
January 11, 2016	1:30 p.m.	UWEX Conference room

Rudolph requested that Committee members please let others know in advance if they are not able to attend the meeting.

LWCD and P & Z Department Merger:

Karl Jennrich spoke with Planning and Development Committee and presented the organization chart to them. No other updates have occurred since the last meeting. Hansen is out of the office due to unforeseen circumstances. The item will stay on agenda for the next meeting.

Cost Share Update/Approval of Projects:

Michelle Sadauskas reviewed the 2015 Cost Share participants' status. There are funds remaining of \$3,387.00 and if one participant has not completed their deposit by Friday, there will be a balance of \$8,887.00 available. Last year they had two big projects that were costly, but this year they have

four smaller projects. The cap is \$7,500.00, but this year the participants and projects will not meet the funding levels. The question was proposed to the Committee whether to keep this money in-house. She asked if they would like to consider lifting the cap of \$7,500.00 for this year. They could allocate this money to the existing projects. They have contacted all the participants. The report also listed cost share inquiries for 2016 and those people will not be considered for this year. Mott moved that remaining monies be offered equally to the 2015 participants. Dave Hintz seconded the motion. All ayes; motion approved.

There was further discussion on Phase 2 projects where participants having a large tract of lands might be eligible for further funding. This would involve people who had a grant from the year before and apply for a second grant, as phase two, the following year, to complete the shoreline project. This has been offered in the past to participants who had a large project, so they could complete it. The Committee will consider this situation (phase 1/phase 2 projects) on a project-by-project basis. New monies would certainly be considered for new participants first, but final decisions would be made by the Committee on a case by case basis.

LRES/LWC/P&Z Meeting:

It was felt that no necessary follow up is needed at this time. It is too early to rate whether the merger is a success at this time. Some sort of evaluation process could be put together this winter. There should be some minutes generated before the March election process, so there is a record in place. A joint meeting should be scheduled prior to April 1, 2016. Rudolph asked that Karl, Lynn and Jean put this together, where Myles will facilitate.

Consent Agenda Items-Land and Water:

The Consent Agenda Items were approved as presented for Out of County Travel. Since Hansen is currently on medical leave, Jennrich will attend the WHIP meeting on Friday, November 20, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. Jensen/Mott moved to approve the Land and Water consent agenda items as proposed with the inclusion of Jennrich attending the meeting. All ayes; motion approved.

Agency Reports as needed:

Lake Districts: Bear Lake will meet Saturday, November 14 at Hazlehurst Town Hall. Mid Lake has no report since July. Horse Head Lake is meeting on Thursday, November 12 in Lake Tomahawk. A clarification was made about the difference of a lake association, which is supported by membership dues and a lake district, which is a taxing authority.

WACEC: There was a state board meeting last Friday, November 6, in Plover, WI. The meeting gave an update on plans for the UW-Extension Offices as a result of the state budget cuts. There will be a structural re-organization. Where there are currently stand-alone county offices, the plan for the future will be clusters of two or three counties working together. It is designed to be more efficient. Dean Klemme looks at this as an opportunity to be more effective in receiving mutual county support. Larger population centers would remain as they are. Most of this will start in January, 2016. One of first changes will be to cluster department head roles. Some of this will not be phased in until 2017. The North Central WACEC meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 8th, 2016, at the Waters in Minocqua. Committee members are urged to attend. Mott is on the planning committee for the upcoming WACEC convention in June, 2016 in Wausau. The re-structuring will be a primary topic at that convention.

Air Quality Update:

Feldman said a Wis-Line phone conference was held last week. Joe Brauer and Tom Schmitz participated along with two individuals from the state. They were from the Risk Management department and the UW-Budget Office. Currently the negative pressure fans still have not been adjusted. Brauer will be in contact with ARCAD regarding the fans. Monitoring will continue. Two reports were filed for October. The Fire department will be coming with testing equipment in January. An additional test will be set up in early February. There are now "No Smoking" signs posted at the entrance of the west side of the building. Currently, diesel fumes, when present, appear to be coming from elsewhere. In the past exhaust from the tugs in the luggage area seeped into the building when the garage doors were closed. Cold weather is when fumes are a problem. Previous testing for fumes was taken during fair weather. The debris issue has been resolved.

Oneida County Fair Update:

Intrepidi was not present to report. Feldman offered updates. The focus of the Fair touched on issues that will help the Fair become self sustainable. They will stay with same carnival. They are looking at further grant potential opportunities. Myles has been asked to help with this. Admission charge is another topic that will be addressed as the Committee has requested that this be looked into. It will propose to charge adults but not children, an admission at the gates. DRI ran the beer stand in past and will no longer do so due to cuts in their programing. The Tavern League will look into doing this. Volunteers will be needed in much larger numbers.

CNRED Position Meeting:

This meeting is rescheduled to December 16, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. A notice to all will be sent out.

Consent Agenda Items – UW-Extension:

A review of the consent agenda items took place. A Motion by Mott/Jensen to approve the UW-Extension consent agenda items was made. All ayes; motion approved.

Public Comments:

Mott recognized Feldman for her great work at the 4-H Banquet. Anne Williams had put together the awards. It was a very nice affair.

Two excellent candidates were interviewed for WNEP; Mott stated that both were well qualified.

Items to include on next agenda

Cost Share, LWC /P&Z update, Approve Minutes of October 26, 2015 CNRED Position Description Priorities, Air Quality, Broadband, County Fair update.

Adjournment

Motion by Jensen/Hintz to adjourn at 3:35 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,


Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary


Thomas Rudolph, Committee Chair