

**Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee  
September 12, 2016 Amended Minutes**

**Committee members present:** Chairman Bob Mott, Robb Jensen, Jim Winkler, Kim Simac and Mitchell Ives. Alan Van Raalte excused.

**Others present:** Michele Sadauskas, Rosie Page, Baerbel Ehrig, Lynn Feldman, Myles Alexander, Sara Richie, Celie Borndal, Theresa Seabloom, Tom Peterson, Kathy Silbernagel, Nancy Gehrig, Kevin Boneski, and Merry Lehner.

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mott at 1:00 p.m. noting the meeting has been properly posted and the facility is handicap accessible.

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

**Approve Minutes:** Motion by Winkler/Ives to approve the 8/8/16 meeting minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

**Date(s) of future meetings:**

Tuesday, Oct 4, 2016	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room
Nov 7, 2016	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room

**Approval of WHIP Lumberjack RC & D Grant:**

Rosie Page reviewed the grant application proposal to the Lumberjack RC&D for funding of WHIP. WHIP is made up of Oneida County representatives and over eight other Northern counties. Lumberjack provides funding to natural resource projects. WHIP will need to submit their application by October 13, 2016. WHIP is non-profit made up of fifteen partner groups such as the Land and Water, the DNR, the Forest Service and others. Their mission is to offer education on invasive terrestrial species and they are funded entirely through grants. Their fiscal manager is the Lumberjack group who they have been partnering with since 2009. They are seeking funding for an invasive terrestrial species survey at the Heal Creek property. Most invasive species threaten native plants which are spread predominately along transportation corridors. The plants adhere to car tires, trailers, bikes, hiking boots, and make their way along the east-west corridor of Highway 8. The location of project will be at the newly proposed recreation area, Heal Creek, whose northern border runs along Highway 8. Their proposal is to request assistance for funding to complete an invasive species inventory. The property is 272 acres which was purchased in 2015 with a cooperative agreement between Hodag Sports Club, the City of Rhinelander, the Town of Crescent, Oneida County and private landowners. Year-round recreational trails will be developed for a wide range of users. WHIP would work with Heal Creek developing a sustainable forest and trails management plan where terrestrial invasive species control is a primary concern, setting a statewide example in effective public-private forestry and TIS management. The survey results will be shared with landowners, trails people. WHIP is requesting \$1,908.00 from Lumberjack RC&D which is roughly 38% of the total budget for the Heal Creek Property project. This amount will cover wages of 56 hours of labor and also include signs to post, mileage expenses. Financial need is significant. WHIP is restricted where they can go for grant funding. They are not eligible for \$40,000 most other groups get. They have a 100% match for funding. If invasives are found, small control projects can be implemented using help from high school students, for example, to eradicate the plants. Trail groups will help as well. A motion was made for approval of the 2017 WHIP application to Lumberjack RC&D for funding of Heal Creek Invasive Species Survey and Outreach by Jensen and seconded by Winkler. All ayes, motion approved.

**Agent Report:**

Baerbel Ehrig, Project Coordinator, gave an update on the Pollinator Project. This project was also funded by Lumberjack RC&D and by the Three Lakes Winery. An overview of the four sites was presented and all are

within the town limits of Three Lakes. The criteria of the sites included that they must have public exposure so people could familiarize themselves with the project, they had to be on a roadside and it had to be on a town or county road. Volunteers are required to work on the projects. Ehrig presented the four sites where she provided before and after photos and described what work was done on each site. The first site at the Three Lakes Winery had to physically remove sod and then introduce pollinator plant species. The second site at Thunder Lake Marsh placed plants into existing vegetation. The other two sites on County Rd A and Military Road have been covered with black plastic to eliminate invasive species and weeds. The plastic will have to stay on for one growing season before plantings can be introduced. Last fall seeds were collected and then planted this spring, which were then transplanted to the first two sites. Education outreach efforts include the placement of signs posted at the sites informing the public about the project and there have been several presentations. Ehrig spoke at the Green Space in Rhinelander in July hosted by the US Forest Service. On August 26 the Roadside Pollinator Habitat Improvement Project, an Oneida County/Three Lakes partnership, hosted a workshop at the Reiter Center in Three Lakes. There was a garden tour presented through Pollinators of Northwoods. Preliminary results show a survival rate of 95% for the pollinator plants. The majority of plants have bloomed with few weeds emerging. Monarch caterpillars have appeared on the milkweed. The second planting stage will begin the last two weeks in September. Volunteers will assist from Three Lake High School. The project will continue as they monitor the four sites. Public interest in plant identification and how to start pollinator-friendly gardens has increased with this project. Future plans will include more education outreach to fuel more interest from people. Future plans include working with other counties and building the capacity for larger regional grant for the summer of 2017. Page was excused at 1:30

#### **2017 Lumberjack RC&D Grant Application (pollinator Phase II):**

Sadauskas spoke with participants about the next phase of the pollinator project. They would like approval for the Lumberjack RC&D Grant for 2017. The topics to be concentrated on are more education outreach. They made good progress in getting the word out on their accomplishments and the public is responding. They had 25 participants for the conference in Three Lakes. They would like to ask Lumberjack for 250 hours and a \$5,000.00 grant. LTE wages will take up \$4,000 of that grant money so that they can continue with outreach and connecting community about the project. This is what they will forward to Lumberjack with this Committee's approval. Ultimately, they would like to build a regional grant for 2017 involving multi-county participation. They would like to see the community involved in the creation of new gardens and increase volunteer capacity. They would like this LTE to work with the public in this regard. There are two parts to this request. First, they are requesting for approval to apply for Lumberjack grant and second they would need approval for the staffing request form. A motion was made by Winkler to support the staffing request for Land and Water for an LTE position based on the Lumberjack grant as presented, pending approval, to continue the pollinator garden work. The motion was seconded by Ives. All ayes; motion approved.

#### **WDNR Lake Classification and Ordinance Development Grant Application:**

Sadauskas reviewed the information packet and gave a short summary of the grant, where their focus will be on lake protection. For the department to reach their goals for the 2017 Annual Land and Water Resource Management Work Plan, they will need to hire more staff. This DNR program supports staffing costs. The grant money is less sought after than most grants and is available to counties only. The focus of the grant is best management practices, educational outreach, and protecting /improving water quality. The application will request \$50,000 to support one LTE for two years or 1,200 hours per year. Mileage and supply costs are included. The application is due on 12/10/16 and staffing requisitions need completion. All of this is based on the work-plan that was presented last month. There is a need for additional staff. If they do not receive the grant they will not be able to add this new position. Winkler moved that they support the 2017 Surface Water Planning Grant as presented for approval. Jensen seconded the motion. All ayes; motion approved.

#### **WHIP Update:**

Sadauskas announced that she is the new chair of WHIP. They now have a full board for WHIP. The group discussed that they would like to request Committee attendance for monthly meetings. It would be good to

have a Committee perspective on projects. The WHIP positions are totally grant funded. Jensen made a motion that at least one Committee member attend the WHIP meetings with confirmation through the Committee Chair. Winkler seconded the motion. All ayes; motion approved.

#### **Cost Share Update:**

A handout listing the 2016 active cost share projects and the 2017 pending cost share projects was in the information packets. Sadauskas said they are pulling the projects together for 2016. DATCP funding decreased \$7,500 for 2017, which equates to one less project funded with 2017 monies. All projects are signed and deposits made for 2016. Permits are the only challenge.

#### **LWRM - Three Year Extension:**

This is an information only update that they received the documentation showing approval of the extension of the land and water resource management plan through December 31, 2019.

#### **LWCD 2017 Department Budget:**

The budget was reviewed. There are three different break downs showing the particular divisions Land Conservation, Wildlife Damage, and AIS program budgets. The Wildlife Damage is funded fully through the State and AIS is a grant based program with the exception of the coordinator. The only tax levy is for the coordinator wages and benefits. The Land and Water part of the department will come under budget and the tax levy was not increased. A motion was made to approve the 2017 Land Water budget as presented by Jensen and seconded by Ives. All ayes; motion approved.

#### **Consent Agenda Items – Land & Water**

Sadauskas will not be going to WHIP meeting on September 16 due to attending Fish Sticks Training in Spooner, WI. There will be no Cover Crop Meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Jensen made motion to approve the Out of County travel requests were presented with the two mentioned changes discussed, Simac seconded motion. All ayes; motion carried. A motion was made by Jensen and seconded by Mott to approve consent agenda for items B through D for Land and Water. All ayes; motion carried.

#### **Agency Report:**

Lake Districts: Jensen said Bear Lake District had their annual meeting September 10 and he was unable to attend and a commissioner meeting is scheduled for December. Horsehead Lake had annual meeting. No need to harvest weeds this year, but a lake study is pending and they anticipate mowing weeds next year so voted to increase their levy. Winkler visited Thunder Lake and looked at the dam issues. He will review Wisconsin statutes that the district must meet four times per year to be in compliance. Mid Lake had their annual meeting July 22; Mott could not attend.

FSA: Simac said it is a good harvest. No rain needed, it makes the harvesting difficult.

NRCS: NRCS has two programs. One is called Environmental Quality Program (EQIP) is a practice based program. If there is soil erosion, for example, they will fix it with a practice and pay through cost sharing. Conservation Stewardship is a reward program. It a large program nationally, enrolling 70 million acres in the USA. The Five year program requires maintenance and conservation management. The program is split into Agriculture for farms, pasture and crops and Forest lands. For this area most applications are for forestry contracts. The program is changing this year to be easier to enroll. The rollout will be in November. Sheets with the talking points were shared and asked that the Committee get the word out about this program. A press release will go out soon. This is for private land owners where a minimum payment of \$1,500 per year is paid out so over five years this is a chunk of money. Wildlife enhancement is promoted. It is a self-certifying program where documentation is required annually from landowners.

Ehrig, Borndal and Simac excused at 2:15 p.m.

### **Consent Agenda Items – UW-Extension:**

A motion made by Jensen and Winkler to approve the UW-Extension Consent agenda B through D. All ayes; motion passed. For item A, Out-of-County travel to Montreal for International Association of Public Participation Conference, was questioned on how it would benefit the County and asked if vacation time would be used. Alexander is a board member of the Association and travel is covered. The State will pay for accommodations and he has never used vacation time to attend a conference. The State Region is supporting this travel and its benefit to CNRED goals. The program is not available within the State. Public meetings held last Thursday are an example of the importance of people understanding meeting formats. There is value in professional development meetings. The County approved a board member to attend a meeting in Vancouver. Mott asked for a vote making a motion to approve Out-of-County travel for Alexander including the trip to Montreal. Winkler seconded the motion. Three ayes and one nay (from Jensen); motion carried. Jensen made motion to approve the other Out-of-County travel as presented, Winkler seconded it. All Ayes; motion approved. Sadauskus excused at 3 p.m.

### **Oneida County Fair-Money Appropriation Resolution:**

At the direction of the Committee, a resolution was to be drawn up to support the funding of Fair personnel. Jim Winkler spoke with Brian Desmond about paying personnel. People at the courthouse do not have to go out and raise their funds for a paycheck. The Fair should not have to raise the money to pay their wages. This resolution is to support two LTEs, the Secretary and Treasurer, and Fair Coordinator. Since we have no county fairgrounds, it is equitable to offer a wage commitment. Fair personnel wages are a constant each year where other factors are not consistent year to year. The City is looking at strategic planning on how to best utilize park grounds throughout the city. The City wanted to see a five year commitment from the County to keep the Fair at Pioneer Park. Electrical improvements are still an issue there as well. These two issues have come together at the same time, although separate issues. The County is reducing the funds to the Fair, trying to make it self-sustainable, and funding is now down to \$13,500. The resolution is asking for increase in funding to \$21,130 which would cover wages. The Committee is reluctant to support a five year increase because of how it would affect tax levy. The Committee can recommend, but cannot project what the County budget will be for the next five years. Perhaps the County cannot fund for five years straight. The County continues to ask for more cuts. Funding remains an issue and it makes it difficult. If admission was charged of \$1.00, Mott said, we would not be having this conversation now. What happened to a Fair Funding Committee? Feldman said the main reason was that the Fair is not a 501 3(c). Winkler discussed becoming a non-profit entity with Desmond who said he is not an expert in this field. He advised we find a lawyer who specializes in this field. Other Fairs have been designated 501 3 (c). If the Fair were to be self-funded there will be a draw out the UW-Extension funding if that switch were made. It is not a bad thing but it will have to be done. Also, in-kind money is not accounted for in a constructive way. In-Kind favors are not sustainable. If those figures drop, then that will affect Fair. The carnival contract changed to a one year obligation, where nothing is paid up front and the carnival pays the Fair 20% on sales. This was an improvement from previous years. The Fair is looking at other ways to bring in money. Left over money is carried over and posted to general funds and not to the Fair budget. That amount is \$5,684.00. The proposed Fair budget of \$21,130.00 will be presented to the County and the second issue of the five year commitment will be a separate item. It is too difficult to agree on both. The two cannot be mixed into the same agreement. The Committee will have to ask if the County Board supports the Fair and if so to what extent. What is an agreeable monetary amount? If this resolution is put before the Board, does it answer the question or does it need to be approached differently. The five year commitment cannot be supported. The Fair does not pay anything to improve the infrastructure. The City will do upgrades.

The resolution is difficult to approve at this time. Mott recommends not going forward with resolution. The proposed budget will be presented first. He would like to see the Fair to explore 501 3 (c). Tom Peterson said he would look into this. Then perhaps a big business will help the Fair. Alexander will help find out what the City needs, since that situation has changed. It was agreed not finalize the resolution until the budget goes through. A motion was made to table the resolution by Jensen and Ives seconded it. All ayes; motion carried.

Silbernagel was excused at 3:10 p.m.

#### **Fair Planning Committee Update on 2016 Fair:**

Gehrig felt that the 2016 Fair was the best ever. All of this was accomplished on a very minimal budget. With the new addition of entertainment offered through the Milwaukee Bucks, a free acrobatic basketball group called the Bangal Road trip Team performed on Saturday afternoon. She will be checking if they can return next year. The other new event was the performance of the Native American dancers. It was a very successful and brought different people into the Fair. Another Fair meeting scheduled for September 6. They will compile the Fair accounts with what they currently have in. The final figures will not be in until November.

#### **UW-Extension FAIR 2017 Budget:**

The 2017 Fair budget will cover the three salaries for the secretary, treasurer, and coordinator, and liability insurance in amount of \$561.00 for the coordinator. There would be an increase of \$7,633.00 from this year. Feldman presented the figure of \$21,130.00 for the Fair budget as discussed earlier. Winkler made motion to approve the Fair budget as presented. Ives seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

#### **UW-Extension Department 2017 Budget:**

There will be a variance on what Administration will see what the Committee sees today. They will see the 2016 appropriated funds and will not see the appropriated funds numbers in the column from the worksheet distributed to the Committee today. Feldman worked the latter in preparing the 2017 budget figure. Administration will receive the original 2016 requested budget. This is related the payment for contracts that crossed over from December 31, 2015. That was an error that had to be corrected related to the State operating on a different fiscal year than that of the County. There is no money lost, but it is just that we ended up over last year by the amount, that will have to be added in this year. It will show up in October where it will look like Extension is asking for \$18,970 more, but we are not. That was money left over after the 2015 budget and it will be needed. The impact on the tax levy will be amount of \$19,427, but this is in the accounting. It is a delayed impact where really it will be a wash, as the end result. It is a delay in the wash. There is no money lost. The Finance department advised Feldman that she will have to explain the variance at the budget review. Winkler made motion to accept UW- Extension budget of \$192,398 and Jensen seconded motion. All ayes; motion carried.

Fair Board Members were excused at 3:50 p.m.

#### **Work place Environment Relocation Options Update:**

In past two weeks the staff viewed several properties. The most recent is a property that is for sale, not for rent. One Prospect is owned by Potawatomi and permission would be needed to rent, but the owners prefer to sell it. It has adequate space of 2,100 square feet. We have not received any further word from the Head Start property. Per Building and Grounds, we can look at prospective properties but will need financial approval from Administration and LRES on properties for the financial aspect and related contracts for moving to another building. Building and Grounds will continue to monitor any county building options if available. On Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup>, Feldman will go before Administrative Committee with the motion from this Committee regarding the financial impact of moving out of this building. Buildings viewed so far are about the same in cost. Brauer distributed a financial from the airport. A related aspect is the final outcome of the nEXT generation re-organization. Provost Aaron Brower and Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, Steve Wildeck, will speak to the full County Board next week. Mott spoke to Joe Brauer and the shortfall of the vacant offices at airport will be \$40,193.00. Mott encouraged him to seek out any new organization that might be interested in the office space. He will be talking with realtors about parties who could rent out this space. If this space is occupied, neither city nor county would take a hit. Mott addressed alternate space options. He spoke with Sadauskas about alternate space that might be available when the summertime people her department are gone as an option for Extension staff. Mott said we need to provide an environment where people will not go home ill. Winkler gave name of an engineer, who specializes in different area, but his

company works on air related issues. The engineer completed a walk-through the Extension offices building and pointed out several options. Money has been spent to improve conditions by the airport and we are grateful for that. At some point, the general feeling is that we should cut our losses. Mott asked for follow-up on the Head Start building and about rental of the garage space. Richie said renovations there would be to owner's discretion. The owner would lease garage for \$8/square foot and \$10/square foot. It came out to \$43,000 per year excluding heat and light.

Sadauskas excused at 4:00 p.m.

**Technology Update:**

The support staff computer crashed at a critical time when Fair premium information was being processed. The hard drive had to be replaced but it is up and running again. The refurbished computer had just been received in March. The usual "slow" continues to be the norm.

**UW-Extension Reorganization Update:**

As of November 1, 2016, Dean Rick Klemme, Dean and Director, UW Extension-Cooperative Extension, will step down. There are nineteen committees working on the re-organization, which will take time to finalize.

**Public Comment:**

None

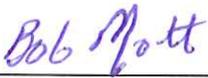
**Items to include on next agenda:**

Update on: Cost Share, LWC /P&Z Update, Fair Planning Committee Update, Air Quality, and UW-Extension Re-org update and alternate site update. Approval of 8/22/16 Relocation Option Minutes, Update on Fair Resolution. Follow up with the City, with recent changes.

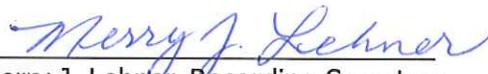
**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn by Winkler and Mott was made at 4:17 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bob Mott, Committee Chair

  
Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary