

**MINUTES OF THE
LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
December 17, 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), Jean Hansen (Conservation Specialist), Pat Hendricks (Secretary), Ruth Sproul (News of the North), and Ben Brusco (TAG Member).

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

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

Set date for next meeting

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

Public Comments: None

Wildlife Damage Program/Deer Processing Program

Hollands stated that Jerry Laux of Rocky Run Cranberry Marsh was issued shooting permits. He was authorized to remove four deer. Lake Tomahawk Meat Market and TJ's Butcher Block are participating in the Deer Processing Program again this year. Hollands stated that Bessey's Meat Market in Rhinelander had not returned the deer processing agreement. Baier wanted to know if food pantries were eligible to apply for some of the venison. Hollands stated that they are eligible. She has forms to submit to the meat processors or they can be telephoned with the requests. Hollands also stated that she is not sure if Bill Ludwig, Wildlife Damage Consultant, is interested in doing wildlife damage assessment in 2009. Petroskey said other counties use the USDA – APHIS program. Rudolph asked Hollands to talk to Ludwig and also to get information from APHIS before the next meeting so that it can be put on the January agenda.

County Cost Share Program/Landowner Contracts/Workshop

Hollands reported that we had \$62,330.00 available for Oneida County. We have committed \$62,328.78 for seven new contracts for 2008. Although some people were slow to commit, all contracts have been signed. Hansen stated that Camp Luther in Three Lakes is interested and also two people on Alva Lake. Matteson addressed the issue of a deposit. Hansen thinks it may scare away landowners. Matteson would like to see something in place by next summer so that people would be less likely to back out after the initial work has been completed. Discussion followed. Hansen said she will talk to other counties to see how they handle the situation. Motion by Petroskey, second by Baier to approve the 2008 extension request for contracts totaling \$51,175.00. Motion carried, all ayes. Hansen reported on the success of the contractor/landscaper workshop and thanked the entire staff for all their efforts. Rudolph thanked the staff for their work on the cost share contracts.

Review Department Goal Action Plan

Hollands handed out and reported on the 2008 action plan with the goals and activities. Discussion followed about the county attending the DNR deer management meeting prior to the DNR spring meeting(s). Martinson felt it was a waste of taxpayer money. Motion by Baier to eliminate the last two items on page four. Discussion followed. Rudolph clarified that no one gets paid for attending the Conservation Congress meeting. Baier misunderstood and asked to take a vote on it and vote it down, then change his motion. Motion denied, all nays. Motion by Baier, second by Martinson that no mileage or per diem be paid for attendance at the Conservation Congress meeting(s). Motion carried, all ayes. Motion by Baier, second by Petroskey to approve the department goal action plan for 2008, as amended. Motion carried, all ayes.

Written Report on AIS from Jennifer Holman

There was no written report as noted on agenda. Hollands reported on Holman's throat condition. Martinson commented on email regarding Holman's 20-year plan. He didn't recall the committee asking for this study and wanted to know where it came from. Hollands remarked that perhaps the DNR requested it. She stated that if the Committee feels strongly about providing direction for Holman, it should be incorporated into the 2009 goals. Martinson would like the issue addressed at the January meeting. Matteson mentioned terrestrial invasive species. Rudolph commented that Jennifer has enough to do with aquatics and thought we should possibly provide extra time for Hansen to devote to terrestrials. The committee may have to go back to LRES.

AIS Signage

As part of the 2008 grant, we've had 235 signs made @ \$11.90 each for Oneida County boat landings. Lake Associations will be notified that they are available for pickup. Rudolph stated that we would not be involved in putting the signs up. Martinson commented that the DNR does not want anymore signs on their posts. Petroskey would like to discuss these signs at the January meeting.

Septic Systems/Lake Issues

Hollands reported that she, Holman, Rudolph, Karl Jennrich from Planning and Zoning, and the nurses' office met and discussed the possibilities of septic systems polluting the lakes. Martinson asked that it be put on the agenda for January. Baier stated that there is money available for people in need if their septic need replacing. Rudolph added that Planning and Zoning would first need to identify the systems that might need replacing.

AIS Grant Application for 2009

Hollands stated that the DNR 2009 grant application deadline is February 1, 2009. Hollands commented that she, Rudolph, Hollands, and Holman met with the DNR. Since the grants are ranked, the higher ranked ones will have a better chance of being approved. Rudolph commented that after talking with the DNR, we have a good chance because we are ranked high and have a good reputation. Rudolph thought we should apply for the \$200,000.00 grant. Petroskey agreed. Petroskey would like it put on the agenda for the January meeting. Baier stated that DNR should attend our committee meeting and the entire committee should meet with the DNR. Rudolph clarified that the DNR asked Rudolph, Holman and Hollands to discuss what our plans would be for the future. Rudolph didn't think the entire committee needed to be there as no commitments were made. Rudolph stated we should invite Kevin from the DNR to attend our next meeting. Petroskey stated that the DNR should be encouraged to attend our committee meetings.

AIS Grants/Budget/Activities/Strategic Plan Comments & 07/08 Grant Report Comments

Hollands reported that our outstanding '07 and '08 grants will have no effect on the \$200,000 grant application due February 1, 2009. Motion by Martinson, second by Petroskey to apply for a \$200,000.00 DNR – AIS grant by the February 1st deadline. Motion carried, all ayes.

Report on WLWCA Annual Conference, December 10-12, Appleton

Rudolph reported that the committee was well represented. Kuczumarski, a first time attendee, commented that it was very informative and a positive experience. Martinson reported that 51 of 72 counties were represented. Petroskey stated that the attendance was low, but there was good discussion on sand hill cranes. He also said how proud we should be of our speaking contest winners. Oneida County was the best represented with 18 people. Rudolph was re-elected to the Land and Water Conservation Board. Hollands stated that the WLWCA Resolutions should be posted on their website. We can provide copies of the resolutions if requested. Matteson mentioned that every year Sugar Camp has a winner. He thought the teacher should be given recognition. Baier suggested she receive "teacher of the year" award. Petroskey suggested that we send letters to teachers in May, and follow up with the packets in September. Ben Brusco was excused @ 11:05 a.m.

Baier was excused at 11:00 a.m.

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

Bear Lake District – Martinson had nothing new to report this month from the Bear Lake District.

Mid Lake District – Petroskey had nothing new to report this month from the Mid Lake District.

Thunder Lake District – Baier had been excused at 11:00 a.m.

Horsehead Lake District – Rudolph had nothing new to report this month from the Horsehead Lake District.

FSA – Kuczarski had attended a breakout session at the WLWCA conference regarding the new farm bill. Funding will be increased in many of the programs. The budget is in the process of being finalized. Kuczarski was re-elected as the FSA representative for Oneida County.

LWCD – Hollands reported that the signed cost share contracts and carryover requests need to be sent to DATCP by December 31st. She also stated that in a memo from DATCP, we are urged to be cautious in commitments because we may not be receiving 100% of the funds requested in the preliminary plan. Hollands thanked the staff for the work on the cost share program and the workshop. Matteson wanted to know if the Clean Boats, Clean Waters workshops would be offered again this spring. Hollands stated they are part of the upcoming DNR grant application. Oneida County is hosting the next RC&D meeting on January 14th.

UWEX – No one present.

DNR – No one present.

WLWCA – Rudolph reported that he participated in a teleconference call with NACD people from around the country for about 90 minutes. They talked primarily about priorities and issues they hope to bring to Congress in 2009. Rudolph reported that North Central Land & Water Conservation Association, Vice President Wayne Plant has resigned from the Lincoln County Board, as he moved out of his county board district. The North Central Association will need to elect a new Vice President at their January 30th meeting.

RC&D – Hollands reported that we are trying to get accommodations at the Hodag Lanes Musky Bar and Grill for the January 14th meeting. Rudolph reported that it is Lumberjack's turn to host the Annual State RC&D Conference slated for September 24 and 25, 2009 at the Quality Inn in Rhinelander. Tentatively, there will be several tours and breakout sessions. The theme for the conference will be "Your Land, Your Water, Your Choices".

Monthly Budget Review

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

Travel Authorization

Hollands questioned whether Finance Committee approval is needed for Holman's attendance at the Mississippi River Basin Panel meeting in San Antonio, Texas on February 17 – 20, 2009. Petroskey questioned the insurance issue for out-of-state travel. Rudolph instructed Hollands to check with the Finance Director, Margie Sorenson. Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey to allow three people (Hollands' decision), to attend the WALCE Conference and also to approve attendance at the following meetings. Motion carried, all ayes.

January 30, 2009	North Central Assoc. Meeting	Merrill, Wisconsin
February 17 - 20, 2009	Mississippi River Basin Panel	San Antonio, Texas (Holman)
February 18 – 20, 2009	WALCE Conference	Green Bay, Wisconsin

Approval of invoices, purchase orders, and line item transfers

Motion by Matteson, second by Martinson to approve the invoices and the AIS line item transfer request 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 date.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:55a.m. Motion by Petroskey, second by Martinson. Motion carried, all ayes.

Thomas Rudolph
Chairman

Nancy Hollands
County Conservationist