

# MINUTES OF THE LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

Oneida County Courthouse – 9:00 a.m. – Committee Room 1

**Members Present:** Chairman Tom Rudolph, Wilbur Petroskey, Matt Matteson, Jack Martinson, and Gary Baier.

**Members Absent:** Rod Kuczmariski, FSA Member (excused absence)

**Others Present:** Nancy Hollands (County Conservationist), Jean Hansen (Conservation Specialist), Pat Hendricks (Secretary), Chuck Wickman (County Supervisor), John Potters (County Coordinator), Tom Melnarik (NRCS Soil Conservation Technician), Ted Ritter (Vilas County IS Coordinator), John Gillen (DNR Forester), Kim Goerg (Lumberjack RC&D Coordinator), Ruth Sproul (newsofthenorth.net), Tom Harris (Three Lakes Waterfront Property Owners Association), and Ben Brusio (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.

Rudolph stated that the Governor had signed the phosphorus ban in lawn fertilizer bill and the legislature had passed the bill without a negative vote this time. He also stated that the next phosphorus ban would probably be on dishwashing detergent.

## ***Approve Agenda/Approve Minutes***

Motion by Petroskey, second by Martinson, to approve the current agenda and the minutes from the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting with the order of agenda items at the discretion of the Chairman. Motion carried; all ayes.

## ***Set date for next meetings***

Chairman Rudolph noted the next meeting dates will be Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. and Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

## ***Public Comments***

Chuck Wickman asked permission to comment on Agenda item #9, “Update on AIS Coordinator Position Vacancy”.

## ***DNR Tree Shipping Account (John Gillen – DNR)***

John Gillen, DNR Forester, reported that 40,000 trees will be shipped to Oneida County, all from state stock. He noted that the number is a bit lower than last year, which was not unexpected. He also noted that 34 different landowners have placed orders. Since their mileage rate has gone up, DNR has increased the shipping rate from \$3 to \$5 per thousand trees or per pack of about 300 trees and shrubs. About 19,000 of the trees are 3-year-old red pines, followed by about 3,000 3-year-old white pines. Trees will be shipped here on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> and will be available for pickup on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. The tree planter will be rented to the two landowners with orders of 3,000 trees or more. Discussion followed. Motion by Petroskey, second by Martinson to proceed with the tree shipping program. Motion carried; all ayes.

## ***Vilas County Cooperative Weed Management Update (Ted Ritter – IS Coordinator)***

Ted Ritter, Vilas County Invasive Species (IS) Coordinator, stated that due to the greater number and wide range of stakeholders, terrestrial invasives are more complex than aquatic. They are not confined by natural boundaries. There isn't any single regulatory agency, and no single funding source. Vilas County would like to partner with Oneida County on the newly formed co-op named Wisconsin Headwaters Invasive Partnership (WHIP). The co-op would function independently from county government with the primary decision-making to be accomplished by a steering committee. Financial sponsorship would be assumed by a participating not-for-profit partner. To date, neither a steering committee nor the geographical boundaries of the co-op have been developed. Vilas County LWCD is providing initial coordination services until a steering committee becomes established. Parties of interest include: United States Forest Service - Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest; NRCS; Lumberjack RC&D; Wisconsin DNR, Board of Commissioners of Public Land; Vilas County Forestry Dept.; Vilas County municipalities; the City of Eagle River; Trees for Tomorrow; North Lakeland Discovery Center; Conserve School; assorted local organizations and private land owners.

To date, three public meetings have been held. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m. at the Lincoln Town Hall on Sundstein Road in Eagle River. Petroskey asked how Ted Ritter's position is funded. Ritter replied that it is County and DATCP funded. It is no longer DNR grant funded. Discussion followed. Jean Hansen asked the committee's permission to attend the next meeting. Rudolph stated that it could be brought up during the travel authorizations. Rudolph requested that the subject be added to the May agenda. Ritter was asked about the time involved with Invasive Species. Ritter stated that if he were trying to build both the AIS and TIS programs at the same time, he doesn't know if that would be possible. Each area is extremely time consuming. Hollands stated that the Oneida County Highway Dept. has also expressed interest in partnering with LWCD concerning the TIS issue.

Ben Brusio was excused at 10:00 a.m.

#### ***Wildlife Damage Program Budget/Services for 2009***

Hollands reported that Ron Eckstein, DNR Wildlife Biologist, will not be able to attend the April nor May meeting, due to his hectic schedule, but perhaps in June. The Wildlife Damage Program Services for 2009 were discussed. Hollands stated that Bill Ludwig has not renewed his agreement with the county for 2009. We can either have Jean help with the services or contract through the USDA Wildlife Services. At this time, Hollands would like to postpone the decision until the issues of the vacant positions in the department are resolved. The budget submitted to the DNR is 100% reimbursable. Hollands stated that DNR has asked that our 2009 budget be reduced because funding is tight. They will let us know the approved amount. Rudolph requested that this item be added to the May agenda.

#### ***County Cost Share Program***

Hansen reported that since she has been doing more work on AIS issues, the Cost Share Program has been put on the back burner for the past few weeks. There are some landowners interested in the Cost Share Program this year. Information on the program was sent out to all lake associations, town clerks, and the OCLRA. Oneida County has been approved for \$61,394 in DATCP funding in 2009 for our landowner cost-share program. Hollands asked that the committee be flexible on the percentage of reimbursement, so we can commit all available funds for 2009. Potters asked what we need to do to get Hansen full time in LWCD. He stated that the 27% of Hansen's hours in Planning & Zoning could be waived temporarily so that 100% of Hansen's hours could be spent in LWCD. Potters will arrange it with Finance and Planning & Zoning.

#### ***Update on AIS Coordinator Position Vacancy***

Hansen's 27% hours in Planning and Zoning could be waived temporarily to allow her to work 100% in LWCD and perform some of the duties of the AIS coordinator. Motion by Martinson, second by Baier to approve Hansen's position in the LWCD be returned to full time on a temporary basis. Motion carried; all ayes. Wickman reported that the Minocqua/Kawaguesaga Lake Protection Association would like the full-time AIS Coordinator position filled. He noted that, because of the vacancy, educational presentations scheduled at the Minocqua High School had been canceled. Hollands stated that even with Hansen working 100% in LWCD, we will only be able to provide a basic level of AIS programming. We cannot provide the same level of service that a full-time AIS Coordinator did. Potters stated that he would like the educational presentations to continue during the interim. With the help of other departments, we would be able to provide more of the AIS services. After meeting with UWEX, he hopes to come up with options for filling the AIS position.

#### ***Typist II Position Vacancy***

Rudolph commented he wasn't aware departments could share employees. Potters stated that because the situation is considered an emergency, he can work out job-sharing with Social Services until the position is filled. Potters will discuss it with Social Services and let the LWCD Committee know the outcome before May 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be a joint meeting of the LWCD and LRES committees on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Hollands asked the committee to waive the 6-month vacancy policy for the Typist II position. Motion by Petroskey, second by Baier to request the waiver. Motion carried; all ayes.

***Proposed Funding Changes to 2009-2011 LWCD Budget***

Hollands reported that all Oneida County departments received a memo from the Finance Dept. along with a chart to fill out showing grant funding that each department is expecting, for 2009 allocations and/or changes and expected revenues for 2010 and 2011. The LWCD received the DATCP allocation plan for 2009. The final figure of \$118,346 from DATCP for staff and support remains unchanged. The cost-share program funds were approved for \$61,394. We have been asked to reduce the WDP budget due to insufficient funds to cover all the counties' original requests. Discussion followed. Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey to approve the proposed LWCD funding changes for 2009-2011. Motion carried; all ayes. Discussion followed about AIS grants.

Baier left at 10:45 a.m.

***DATCP – SWRM Grant Contract for 2009***

Hollands reported that the counties are currently receiving their DATCP - SWRM Grant contracts for 2009. Hollands stated we have not received ours yet. Petroskey requested it be put on the May agenda.

***Update on DATCP Grant Application for Calendar Year 2010***

As recommended by the committee, we are submitting a request for a \$100,000 DATCP grant for the cost-share program. By applying the DATCP formula for our staffing grant, the total came to \$164,778, but we don't expect to get this amount. The report is due today, but needs to be approved and signed. Motion by Matteson, second by Martinson to approve the DATCP grant application for 2010. Motion carried; all ayes.

***Environmental Education Scholarships for Teachers***

Hollands reported that we have about \$430 available for 2009. We would be able to fund one to two teacher scholarships. Motion by Petroskey, second by Martinson, to approve the funding of one to two teacher scholarships for 2009. Motion carried; all ayes. Youth camp informational handouts were given to committee members. Matteson recommended that we mail all handouts to Kuczmarski and put all handouts in Baier's interoffice mailbox.

***Update/Status of AIS Grants/Budget/Activities***

Hollands asked the committee if they still wanted the Dry Hydrant posters that had been originally ordered by our former AIS Coordinator. Discussion followed. Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey to purchase the posters from Press Express and allow lake associations and other groups to borrow them for educational purposes. Motion carried; all ayes. Hansen reported on known AIS in Oneida County lakes. Hansen and Hollands will be attending the "Super Spreaders" workshop at the Rhinelander DNR office. The LWCD will be hosting three Clean Boats - Clean Waters Workshops and one Citizens Lake Monitoring Workshop. Hansen was excused at 11:45 a.m.

***Report on Three Lakes Waterfront Property Owner's Association (Tom Harris)***

Harris reported their lake association has received education grants from the state for 2005 through 2009. They have put into place Clean Boats, Clean Waters Volunteer Programs at 5 out of 13 of their busiest boat landings. They also established an Adopt a Shoreline and Citizen Lake Monitoring programs. They have a core group of about 50 volunteers. In 2006, a volunteer discovered a small area, .8 acres, of milfoil. They applied for a DNR Rapid Response grant and treated the area in 2007. They noticed that the milfoil had jumped to the other shoreline and worked its way upstream toward Long Lake. They did some hand-pulling which was not too efficient, so they stopped. They applied for another Rapid Response grant and had the area mapped; that .8 acres had grown to 11.8 acres. It will be treated this spring. After they determined the probable source of the milfoil, they tried to close the boatlift. When that failed, the Town of Three Lakes passed an ordinance to close part of the lake to boat traffic, should that become necessary. The Wisconsin Valley Improvement Corp. has agreed to close the dam while the area is being treated. Harris stated that they have received a lot of helpful information from the Vilas County IS Coordinator. They cannot imagine a lake association just starting up, and not having a local AIS Coordinator to go to for guidance and direction. They aren't happy with the 6-month vacancy policy, and he urged Oneida County to approve the AIS Coordinator position soon.

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

***Bear Lake District*** – Martinson's only report from the Bear Lake District was that the judge had sent one condo project back to zoning.

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

**Thunder Lake District** – No one present to report. (Baier had left earlier).

**Horsehead Lake District** – Rudolph reported that the Horsehead Lake District is waiting for the lake study to be completed. They had a meeting with the district commissioners last Monday and talked about the infestation at the boat landing. They will be checking it very closely this spring. If they do find more infestation, they will probably rope off the area so boats cannot travel through it. There will be a meeting of the lake study committee and they will get a full report. The annual meeting will be held on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

**FSA** – No one present to report.

**NRCS** – Melnarik reported that the EQIP application deadline is this Friday. They have about a dozen contracts in their four-county area. They want to have the contracts signed by mid-summer, so that construction can begin.

**LWCD** – Hollands reported that we've been busy with year-end budgets and reconciliations and grant reports. Last week the auditors were here and everything was in order. The Lake Nokomis group will be trying to form a district and we will probably be asked for our assistance later this year.

**UWEX** – No one was present to report.

**DNR** – John Gillen, DNR Forester, had already reported on Agenda item #5, "DNR Tree Shipping Account".

**LWCB** – Rudolph reported they had a meeting last Tuesday in Appleton. As he had previously mentioned, the Governor's budget proposes to eliminate the Land & Water Conservation Board and change it to a council. If that happens, there would be only one county representative serving on the Board. That person could be anyone from the county, regardless of experience with conservation issues. There is considerable objection to eliminating the Board. Rudolph received a phone call yesterday requesting information from a DATCP board member who was to testify in favor of the keeping the Land and Water Conservation Board. The DATCP Secretary wants to make a presentation to the Land and Water Conservation Board, but could not make the meeting in Appleton. They will have a special meeting in Madison on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

**WLWCA** – The last teleconference meeting was March 31<sup>st</sup>. The Board decided to put the Executive Director on temporary part time furlough until October 1<sup>st</sup>. The Envirothon is proceeding with lots of interest and funding.

**RC&D** – Goerg reported that tomorrow is the Annual Sustainable Forestry Conference in Florence, WI and April 30<sup>th</sup> is the Lumberjack RC&D Meeting in Shawano, WI.

### **Monthly Budget Review**

Motion by Petroskey, second by Martinson, to approve the final December - Adjustment III for 2008, and the monthly budget summary for February 2009. Motion carried; all ayes.

### **Travel Authorization**

Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey to approve attendance at the following meetings. Motion carried; all ayes.

April 16, 2009	Forestry Annual Sustainable Conference	Florence, WI
April 29, 2009	Partnership Meeting	Eagle River, WI
May 12, 2009	Clean Boats, Clean Waters Workshop	Rhineland/Oneida Co. Airport

### **Approval of invoices, purchase orders, and line item transfers**

Motion by Petroskey, second by Martinson, to approve the invoices as presented. Motion carried; all ayes.

A list of the approved bills is attached to the minutes.

### **Items for the next meeting agenda**

Rudolph requested a report on the Lakes Conference. Other agenda items will be determined at a later date.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m. Motion by Matteson, second by Martinson. Motion carried, all ayes.

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Thomas Rudolph  
Chairman

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Nancy Hollands  
County Conservationist