

**MINUTES OF THE LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Wednesday, June 17, 2009**  
**Oneida County Courthouse – 9:00 a.m. – Committee Room 1**

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

**Members Absent:** Ben Brusco TAG member, (absent)

**Others Present:** Nancy Hollands (County Conservationist); Jean Hansen (Conservation Specialist); Barb Payne (Secretary); Chuck Wickman (County Supervisor); Tom Melnarik (NRCS Soil Conservation Technician); Mike Skubal (Rhineland Daily News); Ron Eckstein (DNR Wildlife Biologist); Kevin Gauthier (DNR Water Resources Management Specialist); Bob Martini (Green Bass Lake Association); John Potters (Oneida County Coordinator); Dan Kuzlik (UWEX), and Ashley Wentz (UWEX Horticulture Assistant).

***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 asked that comments be kept to the agenda items to help move the meeting along as quickly as possible.

***Approve Agenda/Approve Minutes***

Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey, to approve the current agenda and the minutes from the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting with the order of agenda items presented at the discretion of the Chairman. Motion carried; all ayes.

***Set date for next meetings***

Chairman Rudolph noted the next meeting date will be Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

***Public Comments***

Bob Williams, OCLRA President, asked Rudolph why the AIS Dry Hydrant Ordinance was listed on the agenda for this month's meeting. He felt the wording on the agenda was vague as to what action would be taken if any. Bob Martini, President of Green Bass Lake Association, asked Rudolph what the intentions were concerning putting the AIS Dry Hydrant Ordinance on this month's agenda. Martini stated that in the event there is a proposal to repeal the AIS Dry Hydrant Ordinance, the lake associations in the county strenuously object to the repealing of this ordinance. Martini stated if this Committee wants to spend time talking about something, they should address what the county government is going to do to upgrade the protection of the lakes, rivers, wetlands, forests and all the other natural resources that contribute to the quality of life here. The quality of our resources is the number one selling point of this area to residents and tourists. Matteson went on record stating that he supported the ordinance. Kuzlik introduced Ashley Wentz, the UWEX Horticulture Assistant for the summer. Kuzlik said Ashley will be helping on AIS where needed. Rudolph stated if there were no objections he would move to agenda item #14, AIS Dry Hydrant Ordinance.

***Report on 2008 Deer Season/Prospects for the 2009 Season – Ron Eckstein, DNR***

Ron Eckstein, DNR Northern Region Wildlife Management Biologist, reported on the 2008 deer season and the hunting prospects for 2009. Eckstein explained how to interpret the graphs and charts in the packet that he distributed to the Committee. Eckstein stated, that from the data he has gathered, it appears the harvesting numbers will still be down for 2009 and it will start to increase in 2010. The total deer harvest for 2008 was down by 20%, with the buck harvest down by 30%. He said the DNR had miscalculated the deer population for the amount of deer to be harvested in 2007 and 2008. The deer harvest was down also in part due to the severe winter of 2007/2008. He said that is why the DNR holds deer management meetings. It is an excellent chance for the public to come and give their opinions. Eckstein stated the DNR has never had to implement the Earn-A-Buck program in Oneida County as they have in other parts of the State. Eckstein briefly discussed the wolf packs in the area, bear problems, and confirmed cougar sightings.

***AIS Grant Application for August 1, 2009 – Kevin Gauthier, DNR***

Kevin Gauthier, DNR Water Resource Management Specialist, briefly explained the AIS grant application process for the August cycle of this year. He went over a list of six questions that Hollands had submitted. Gauthier stated they will be implementing new changes for the next AIS August 1<sup>st</sup> grant cycle. The AIS grant application process has gone through

three changes. There are now five official categories. Gauthier provided Hollands with an updated manual on the AIS Control Grant Program Guidelines and Application. Martinson asked Hollands to provide the Committee with copies of this manual.

Gauthier stated the eligible projects included are: 1) Education, prevention and planning projects; 2) established population control projects; 3) early detection and response projects; 4) maintenance and containment projects; and 5) research and demonstration projects. Gauthier stated there will be \$4.2 million available for funding. There is a 1% decrease in the available statewide funding. Gauthier commented he has enough project requests that he could utilize the whole amount of the statewide funding. Wickman asked if the lake associations and lake districts were in competition with the County for receiving funding. Gauthier replied that if the associations, districts, and the county request funding for similar type projects, it could definitely be competitive. Gauthier said he would like to have the lake associations, lake districts, and the County working together so as not to duplicate requests for projects. Gauthier clarified to Wickman that both of the lake associations Wickman is representing have received state funding for grants during the past two years.

Kuzlik asked why he has seen a decrease in the reimbursement amounts to some lake associations. Gauthier explained the funding dollars weren't there for the February grant applications. He explained the DNR spends 60% of their allotment in August grant cycle and the remaining 40% in the February grant cycle. Therefore, in February the funds were not available for all the projects that were submitted and projects were turned down, including the Oneida County's February grant application for \$200,000. Questions and answers followed.

Petroskey was excused at 10:25 a.m.

#### ***AIS Coordinator Position Vacancy/Merger with UWEX***

Hollands announced there will be a joint meeting with LRES and LWCC on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June at 12:00 noon to review the resolution drafted by Oneida County Coordinator, John Potters to merge the Land & Water Conservation Department and the UW Extension Department together. Potters stated he is currently working on the resolution and hopes to have a draft ready for the Land & Water Conservation Committee to review before the June 24<sup>th</sup> joint meeting. Potters said he will be meeting with Kuzlik this Friday at 1:30 p.m. to go over the draft resolution. He invited Hollands and Rudolph to attend this meeting if they are available. This draft resolution will be presented to the County Board at their August meeting. Baier and Martinson expressed their displeasure with the possible merging of Land & Water Conservation with UW Extension. Motion by Baier, second by Martinson to fill the AIS vacancy using Jean Hansen, who is currently the Land & Water Conservation Specialist, to assist with AIS in the interim vacancy of an AIS Coordinator. Rudolph said he doesn't feel the Committee of jurisdiction should make that kind of decision at this time. A vote was taken: Baier – yes; Martinson – yes; Kuczmarski – no; Petrosky – absent; Matteson – no; and Rudolph – no. Motion failed with the Committee voting (two – yes; three – no; and one – absent). Committee discussion followed. Kuzlik commented they would look at other opportunities and sources for future funding.

Potters was excused at 10:30 a.m.

#### ***Update on Typist II Vacancy***

Hollands reported the LRES Committee denied the request to fill the Typist II vacancy immediately. The department will now have to comply with the six-month vacancy policy that was established earlier this year. Hollands said she was pleased that Potters arranged to have the former Typist II, Pat Hendricks, work two days a week in this vacancy period. Committee discussion followed.

#### ***Wildlife Damage/Budget/Services***

Eckstein covered wildlife damage earlier in the meeting. Hollands reported she still hasn't received an approved 2009 budget request for the Wildlife Damage Program from DNR yet. Hollands stated she was contacted several weeks ago by the owner of a deer farm named Forest of Antlers, located here in Oneida County. This deer farm was experiencing bear digging under a fenced in area and taking fawns. APHIS and Eckstein were contacted for assistance. Some of the bear(s) were trapped and relocated. Eckstein issued shooting permits to harvest four bear beginning in early June. Hollands said the problem must have been taken care of as she hasn't heard anything more. Bob Willging, from USDA Wildlife Services, requested to be on our next committee meeting agenda. He will provide information on what services they can

provide. If we choose to contract with them, it would be the same type of agreement that we currently use with the bear trapping and relocation services. Hollands stated she would like to see our existing positions secure as well as looking at contractual services. Committee discussion followed.

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

Hansen reported two projects are currently being completed - Broukal's on Upper Post Lake and Daletzki's on Nokomis Lake. Both are carryovers from last year. The DATCP Engineer, Stacy Dehne, will be giving the final inspection to the Daletzki project and signing off later this week. There are two projects on Hasbrook Lake - one on the shore and one on the island. They are due to start sometime in July. Hansen said she is behind on her designs due to the time she has spent on AIS - CBCW workshops and other areas. Tom Melnarik, NRCS, commented that he would be able to assist Hansen with her cost share projects if the need arises. Hollands commented Melnarik worked as our Conservation Specialist LTE in the past and the offer was very much appreciated.

#### ***Program Reduction/New Revenues for 2009/2010***

Hollands reported she would be meeting with the Finance Committee on June 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. They are asking each department head to come in with some ideas for reducing programs or obtaining more revenues. Hollands stated the latest update on the State budget is that it appears the cost sharing dollars for landowners will stay very similar to what we are receiving now. For 2010 we would receive similar allocations for staffing grants that we did in 2009. DATCP is still subject to State cuts. DATCP is taking money out of the nutrient management funds and transferring those monies into staffing and support. This will help to make up for the loss in funding said the State budget should be settled in the next two weeks. The savings that we will be able to contribute would be if the AIS position is funded through UW Extension. That would save our department and the County some dollars if that is funded at 60%. The Wildlife Damage Program is a non-event because the revenues and expenses are a wash, as it is reimbursed at 100%.

In previous years the County provided funding for the AIS position, with the State funding the operational costs which were under \$25,000. It was almost a wash because we had \$25,000 grants. Hollands further explained however it did change for 2009 because we did not get a grant in February. For 2009 we have been working on keeping the expenses down. Hollands stated that we do not have a lot of areas to cut. If the UW Extension is able to fund the AIS Coordinator's position and 60% is paid by the State, it could result in saving the County approximately \$30,000. Hollands stated that at the North Central meeting she attended last week, they discussed ways to generate funds for county budgets. One of the counties made the comment that maybe our local lake associations and lake districts would be willing to put forth some funds to help fund an AIS position. Hollands commented they have their own projects to fund, and she doesn't think that would work here. It still would not help the stability of the position. Williams, president of OCLRA, responded that they don't have the funding right now to help in this area.

#### ***Select Environmental Education Teacher Scholarship Recipient(s)***

Hollands reported that we have not received any interest from area teachers in the Environmental Education Scholarships. Hollands stated we could send out another press release to see if there is any interest in the scholarships. Motion by Matteson, second by Kuczmariski to authorize Chairman Rudolph to work with Hollands to finalize teacher scholarship(s) that are applied for before the next meeting date. Committee discussion followed. A vote was taken: Baier – no; Martinson – no; Kuczmariski – yes; Petroskey – absent; Matteson – yes; and Rudolph – yes. Motion carried with the Committee voting (three – yes; and two – no; and one – absent).

#### ***Update/Status of AIS Grants/budgets/Activities***

Hollands reported we sponsored three CBCW workshops under Hansen's direction. Hansen stated that a Citizen's Lake Monitoring Workshop will be held at the Kemp Natural Resources Station on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Hollands asked the Committee for direction and guidance regarding what they would like our department to apply for with the AIS grant in August. Hollands reminded the Committee there will only be one more meeting before the August 1 application due date. Hollands reported that Hansen has been working on the revisions to the grant that was written for the February grant cycle.

Matteson commented that he felt we should apply for a smaller grant in light of the absence of an AIS Coordinator and limited staff. He felt it should be a one-year grant so it would be something Hansen could handle. Rudolph felt we should be working toward a more adequate grant which would enhance our AIS Coordinator request. If we abandon the three-year grant, it would be a step backwards. Hansen stated she has been working on the revisions to the grant that Holman submitted in February. She has been doing changes for both one-year and three-year grant(s). Hansen suggested that the grant amount should be determined based upon the cost for both a one-year and three-year grant(s). Rudolph asked if a draft could be available before the next meeting date. Hansen said she could get a draft copy ready for the Committee to review before the next Committee meeting. Hollands stated that the draft could be typed up after the completion of the two DNR grants that are due the end of June. Hansen stated a one-year grant could be handled by herself and the department with the assistance of UW Extension.

#### ***AIS Dry Hydrant Ordinance***

Rudolph addressed Baier as to his intent to have this item on the agenda. Rudolph stated that it was put on the agenda at Baier's request and he should explain why he wanted it on this month's agenda. Rudolph asked Baier if this is a proposal to remove the dry hydrant ordinance. Baier stated his reason for not having this ordinance, is because we already have an ordinance on the transporting of AIS. Baier feels this ordinance is unfair to the fire fighters and the fire departments. He feels this ordinance is not necessary. Martinson stated he has contacted fire departments in his area, and they are not for the ordinance. Committee discussion followed. Motion by Baier, second by Martinson to request the County Board, by resolution, to abolish the Dry Hydrant Ordinance. A vote was taken: Baier – yes; Martinson – yes; Kuczmarski – no; Petrosky – no; Matteson – no; and Rudolph – no. Motion failed with the Committee voting (two - yes and four – no).

#### ***Wisconsin Headwaters Invasive Partnership's Application to Lumberjack RC&D***

Hansen reported she attended the last meeting of the Wisconsin Headwaters Invasive Partnership (WHIP) group in Vilas County. Right now they do not have any type of funding source. Kim Goerg, Lumberjack RC&D Coordinator, was also present at this meeting. He had some suggestions to help them. They want to apply to Lumberjack RC&D for a project proposal. Ted Ritter drafted a project proposal to help the group obtain needed finances. Goerg suggested they should start with a simple budget to begin with. The WHIP group would like to eventually become a non-profit organization. Hansen asked the Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Committee if they would be a co-sponsor for this project. They could help WHIP get a startup program going. Rudolph clarified to the Committee that there is no expense to the County. Rudolph elaborated that he feels this is a worthwhile proposal and it is the type of project that RC&D should be involved in. Motion by Martinson, second by Kuczmarski to approve the Land & Water Conservation Committee to co-sponsor the project proposal submitted to the Lumberjack RC&D for startup funding for the Wisconsin Headwaters Invasive Partnership (WHIP) program. Motion carried; all ayes. (four – yes and two absent – Petrosky and temporarily Baier).

#### ***Report on Terrestrial Invasive Species Meeting in Eagle River***

Hansen reported this meeting was very informational. The WHIP group would like to include Oneida County as part of the boundary area within this weed management area. Rudolph stated he feels this should be listed specifically on next month's agenda in case any action is needed. Hansen reported the WHIP group is trying to form a steering committee so they can proceed with formation of this group. Vilas County opted out of being any type of management for this group other than Ted Ritter getting the group together. Rudolph asked Hansen if she was planning in participating in these meetings. Hansen reported the group decided to send a letter to the all Oneida and Vilas Counties town boards, supervisors, and city councils explaining the group's involvement, purpose, their mission statement and the need for community support. This letter was drafted by Ted Ritter for the WHIP group. Committee discussion followed.

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

Hollands asked Baier if the Lake Nokomis Association was still planning to petition to form a lake district. Baier replied he wasn't aware of any current action being taken at this time.

***Bear Lake District*** – Martinson reported the Bear Lake District is still under negotiations waiting for a decision from the court system.

Martinson excused at 11:35 a.m.

Hollands reported Dale Jalinski stopped into the office last week with some questions about changing the Bear Lake District boundaries. Jalinski asked Hollands what the procedure would be for changing the boundaries. Hollands said from the information she could find, the district was formed in 1975. Hollands isn't sure where the original files are. She supplied Jalinski with the information that she found. Jalinski commented he also stopped at Land Information regarding this matter. Hollands reported she told Jalinski she would do some more research into this matter. Hollands stated she would also supply Martinson a copy of the information provided to Jalinski.

**Mid Lake District** – Petroskey was absent.

**Thunder Lake District** – Baier had nothing to report this month from the Thunder Lake District.

**Horsehead Lake District** – Rudolph reported the Horsehead Lake District will have their next meeting on July 9<sup>th</sup>. At that time they expect to have a completed report on the lake study they have been doing with ONTERRA.

**FSA** – Kuczmariski reported there isn't much going on right now. There are good loan rates available right now for land purchasing. The current loan rates are reasonable for operating costs. They are working on achieving funding for some of those loans. They will sign you up but it may take a year or two to get the money.

**NRCS** – Melnarik reported on all the landowners who have requested money for conservation practices in the four county area. These funds have been committed recently. Malvitz is in Oklahoma City attending training for new NRCS employees.

**LWCD** – Hollands reported we worked on teacher and youth scholarships, the CBCW workshop in Three Lakes and AIS grant reports. We have also been working on the completion of cost share carryover projects from 2008 and committing cost share funds for 2009. Work was done on the wildlife damage program regarding the bear complaint. We have been working on a scenario for proposed budgets for 2009 – 2010.

We have been working with Kuzlik on the AIS. We became aware there were grant funds available from the stimulus package through the Department of Workforce Development. Hollands stated that she found out funding was available for youth watercraft inspectors (from the ages of 18 – 24) while she was talking about our current lack of grant funding with an UWEX Lakes employee. She indicated there were funds through this program to put on watercraft inspectors. It appears if everything goes well we may get two students to help out this summer. Kuzlik suggested the summer horticultural assistant, Ashley Wentz, could get some training and help with the supervision of the two student watercraft inspectors. Hansen reported that Neil Rummey, Special Education Advisor for the Northwoods Community Secondary School, contacted her to hold an informative workshop to educate teachers on Aquatic Invasive Species and Terrestrial Invasives. These workshops are a product of a \$125,000 DPI Dissemination Grant to share best practices of project - based learning with schools around the state in the hopes that this hands-on learning style will be introduced into traditional and non-traditional schools. Hansen said she spent about 1 ½ hours with them. Hansen handed out packets to the four teachers who attended the workshop.

**UWEX** – Kuzlik reported earlier in meeting.

**DNR** – Ron Eckstein and Kevin Gauthier report earlier in the meeting.

**LWCB** – Rudolph reported the last board meeting was held on June 2<sup>nd</sup> in Madison. It was a short agenda for that meeting. Rudolph feels that when DATCP prepared that agenda they were looking forward to the demise of the LWCB. Since then the Joint Finance Committee has voted by a large margin to reverse or eliminate the proposal the Governor had in his budget to eliminate the LWCB and that would restore the LWCB. The Governor had proposed to eliminate it and replace it with a council that would have had a different makeup and different responsibilities. It is in the budget that is being considered now. The Assembly has passed that budget and it is now being debated by the Senate. Hopefully the LWCB will survive the vote in the Senate as well. Rudolph spoke with Senator Holperin about this and he didn't seem to think there was any problem in the Senate. The final hurdle will be whether the Governor might choose to exercise his right to use line item veto authority to eliminate or strike that recommendation from the budget by the Joint Finance Committee. Holperin didn't think the Governor would veto that particular item. They anticipate the reinstatement of the LWCB who, in the last 1 ½, has worked with the DATCP and the DNR to develop a strategic plan for the future for the board. The Farmland Preservation Program is being phased out and the Working Lands Initiative will be implemented in the future. If the LWCB were abolished and a council replaced the Board, this would severely limit the County's input in the areas of resource management. Counties across the State participated with the public outcry against this type of formation.

**WLWCA** – Rudolph reported the WLWCA Executive Director has been furloughed on a part time basis until October. He is not in the State Office on a daily basis.

**RC&D** – Rudolph reported RC&D was covered earlier in the meeting. The Lumberjack RC&D is currently busy preparing for the State RC&D Council Conference that is being hosted in Rhinelander in September of this year.

**Monthly Budget Review**

Motion by Baier, second by Matteson, to approve the May budget for the Land & Water Conservation Department, Wildlife Damage Program, and AIS Program. Motion carried; all ayes.

**Travel Authorization**

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

- June 19, 2009 Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference Cable, Wisconsin (Ashley Wentz)
- June 24, 2009 WHIP Meeting Eagle River, Wisconsin (Hansen)
- July 23, 2009 Citizen Lake Monitoring Workshop Kemp Natural Resources Station, Lake Tomahawk (Hansen)
- July 24, 2009 Lumberjack RC&D Meeting Vilas County, Wisconsin (Committee/Staff)
- August 20, 2009 North Central Summer Tour Florence County, Wisconsin (Committee/Staff)

Kuzlik requested that the Committee approve and pay the expenses for Ashley Wentz, the summer UW Extension Horticulture Assistant, to attend the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference in Cable, Wisconsin as listed above. Kuzlik stated after she attends this training, Wentz will be better able to aid in implementing the AIS activities this summer. She will be able to assist Hansen in other AIS activities as well. Kuzlik stated Wentz attended the CBCW workshop in Three Lakes this month. Motion by Baier, second by Rudolph to approve Ashley Wentz, UW Extension Assistant Horticulturist, to attend the June 19<sup>th</sup> Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference in Cable, Wisconsin. The total amount for Wentz to attend this conference will be \$270.70. The Land & Water Conservation Department will pay for these expenses from funding in the AIS budget. Motion carried; all ayes.

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

Motion by Baier, second by Matteson, 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**

Items will be determined as suggested during current meeting.

**Public Comments**

Bob Williams, OCLRA, commented he would like the future agenda items to more specific to identify what they are for.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. Motion by Martinson, second by Rudolph. Motion carried; all ayes.

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Thomas Rudolph  
Chairman

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Nancy Hollands  
County Conservationist