

# MINUTES OF THE LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, July 17, 2009

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

**Members Present:** Chairman Tom Rudolph, Wilbur Petroskey, Matt Matteson, and Rod Kuczarski.

**Members Absent:** Gary Baier and Jack Martinson (excused absences).

**Others Present:** Nancy Hollands (County Conservationist); Jean Hansen (Conservation Specialist); Barb Payne (Secretary); Chuck Wickman (County Supervisor); Dan Kuzlik (UWEX); Kecia, Cassie, and Martin Hoyer (Youth Camp); and Nancy and Hans Hoehn (Youth Camp).

## ***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 June 17<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, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. and Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

## ***Public Comments***

Chuck Wickman was present and he commented on the AIS Coordinator Vacancy agenda item.

## ***Report on Conservation Youth Camp (Cassie Hoyer and Hans Hoehn)***

Cassie Hoyer and Hans Hoehn reported on their experiences at the Conservation Youth Camp which was held June 16 – 19 at Bruce, Wisconsin. Cassie and Hans gave very interesting reports. Both students stated they would definitely go again if they were offered the opportunity. The Committee thanked them for coming and sharing their experiences.

## ***Wildlife Damage Program Services-Bob Willging, USDA/APHIS***

Bob Willging wasn't available to report this month. This agenda item was tabled for next month's meeting.

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

Hansen reported that the Broukal project located on Upper Post Lake was just completed and is currently on this month's invoice list for approval. Construction started last week on the Noeges project located on Hasbrook Lake. Stacy Dehne, DATCP Engineer, signed off on the project. Hansen will be conducting a site inspection on Squirrel Lake. This project probably will not be started until 2010. Hansen noted she has fallen behind on her project designs for this year because of an increased workload due to the AIS vacancy. Hansen commented she will be spending time on her designs as soon as the DNR - AIS grant application is submitted in August.

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

Hollands reported we sent out packets to the schools earlier in the spring notifying the teachers of the scholarship program. Several press releases were also published. We haven't received any response from any teachers. Hollands commented she feels one of the reasons for the lack of interest is the fact that Trees for Tomorrow is only hosting two workshops this summer. In the past they have hosted six to eight workshops.

## ***Vacancy Review-AIS Coordinator Position***

Hollands stated the six-month mandatory AIS Coordinator vacancy deadline will be September 2<sup>nd</sup>. She asked the Committee what action they wanted to take. Hollands asked if they wanted to bring the request back to the LRES Committee. Hollands reminded the Committee that we need to keep our options open for the future. Matteson asked Chuck Wickman (LRES Committee member) what the LRES Committee's intentions are regarding the vacant AIS Coordinator position).

Wickman stated that he personally supports the AIS Coordinator position. Wickman stated the big hang-up with LRES is cost reduction and everything relates to reducing the cost of doing business. Rudolph stated he feels it is very important to bring the request back to LRES as soon as possible. Discussion followed. Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey to authorize Kuzlik and Hollands to present a new request to LRES to fill the AIS Coordinator position. Motion carried; all ayes. Hollands stated the Typist II position six-month vacancy deadline will also be coming up this fall. Hollands commented she would put that item on the agenda for the meeting next month.

***Update on Resolution to Merge UWEX and Land & Water Conservation Departments***

Rudolph stated a resolution is in place and is ready to be submitted to the County Board at their August meeting. Rudolph reported that the vote to merge the two departments together passed at the LRES joint meeting. The Land & Water Conservation Committee voted with four members in favor and two opposed. Hollands reported the LRES Committee voted with three members in favor and two absent at the joint meeting held last month. Hollands stated both Holewinski and Dean were absent at the joint meeting. Rudolph commented he hopes the County Board goes along with this merger recommendation.

***Draft AIS Grant Application for August 1, 2009/Resolution***

Hollands stated that the Committee needs to make a decision today as to what type of DNR – AIS grant they want to apply for on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Hollands stated the Committee also needs to decide if they want to apply for a one year or a three-year grant. After a lengthy discussion, the Committee agreed that a one-year grant would be more practical to complete than a three-year grant especially since the AIS Coordinator position is currently vacant. Motion by Matteson, second by Kuczmariski to approve applying for a one-year AIS grant up to \$50,000.00. The Committee recommended omitting the AIS survey as a grant deliverable. Motion carried; all ayes. Rudolph requested a copy of the finished draft when it is completed. Motion by Petroskey, second by Matteson to approve the resolution authorizing the County to apply for a one-year DNR-AIS grant not to exceed \$50,000, contingent upon Corporation Counsel's review and approval. Motion carried; all ayes. This resolution will be submitted to the Oneida County Board at their August meeting.

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

Hollands reported that the DNR Aquatic Invasive Species 2007 and 2008 grants were completed by the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. Hollands commented Watkins and Holman both worked on these grants. One DNR grant was a 50/50 split for a total amount of \$50,000.00, and the other DNR grant was a 75/25 split for a total amount of \$33,333.00. Hollands commented we should be receiving the monies from the State within the next couple of months. The outstanding DNR revenue amount due to Oneida County is for \$37,500.00.

***Request from Vilas County to include Oneida County in the boundary for the WHIP Group***

Rudolph stated Vilas County wants to include Oneida County in the boundary for the Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership (WHIP) Group. This request was discussed at last month's meeting. Rudolph stated this group also wants us to have a representative from Oneida County attend their WHIP meetings. Motion by Petroskey, second by Kuczmariski to approve Oneida County's inclusion within the boundaries of the "Cooperative Weed Management Area" (CWMA). Motion carried; all ayes.

***Report on Terrestrial Invasive Species Meeting held on June 4 in Eagle River***

Hansen stated the WHIP group application for funding assistance will be submitted at the July 25<sup>th</sup> Lumberjack RC&D meeting and should be approved by October. The WHIP Group sent letters to all the Oneida and Vilas town boards, supervisors, and city councils explaining the group's involvement, their purpose, their mission statement and their need for community support. The WHIP Group's next scheduled meeting is July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Town Hall. Committee discussion followed.

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

***Bear Lake District*** – Martinson absent; no report was given on the Bear Lake District.

***Mid Lake District*** – Petroskey reported the Mid Lake District held their annual meeting on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Petroskey commented the meeting was well attended. Petroskey stated that he stayed for approximately an hour. He distributed AIS handouts, provided by the Land & Water Conservation Department. Mid Lake District is currently doing weed control and is involved in a lake study. Petroskey stated this is a good Lake District and they are very active.

**Thunder Lake District** – Baier absent; no report was given on the Thunder Lake District.

**Horsehead Lake District** – Rudolph reported the Horsehead Lake District held a meeting recently. The lake study has been completed. They found and removed three to four EWM plants near the public boat landing. They annually contract with a weed harvester to remove the excess of natural weeds, which tend to get out of control some summers. The natural weed growth was down this year, but some weed harvesting will still be done. The Horsehead Lake weed beds have been mapped by GPS and this is a tremendous help with the locations for weed harvesting. Their annual meeting will be August 15<sup>th</sup>. A meeting of the lake property owners will be held prior to the annual meeting on the results of the Lake Study which was conducted by ONTERRA. Rudolph commented this is a very active group with excellent leadership.

**FSA** – Kuczarski reported current interests are drought conditions, crop losses, and potential claims. There is significant interest in stimulus funding that is available. Kuczarski noted Vilas County will be having their elections this fall. They will be needing people, who reside in Vilas County, to run for offices.

**NRCS** – No one present to report this month.

**LWCD** – Hollands reported the two AIS grant reports were completed and submitted by the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. The Department is currently working on the necessary revisions to the AIS grant application for the August 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Hollands reported she recently met with the Finance Committee regarding budgets. The DATCP funding for staff and cost share for 2009 will remain consistent with the originally submitted 2009 budget. Hollands stated if the Horticulture Assistant position is approved by the state for 2010, they would pay for 60% of the costs and the county would pay for 40%. There would be an estimated cost savings of approximately \$30,000.00 for the County. The position would then be eliminated from the LWCD budget. Hollands stated that less than 40% of our LWCD budget was paid by the County in calendar year 2008. The LWCD has annually submitted Land Conservation budgets with zero percent increase in the past. Florence County will be hosting the North Central Association Summer Tour on August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Hansen reported a landowner was recently dealt with through the Planning & Zoning Department. A violation has occurred within the 75 foot high water mark. Hansen and Dehne, DATCP Engineer, visited the site several weeks ago. The landowner used concrete, and that really created a run off problem. Hansen reported she had recently visited a gravel pit in the Town of Lynn. A site visit had been done last fall. Hansen stated the Town of Lynn has elected a new Town Chairman, Dave Schatzley. Hansen met with the new Town Chairman on the follow-through plan and conditional use permit process which was started last fall.

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

**DNR** – No one present this month to report.

**LWCB** – Rudolph reported the Governor's proposal to eliminate the LWCB was overturned by the Joint Finance Committee. One required condition was that an annual report needs to be submitted on the future direction of the Board by the LWCB, DATCP, and DNR to the Legislature by January. Rudolph said the Board spent 1½ years working on a strategic plan that was basically ignored. Rudolph reported he had participated in a conference call on July 16<sup>th</sup>. The next LWCB meeting will be August 4<sup>th</sup> regarding preparation of the report due in January. Rudolph reported he has served ten years on the LWCB. He said the Board is a good link to the other agencies.

**WLWCA** – Rudolph reported the Governor's Budget would have implemented drastic reductions in DATCP funds to support the staffing grants. Through a coalition of lobbying to get the staffing and cost share grant funding restored, the needed money was transferred from the Nutrient Management Fund into the DATCP staffing and cost share grant funds for 2009. The Executive Director continues to be on furlough until October. His position depends on the state association's ability to generate grant revenues in the future.

**RC&D** – Rudolph reported the Lumberjack RC&D consists of the Northeastern Counties. The Lumberjack RC&D will be the host for the Wisconsin Association of RC&D's Annual Conference which will be held in Rhineland on September 24<sup>th</sup> and September 25<sup>th</sup>. The Lumberjack RC&D Office has been busy working on this conference for the past three months. Local support is needed for this event. Rudolph encouraged all Oneida County Supervisors to attend the conference. Rudolph reported an AIS Coordinator has been hired for Forest, Langlade, and Lincoln Counties. The multi-county AIS Coordinator's office will be located at the USDA Service Center here in Rhineland.

### **Monthly Budget Review**

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

***Out-of County Meeting Attendance/Policy (Requested by Matt)***

Matteson expressed his concerns regarding out-of-county meeting attendance by Committee Members. Matteson asked if there is any type of County Policy in relation to attendance at out-of-county meetings. Matteson stated he would do some research to see what he could find out by the next meeting. Matteson requested this item be tabled until the next meeting date. Committee discussion followed.

***Travel Authorization***

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

- July 22, 2009 WHIP Group Meeting Eagle River, Wisconsin
- July 28, 2009 Low Lake Levels Workshop The Waters, Minocqua, Wisconsin
- August 14,15, & 16, 2009 Oneida County Fair Pioneer Park, Rhinelander, Wisconsin
- August 20, 2009 North Central Assoc. Summer Tour Florence County, Wisconsin
- September 24 & 25, 2009 Wisconsin Assoc. RC&D's Annual Conference Rhinelander, Wisconsin

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

Motion by Petroskey, 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***

No public present.

***Adjourn***

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m. Motion by Petroskey, second by Matteson. Motion carried; all ayes.

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Thomas Rudolph  
Chairman

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Nancy Hollands  
County Conservationist