

MINUTES OF THE LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, September 10, 2009

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

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

Members Absent: Rod Kuczmariski and Jack Martinson (excused absences).

Others Present: Nancy Hollands (County Conservationist); Barb Payne (Secretary); Chuck Wickman (County Supervisor); Dan Kuzlik (UWEX); and John Potters (County Coordinator).

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 minutes from the August 19th meeting and the current agenda 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, October 28th at 1:00 p.m. and Wednesday, November 18th at 9:00 a.m. The Poster Awards Presentation will be held in the Courthouse on Thursday, November 12th at 3:30 p.m.

Public Comments

No one present to comment.

Wildlife Damage Program Services – Agreement with USDA/APHIS for 2010

Hollands handed out copies of the draft Agreement with USDA/APHIS. Hollands commented it is a standard cooperative agreement with USDA/APHIS. Hollands explained pages 1-5 are what we do annually and pages 6-16 is the five year agreement. Hollands asked the Committee to review this agreement and bring it back to next month's meeting. A copy of the agreement would be provided to Brian Desmond, Corporation Counsel, to review. Hollands reported Ron Eckstein, DNR, provided a copy of the deer shooting permit for Sowinski Seed Potato Farms to harvest up to ten deer. The City of Rhinelander will be having a bow hunting season again this year. The season will run from September 4, 2009 through January 31, 2010. They are proposing to harvest approximately 60 deer within the Rhinelander city limits. Information packets were sent to three potential meat processors. The Lake Tomahawk Meat Market and TJ's Butcher Block will both be participating again this year. Bessey's Meat Market declined to participate in the program.

Budget for 2010 – LWCD, WDP, and AIS Programs

The proposed budgets for Land & Water Conservation Department, Wildlife Damage Program, and Aquatic Invasive Species Programs were handed out. Hollands explained each budget. Motion by Petroskey, second by Baier to approve the 2010 budgets for Land & Water Conservation Department; Wildlife Damage Program; and Aquatic Invasive Species Program as presented to the Committee. Motion carried; all ayes.

County Cost Share Program

Hollands reported for Jean Hansen, as she is currently attending a shoreline restoration workshop. The 2008 carryover projects for Makal, Weber, and Noesges are finished. The final reimbursements have been submitted. The Dorion carryover project was just completed. Hansen has spent the last two days working with the Town of Lynn on recommendations for their project. By providing technical assistance to the Town of Lynn, Hansen saved them considerable money.

Resolution on AIS Coordinator Position/Program Review

John Potters, County Coordinator, gave an overview on the AIS Coordinator position resolution. Potters stated this position doesn't meet the criteria to be a non-union position as it would have to be classified as managerial, advisory, or confidential. Potters commented that maybe be down the road this position may evolve into a type of managerial position.

The last two AIS Coordinators accumulated comp time. Radley Watkins had accumulated approximately 90-100 hours of comp time, and Jennifer Holman had accumulated approximately 300 hours of comp time. Potters reported the Union Contract states the work week is Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It just isn't possible to make this position non-union the way it is right now. Committee discussion included contracting professional services from a separate entity to work for the County. Potters reminded the Committee to take action and move the resolution forward to be presented at the September County Board meeting on Tuesday, September 22nd. Discussion followed. Motion by Baier, second by Matteson to approve the resolution to reauthorize the AIS Coordinator position to be presented to the County Board for approval at the September meeting. Motion carried; all ayes.

Ordinance Amendment on UWEX & Land/Water Conservation Departments

Rudolph went on record stating the LRES Committee voted in favor of merging UWEX and Land & Water Conservation Departments at their September 9th meeting. Potters explained why there needs to be a resolution and an ordinance amendment presented to County Board. Potters stated under the advisement from Brian Desmond, Corporation Counsel, a resolution is needed to address the two departments merging, and an ordinance amendment is needed to address the changes that will be made to the County Code. Motion by Petroskey, second by Matteson to approve the ordinance amendment to merge the UWEX and Land & Water Conservation Departments and present it to the County Board for approval at their September meeting. Motion carried; 3 ayes and 1 nay. Motion by Petroskey, second by Matteson to approve the resolution to merge UWEX and Land & Water Conservation Departments and present it to the County Board for approval at their September meeting. Motion carried; 3 ayes and 1 nay.

Vacancy Review-Typist II

Hollands reminded the Committee the deadline for the six-month vacancy requirement will be October 17th. Hollands stated we have had this part-time Typist II position since 2001. Hollands said Potters and Spencer allowed us to have Hendricks work for Land & Water Conservation two days a week since April. Effective Monday, August 31, 2009 Hendricks was needed to work full time in Social Services. Hollands commented that leaves our department with Payne as the only secretarial support for the office. The amount of work hasn't decreased. Hollands expressed her concern about keeping up the current workload with the 63% reduction in office staff. Hollands strongly encouraged the Committee to approve filling this vacancy. Potters stated that with the upcoming merging of the two departments and with the fiscal impact of the position, he would not recommend refilling it. He feels there will be adequate staff to utilize within UWEX.

Hollands stated that in the past the Typist II spent considerable time working for the AIS Coordinator. She feels when another AIS Coordinator is hired; the secretarial workload will again greatly increase. Potters stated that the Committee doesn't have to follow his recommendation. This position can still be presented to LRES for their approval. Wickman commented he is currently on the committee for P & Z Department and it is unlikely they will be able to assist with secretarial support. The P&Z is extremely busy complying with NR115. Wickman stated there have been so many enforcement issues that P&Z staff is spending more time in the Courts. Wickman commented, as a member of the LRES Committee, that he felt the UWEX would be able to provide the additional clerical assistance needed after the merger on September 23rd.

Hollands responded to Wickman that on September 23rd the Department merger will take place on paper, but the two departments will not be physically co-located until the relocation of the offices takes place. Hollands commented it is really difficult to work together when our staff is located in the Courthouse and UWEX staff is located at the Oneida County Airport. The UWEX support staff isn't readily available to help until our offices are located together. Committee discussion followed. Motion by Baier, no second, to approve sending the Typist II vacancy to LRES for approval; with the recommendation that we do not fill the Typist II vacancy at this time. However we would like to leave the option to refill the Typist II vacancy if the need occurs in the future. Motion denied for lack of a second to the motion. Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey to approve filling the Typist II vacancy and to forward this request to LRES for their approval. Motion carried; 3 ayes and 1 nay.

Request for LTE Support Staff Position

Potters stated the request for a LTE Typist will help the Land & Water Conservation Office with the services needed short term. The LWCD would be able to utilize funds that were saved from the Typist II vacancy to pay for hiring an LTE.

Potters stated he has talked with Margie Sorenson, Finance, and she confirmed that funds were available for an LTE. The County isn't required to pay benefits for a LTE. Potters stated he can approve hiring of a LTE for up to 90 days or 600 hours. Potters stated his recommendation would be to approve the hiring of a LTE to work in the Land & Water Conservation Department for the short term. Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey to approve the request to hire a LTE as support staff immediately. Motion carried; all ayes.

Potters was excused at 10:00 a.m.

Update/Status of AIS Grants/Budget/Activities

Kevin Gauthier, DNR, requested revision of the AIS grant application. Hansen spent considerable time revising the AIS grant application. It has been resubmitted to Kevin Gauthier, DNR. It will probably be sometime in October before we hear if we have received grant approval. The overall grant authorization was up to \$50,000 with a grant match of \$16,666. Hollands explained we can use the money from the AIS Coordinator's position toward our portion of the grant match. We received a check for reimbursement from the DNR in the amount \$18,750 for the 2007 outstanding AIS grant balance. We should be receiving another \$18,750 for the 2008 outstanding AIS grant balance. Hollands spoke with the DNR Grant Manager Jane Malischke. She is ready to approve payment, contingent upon Gauthier's final review and approval of our 2008 grant report. We should be receiving this payment in the next couple of months.

Report on Terrestrial Invasive Species Meeting held on August 25th in Woodruff

Hansen attended the WHIP meeting held on August 25th in Woodruff. Hollands provided a copy of the August WHIP meeting minutes provided by Ted Ritter. If you note on page two of the WHIP minutes; they are looking at whether their group can assist the Town of Woodruff with the management of a large infestation of Japanese Knotweed. Another topic that was discussed at this meeting was Garlic Mustard. The WHIP group has applied to Lumberjack RC&D for some startup money for project funding. That money should be coming to WHIP in the near future.

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

Bear Lake District – Martinson was absent so no report was given this month.

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

Thunder Lake District – Baier had nothing to report on the Thunder Lake District.

Horsehead Lake District – Rudolph reported that Horsehead Lake will have a report on their completed lake study. They will be having a special meeting on Saturday, October 24th to present this study to lake property owners.

FSA – No one was present to report this month.

NRCS – No one present to report this month.

LWCD – Hollands reported she has been working with The Lake Nokomis Group regarding the proposed Lake District. A staff work group has been formed consisting of Hollands, Dan Kuzlik, UWEX; Lynn Grube, ITS; Brian Desmond, Corporation Counsel; John Potters, County Coordinator; and Mike Romportl, Land Information. These county staff represents the different county departments involved in working on this Lake District project. After two staff work group meetings, we did come up with answers to all of the questions asked by the Lake Nokomis Group. Hollands stated it has been a lengthy process acquiring all of the answers that were requested. Hollands found out from Desmond the tax roll information used must be from the tax roll that was generated on the third Monday in December of 2008. The request for the tax information was forwarded to Lynn Grube, ITS, and Mike Romportl, Land Information. They are currently assembling the needed information for the Lake Nokomis Group. Hollands commented she thought it will be a while yet before any lake district petition is submitted. We are working with them and trying to guide them through the process. Hopefully we won't have to eliminate as many signatures this time. Baier noted in the future there should be a way for the County to receive reimbursement for this service to potential lake districts as it is very costly. Committee Discussion followed.

UWEX – Kuzlik reported he has been attending different meetings to get up to speed on the current issues involving the Land & Water Conservation Department. Kuzlik appreciated being included in the staff work group for the Lake District proposal. Kuzlik commented on a point recently made by Ted Ritter, AIS Coordinator for Vilas County. Ritter stated that every lake with AIS in Vilas County drains down into the Wisconsin River and then into Oneida County. Kuzlik said he would be attending part of the Lumberjack RC&D Conference being hosted in Rhineland in September. Dan Kuzlik was excused at 10:45 a.m.

DNR – No one present to report.

LWCB – Rudolph reported the board is still working on the annual report which is due in January. He will be attending a meeting next Wednesday, September 16th in Madison. He will be meeting with the other officers and the some of the other

agency people regarding the annual report. The board hopes to have a draft of the annual report available for the full Land and Water Conservation Board meeting which will be on October 6th. This will give the rest of the board a chance to review it.

WLWCA – Rudolph reported the WLWCA Executive Director has been on furlough since April. He has been busy helping us in terms of lobbying and keeping track of legislation. The Executive Director position may turn into part time. There is a board meeting coming up in November. Rudolph commented some of the reasons for this change are that funding from NRCS has been reduced and state funding is down. This in turn trickles down to the Executive Director were instrumental in turning the legislature around to restore our staff funding from DACTP. Without the help of the Executive Director we would not be receiving the grant funding for our staff positions here in our own Land & Water Conservation Department.

RC&D – Rudolph reported the WI Association of RC&D's Annual Conference will be hosted by the Lumberjack RC&D. It will be held in Rhinelander on September 24th and 25th. It is going to be a great conference this year with lots of interesting sessions and tours held throughout the two day event. Rudolph encouraged all the Committee members to attend this Conference.

Monthly Budget Review

This item was tabled until next month's meeting.

Travel Authorization

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

- October 21 – 22, 2009 2009 Fall AIS Coordinator Meeting Stevens Point, WI

Approval of invoices, purchase orders, and line item transfers

Motion by Matteson, second by Baier 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

Rudolph handed out several draft copies of the Oneida County Comprehensive Plan. Copies will be made and mailed to Kuczmariski and Martinson who were absent.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m. Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey Motion carried; all ayes.

Thomas Rudolph
Chairman

Nancy Hollands
County Conservationist