

MINUTES OF THE LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

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 Kuczarski-excused absence).

Others Present: Nancy Hollands (County Conservationist); Jean Hansen (Conservation Specialist); Barb Payne (Secretary); Bob Willging (USDA – APHIS Wildlife Services); Jim Tharman (USDA – APHIS Wildlife Services); and Kevin Boneske (Rhineland Daily News).

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 Petroskey, second by Martinson to approve the amended minutes from the December 16th 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 date will be Wednesday, February 17th at 9:00 a.m.

Public Comments

No one present to comment.

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

Hollands briefly went over the agreement with USDA/APHIS for 2010. The agreement will be a one-year agreement as the Committee had requested. Hollands noted Brian Desmond, Corporation Counsel, reviewed the agreement and made one or two changes. Bob Willging and Jim Tharman from USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services were present to answer questions. Willging stated the agreement consists of two parts. The first part is the cooperative agreement and the second part is the plan of administration. Willging introduced Jim Tharman as the contact person who will be working with Hollands. Committee discussion followed. Motion by Petroskey, second by Martinson to approve the Cooperative Service Agreement with USDA/APHIS for 2010 as presented. Motion carried; all ayes.

County Cost Share Program Update

Hansen reported the entire amount of 2009 DATCP cost-share funding was committed. Hansen stated one project has already been started on Planting Ground Lake in Three Lakes. Hansen commented she would be checking out the project later today. Hansen stated that she and the DATCP Engineer, Stacy Dehne would be doing an onsite inspection on Thursday. Hansen is currently working on several projects for 2010. At this time, we do not know how much funding Oneida County will receive for 2010. Hollands stated the 2010 funding allocation from DATCP would be made public most likely on the first Tuesday in February at the LWCB meeting. Rudolph commented we will just have to wait and see what happens on the state funding allocation.

Report on Terrestrial Invasive Species Meeting, November 18 - Woodruff

Hansen reported the November WHIP meeting was held at the Woodruff Town Hall. Approximately ten people attended this meeting. Hansen stated someone was present to share mapping activities. The majority of the meeting was spent on formation of a Steering Committee. Hansen briefly went over a list of potential persons interested in being on the Steering Committee. Hansen commented the WHIP Group's major concerns are with liability on privately owned land.

Update on status of AIS Coordinator Position

Hollands reported a five-person interview group conducted interviews three afternoons last week and came to a consensus on the first, second, and third choices for AIS Coordinator. Lisa Charbarneau, Employee Services Manager, is in the process of contacting references. At this time we don't have any final answer on it. Hopefully we will know something by the end of this week. Currently we are working through the final process. Rudolph commented we had some very outstanding candidates and they did an exceptional job. Committee discussion followed.

Resolution/DNR – Small Scale Grant Application for Dissolved Oxygen Meter

Copies of the resolution were handed out. Hollands reported the DNR requires that a County Board resolution be submitted for any grant applied for. This is a DNR grant not to exceed \$1600 with a total estimated project cost of \$2,100 which includes the County's grant match. Hansen reported this meter could be checked out by qualified persons to use in testing the oxygen levels in their lakes. Hansen and the Committee agreed it would be best if the dissolved oxygen meter was kept in the LWCD office and signed out as needed. Hansen noted it would be difficult to keep it at the Rhinelander DNR office, due to the decreased days the office is open to the public. Committee discussion followed. Motion by Baier, second by Martinson to approve submitting the Dissolved Oxygen Meter grant application resolution to the County Board for their approval. Motion carried; all ayes.

Update/status of AIS Grants/Budget Activities

Hollands stated the new DNR – AIS grant for 2009 – 2010 will be the direction the new AIS Coordinator will follow. There are numerous objectives that will need to be implemented as described in the grant. Hollands stated she has provided letters of support for Two Sisters, Crescent, Three Lakes, and Pelican Lake Associations.

WLWCA Special Assessment for 2009

Rudolph explained the amount of funds needed was \$800 per county. As Rudolph explained at last month's meeting, WLWCA has a budget deficit of \$45,000.00. The WLWCA needs these funds to continue to maintain a full-time Executive Director for 2010. Hollands explained she had been contacted by Margie Sorenson, Finance Director, who requested detailed documentation to support issuing a payment of \$800 to WLWCA for the special assessment charge. Sorenson had some concerns regarding what budget year these funds came from. Hollands handed out the WLWCA budget and documentation which was provided to Sorenson substantiating this extra expense. Rudolph further explained the benefits of having a full-time Executive Director to lobby on our behalf. Committee discussion followed. Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey to postpone taking any action at this time until further study with finance could be conducted. Motion carried; all ayes.

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

Bear Lake District – Martinson reported that Bear Lake District is still in litigation in the courts over future development around the lake.

Mid Lake District – Petroskey had nothing new to report. He reported this Lake District spends their winter months working on repairing their equipment.

Thunder Lake District – Baier had nothing to report.

Horsehead Lake District – Rudolph had nothing to report.

FSA – No one present to report this month.

NRCS – No one present to report this month.

LWCD – Hollands stated the department has been busy getting the 2009 cost-share contracts signed to meet the December 31st deadline. We are also in the process of filing the landowner cost-share reimbursement requests with DATCP so the county can get reimbursed for completed projects. Hansen reported Kuzlik met with the WHIP group on Friday, January 15th. Kuzlik had some very good recommendations for forming a steering committee. Hansen said the WHIP group now has a tentative mission statement. The mission statement may still need to be critiqued to add some additional wording that was suggested. Petroskey suggested getting the Oneida County Forestry Department involved as their technicians are out in the forests and could help identify possible infestations in Oneida County.

UWEX – No one present to report this month.

DNR – No one present to report this month.

LWCB – Rudolph reported the Board finished their Strategic Plan for 2008 – 2013 report and submitted it to the legislature by the January 1st deadline. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 2nd. Rudolph stated the 2010 DATCP final allocation plan should be approved at this meeting.

WLWCA - Rudolph reported he will be participating in a teleconference call on Monday, January 25th. Rudolph commented the conference calls are being used to cut costs. Rudolph stated he personally feels a meeting is conducted more efficiently by meeting in person than by teleconferences. He reminded the Committee there is a North Central Land & Water Conservation Association annual planning meeting which will be held on Friday, January 29 in Merrill. It will start with registration at 9:30 a.m. at the Lincoln County Service Center. The purpose of the meeting is to develop a 2010 Activities Schedule for the Association. Hollands discussed travel plans with the Committee.

Baier was excused at 10:40 a.m.

RC&D – Rudolph reported the next Lumberjack RC&D meeting will be held on Thursday, January 28th in Forest County. Hollands stated the travel authorization was approved at the December meeting. Hollands discussed travel plans with the Committee.

Monthly Budget Review

Motion by Petroskey, second by Matteson to approve the monthly budget review for December for the Land and Water Conservation Program, the Wildlife Damage Program, and the Aquatic Invasive Species Program. Motion carried; all ayes.

Travel Authorization

Motion by Petroskey, second by Matteson to approve attendance at the following meeting (s). Motion carried; all ayes.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| • January 27, 2010 | CWMA Symposium | Park Falls, Wisconsin |
| • February 5, 2010 | WHIP Meeting – Steering Committee | Woodruff, Wisconsin |
| • February 11, 2010 | Northern Technician’s Engineer Group Meeting | Park Falls, Wisconsin |
| • March 3, - 5, 2010 | WALCE Conference | La Crosse, Wisconsin |
| • March 30 – April 1, 2010 | Wisconsin Lakes Convention | Green Bay, Wisconsin |

Approval of invoices, purchase orders, and line item transfers

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

A list of the approved bills is kept on file and is available upon request. Motion by Petroskey, second by Matteson to approve a line item transfer from the WDP Budget Revenues to cover the deer processing expenses. Motion carried; all ayes.

Items for the next meeting agenda

Items will be determined as suggested during current meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m. Motion by Petroskey, second by Martinson. Motion carried; all ayes.

Thomas Rudolph
Chairman

Nancy Hollands
County Conservationist