

MINUTES OF THE LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

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

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Nancy Hollands (County Conservationist); Barb Payne (Secretary); John Potters (County Coordinator); Chris Hamerla (AIS Coordinator for Forest, Langlade, and Lincoln); Ken Krall (WXPR Radio); Tom Melnarik (NRCS Soil Conservation Technician); Dan Kuzlik (UWEX); Lawrence Eslinger (Oneida County AIS Coordinator); 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 Matteson, second by Petroskey to approve the amended minutes from the January 20th 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, March 17th at 9:00 a.m. and Friday, April 16th and 9:00 a.m.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Introduction of new AIS Coordinator

Dan Kuzlik introduced Lawrence Eslinger as the new AIS Coordinator. Eslinger gave a brief overview of his background and education. Eslinger officially started on February 15th. He is currently located at the UW-Extension office at the Airport. Hollands stated Eslinger's top work priority will be to follow the objectives listed in the AIS Grant.

Update/Status/of AIS Grants/Budgets/Activities

Hollands reported we are currently waiting for approval for the dissolved oxygen meter grant recently submitted to the DNR. Hollands stated that grant approval from the DNR looked favorable as it was their recommendation that we apply for this small grant. Hollands reported we currently have been approved for a \$47,147.00 AIS grant from the DNR, with the County picking up the tab for the AIS Coordinator's salary and fringe benefits.

Wildlife Damage Program Services

Hollands reported we are currently working on the year end DNR reports. Hollands handed out the state-wide totals of the Wisconsin deer donation program for 2009. Committee discussion followed.

County Cost Share Program Update

Hollands reported in Hansen's absence. Hollands stated work has already started on two of the 2009 carryover projects. We are currently waiting to receive final approval of our 2010 allocation from DATCP. The amount we receive for 2010 will determine how many projects will be completed.

Update on Status of DATCP Final Allocation Plan for 2010

Hollands commented we should be receiving approximately \$62,926 for cost-share projects and \$113,110 for staffing. The cost-share amount is similar to last year, but the staffing allocations are down. The total amount of revenue that Oneida County will receive from DATCP in calendar year 2010 is approximately \$176,036. We should receive notification by March 31st.

Soil & Water Conservation Stewardship Week

Hollands reported that Soil & Water Stewardship Week will be observed during the week of April 25 – May 2, 2010. This year's theme will be, "Conservation Habits Equal Healthy Habitats". Hollands stated the cost this year would be approximately \$200 for the bookmarks, \$350 for the bulletin inserts, \$49.50 shipping & handling, and \$60 for printing the bulletin inserts. The total cost will be approximately \$660. Motion by Baier, second by Petroskey to send out a letter and Soil and Water Stewardship Week ordering information to all the town clerks in Oneida County and also to the city clerk. Motion carried; all ayes. Motion by Matteson, second by Martinson to authorize the purchase of the 2010 Soil & Stewardship educational materials. Motion carried; all ayes.

Conservation Youth Camp Scholarships

Hollands reported the 2010 Conservation Youth Camp will be held on June 22nd through June 25th at Trails End Camp in Bruce, Wisconsin. The Conservation Youth Camp is for students who have completed grades 8, 9, and 10. The registration cost is \$100 per student. There is also another Conservation Camp that will be held in Marinette County. This camp is June 24th through June 26th at Camp Bird in Crivitz, Wisconsin. Students who will be entering the 6, 7, and 8 grades in the fall are eligible for this camp. The registration fee for this camp is \$50 per student. Hollands explained we usually budget \$200 for Conservation Youth Camp Scholarships. Committee discussion followed. Motion by Petroskey, second by Matteson to approve the Conservation Youth Camp Scholarships for 2010. Motion carried; all ayes.

Report on Terrestrial Invasive Species Week Meetings

Hollands handed out meeting notes from Ted Ritter on the Whip Steering Committee meeting held at the Woodruff Town Hall on February 5th. Rudolph reported the WHIP Group revised their mission statement. Rudolph stated there was extensive discussion on defining the difference in a memorandum of understanding and a memorandum of agreement. There are concerns with liability where the public is concerned. The next meeting will be held on April 9th in Woodruff. Tom Melnarik and Chris Hamerla commented that the WHIP Group is very beneficial to the area they represent and plays an important role in addressing the problem of terrestrial invasive species. 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.

WLWCA Special Assessment

Hollands reported the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association is in financial crisis and is asking for a one time payment of \$800 as a special assessment fee. This is to help support having the Executive Director full time for 2010. Hollands stated, after discussion with Finance Director Margie Sorenson, this one time payment would have to come from the 2010 budget and not the 2009 budget as originally stated. Rudolph explained the very important role the Executive Director plays in representing the Northern Counties. Without his lobbying efforts, Oneida County could have lost \$18,000.00 in state funding from DATCP for calendar year 2010. Committee discussion followed. Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey to approve payment of the special assessment charge from the 2010 budget, not to exceed \$800. Matteson – aye; Petroskey – aye; Rudolph – aye; Evsich – aye; Baier – nay; and Martinson – nay. Motion carried; 4 to 2.

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

Bear Lake District – Martinson had nothing new to report.

Mid Lake District – Petroskey had nothing new to report.

Thunder Lake District – Baier had nothing to report.

Horsehead Lake District – Rudolph reported the Horsehead Lake District has a very nice website if anyone is interested. The aerator has been running all winter. The northern fishing has been extremely good on the lake.

FSA – Bob Evsich then introduced himself as the FSA alternate for Rod Kuczarski. Evsich stated he will be attending the LWCC meetings when Kuczarski is unable to attend. Evsich explained their two biggest programs right now are the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP), and the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE crop disaster program). Applications are being accepted through February 3rd for the BCA Program. This program assists agricultural and forest land owners and operators with matching payments for the amount paid (up to \$45/ton for two years) for the collection, harvest, storage, and transportation (CHST) of eligible material by a qualified Biomass Conversion Facility (BCF). The SURE crop disaster program replaces the old crop disaster assistance program. Hollands handed out the FSA February Report that was provided by Susan Hunter, FSA County Executive Director.

NRCS – Tom Melnarik, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician, reported they are currently finishing up the EQIP cost-share program signup this Friday, February 19th. He stated there is a new program in 2010 for forest landowners who are not in the DNR Managed Forest Law Program. Under this program, forest landowners would be eligible for cost-share funds to assist them with development of a managed forest plan. There are five or six landowners who are eligible for this type of assistance. Melnarik stated Julie Malvitz, the NRCS District Conservationist, will be leaving this area at the end of the month. She will be working for the Bureau of Land Management in Denver, Colorado.

LWCD – Hollands reported the department has been busy working on year - end reports. We received our landowner cost share reimbursement from DATCP for 2009. Hollands stated the staff will be working on the 2009 County Activities Report that is due by April 15th. Hollands reported the North Central Land & Water Conservation Association held their annual planning meeting on Friday, January 29th at the Lincoln County Service Center located in Merrill. The North Central reorganizational meeting will be held June 18th in Antigo.

UWEX – Kuzlik was present and reported under the introduction of the new AIS Coordinator earlier in the meeting. Kuzlik announced he will be facilitating the third annual workshop entitled, “Pathways to Sustainability” which will be held on March 4th at Treehaven in Lincoln County.

DNR – No one was present to report this month.

LWCB – Rudolph reported he wasn’t able to attend the board’s February 2nd meeting. Rudolph attended the NACD 2010 Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida on January 31 through February 3rd. Rudolph handed out information booklets to the Committee outlining Conservation Practices and Programs for Your Land. The Board’s next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 6th.

WLWCA - Rudolph reported the special assessment request was discussed earlier in this meeting. Rudolph commented the Thursday Note publication covered several ongoing topics of interest. The Executive Director is back working full time as of the first of this year. Rudolph reported the Dry Hydrant Resolution was adopted in Chicago. It was approved unanimously at the Annual Meeting in Florida also. The Dry Hydrant Resolution will be listed on a consent calendar for consideration. Rudolph stated only two delegates were chosen from Wisconsin to attend the NACD Meeting in Orlando.

RC&D – Rudolph reported The Lumberjack RC&D Council voted to donate \$2,000 to WLWCA to assist them in their effort to keep the Executive Director full time.

Baier was excused at 10:04 a.m.

Kuzlik was excused at 10:35 a.m.

Martinson was excused at 11.45 a.m.

Monthly Budget Review

Motion by Petroskey, second by Martinson to approve the monthly budget review for December Adjustment I - 2009 for the Land and Water Conservation Program, the Wildlife Damage Program, and the Aquatic Invasive Species Program. Motion carried; all ayes. Motion by Martinson, second by Matteson to approve the monthly budget review for January 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 Matteson, second by Petroskey to approve attendance at the following meeting (s). Motion carried; all ayes.

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| • March 17, 2010 | Meeting for Lakes Conference Presentation | Eagle River, WI (Hansen) |
| • March 4, 2010 | Research Summit Workshop | Treehaven, Lincoln County |
| • April 8 – 9, 2010 | County Conservationist Meeting | Waupaca, WI |
| • April 9, 2010 | Whip Group Meeting | Woodruff, WI |

Approval of invoices, purchase orders, and line item transfers

Motion by Petroskey, second by Matteson to approve the February 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 Other Professional Services line item to cover the December Adjustment I - 2009 overages in Overtime Wages, Central Purchasing, Membership Dues, and Repair of Rental Equipment in the Land & Water Conservation budget. Motion carried; all ayes. Motion by Matteson, second by Evsich to authorize Vice Chairman Petroskey, acting in the absence of Chairman Rudolph, to approve any additional line item transfers for 2009 that are necessary. Motion carried; all ayes.

Items for the next meeting agenda

Items will be determined as suggested during current meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m. Motion by Petroskey, second by Matteson. Motion carried; all ayes.

Wilbur Petroskey
Vice Chairman

Nancy Hollands
County Conservationist