

MINUTES OF THE LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, April 16, 2010

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

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

Members Absent: Rod Kuczmariski and Gary Baier (excused absences)

Others Present: Nancy Hollands (County Conservationist); Barb Payne (Secretary); Jean Hansen (Conservation Specialist); Lawrence Eslinger (AIS Coordinator); Susan Hunter (Farm Service Agency); Tom Melnarik (NRCS Soil Conservation Technician); Tyrone Larson (NRCS Assistant State Conservationist); Kim Goerg (Lumberjack RC&D Coordinator); Ray Briggs (DNR Forestry Technician); Ron Eckstein (DNR Wildlife Biologist); and Dan Kuzlik (UWEX).

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 Martinson to approve the minutes from the March 17th meeting and the current agenda with the order of agenda items at the discretion of the Chairman. Motion carried; four ayes. (Rudolph abstained because he was not present at last month's meeting).

Set date for next meetings

Chairman Rudolph noted the next meeting date will be decided by the new Committee members at a later date.

Public Comments

No public comments.

DNR Tree Shipping Account (John Gillen – DNR)

Ray Briggs, DNR Forestry Technician, reported for John Gillen. Briggs stated the trees will be arriving next Tuesday on April 20th. There isn't any request for the use of the tree planter this year. The shipping charge for this year is \$5.00 per thousand seedlings ordered. The orders consist mostly of Red Pine seedlings. Briggs commented that approximately 17,000 seedlings were ordered this year. Committee discussion followed.

Report on Annual Deer Herd Status Meeting (Ron Eckstein – DNR)

Ron Eckstein, DNR Wildlife Biologist, reported that both Oneida and Vilas held annual deer herd status meetings earlier this year. Eckstein handed out packets of information to the Committee. He reviewed the data that was compiled by the DNR. Eckstein answered questions and discussion followed.

Wildlife Damage Program Services

Hollands reported that she would be meeting with Jim Tharman, USDA Wildlife Services, in the future to go over the program. Committee discussion followed.

County Cost Share Program Update

Hollands stated the Committee needs to decide what percentage of cost share they would approve in 2010. Hollands and Hansen explained the advantages and disadvantages associated with the different percentages used in the past. The State will allow up to 70% cost-share per project. If a county doesn't commit all of its funding, it could affect their future allocation. Hansen reported Stacy Dehne, DATCP Engineer, is in favor of the 50/50 percent cost sharing for projects in 2010. Committee discussion followed. Motion by Matteson, second by Rudolph to approve using the 50/50 percent cost share for the 2010 cost-share projects. Motion carried; (4 – ayes and 1 – nay/Martinson).

Hansen handed out the Pijan contractor cost estimates. Committee discussion followed. Motion by Petroskey, second by Matteson to approve the lowest bid that was submitted by D.R. Thomas for the amount of \$10,298.07. As part of the motion the Committee also confirmed the use of a 50/50 percent cost share for 2010. Motion carried; all ayes.

DATCP – SWRM Grant Contract for Calendar Year 2010

Hollands reported our DATCP – SWRM 2010 contract is \$62,926.00 for landowner cost sharing plus carryovers from 2009 in the amount of \$58,335.00, for a grand total of \$121,261.00. Some of the landowner cost-share projects take the second year to complete. The DATCP will approve carryover of projects provided the contracts are signed by the landowner/county and are submitted to DATCP by the December 31 deadline. We have \$113,110.00 available for salaries and fringes for staff. The grand total for 2010 is \$234,371.00. Committee discussion followed. Motion by Petroskey, second by Martinson to approve the DATCP – SWRM Grant Contract for calendar year 2010. Motion carried; all ayes.

Update on DATCP Grant Application for Calendar Year 2011

Hollands stated our grant application is complete and the paperwork has been signed and submitted. She reported that she received confirmation from DATCP stating they received our grant application for 2011 before the April 15th deadline. We requested \$100,000.00 for landowner cost sharing as the Committee had previously requested. We are eligible \$179,716.00 for staffing (salary and fringes). Hollands went on to explain the application process. The DATCP allows each county a basic allocation of \$85,000.00 for staffing. The DATCP has a table and formula for funding where each position is listed with the salaries, fringe benefits, and allowed percentage. This information is incorporated into the grant application process. The projected eligible cost-share amount for staffing in 2011 was for an increased amount.

The DATCP allowed us to project out the salary and fringes for the entire year for the AIS Coordinator position, even though it was vacant most of 2009. We had to provide proof that the position was authorized. The other added plus was that Hollands stated that she took a 200 hour buyout from her banked vacation time, which allowed a larger state grant amount for the position. We were not able to project the salary and fringes for the vacant Typist II position as there is no documentation to substantiate the intent to fill this vacancy. This position is still in our budget, but we do not have the authority to move forward. Consequently this position was listed at the actual cost with no projection for the year allowed. The totals will be \$100,000.00 for cost share and \$179,716.00 for staffing. The Committee provided authorization at their last meeting to allow Rudolph to sign the grant application. Hollands is hoping that we will be receiving some preliminary grant figures for 2011 by mid August. Committee discussion followed.

Report on Terrestrial Invasive Species Week Meeting(s)

Hansen reported the WHIP group met on April 9th, at the U.S. Forest Service in Rhineland. Pam Wiese, a grant specialist, was the speaker for this meeting. She went over what is needed to get the memorandum of understanding for the WHIP Partnership agreements. Ted Ritter is working on the memorandum of understandings and agreements. The next meeting will be May 21st in Woodruff at 9:15 a.m. Kim Goerg reported Lumberjack RC&D approved the financial sponsorship for the WHIP Group. Goerg went over the liability issue and reported the Council is in the process of obtaining a rider to their insurance policy to deal with liability issues. Committee discussion followed.

Update/Status of AIS Grants/Budget/Activities

Eslinger reported the deadline for the LTE applications is today. To date twelve applicants have applied for the LTE positions. Eslinger distributed a list of upcoming items to be purchased for the AIS program. The items were listed as follows: Supplies – LTE'S (\$400); Stickers for boat bumpers – (\$550); CBCW Workshops kits – (\$1,125); CLMN Workshop kits – (\$1,950); Napkins – (\$1,182); Dissolved Oxygen Meter – (\$1,556). These items have been budgeted in current AIS Grant.

Report from AIS Coordinator on current activities

Eslinger announced he will be having an AIS Display at City Hall on April 24th for Earth Day. He will be there from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Eslinger reviewed a current list of his activities and accomplishments for this month as listed below:

- ❖ Eslinger reported he has completed a March newsletter and it has been emailed and distributed.
- ❖ The logistics for the CBCW and CLMN Workshops have been determined.
- ❖ Eslinger has been working on an updated Oneida County's AIS waters list and a map was created by the Land Information Department.
- ❖ He recently attended the Wisconsin Association of Lakes Convention in Green Bay.
- ❖ Recently did a radio interview with Coyote 93.7.

- ❖ Presented at DNR – Anglers Guide’s meeting in Eagle River: “Aquatic Invasive Species and Us, as Anglers: Why We Need to Be Concerned.”
- ❖ Compiled the distribution list to area bait shops where stickers will be used on minnow buckets.
- ❖ Distributed County Ordinance signs and portable letter board signs to design.
- ❖ Contacted schools for class presentations.
- ❖ Attended a CBCW/CLMN Train – the – Trainer workshop in Phillips.
- ❖ Attended Oneida County Towns Associations meeting in Little Rice.

Report on Wisconsin Lakes Convention

Matteson reported this was one of the best conventions he has ever attended. Eslinger reported he attended a “Smart Prevention Workshop” and a “Citizens Lakes Monitoring Workshop.” Petroskey reported this convention is attended by highly motivated individuals. Hollands reported she attended the National Lakes Assessment Session and she felt it was very interesting. Rudolph reported he attended sessions on updates for NR115 and what it will mean for us in the future.

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

Bear Lake District – Martinson reported there will be a meeting next week.

Mid Lake District – Petroskey had nothing new to report.

Thunder Lake District – Baier was absent so no report was given.

Horsehead Lake District – Rudolph reported the Horsehead Lake District held their meeting last week. Their lake study is almost complete and will be available at the end of the month. The information obtained in this report has been used to plan the weed harvesting for 2010.

FSA – Susan Hunter, FSA, handed out copies of the monthly Farm Service Agency report. Hunter briefly went over the different programs listed and explained what programs pertain to this area. Several newer programs were highlighted by Hunter. Bob Evsich, FSA alternate member, reported he had attended the Volm Spring Open House which featured products including those used in erosion control.

NRCS – Tyrone Larson, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist, reported the Oneida, Vilas, Florence, and Forest District Conservationist vacancy was posted several weeks ago. The deadline for applications to be submitted for this vacancy is May 3rd. The interviews will be held during the second or third week in May. Larson reported the NRCS State Conservationist, Pat Leavenworth, is currently working in Washington DC. The Assistant State Conservationist from Illinois will be acting in her place until she returns. Tom Melnarik, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician, reported that EQIP funds have been committed and the contracts have been signed. There are 15 – 18 contracts for this year. Melnarik reported they are going to have a busy summer season.

LWCD – Hollands reported the DATCP reimbursement reports have been completed. The auditors were here last week. They reviewed our grant programs and found everything to be satisfactory. Hollands reported she recently received a call from Mrs. Shirley Ament who is helping Lake Nokomis Association with the process of forming a Lake District. Mrs. Ament said they are getting close to submitting their petitions to start the verification process over again.

UWEX – Kuzlik reported UWEX has received a request from The Merrill Lynch Group in Minocqua requesting an AIS presentation. Kuzlik stated that he wrote a letter to all the town chairs in Oneida County explaining the merger of the two departments and the services that are available. Kuzlik indicated he offered to attend their town meeting(s) and explain what services are available. Rudolph asked Kuzlik if he sent the letter to the town clerks. Rudolph commented the clerks are the ones that do the day-to-day business for the towns. Kuzlik stated that he would be sure to send out another letter to all the town clerks. Kuzlik mentioned there will be a presentation at Kemp Station called “Loon Watch” on Saturday, May 8. If anyone is interested in attending, they should call UWEX for more information. The Summer Horticulturist position has been approved by the County and UWEX is accepting applications for the position.

DNR – Rudolph reported he recently attended a DNR Public Hearing dealing with proposed phosphorus rules. The hearing was held at the Quality Inn in Rhinelander. Rudolph commented he feels the DNR needs to address each watershed separately to be accurate.

LWCB – Rudolph reported they met on the first Tuesday in April in Madison. The Board reviewed Land and Water Resource Management Plans for four counties. They will be sponsoring a forum on June 1st in Stevens Point. This forum

will be dealing with obtaining different sources of funding in the State, and it will help the LWCB deal with cut backs in the future.

WLWCA - Rudolph reported most of the meetings have been conducted by conference calls. There will be a face-to-face meeting held during the Conservation Observance Day in Marathon County on June 24th. Rudolph stated the good news is the Executive Director is back working full time for the association.

RC&D – Kim Goerg reported the next Lumberjack RC&D Council meeting will be held on May 27th at 9:00 a.m. in Langlade County at Deerbrook. Goerg stated more details will be mailed out at a later date. The Sixth Annual Sustainable Forestry Conference was held in Florence recently. Committee discussion followed. Goerg reported Bio Mass was the hot topic of interest at the conference. Goerg stated the WHIP Group is becoming very active and the organization is picking up steam.

Award Presentation

An award was presented to Wilbur Petroskey for his 22 years of dedicated service to Oneida County Board in the interest of Land & Water Conservation. Everyone wished Wilbur well on his upcoming retirement from County Government.

Monthly Budget Review

Hollands reported on the final budget for calendar year 2009. The Land & Water Conservation Department expenses for 2009 were \$280,694.00, with \$178,373.00 provided from revenues. Hollands stated that 64% of this department's budget in 2009 was generated by revenues from grants, and the remaining 36% of the budget came from the County Tax Levy. Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey to approve the 2009 budget as reviewed. Motion carried; all ayes.

Travel Authorization

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

- May 21, 2010 WHIP Meeting Woodruff, Wisconsin
- May 27, 2010 Lumberjack RC&D Meeting Langlade County (Deerbrook)
- June 18, 2010 North Central Reorganization Meeting Antigo, Wisconsin

Approval of invoices, purchase orders, and line item transfers

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

A list of the approved bills is kept on file and is available upon request.

Items for the next meeting agenda

Items will be determined as suggested during current meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m. Motion by Martinson, second by Matteson. Motion carried; all ayes.

Thomas Rudolph
Chairman

Nancy Hollands
County Conservationist