

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee

April 11, 2019

Minutes

Committee members present: Chairman Bob Mott, Robb Jensen, and Mitch Ives, Kim Simac, and Jim Winkler. Alan VanRaalte excused.

Others present: Andrea Rippley, Matthew Leitner, Michele Sadauskas, Jim Tharman, Karl Jennrich, and Merry Lehner.

Call to order: Chairman Mott called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. The meeting was posted properly and the facility handicapped accessible. The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to meeting today despite the snowstorm.

Approve Agenda: Motion by Jensen/Ives to approve today's agenda with the order of the items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve Minutes:

Mott/Jensen made a motion to approve 03/11/19 CUW Committee meeting minutes, with edits requested, and to approve minutes of the special meeting held on 3/19/19. All ayes; motion carried.

Future Meetings:

Monday, May 13, 2019	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room - Extension will attend this meeting.
Monday, June 10, 2019	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room

USDA Wildlife Damage Program Update:

Jim Tharman requested the approval of the Turkey Donation program. It functions similar to the deer venison donation program and would need this Committee to approve the program, if the County wants to participate. He would need to see if there are turkey processors in the County. There has been little activity in the turkey donation program this past year. The Committee felt it was not worth pursuing. Jensen/Simac made a motion not to participate in turkey donation program, due to lack of interest in previous years. All ayes; motion carried.

Tharman excused 1:24 p.m.

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Airport Conference Room 2020 plans-alternate location:

Airport Manager, Matt Leitner, requested that the Committee comment on recent conversations about whether UW Extension would be re-locating. If Leitner was to propose further improvements for the Extension Conference room to the Airport Commission, it would be a tough sell given the circumstances. The Committee commented that Extension moving away from the current location is a very preliminary proposal. Further, complaints over the air quality continue and the preference would be to find another location for Extension. The Petco site offers some nice office space but those plans are premature at this point. Public Works voted 3:1 not to pursue a consultant to study having Highway Department move to the Petco site. There is a resolution to fund an on-going study of the Petco site. If that \$15,000 study to the consulting firm goes through, then the plan to look at future plans here, would stop. If the decision is not to fund study, then the Airport and Extension proceed with the remodeling plans of the conference room.

Leitner excused 1:30

Land and Water Resource Management Plan (LWRM) 2020-2029:

- a. The Revised Timeline is May 13, for the draft plan to be presented to the Committee. The Committee should present any questions, concerns, and comments at the May meeting. Final comments on the draft, from the Committee, will be accepted up to May 15. Either electronic or hard copies of the draft plan will be distributed to the Committee on April 24.
- b. They will set Public Hearing date today. Fred Heider suggested Wednesday, June 5 or Thursday, June 6. The time will be set for late afternoon or early evening, which is what the Committee prefers. The Committee set the time

for 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday June 5, to be held in the County Board Room.

Lake Nokomis Lake District Report:

Alan VanRaalte was unable to present, but a written report was provided. There were no further comments.

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WLWCA Annual Conference Report:

Bob Mott attended the conference and stated that water issues are a concern statewide. There are 42,000 wells contaminated by nitrates. PFA contaminants, (Perfluoroalkyl substances) are a new pollutant found in water. The shiny lining in pizza boxes, that allow the boxes to repel both water and oil, is an example of where PFA's are used. There is an abundance of this material present and it does not break down in the environment. Three quarters of the state draw water from ground water. PFAs are in public water systems and drinking water wells, and soil. A lobbyist commented that we have the first divided government since 2005. Many of the legislators have never worked in divided government before, which inhibits getting things accomplished. If a well tests positive for contaminants, it cannot be shut down or be mandated by government to do so, as a private well. There are health hazards from drinking contaminated water. Much comes from farm fertilizers, septage leaks, and from poor well casings. There are counties who offer water samples and well testing as a public service.

A presentation called Dark Skies Initiative was about light pollution and how we are losing 2-5% of our dark skies every year. It affects people and the natural order of frogs, fireflies, and bird migration. Eighty percent of the world's population can no longer see the Milky Way Galaxy. A wise choice in selecting light bulbs helps.

Joint Finance Committee Budget Hearings pertaining to County Land & Water Departments:

A listing of JFC public budget hearings on the 2019-21 State Budget meeting locations for April were distributed if anyone wishes to attend. Written comments can be emailed to the Committee at BudgetComments@legis.wisconsin.gov Winkler said Steven Schreier plans to attend in Green Bay on April 24, and offered to forward anyone's concerns.

Septage Disposal:

- a. Jennrich sent a memo to towns believed to have land spreading operations of septage. Jennrich inquired if the townships had any complaints. There were no complaints from most of the towns. Only two towns, Stella and Woodboro, logged complaints. The dumping of septage on frozen ground was the issue in the complaint. Jennrich contacted the septic spreaders and most companies take their septage to waste water treatment plants. The Woodboro complaint is on a specific site. The people who complained were in proximity to that site and those complaints are being forwarded to the DNR. The DNR is supposed to be in charge of enforcement.
- b. Regulation of land application of septage: It should not necessarily be from Oneida County, because the County does not have authority to do so, presently. The County can "prod" the DNR.

A motion by Mott/Winker was made to draft a letter to the DNR, to be aware of the septage disposal issues. Jennrich will draft a letter to the DNR, as the enforcement authority, to enforce any septage spreading problems, where the Committee Chair will sign the letter. All ayes; motion carried.

Concentrated Animal Feedlot Operations:

No action has started, but an ordinance for a stand-alone CAFO ordinance for Oneida County will be drafted in the next few weeks. Mott mentioned the large pig farm in Bayfield County, did not go through DAPCP in creating their ordinance. Bayfield plowed ahead and courts found the ordinance unacceptable. The CAFO, however, ended up not being established and Bayfield County accomplished their goal of preventing the CAFO in their area. The Committee would like to look at a draft ordinance for Oneida County, so that something is in place if a CAFO were to occur in our lake rich county. Un-zoned towns will need to be researched on how those areas would be covered. There are very limited areas where CAFOs could be present in Oneida County. Jennrich will bring back to Committee a draft ordinance.

Consent Agenda for Land and Water:

Jensen/Winkler made a motion to accept items a, b, c, and d as presented. All ayes; motion carried. Regularly scheduled meetings do not have to be continually approved.

Excused: Jennrich, Sadauskas, Simac 2:23 p.m.

County Fair Report Update:

Jim Winkler: A Strategic Planning Session recently held engaged in a SWAT exercise by Myles Alexander to address ideas and plans to get things accomplished for the Fair. They discussed a different Fair site for the future, and the need for a plan to be in place. A new Fair Committee member, Meggan Sprecksel, has come forward to help in specific projects for the Fair. All the Entertainers are in place for the Fair except for one cancellation. Returning acts are Apollo’s Beacon, the Youth Talent show, and all the contests. A new vendor, Jack Flint will offer Flintography, photographs. The Long Range Plan: Another committee member who does lighting will be offering their services for the Fair. There is another Fair member, Shawn Will, who they are trying to get on the Committee. The request for a Credit/Debit card request to the Finance Department will be addressed at the next meeting.

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Consent Agenda Items – Oneida County Fair:

A motion by Jensen/Winkler to accept agenda items a and b as presented. All ayes; motion carried. A motion to accept a new Fair member, Megan Sprecksel, Agenda item c, was made by Winkler/Jensen. Sprecksel lives in the Rhinelander area. All ayes; motion carried.

Consent Agenda Items – UW Extension:

Winkler/Jensen moved to accept a and b, monthly budget reports and expenses as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Office Air Environment:

For the month of March, there were seven reports of either diesel fumes or sewer odors in the lower level of the airport. Use of this conference room (Airport Conference Room) suggested for Committee meeting. Clean air machine suggested for Extension office.

Public Comment: None

Items to Include on next Agenda:

Airport Conference room update. Update on State rules adequate for CAFOs and Septage Letter to DNR, LWRM and public hearing update, LWCD update, Fair Report/Discussion. Extension meets with Committee in May. Educator Updates, Office Air. Winkler requests to review AIS Facebook storage problem, Winkler to report on Lakes Convention.

Adjournment:

Mott adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Merry Lehner, Recording Secretary

Bob Mott, Committee Chair