

**Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee**  
**July 15, 2019**  
**Minutes**

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

**Others Present:** Steve Nelson, Carrie Kubacki, Andrea Rippley, Michele Sadauskas, Stephanie Boismenuue, Karl Jennrich, Baerbel Ehrig, Norris Ross, Fred Knoch, and Merry Lehner.

**Call to order:** Chairman Mott called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was properly posted and the facility handicapped accessible. Mott attended the six county OCLRA/VCLRA conference at Nicolet on Friday, July 12, 2019.

**Approve Agenda:** A motion by Jensen/VanRaalte to approve the amended agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

**Approve Minutes:**

VanRaalte/Ives made a motion to approve 6/10/19 CUW Committee meeting minutes, to approve the 6/5/19 Public Hearing Meeting minutes and the LWRM 6/24/19 Special CUW Committee meeting minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

**Future Meetings:**

|                           |           |                      |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| Monday, August 12, 2019   | 1:00 p.m. | UWEX Conference Room |
| Monday, September 9, 2019 | 1:00 p.m. | UWEX Conference Room |

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**Bear Lake District Report- Robb Jensen:**

There were two concerns addressed. The volunteers for Clean Boats Clean Waters will not continue next year and new volunteers or lake residents are needed to take over the position. They want to continue to receive grant money for the program. A report over snake problems on the lake was observed. The DNR will visit to discuss options.

**Cost Share:**

Projects Update:

Scott Creek: The south culvert shows signs of erosion due to heavy rains after construction last fall. They will take action to replace/maintain the riprap, fabric, and road surface. They will monitor the road over top section and the removal of a small berm may be necessary. The DNR will send an update on how they will remedy the site. The North Culvert has some erosion after installation and the overflow section is not functioning. They will take necessary actions to replace/maintain riprap, fabric, road surface, and replace the overflow culvert.

Charest Project: A before and after photo with use of root wads to deflect the stream flow was presented. The permit is at the DNR with project start date in fall 2019.

Kulakowski Project Approval: The deposit was received and the area will be surveyed the area next week. This will be the department's third cost share project pending Committee approval. An amount of \$8,000 is allocated. Van Raalte/Winkler made a motion to approve the Kulakowski project not to exceed \$8,000. All ayes; motion carried.

**Up-coming Events:**

County Conservationist meeting is scheduled for July 18-19, 2019 in Stevens Point. Mott may attend one day.

The Water Quality Task Force Public Comment is on July 23, 2019 in Tomahawk. Agenda was distributed. The top five water quality issues will be included. Mott asked that the septage issue be included stating that during periods of snow cover or frozen ground, the hauler should opt to use a facility in a town district.

The Land & Water Resource Management Plan Presentation will be on August 6, 2019. Sadauskas, Mott, Jennrich, and Heider will attend the presentation in Madison.

The Vilas County Summer Tour - August 16, 2019. More information will be coming soon.

AIS Snapshot Day-August 27, 2019, is a statewide search for aquatic invasive species. Stephanie Boismenu is sponsoring with the River Alliance of WI partnership at the Lake Tomahawk boat landing.

The AIS Stewardship Awards Banquet is on August 22, 2019 at Holiday Acres. All the events will be posted.

#### **Implementation Questions to Accompany LWRM Plan:**

Answers to four implementation questions were requested to be included in the Plan with Sadauskas as the authorized representative. The document was shared for review by the Committee. See handout.

1. Accomplishments made under invasive species, water quality, on-line resource distribution.
2. Three areas where LWCD was unable to make desired progress: livestock, forestry, and cropland/nutrient management
3. With a small department and small agricultural land base, Oneida County relies heavily on Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) to provide first contact with producers.
4. Changes in the LWCD Plan include pollinator habitat/awareness and revision of mining goals.

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#### **Fee Schedule on Mitigation for Violations:**

There have been violations with boat house construction permits regarding steep slopes and vegetation planting issues on shorelines. Zoning is recommending some sort of fee for this mitigation. The department would like to offer some technical advice to homeowners. The Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) can assist with engineering aspects as well. Mott asked if Conservation can handle or if they require help with engineering corrections on violations. Department assistance will not be offered for free or be a part of the Cost Share program. They want something done to mitigate the problem. The department can enforce violations as needed, when it is reported. Fee schedules for "Restoration/Erosion Control" and "Plan Review" with a private contractor, fees will be discussed with the Finance department. A motion by VanRaalte/Jensen to approve the fees and send it back to Land and Water to present to the County Board. All ayes; motion approved.

#### **Internet Landing Installed Device Sensor (I-LIDS):**

In the past I-LIDS were considered an ineligible expense for lake district groups. It is now an eligible item. I-LIDS is a sensing device on a boat landing that monitors removal of weeds and bilge water. A camera takes pictures of boats entering and leaving the water. It detects the metallic motor or boat trailer. Data is sent to a site in Minnesota where the data is reviewed. Violators are reported to their appropriate county sheriff and DNR. Installation would be at a State boat landing, such as at Pelican Lake. Signage will alert people that it will be monitoring with a remote camera. Mott said a grant was given to Pelican Lake for I-LIDS, plus it costs \$2,000 per year to operate I-LIDS. The purpose is to protect the lake from AIS. The device is intended to be a reminder to boaters to reduce the risk of AIS. Sadauskas will share the email from the DNR with the Committee members to share with their Lake Districts.

#### **Concerns Regarding the Rise of Mosquito Spraying:**

Mosquito spraying control was touched on in an earlier meeting and the Land and Water Conservation department feels there needs to be some balance between LWCD working on pollinator gardens, restoring and controlling habitat and the use of broad-scale chemical control of mosquitos. The type of chemical used by mosquito spray companies and private use will disrupt a larva's nervous system. There are also the big box store fogger products that sell mosquito elimination products. Sadauskas sampled two products and the two chemicals, d-phenothrin and pyrethrol, are toxic to aquatic organisms. They have significant negative impacts on many aquatic invertebrates and fish, birds, and amphibians that live and feed in wetlands. The chemicals can even penetrate foliage. The ingredient used needs to dry or it may hurt pets or animals. The public has the right to ask what the ingredient is being used by the manufacturer or the person spraying. Further research cited University of Wisconsin websites advising that the consumer should ask for information on which chemical is used. The use of most pesticides is legal. The concern is that these chemicals kill many beneficial insects. There needs to be an outreach to the community so they understand the effects of the chemicals being used. This affects the whole pollinator effort of the LWCD department. Mott suggested inviting the mosquito spray companies to attend seminars with our concerns about how the pesticides affect many organisms. The LWCD could host information sessions, or if they can't attend, then ask them to provide a listing the chemicals involved. There may be a proprietary product ingredients. Ehrig said that licenses are issued from DATCP and there could be intervention at this point. They will check with DATCP.

**Septage Follow-up – Bob Mott:**

Fred Hegeman from Three Lakes contacted Mott. Fred is with the DNR and is responsible for enforcement in this area. Two years ago there was a complaint regarding septage spreading on frozen land. They conducted many hours of investigation in the Stella vicinity. The case was referred to the district attorney. Resolution of the case was with a deferred prosecution agreement. Charges were dismissed. Now the same company is spreading septage on frozen fields again. There is an additional company involved in spreading as well. The complaints are in, and the DNR is investigating. It will be brought back to the district attorney. They must have been compliant before and given a break and now, they are doing it again. The owners of the company appear to be uncooperative. There is concern of well and stream contamination due to this practice of spreading septage during winter months. An alternative would be to take it to sewage treatment plant during winter months. Mott spoke with several officials about this situation at his last conference.

**Consent Agenda Items: Land and Water Conservation:**

A motion was made by Jensen/VanRaalte to approve items a, b, c, and d as presented. All ayes; motion approved.

Excused: Jennrich, Sadauskas, and Boismenu, Ross, and Knoch. 2:45 p.m.

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**LRES Meeting/ Extension Support Staff and Staffing Requests 2020:**

Agenda item 17 and 18. Completed staffing forms were presented to the Committee. At the last LRES meeting, the approval was tabled on the 53% LTE position and request for the Program Assistant position to move to full time. LRES requested that the request come to this Committee for approval before it is put into the 2020 budget. It will then go back to LRES. Next Wednesday, July 24, LRES will bring up the matter again and they asked that both Nelson and one Committee member attend this meeting. LRES requested that Committee attend the meeting. They did not support this request before due to the time study results. The time study was extended for additional months to get a clear picture of the ebb and flow of work load. The Committee has given their support of this request before and the need is recognized due to changed circumstances of no department head. The Funding Opportunities Committee will be part of this discussion. Jensen and VanRaalte are on the committee. Their recommendations will be in the fall prior to the budget meeting. The September meeting will address the requests further. The Committee will need to sign the presented staffing requests. Winkler/VanRaalte made a motion to approve for staffing requests for the 53% LTE position and to move the Program Assistant to full time; all ayes, motion carried.

Nelson said that one other staffing request item is related to UW Extension staff. It was determined last year by Oneida County that the contract for services is not a personnel cost. Nelson received the budget packets and the Budget and Finance Committee recommended that we make zero percent increases for non-personnel for the Extension Contracted services. Further discussion took place over budgeting opportunities and Extension’s role in the community.

**Airport Conference Room Update:**

Mott received a call from the University of Wisconsin Assistant Dean, Catherine Nieswender concerning the air environment at the Airport. There have been concerns on record for years. Now that Extension has merged with the University, there is talk of a change of location for Extension. Mott, Nieswender, and Nelson will be discussing this at some point. The Airport has made an effort to improve conditions, but there continues to be issues reported on air quality. The pending \$800,000 county wage adjustment, this may affect Extension, but preparations will continue. The Building and Grounds Department and the Airport will need to be contacted about Extension possibly vacating the building. Nelson commented that UW-Madison is looking at the risk management regarding the current location and its effect on employees. The lease with Airport and Oneida County pays \$40,000 to provide adequate office space. It allows a six-month notification of the termination of the lease. The University is committed to relocating where the Dean and other officials are involved in this discussion. The Dean may look into the possibility of moving the office to Nicolet College as an alternative to provide a healthy work environment. There is no decree, but Nicolet is looking at housing Extension. The moving of Extension would be a budget issue. With Extension now being part of UW Madison, Nicolet College would not charge rent to Extension. Matt Leitner is up-to date on this development. Twelve air quality complaints logged for June.

**Consent Agenda Items – UW Extension:**

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

**Fair Report Update/Discussion- Jim Winkler:**

The last Fair meeting held on Tuesday, July 9, 2019, discussed Fair storage. A proposal for using storage containers that could be housed on County property was shared with the Committee for their consideration. The storage truck could be parked on the River Street site or another location proposed was to park the storage unit behind the Highway Department facility. There would be a cost of \$2,000 to \$3,000. Fair Fundraiser events have been successful in bringing in additional revenue. Fair Raffle tickets are on sale and the list of prizes was reviewed. The Fair needs volunteers for set-up before the Fair opens.

**City Contract with the Fair:**

Discussion about renewal or rewriting of the City contract and the County Fair is scheduled for the October meeting. There were several questions about the contract. Article 9, garbage pick-up, needs clarification. Upon review, why does the Fair pay for garbage removal when the lessor (City/County) provides it? The answer is that the lessor, as a service, provides the dumpster but the Fair pays for the actual removal of garbage. Another question was regarding electrical service. The City provides for the electrical service but the Fair Committee would like to bid out instead of using existing contractor, Gaber, listed on the City Contract. They feel Graber overcharged the City and the Fair ended up paying that cost. Would it be reasonable to request for a new electrical subcontractor? Lastly, shall the County and City include a termination clause? The Committee agreed yes, it should be included. The Fair must be prepared six months in advance when contract comes due. When the contract is renewed the Committee would approve, then it will be sent to Corporation Counsel, and then it would go to the Board. Corporation Counsel should review the entire contract, and attend a Committee meeting if necessary. Mott asked to be notified at after the contract is reviewed.

**Consent Agenda Items – Oneida County Fair:**

Motion by Jensen/VanRaalte to accept agenda items a and b, as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

**Educator Report:** Rippley reported on the 4-H Camp that occurred this weekend. The camp had attendees from Lincoln, Langlade, Oneida and Price. There was a total of 39 youth who attended. Four children from the group were from Oneida Co. 4-H Camp took place on Tuesday through Friday, July 8 through the 12. Cloverbud Day Camp is scheduled for next week at Pioneer Park for children from Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and book learning will be included to prevent the summer learning slump.

**Public Comment:** Jim will not be at the August meeting.

**Items to Include on next Agenda:**

LWRM updates, CAFOs and Septage issues. Cost Share update, LWCD update, Mosquito spraying report. County Fair Report/Discussion, Fair/City Contract update. Educator Reports, Office Air update. Funding opportunity discussion. Lake District reports from VanRaalte, Ives, and Mott.

**Adjournment:**

Mott adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Bob Mott, Committee Chair

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Merry Lehner, Recording Secretary

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