

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
Monday, August 15, 2022 Minutes
Courthouse County Board Room & Virtually by ZOOM

Committee members: Chairman Jim Winkler, Bob Thome, Jr., Collette Sorgel, Tommy Ryden. Linnaea Newman and John Engel on Zoom.

Others Present: Michele Sadauskas, Karl Jennrich, Stephanie Boismenu, Dan Butkus, Amber Rehberg, Sharon Krause, Terri Kolb, Jean McNaughton, Merry Lehner, and Jonna Jewell.

1. Call to order and Chairperson's Announcements:

Chair Winkler called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was properly posted and handicapped accessible and ADA compliant. The symbol /s/ is a valid virtual attendee's signature.

2. Approve Agenda: A motion by Ryden/Thome to approve the August 15, 2022 Agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

3. Approve Minutes: Thome/Sorgel motioned to approve the July 11, 2022 minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

4. Dates /Location of Future Meetings:

Monday, September 12, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. Courthouse County Board Room

Monday, October 10, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. Courthouse County Board Room

5. Public Comment: None.

6. Wake boats and their effects on Oneida County Lakes:

Agenda item 10 moved at Chair's discretion. Tom Ryden spoke as a business owner and sells recreational equipment regarding Tow Boats, which is the proper term for wake boats that tow skiers or wakeboarders. Designed with hydro ballast, inboard boats place a heavy ballast TO weigh the boat down and create a larger wake. Erosion is a big concern when large wakes roll into the shoreline. The State law prohibits boaters to operate at speeds greater than the slow-no-wake within 100 feet of shorelines. Typically, wake boats run in deeper water because shallow water could cause damage to the boats, which are expensive costing \$50 to 100,000 and more. The wakes are 20% higher by design and most of the weight is placed on the surfer side. Wakes can be directed towards the center of the lake instead of the shoreline. Safety is a concern due to the bow pointed up high and the driver does not have good visibility. A responsible surfer will see this and stop surfing. Bilge tanks of boats are the third concern where if not properly drained, invasive species can be introduced into lakes. Ryden said tanks are designed to drain completely and they have screens on them. Only issue is the spiny water flea from the bilge, which the UW Trout Research station confirmed. There could be some laws introduced to keep levels down.

Sadauskas distributed a Background Information packet. At a Department level, this topic comes up often. There is concern that the wake is scouring the bottom of the lake and it affects vegetation and stirs up sediment. She does not have a tally of what lakes have no wakes or no motors. They can check into it for next month. She provided reference links in the Committee packet. The top concerns are high waves related to shoreline concerns. The County has no regulatory authority and cannot form laws. The towns can address wakes (not the boats). Jennrich said there have been discussions at the

town levels. Engel said any lake under 50 acres is not to have motorized boats. Boismenu clarified that after-market ballast tanks may not completely drain and information is in the packet references. Dan Butkus commented on two water studies from North Lake in Waukesha County who measured higher phosphorus content in the sediment of the lake, which had heavy use of wake boats. Squash Lake has 14 wake boats on 397 acres. Thermoclines have shifted lower. There was safety issue on Squash Lake with a near miss of a wake boat hitting a canoe. The wake boarder saw canoe but driver did not. All who use the lake deserve consideration. Can Lake Districts impose any restrictions? If an ordinance was created, there is no means of enforcement. Committee asked Sadauskas to look into lake classification and she can look into grant money to take action to be a mediator or provide a framework on classification and outreach in surrounding Counties. She will work on a possible resolution for a grant next month.

7. LWCD 2023 Budget: Michele Sadauskas

Their bottom line budget request is \$81,249 for 2023 as listed on page 8 of the report. The staff budget did not increase. An uptick on personnel expenses for Sadauskas and Boismenu to 2080 hours reflects the 40-hour shift for full timers. LTE, Jewell, has 1097 hours/yr. and the rest of staff are grant funded. An increase in staffing grants for next year is \$10,000. An American Rescue Plan Funds request is *not* part of budget. It is to replace a tablet used for water quality data. IT/Finance reviewed and if approved, add it to the budget. Thome/Ryden motioned to approve the \$81,249 and the \$1,500 ARPA funds if approved, and forward to Administration. All ayes; motion carried.

8. WLWCA (Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Assoc.) County Conservationist Meeting Report:

Thome/Winkler attended the July 14-15, 2022 meeting. The business meeting discussed by-law changes. They had five round table discussions covering problems regarding legislative priorities, solar farms where farmers will plant crops amongst solar panels, and farmland preservation programs. Thome attended the Florence Summer Tour. He viewed a culvert project on a class one trout stream. The project stops the stream and installs large 21 foot culverts, all transported on a logging road. They toured a 32,000-acre timber stand with a logging operation plan spanning over 100 years. It is a sustainability plan; they can only harvest trees as many trees as are planted, related to carbon credits.

9. Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) Meeting Update – August 5, 2022:

Virtual program through Madison. The keynote speaker was from the DNR on septic, sewage, programs. It reviewed all the land spreading applications and requirements. Almost 46K fields approved for land spreading over 1.2 million acres in Wisconsin. Sauk County gave their 5-year review of their 10-year plan. Most of focus is on livestock, animal waste facilities, water quality, nutrient management and farmland preservation in the Baraboo water shed. DATCP and DNR 2023 reviewed their proposals \$22 million. Next meeting is October 4, 2022.

10. Cost Share Update:

Dibbs Project Approval was originally scheduled for approval in July. It was delayed and up for approval in August. Project #3 of three projects. This is a seawall removal proposal to be replaced with rock riprap with a six-foot buffer zone. They will survey all 260 feet. If they pull out, they will not receive refund on their deposit. It is a large project. Installation is for next summer. A motion to accept this cost share \$10,333 project was made by Thome/Sorgel to approve project as accepted. All ayes; motion carried.

11. Lake District Reports:

Reports were distributed and no presentation necessary unless there are questions.

- a. Thunder- Sorgel. The secretary had a medical issue and report is not available.
- b. Crescent – Thome. The Commissioner’s meeting was on July 2. See notes included in packet.
- c. Bear - Winkler. Commissioners meeting was on July 2 and there was discussion on aerators.
- d. Squash – Thome. The Annual Meeting of Electors was at Crescent Town Hall on August 13, 2022. Onterra spring survey results show growth in EWM. Procedure and financial impact of removal of milfoil in 2023 and dive boat replacement in 2023 budget. All approved the 2023 Budget.
- e. Nokomis – Newman said there would be no report until next month.

12. Consent Agenda Items: LWCD

A review the Monthly Budget report, invoices to pay, and quarterly worker’s comp report; LWCD is not on the list. No line item transfers. A motion by Winkler/Sorgel to approve Consent Agenda a and b as presented. All Ayes; motion carried.

13. LWCD Items for Next Agenda:

Update on Wakeboarding. Lake District updates on Mid, Horsehead, Nokomis and Thunder. Annual meeting on Crescent. Solar farm zoning, the pollinator planting area was mowed, need update. DNR grant resolution. Northcentral WLWCA report.

14. Area 4 Extension Director Update – Amber Rehberg.

Extension Status Update- Staff

1. Introduce LTE – Jean McNaughton. She retired and came back to work and loves it so far. Rehberg wants her to be a new set of eyes to assess the office to be more efficient. She was former legal advocate for Tri County Counsel. Rehberg went before LRES for one full time 2023 position it was approved will go to Administration next. The 2023 budget will list the one full time office position.

2. Area 4 FoodWise Coordinator Hiring Update. The FoodWise Area Coordinator position remains open and the State will hold off until September and then will re-post the position offering an incentive. They had two failed searches. It is a federally funded position. The two FoodWise educators are upholding coordinator position over the summer.

3. CDI Community Development Educator. Committee agreed on a 1.0 position with top five top priority area. Rehberg had meetings with the Program Managers and Institute Director and they are working on a State staffing plan. The State is considering funding the vacancies and there are discussions around a regional model. In the past, CDI positions covered all areas of the position and now there is a specialty or area expertise. There are only 36 positions County/State positions available for this field. Openings like Oneida and Forest County provide a unique opportunity for the State to analyze current staffing and needs. Discussed a shared position with Forest County and a possible 60-40 or 50-40. The downside of a shared position is there is often less programming time, greater travel costs. In narrowing in on the scope of project with a specialty, three possible focus points are Workforce and Economic Development and Organizational Leadership and Development. State Specialists will supplement in other areas. A narrower scope and focus of work is the goal of the Institute.

Brittney Beyer said a State Program Manager of Economic and Workforce Development sent out a rural community opportunity, working with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and rural areas who could apply to be a part of an economic development process. A business assessment would be offered to rural communities and then provide resources and plans to help boost economic development. The WI Economic Development Corp. was looking for participants for the program and no nobody was prepared ahead of time to offer input. Community engagement did not happen. There is a need to find opportunities

sooner from agencies that provide resources. Federal agencies want a quick turn-around time but the communities are not ready.

Communication Plan.

New this month includes an Extension Upcoming Events page. Staff put together an events page highlighting upcoming programming. All Committee members are welcome to attend any program.

Nicolet Partnership.

The new Extension signage is up at Hyw. G at the Nicolet College entrance and the Extension sign is posted below it. Rehberg is meeting with Jodi Fox about possible collaboration/program partnerships to expand access and reach to programming.

15. Extension 2023 Budget Proposal:

The budget bottom line figure 202,599. Thome asked if budget reflects this new development for a 1.0 position and it does. Administration is calling in specific departments regarding their budget with questions ahead of time. The path is the same for all the departments. A motion by Thome/Sorgel to approve the 2023 budget as presented and move onto Administration. All ayes; motion carried.

16. Educator Report 4-H. Sharon Krause – Summer Environmental Program with YMCA.

Krause shared a lesson that she presented called Dragons and Damsels. Students compared and contrasted the insects and they learned the dragonflies are very efficient hunters. Different flying patterns. The youth enjoyed making models. She will do another class on Survival. The youth will make survival kits. The goal of the projects is for outreach. She is trying to get youth to know who she is so that they will recognize her for 4-H. She is collaborating with the YMCA as they have great facility for such programs.

17. Consent Agenda Items: (UW-Extension).

A motion by Thome/Sorgel to approve items a and b. All ayes; motion carried.

18. Extension Items to include on next agenda.

Amber will follow up on CDI position, with Catherine Neiswender or Benoit Jacob to see if available for final information on position for the September meeting. Final 2023 Budget, Staffing, Communication Plan. Collaboration with Nicolet report.

19. Public Comment: None.

20. Adjournment: 3:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merry Lehner, Recording Secretary

Jim Winkler, Committee Chair