

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
Monday, November 14, 2022 Minutes
Nicolet College Northwoods Center Rm 207 & Virtually by ZOOM

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

Others Present: Michele Sadauskas, Karl Jennrich, Stephanie Boismenu, Tom Jerow, Steven Schreier, Amber Rehberg, Anne Williams, Merry Lehner. Jonna Jewell on Zoom.

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/ represents a valid virtual attendee's signature.

2. Approve Agenda: A motion by Thome/Newman to approve the November 14, 2022 Amended Agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

3. Approve Minutes: Newman/Thome motioned to approve the October 11, 2022 minutes, with one correction as the Amended Minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

4. Dates /Location of Future Meetings:

Monday, December 12, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. Northwoods Center at Nicolet College
Monday, January 9, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Courthouse County Board Room

5. Public Comment: None.

6. Solar Farm Update:

Karl Jennrich sent a letter on September 7, 2022 asking to correct some violations on the Conditional Use Permit. An on-site inspection followed on October 28, where Jennrich, Baerbel Ehrig, Janet Sosnosky, and a Wisconsin Electric representative were present. Erosion issues were addressed with sediment logs, rock rip rap, silt fencing installation. Shrubs were replaced this fall. Jennrich plans to revisit next year. Baerbel Ehrig presented photos from June through October 2022 showing some of the erosion concerns. There was discussion about when the initial seeding took place. Additional seeding occurred in fall to further address erosion issues. A person from Green Bay is scheduled to assist with the project.

7. Wisconsin Land and Water Board of Directors-Oct 19, 2022:

Winkler attended and included the notes in the information packets to committee members.

8. Cost Share Update:

Sadauskas stated there are changes to two of the projects. The Lake Nokomis project will be complete the rock rip rap portion but the plantings will be moved and installed in spring, 2023 when the weather is warmer and plants are more likely to survive.

For Sand Lake, the project will be installed in 2023. It was too late in the fall to plant for a successful outcome. The project construction is for 100' of subsurface drain and an underground outlet, seeding and construction site stabilization to prevent erosion. The focus is to prevent upland sediment from entering into the lake.

9. Lake District Updates:

- a. Bear Lake. A report was distributed from Tom Ryden. The Commissioners meeting was held on November 8, 2022. There were 2,000 walleyes stocked to the lake.
- b. Thunder Lake. No report was distributed but they did meet and nothing controversial is going on. They closed their accounts from Laona State Bank to a bank in Three Lakes now and will be doing an audit. They also stocked lake with fish as well.

10. Consent Agenda Items: LWCD

They have September and October Monthly reports for approval and monthly invoices. Consent Item a. A motion by Sorgel/Thome to accept agenda items a and b. All Ayes; motion carried.

11. LWCD Items for Next Agenda:

Cost Share and AIS Update, and yearly review. Horsehead Lake District, Lumberjack grant submission-Friends of Townline Lake Park.

12. Public Comment: None.

13. Area 4 Extension Director Update – *Amber Rehberg*

Extension Status Update

1. CDI Funding Resolution. The Administration Committee cut the 1.0 FTE Community Development Educator position because of the vacancy. It is proposed to put \$22,450 back into the budget for a 50% Community Development Educator that could be shared with Forest County. Rehberg worked with Mike Fugle, Corporation Counsel, on a resolution to re-instate the Community Development Educator position at 50%. As a single County Board Supervisor, Winkler is able to bring this to the County Board Meeting tomorrow, November 15, 2022. This position would be half Forest County and half Oneida County. The position was approved in Forest County as a half time position last week. The request to add \$22,450 back into the budget to fund a 50% Community Development Educator and propose to share it with Forest County has no budgetary impact on the Tax Levy or Contingency for FY2023. This request of a 2022 budget savings (about \$50,000 from position vacancies) could be placed in a Continuing Appropriations Account for UW Extension use for FY2023 versus going into the General Fund Unrestricted Balance. The position leverages state and federal dollars for Oneida County that will otherwise be re-allocated to other counties, if we do not use them. An approximate state and federal investment in a full-time position is \$45,000-\$60,000. An investment of \$22,450 gives Oneida County residents access to resources and University level research to help improve and strengthen their lives. The advantage of a local educator, living here, can elevate state and federal resources which is of a great value. Discussion as to whether to propose this at tomorrow's board or present it at a later date ensued. Position requests can be made at any time, even next year. There was discussion on points to touch on if presented to the Board. Rehberg will contact Finance for further information and guidance.
2. Communication Plan. Some letters of support were sent to educators, in light of what recently occurred in Lincoln County, were shared with the Committee. If people are impacted enough to send a letter, it is an important to recognize that constituents are concerned. The County Reports are being distributed to the County Board Supervisor mailboxes and other locations.
3. Nicolet Collaboration. There was a 2022 Northwoods Economic Summit held at Nicolet on October 12 last month. Local sponsors included Grown North, North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, UW Madison and several others. This is an example of where the Community Development Educator is key to Nicolet Collaboration.

4. Nicolet FY 2023 Contract Approval Update. The contract sent to Corporation Counsel for approval contained the full time CDI position. It will need to be edited and re-approved for a 50% contract if it passes. The only change will be the outcome of this position if eliminated or re-instated at half time.

14. Programming Report: 4-H Summer Theater Program-Anne Williams

Williams presented on the 4-H Youth Theater Group that planned a Rhinelander Youth Summer Theater Program. There were 47 Oneida County youth who participated in the event. It was presented by the 4-H Leaders Association, in collaboration with Missoula Children's Theater, Inc. The Missoula Children's Theater provided two professional actor/directors who brought a set, lights, costumes, and props for the 4-H cast. All youth entering grades 1-12 participated for free. Open auditions and casts were held for 50 to 60 local students to perform in the production. The show was rehearsed for a week ahead of time and two public performances took place at Rhinelander High School on Saturday, July 2022. The program was an affordable, accessible, and inclusive opportunity for youth to participate in a musical and build life skills. It promoted creative thinking, communication, empathy, cooperation, decision-making, and making healthy choices. For youth and teens, this activity boosted self-esteem, confidence, and resilience, which is so important after having endured a pandemic. This is a chance for young people to have an 'I did it!' moment, meet two professional actor/directors, challenge themselves, be with other people who might share their interests, meet new friends and have fun. Post surveys were very positive from parents, participants, and public.

15. Consent Agenda Items: Extension

A motion by Sorgel/Newman for the approval of monthly reports and invoices, agenda item a. and b. and c. line item transfers.

16. Extension Items to include on next agenda.

Edited UWEX Contract, CDI position status, Dec CUW Mtg. at Nicolet, Staffing and Communication Plan, Nicolet Collaboration.

17. Public Comment: None

18. Adjournment: 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merry Lehner, Recording Secretary

Jim Winkler, Committee Chair