

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
Monday, February 13, 2023 Minutes
Nicolet College Northwoods Center Rm 207 & Virtually by ZOOM

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

Others Present: Karl Jennrich, Michele Sadauskas, Amber Rehberg, and Terri Kolb. Jonna Jewell on Zoom.

1. Call to order and Chairperson's Announcements:

Chairman 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 February 14, 2023 Agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

3. Approve Minutes: Newman/Thome motioned to approve the January 9, 2023 minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

4. Dates /Location of Future Meetings:

Monday, March 13, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. County Board Room at Courthouse

Monday, April 10, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. County Board Room at Courthouse

5. Public Comment: None.

6. Wisconsin Land + Water Conservation Board: Robert Thome

The meeting was held on February 2, 2023. Highlights of the meeting was the Outreach Program in Dane County who presented a 27-page report on all their activities. Very impressive. The next meeting is on April 4, 2023.

7. Proposed Shoreline Protection Ordinance (SPO) Amendments: Karl Jennrich

An update on the revision of Chapter 9 of the Shoreline Protection Ordinance, Article One, Three, and Nine was reviewed. At the request of the Planning and Development Committee, Jennrich was to insert certain wording into the Ordinance. The significant change was 9.94 regarding structures closer than the 75 feet to the high water mark. There was concern over erosion control structures that go closer than 75 feet, such as retaining walls. Some exceptions are allowed between 75 and 35 feet. Also, between 35 feet and 0, if there was an access viewing corridor. The DNR did not allow the exemption because State statute 59.692 calls a retaining wall a "structure" and it is not an exempt structure. They wanted to streamline and consolidate the process and not have a separate erosion control permit. Landscapers and builders wanted to be able to build retaining walls on new construction projects. There are natural ways of doing this, but this is where the language stands for now. Winkler asked which changes affected LWCD aspects. In shoreline restoration, an exemption is allowed when projects will disturb the buffer zone in the process of making a natural shoreline. What is changing is P & Z requires the erosion control permits for various projects, independent of a building permit. Thome asked if recommendations brought forth by LWCD last fall regarding vegetation in the erosion control process. No, Planning and Development did not take up those issues on vegetation. Thome asked if in the proposed amendment is incorporated in the language to be in compliance with the statutes and ordinances of NR 115. The DNR included the access of viewing corridor definition. The stairs and the

aprons are still in non-compliance and amendments were made to walkways. The final language will need to be reviewed and will remain on the March Agenda.

8. Lumberjack Update: Collette Sorgel

The Lumberjack meeting was long, as they went over the requests for grant money and the final numbers have not been released. Oneida County did very well on the preliminary numbers for grants presented. As soon as Sorgel knows the final numbers she will notify the committee. The initiatives were for Town Line Park and the Town of Crescent Pollinator project.

9. Wakeboat Update: Michele Sadauskas

There is a March 8, 2023 workshop in Boulder Junction 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. entitled: Local Regulation of Hazardous Boat Wakes Workshop. It is directed toward town officials, county supervisors, lake association members, and is organized by Vilas County Land and Water Department. The draft announcement is in packets. It will be posted for quorum purposes based on attendance. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association (OCLRA) is addressing this subject. The Chamber of Commerce and boat salesmen attended. Education is their goal. Vilas County LWCD adopted a resolution drafted from the OCLRA resolution which was brought to North Central Land and Water, who approved it and then forwarded on to The Wisconsin Land and Water Association. They have requested to meet with the Oneida and Vilas County Conservationists to discuss further. Towns can offer ordinances regarding wakeboard policy.

10. LWCD Update:

a. Area Speaking & Poster Contest Update – M. Sadauskas

The Contest was held on January 11; James Williams Middle School with 6 Speakers and Adisyn Schoeneck took first place at the County Contest and Area Speaking Contest held on January 26 in Marathon County. For the Conservation Awareness Poster Contest, Matilda Ehrig, Grade 3 Home School received first place. Sage Pellitier, Grade 6 JWMS received first place and best in show. Kamden Kostrova, Grade 7, Nativity received first place.

b. 2023 Grants Update – M. Sadauskas

The DNR sent out the awards list today. Included for 2023 are the \$22,000 Lake Protection Grant with an AIS Focus, Clean Boats Clean Waters for approximately \$18,000, and a Healthy Lakes project for \$1,000 allowing projects to be added, if needed over the summer. They were awarded their County Lakes Grant for \$48,600, which will help with lake classification and it includes the High Quality Waters Protection project. LWCD will develop the lake class system, prioritizing healthy watersheds and high quality lakes, rivers, and streams and include a new bat-monitoring program. They will be updating their five year work program to include these grants.

11. Lake District Reports:

a. Crescent Lake and ProcellaCOR information – Thome

The Crescent Lake report was in distributed packets. Nokomis is using this treatment as mentioned last month. As noted under item 3, Crescent Lake included 60 acres of treatment last year at a cost of \$80,000, and the fall plant survey came back with very small amounts of EWM in the treated areas. They plan to do another 20 acres this year.

12. Consent Agenda Items: (LWCD)

Payouts under Wildlife Damage accounts were for 14 deer that were donated to deer donation program that went to the meat processors, which will then go to local food pantries. A motion by Thome/Sorgel to accept agenda items 12 a. b. and d. as presented. All Ayes; motion carried.

13. LWCD items to include on next agenda

SPO Shoreland Protection recommendation; distribute to new committee members. Lumberjack and Lake District-Thunder Lake updates. Grass Works grant and grazing project in Three Lakes. LWCD was excused.

14. Public Comment: None.

15. Area 4 Extension Director Update – Amber Rehberg

- a. Status Update-Staffing: A posting for the full-time Extension office coordinator position is open to replace Merry Lehner who will be leaving Extension. As noted in the budget, both the current part-time and LTE position will be replaced with a full-time position. Terri Kolb, Health and Well Being Educator plus her .33 with ADRC collaboration position, where she led evidence based programs, as well as prevention and mental health, has accepted a new position. The ADRC has been pleased with Kolb's contributions to their programming and will anticipate a replacement. Kolb accepted a new position January 30, 2023 as the FoodWise Administrator for Extension Area 4: Forest, Florence, Oneida Counties, plus Area 3: Lincoln, Langlade, Price and Taylor Counties. Rehberg is working with the State and Institute to have the position approved and filled. Rehberg discussed future options of sharing educator opportunities for current part-time educators with Forest and Oneida Counties. This will open up more funding for educators in these counties.
- b. Communication Plan: The brochure highlighting Extension was distributed in packets for committee to review. It will be presented at the County Board meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2023. Rehberg is grateful to have the opportunity to share with the Board to communicate the impact Extension offers the community. Nicolet Collaboration: We are working with Nicolet to host some regional meetings, such as a StrongBodies instructor certification program. Rehberg will be hosting a staff development training offering through Nicolet, using a logic model training, created by Extension. She will offer this the end of March.

16. Wisconsin Counties Association/Extension Steering Committee

Jim Winkler and Ted Cushing attended the meeting sponsored by Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA). They will meet three times per year with the resolve to strengthen UW-Madison Division of Extension Collaboration. This is what was formerly known as the Wisconsin Associated County Extension Committees (WACAC) group. Extension Committee members would come together from around the State to meet to provide input to Extension. WCA wanted to know what the expectations are for the Steering Committee. They will also want to know what concerns the counties have over UW Madison Division of Extension and how to keep communications open. There was concern over the scattered part-time positions and feel it will harm Extension in the long run. These concerns over regionalization and piecemeal of positions may hurt Extension programming. If you tap into Extension as a resource, one will realize the value; if you do not, it is difficult to know. Rehberg has received calls from Vilas County for the information we provide. The group will continue to be open and gather information. There is a workshop to attend entitled What Extension Can Do for YOU!!!

17. Extension Annual Report to the County Board

Rehberg discussed the presentation options to the Committee, as they know their colleagues and what would be the most beneficial for the presentation. Rehberg asked for committee feedback. It was concluded to keep it short with bullet points and highlight areas of financial impacts on the things that Extension does for the community. A one page pamphlet will outline and present a summary of each Educator and Extension office services. It includes maps where we reach people in the County, and addresses funding and resources. She has a more detailed report on each educator and programs they offered in 2022, giving more detailed information. It cannot be expected for the Board to read through a three page document, but they can reference it on their own. Rehberg will present for 5-7 minutes to the County Board meeting on February 21, 2023.

18. Consent Agenda Items: Extension

A motion by Thome/Sorgel to accept agenda items a. b. and c. and d. was approved. All Ayes; motion carried.

19. Extension Items to include on next agenda.

Reflection of Annual Report to Board, Update on job recruitment, FoodWise presentation in March and FoodWise Coordinator introduction. Forward any other requests to Winker or Rehberg. Staffing and Communication Plan, Nicolet Collaboration.

20. Public Comment: None

21. Adjournment: 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merry Lehner, Recording Secretary

Jim Winkler, Committee Chair