

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
Monday, May 8, 2023 Minutes
Oneida County Courthouse, County Board Room and Virtually by ZOOM

Committee Members: Chairman Jim Winkler, Collette Sorgel, Tommy Ryden, Linnaea Newman, Robb Jensen. Not Present: John Engle.

Others Present: Karl Jennrich, Michele Sadauskas, Amber Rehberg, Anne Williams, Jessica Young, Tom Johansen, Dan Butkus, Tim Kilgore, Terry Goldbach, Jim Gehrke, Jim Binder, Wendy Goldbach, Donna Stone. Jonna Jewell on Zoom.

1. Call to order and Chairperson's Announcements:

Chair Winkler called the meeting to order at 1 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 Jensen/Sorgel to approve the May 8, 2023 Agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

3. Approve Minutes: A motion by Sorgel/Newman to approve the minutes of March 13, 2023 and April, 10 2023. All ayes; motion carried.

4. Dates /Location of Future Meetings:

Monday, June 12, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Oneida County Courthouse; County Board Room

Monday, July 10, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Oneida County Courthouse; County Board Room

5. Public Comment:

- a) Tom Johansen – Chair of the Squash Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District located in Squash Lake and Wausau. Board of Directors met to discuss the concerns/suggestions that arose after hearing of Bob Thome's resignation. A letter was sent to Committee via mail to share their suggestions and concerns, per request of the Board. Request that Committee take into consideration these suggestions, as follows; appointing a County Board Representative that will provide information related to pertinent County business, that will be an advisor to the Board, that has similar vision/goals in regards to the protection and preservation of the lake, that is knowledgeable on how to keep the lake healthy, and that will be an overall asset to the lake district as a whole.
- b) Dan Butkus – Squash Lake District Treasurer located in Crescent/Rhineland. Dan represents the Board of Directors for Wisconsin Lakes; representing lake associations and lake districts. Question of compatibility of office came up through the ranks. Appointing a county supervisor to Lake District boards when the individual is also a town chair may create an incompatibility of office. According to a Wisconsin Supreme Court

decision rendered in 1907 (State V. Jones); one person holding multiple offices may create an incompatibility of office, if one of those positions is superior to another office simultaneously – it may be a detriment to the public. The situation here is similar and Wisconsin Lakes requests Oneida County consider this. Suggest consider choosing a nominee that avoids the situation all together.

- c) Terry Goldbach – Property owner in Rhinelander over 40 years, lived in Rhinelander over 20 years. Supportive of letter sent by Crescent Lake District with list of suggested individuals to be appointed as County Representative to Lake District. Requests someone impartial and that is a non-resident in order to have outside influence and ideas to be commissioned.
- d) Jim Binder – Property owner in Rhinelander for 28 years. Supportive of letter submitted by Tim Kilgore and concurs with Terry; urges Committee to select someone who will represent the interests of the lake.
- e) Wendy Goldbach – Crescent Lake resident; speaking in support of letter submitted by Tim Kilgore. Someone who is non-resident of lake should be appointed.
- f) Donna Stone – Crescent Lake Association President; is in support of letter submitted by Tim Kilgore. Association has done a lot with the lake and would like to continue forwards with positive action.
- g) Jim Gehrke – Crescent Lake resident; would like Committee to acknowledge letter submitted by Tim Kilgore. If any name is considered for Crescent Lake Association other than ones recommended, to not make an appointment at the next meeting and wait until names are disclosed to the public for the sake of transparency.
- h) Tim Kilgore – Chairman of the Commissioners of the Crescent Lake District. On April 25th held a meeting with commissioners and had a unanimous consent to speak on the issue. Requesting the Committee seriously consider nomination of someone who is a supporter of the lake districts, and has not publicly opposed lake districts, especially the formation of the Crescent Lake District.

6. Election of CUW Committee Vice Chair:

Chair Winkler thought a lot about this and prayed on it. There is good talent in room for Vice Chair in the future; believes Robb Jensen has the most experience, he has been in leadership positions on the County Board. Jensen accepts nomination.

Newman would like to know what Jensen will bring to the table as Vice Chair.

Jensen read letter testimonial from Tom Church: understanding of how to conduct a meeting, an understanding of the issues brought to the Committee, issues in the extension, degree in administration, and six years of experience on the Committee.

Newman would like to know Jensen's feelings on conservation.

Jensen is supportive of any conservation efforts that come forward. Very supportive of the Land & Water Committee. Cannot promise to back every initiative, but thinks it's important to ask questions, that the times when votes are not unanimous will make good discussions.

Winkler/Ryden made motion to accept Robb Jensen as Vice Chair of Committee. All ayes; motion carried.

7. Appoint Squash & Crescent Lake District Board Commissioner:

Chair Winkler eliminated several people right away; Michele Sadauskas due to being a conservationist, and non-members of the Committee Bob Mott, Tony Rio, and Steven Schreier. This leaves Linnaea Newman and Robb Jensen. Chair Winkler would like Newman to stay on Nokomis and appointed Jensen to be representative to Squash and Crescent Lake for the current term. Acknowledged that Jensen is the chair of Crescent, and that the public is concerned. Chair Winkler encourages community to contact him or other members of the Committee with any concerns or issues.

Robb Jensen accepts the nomination and makes a statement regarding letters sent to Committee from Crescent Lake District and the Squash Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District. Jensen explains that the annual meeting of electors is what sets the priorities for the district, and that he will follow through with those priorities. Jensen acts as a liaison, as a facilitator, and will keep personal separate from professional.

Discussion: None.

Winkler/Ryden made motion to appoint Robb Jensen as representative to Squash and Crescent Lake. Four ayes and one abstain from Linnaea Newman; motion carried.

8. North Central Land and Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA) Position:

Chair Winkler is unable to serve on this position due to scheduling conflicts. Michele Sadauskas pushing the position and looking for representative for NCLWCA. May be another position opening once we have a representative in place. A position needs to be elected today; Chair Winkler requested nominations/interested parties to come forward. Newman believes it is unfair to elect today due to not having a representative attending the NCLWCA meeting in May.

Jensen/Ryden made motion to postpone a decision on #8 until a future meeting. All ayes; motion carried.

9. WPS Foundation Grant Approval (*Bee Lawn Grant Project*) – *Baerbel Ehrig*:

Michele Sadauskas, applied for WPS grant that would cover the Bee Lawn Grant Project. Bee Lawn will be located at Teaching Drum, a non-profit public space. Staff at Teaching Drum will help with upkeep of lawn over the years to come. If Committee approves and grant is received, project will move forward. If Committee does not approve and grant is received, will forego award.

Sorgel/Newman made motion to accept grant award if received. All ayes; motion carried.

10. Proposed Ostrowski Campground on Lake Nokomis, Parcel ID NO – 469, 470, 472, 472-1:

For Committee's information and further discussion. Land & Water Conservation is looking at lakeshore vegetation and aquatic invasive species to see if they will be of concern to area if proposed campground is approved. Letter from The Lake Nokomis Lake District Board of Commissioners was sent addressing their concerns and suggestions in regards to the proposition. Chair Winkler asked if discussion could be postponed until properly prepared and informed of situation. Newman encouraged the Committee to read through the issues and truly understand them. This item on agenda is informational only, but can be placed on future agendas.

Discussion: None.

11. Lake District Reports:

- a. Crescent: Report submitted, no representative present.
 - a. Committee will no longer discuss district reports during Committee meetings; members will read reports outside of meetings.

12. Consent Agenda Items: (*Land and Water Conservation*)

- a. Monthly budget report
- b. Approved monthly invoices/purchase orders

Jensen/Ryden motion to approve consent agenda items a, and b, as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

13. LWCD items to include on next agenda:

Lake District Reports (Bear Lake, Thunder Lake, Nokomis Lake, Mid Lake; possibly Crescent and Squash Lake).

14. Public Comment: None.

15. Programming/Educator Report – 4H Dog Project – A. Williams.

Williams gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the 4H Dog Project. Dog Obedience Program happened in the fall of 2022. Participants met in Lake Tomahawk twice a month for four months. Participants came from Rhinelander, Minocqua, and Arbor Vitae ranging from grades 5th to 8th. An average of 5-7 dogs were in attendance per session.

4H connects high quality programs to youth thriving later in life; youth who experience high quality programs through 4H are more likely to achieve key positive youth development outcomes; academic success, social competence, high personal standards, personal responsibility, connection to others, leadership, and engagement which leads to long-term outcomes related to vocational and academic success: civic engagement, employability, etc.

Creative Arts & Communication Expo in spring of 2023. Free to grades K-12 anywhere in the county and held at ADRC next to Trigs. Opportunity to present and communicate a topic of interest and receive feedback and recognition for their work. Provided youth an opportunity to learn more about the community resource ADRC. Youth performed demonstrations where they had to show how they did something while simultaneously explaining how they did it. Such things as art, photography, sculptures, dessert decorating, baking, music performance, knitting, crocheting, and poetry – with an Awards & Recognition at the end. Provided a space where youth could demonstrate work in a safe, inclusive, non-judgmental zone where they would challenge themselves and receive helpful feedback.

Volunteers are critical for 4H programming, having the chance to meet with adults that have experience and wisdom that they can share with youth is extremely important.

Highlighted Community Partnerships, first time partnering with ADRC. Youth have never seen or been inside the building. Able to meet volunteers at ADRC and make potential connections.

16. Area 4 Extension Director Update – A. Rehberg.

- a. UWEX Status Update: Working on the contracts for FY2024, should be nothing out of the ordinary. Jason Hausler is coming to the counties and areas he will be in Oneida County on Wednesday, May 31st around noon. Nothing formal, nothing on the agenda.
- b. Staffing & Communication Plan:
 - i. Introduction to New Office Coordinator: Jessica Young.
 - i. Office is open 8am-4pm, Monday through Fridays.
 - ii. Community Development Educator: We need to follow the LRES process even though it will not be a county employee. Planning to meet with Finance regarding next best steps for funding. Working with Community Development Institute on the university side as well.
 - iii. Health & Well Being Educator: The position will be posted soon as a .7/.8 Oneida county only with ADRC. This had been a shared Forest County position, but separated and will focus on Oneida County.
- c. Nicolet and Other Collaborations:
 - i. Wrote a letter of support for the USDA Grant for the Outdoor Education, can be used by community members and Extension. The focus is on entrepreneurial spirits and will be located in a space close to the Northwoods Building.
 - ii. Making headway with building relationships with staff at Nicolet.

Chair Winkler recommended working with the food service program to work on canning workshops for community members. Rehberg stated there is a movement coming where more of the younger generation is getting into homesteading, and canning is coming back in popularity. Extension is here to help educate people on how to do daily living, and we utilize University resources to bring this to rural communities.

In other counties, educators and specialists have come in to teach community; resources are out there. We need to have the capacity to do these things, which is heavily reliant on the amount of staff we hire. Having enough staff on board to share resources and educate community members is the dilemma we are facing. Extension wants to bring specialists and educators in to provide these workshops, and we are working on it.

Rehberg will be speaking at the Employee In-Service on gratitude in the workplace.

Newman suggested the USDA grant for Outdoor Education at Nicolet should include shitake mushroom growing.

Rehberg will reach out as soon as she knows more about the USDA Grant to receive recommendations and suggestions.

17. Consent Agenda Items: (UW-Extension)

Ryden/Sorgel motion to approve consent agenda item b as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

18. UW-Extension items to include on next agenda:

Wisconsin Counties Association Extension Education Subcommittee Report and Educator Report from Mary Stys (FoodWise).

19. Public Comment: None.

20. Adjournment: Chairman Winkler adjourned meeting at 2:30p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Young, Recording Secretary