

**Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee**  
**Monday, April 10, 2023 Minutes**  
**Oneida County Courthouse, County Board Room & Virtually by ZOOM**

**Committee Members:** Chairman Jim Winkler; Via Zoom Bob Thome, Jr., Linnaea Newman, Collette Sorgel.

**Others Present:** Michele Sadauskas, Karl Jennrich, Amber Rehberg, Terri Kolb, Sharon Krause. Via Zoom Dan Butkus, Bill Jaeger, 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/ represents a valid virtual attendee's signature.

**2. Approve Agenda:** A motion by Thome/Newman to approve the April 10, 2023 Amended Agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

**3. Approve Minutes:** Approval of Minutes was postponed until May 8 Meeting.

**4. Dates /Location of Future Meetings:**

Monday, May 8, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Oneida County Courthouse; County Board Room

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

**5. Public Comment:**

a. Michael Steinbrink USDA District Conservationist located in Rhinelander; Submitted written report; Gave brief overview and update; USDA is hiring a NEW Permanent Conservationist for Oneida County specifically to support private landowners; Significant additional funding allocated by Congress; Partnership with Forest Service to help landowners with conservation projects. Will be doing targeted outreach to find landowners with stream crossings.

**6. Shoreline Protection Amendment #13-2022 Public Hearing Update & 7. Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association's ballots regarding Shoreline Protection Amendment #13-2022:** Jennrich shared that notice was sent to all County Board Supervisors, Town Chairs regarding ordinance amendment. At Public Hearing, Jennrich made opening statements and then solicited public input. After Public Hearing, Committee postponed deliberations to review information and data and to schedule a meeting with DNR representatives to meet with Committee. Comments received regarding Ordinance have been tabulated and shared with Committee. A majority of comments were from the ballots that were circulated and also written comment from Land and Water Conservation Committee and Department of Natural Resources and other written comments. Jennrich sent an e-mail on April 4, 2023 to the Department of Natural Resources asking for clarification and requesting information to discuss proposed changes with the Committee. Jennrich is researching other counties. Currently only connected with Vilas County on boathouses and Lincoln County on building footprint.

Winkler asked if the ballot was valid with no names/addresses. Don't have time to research/GIS where individuals are located and/or have property, so they categorized as unknown. Winkler had personal issue with ballot because of suggested response. Staff did not review for consistency line by line.

Thome asked about information that was sent out; was it based on the conversation at the meeting; at this point, did not go through audio recording. When the ballot was given to Jennrich, was there a summary of the 40 changes that were made and 15 are not compliant with DNR? Jennrich is not aware, the information from DNR has all been sent to Committee. Committee needs to review comments from DNR. Other requests from DNR were not adopted prior to Public Hearing, but may make changes. If changes are made, does it have to go back to Public Hearing? If the changes are significant, then they may suggest to return to a Public Hearing.

Letter from Conservation and UWEX Education Committee was sent to the Planning and Development Committee and was a part of the Public Comment regarding Amendment #13-2022. Letter was included in packet for Committee to review, but it had been sent in March.

**8. 2023-2025 WI State Budget Hearings – Minocqua:** Sadauskas shared that a State Budget Hearing will be held in Minocqua on Wednesday, April 26 10-5 p.m. at Lakeland Union High School. Staff and/or Committee members have attended in the past to advocate for department and staffing grant. Committee members will have the opportunity to speak and/or provide written comment. Sadauskas will not be able to attend, but will get information for Jim and/or others as needed. Any questions, Sadauskas is happy to discuss and provide additional information.

**9. Land and Water Conservation Board Update:** Thome sent in report. Review blue highlighted section. Most interesting meeting so far. Burnett County had a five-year review of 10 year-plan; they are very similar to Oneida County. They came up with a covenant for lake property owners to promote lakeshore ordinances; educate property owners when the properties turn over because they have so much turnover. Eight hundred lake parcels are under covenant program. Their department follows up with new landowners within a year of ownership. One hundred percent turnover in staff this past year.

**10. LWCD Summer Events 2023 Update:** Sadauskas shared Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Events that are coming up in the next couple of months. Spring Into Summer Season flyer – 4 events that work on Lakeshore Restoration, Pollinator Planting, and Native Planting in General. Excited, build interest and engagement. As soon as flyers are available committee will receive.

**11. Lake District Reports:**

- a. Horsehead. Winkler reported. Didn't submit because meeting was on Saturday. Pursuing another aerator; have one and hope to add another. Going through DNR processing to establish. Hoping to have it finished in the next couple of weeks. At their meeting, Winkler presented and shared work Stephanie is doing with AIS; interest in having Stephanie provide some educational programming.
- b. Squash. Written Report in Packet.
- c. Mid. Written Report in Packet.

- d. Nokomis. No Meeting; Newman in communication with board members; New Campground with four hundred campsites is raising questions. Seems to have gone through Planning and Development fast. Could use support for education and communication with the transient campers. Concern about not being able to provide input to Planning and Development. Jennrich shared that there is a proposal for over two hundred and fifty camping units on Nokomis – has not gone to Public Hearing. Public Hearing will take place; permits have NOT been approved and it has NOT gone through Committee.

**12. Consent Agenda Items: (*Land and Water Conservation*):** March Monthly Reports for approval and monthly budget and invoices; nothing out of the ordinary. A motion by Newman/Thome to accept Consent Agenda Items a. and b. as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

**13. LWCD Items for Next Agenda:** Update/information on proposed 400 Campsite Campground because it is on lake and possible ideas for education department can provide. Crescent Lake District Report. Update from Karl regarding Shoreline Protection Amendment #13-2022.

**14. Public Comment:**

- a. Bill Jaegar; Resident of Town of Newbold. 6259 Pine Lake Road; Comment regarding ballots previously mentioned. Shared that not everyone checked off suggested answer on the ballots. It may have been suggested answers, but not everyone agreed. I'd like to think of the ballot as a petition. One hundred fourteen different petitions.

**15. Programming/Educator Report: Teen Court** – Sharon Krause, .50 Positive Youth Development Educator gave an update on programmatic efforts with both Raise Your Voice Clubs at Rhinelander and Lakeland Union High School and Teen Court. The Raise Your Voice Clubs empower youth leaders to raise awareness and provide education around youth mental health. Krause also provides leadership for all aspects of Oneida County Teen Court. Teen Court not only provides youth an alternative to the Juvenile Court System; it gives them an opportunity to take responsibility for their actions, learn from mistakes, and make better decisions in the future. Along with the court process, Krause has also been focusing on Post Secondary Pathways and finding ways for Teen Court Panelists to learn more about the court system and different careers connected to the courts. The Judge has been great and met with both Rhinelander High School and Lakeland Union High School students. Teen Court continues to save the county significant dollars while focusing on positive youth development.

**16. Area 4 Extension Director Update:**

- a. UWEX Status Update. Extension is continuing to work on Strategic Plan and is working with the NEW WCA Extension Committee to address opportunity areas. Two Oneida County Board Members are serving on the WCS Committee; Winkler and Cushing. During last meeting there was a lot of discussion around marketing/promotion of Extension and also the length of time it takes to hire and fill positions.
- b. Staffing and Communication Plan. NEW Office Coordinator has been hired. Jessica Young will start on April 24 and will be full-time supporting office operations and programmatic efforts. She will provide leadership for the office communication plan.

Moving forward with a Health and Well Being Educator who will be co-funded through Extension, Oneida County and ADRC.

- c. FoodWise Administrator Report – Kolb explained new FoodWise Administrator for Areas 3 & 4. Kolb will be providing administrative leadership and support for FoodWise Programming. Oneida County Educators are looking at creative and new ways to collaborate and meeting the food needs in and throughout the county. Looking ahead to summer and the Hodag Food Truck. Often food systems are complex and so it takes a lot of planning and collaboration to ensure we can reach as many people in need as possible. Summer programming for FoodWise will include work with the Farmers Market and education around how to use vouchers along with recipes and ways to utilize fresh produce. Oneida/Vilas FoodWise Educator Mary Stys will be going full time with a .20 FTE in Forest County.
- d. Rehberg will connect with LRES and Finance prior to next meeting to talk through steps and what is needed for reintroducing Community Development Educator position.
- e. Nicolet Collaboration. Collaborating/supporting a USDA RISE Grant to provide an outdoor education and collaboration space on campus that will be for community members to access and utilize.

**17. Recruitment for UWEX Positions:** Covered in Staffing Update.

**18. Consent Agenda Items (*UW-Extension*):** None

**19. Extension Items for Next Agenda:** Staffing and Communication; Nicolet Collaboration; Discussion of Community Development Position for FY2024.

**20. Public Comment.** None

**21. Adjournment:** Winkler adjourned meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amber Rehberg  
Recording Secretary