

Sitzberger called the regular meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on October 5, 2010 in the Lower Level Conference Room #1, at the Vilas County Courthouse, Eagle River, Wisconsin.

Present: The following persons were present: County Board members; Ralph Sitzberger, Mary Platner, Gene Ciszek, Erv Teichmiller, and Dennis Nielsen; others Rollie Alger, Carolyn Scholl, Ted Ritter, Mariquita Sheehan, Karen Christofferson, Thomas Christofferson, George Holloway, Karl Jennrich, Susan Hunter, and Rosemary Leveille

The following County Board member(s) were excused:

The following County Board member(s) were absent:

Media present: Jon Helgeson

Erv Teichmiller left at 11:00 am.

Approve Agenda: **Motion made by Nielsen, second by Ciszek to approve the agenda in any order at the chairman's discretion with the correction of #4 to read 2011 Wildlife Damage Budget. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Approve Minutes: **Motion by Nielsen, second by Platner to approve the minutes from September 5, 2010 of this committee. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program –

Irish handed out the 2011 wildlife budget (on file in the LWCD office) and asked for a signature by the chair. He noted that the cost is \$168.00 more than 2010. **Motion to accept the 2011 wildlife budget was made by Teichmiller with a second by Nielsen. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Little Tamarack flowage Dam –

Scholl gave an overview of the background on the situation. K. Jennrich, Conover Supervisor & Chair of the Town of Conover Little Tamarack Flowage Dam Committee, gave an update as to what they have done to correct the dam situation. In a conversation with Terry Cummings, DNR & Stacy Dehne, DATCP engineer, he learned that they need to get an engineering study done to find out what needs to be done and if Conover would like to take ownership of the dam. Bids went out to 9 engineering firms and they are now pursuing 3 of them. Jennrich requested a continuance but this is not necessary at this time. This item will be on the agenda next month at which time any necessary decisions will be made. A copy of the notes (on file in the LWCD office) from the last town's committee meeting was given to the committee by Scholl.

Conservation cost share program –

Sheehan gave a power point presentation of some of the past and present cost share restorations that showed the before and after results. A cost share budget (on file in the LWCD office) update of the amount allocated, amount used, and the carry over amounts was also given to the committee. Scholl reiterated that the conservation program is not just for shoreland restoration and that erosion is an important fact in conservation.

Groundwater/Private Wells Testing Program –

Scholl gave the committee a copy the proposal that will go to Lumberjack RC&D for the groundwater project, a resolution, and an informational sheet on the testing of drinking water (all on file in the LWCD office). After a discussion of the proposal a **motion by Teichmiller, second by Platner to present the proposal as is to Lumberjack RC&D. Motion carried, all voting aye.** Milanowski, Corporation Counsel made one change to the resolution after the committee received their copy, the following was added **"WHEREAS, matching funds for this grant are included in the approved 2011 Land and Water Conservation Department budget, and"**. **Platner made the motion to approve the amended resolution for the groundwater testing and education**

project to go forward to the full County Board, Nielsen made the second. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Professional pollution liability insurance coverage –

Scholl stated that she was instructed by the Executive, Ethics and Insurance Committee to contact insurance companies and get bids for the coverage. Four letters went out and only one bid came back, the premium would be \$2,317.50 per year with a deductable of \$5,000; \$1,000,000 coverage for pollution liability limit, and \$1,000,000 coverage for pollution liability aggregate limit. Sitzberger stated that Alleman, County Clerk contacted the County insurance company and they stated that they are not interested at all, but if necessary they could out source it. Sitzberger received a letter from County Board Chair, Rayala stating that he would not bring this issue to the Personnel Committee; he would like it to go to the Executive, Ethics, and Insurance Committee and also have a joint meeting at some point. **Motion to table the insurance of covering the application of herbicides to invasive terrestrials until March 2011 was made by Teichmiller, second by Cizek. Motion carried 4 aye votes and Sitzberger voting nay.**

2011 Land & Water Department Budget –

A motion by Teichmiller to accept the 2011 budget with the condition that there will be no more than a 5% cut to the operating portion of the budget second was made by Nielsen.

Lake Conservation Specialist Position –

Scholl prepared a memorandum (on file in the LWCD office) to the Personnel Committee to change the status of the Lake Conservation Specialist from part-time limited term to full-time permanent in anticipation of receiving a 3 year grant from the DNR, the written acceptance will not be received until mid to late October (a positive acceptance has been received verbally). **Motion by Platner, second by Nielsen to request the status change for the Lake Conservation Specialist from part-time limited term to full-time permanent. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Agent reports: UWEX, FSA, LWCD, NRCS, NCLWCA, Lumberjack RC&D –

FSA, Susan Hunter distributed a few reports (all on file in the LWCD office) and explained the two new programs, Conservation Loan Program and Biomass Crop Assistance Program. LWCD, Ritter, Sheehan, and Scholl presented their written reports and highlighted them. Ritter reported that at the AIS town lakes association meeting a lot of interest was shown and idea sharing took place. He announced that the UW-Oshkosh student intern watercraft inspection program was very helpful and successful. The students completed 1,200 hours and UW-Oshkosh would like to expand the program for next year. Also, the North Lakeland Discovery Center would like to establish a similar program for next year. Sheehan stated that the field work part of her DNR portion of her contract is completed and she will be doing some data entry for the WIDNR/UWEX Citizen Lake Monitor coordinator for the duration of the contract term. Scholl handed out a NRCS report (on file in the LWCD office) announcing the new Conservationist for Vilas, Oneida, Forest and Florence Counties will be Michael Stinebrink. She stated that WLWCA and WALCE are considering a merger and will be working on this with a newly formed ad hoc committee. She also told the committee of the upcoming WLWCA conference and the NCLWCA regional meeting.

Lake Organizations, ER Unified Lakes Commission (ULERCLC) & Vilas County Lakes Association (VCLA) –

VCLA, Alger will now have an annual newsletter of projects from the town lakes associations. Alger and others toured the 6 properties that received the Blue Heron awards from the VCLA.

Out-of-county travel –

A motion by Cizek, second by Platner to approve the following; Scholl, Nielsen, Ritter and Sitzberger on Dec. 8th – 10th to Wisconsin Dells for the annual WLWCA conference; Scholl, Sitzberger, and Nielsen on October 18th to Wausau for the NCLWCA regional meeting; Scholl on Oct. 26th to Stevens Point for the

Lakes Conference planning mtg. and on Nov. 3rd to Ladysmith for Youth Conservation Camp mtg.; Ritter on Oct. 15th to Minocqua for a WHIP steering mtg. and on Oct. 29th to Rhinelander for a terrestrial workshop for WHIP. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Budget/Voucher approval –

The following vouchers were presented for payment: David Keating-\$3,599.24; Richard & Marilyn Mathis-\$2,135.95; Thomas and Judith Pitcher-\$6,884.30; Ted Ritter-\$175.80; Ted Ritter-\$239.50; Mariquita Sheehan-\$250.50; and Carolyn Scholl-\$391.38. **Motion by Ciszek, second by Nielsen to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Letters and Communications –

The following items are on file in the LWCD office: WLWCA - memo about elections, Bylaws; Northeast Forest Pest Update; Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, Volume 15, Number 5; Conserving Natural Resources, the Resource, Summer 2010, Forestry Notes; Network News; FSA news releases; and NCWRPC News.

LCC Chair Comments –

Nothing for this month.

Future Meeting Dates/Items –

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 5, 2010 in the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment –

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Sitzberger at 11:45 am.

Minutes reflect the recorders notations and are subject to approval by the appropriate board or committee.

Respectfully submitted by: *Rosemary Leveille*