

Sitzberger called the regular meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on March 6, 2012 in the Lower Level Conference Room #2, at the Vilas County Courthouse, Eagle River, Wisconsin.

Present: The following persons were present: County Board members; Ralph Sitzberger, Mary Platner, Dennis Nielsen, and; others Rollie Alger, Carolyn Scholl, Larry Wawmnowicz, Kristen Hanson, Gretchen Watkins, Mariquita Sheehan, and Rosemary Leveille
The following County Board member(s) was excused: Erv Teichmiller
The following County Board member(s) was absent: Kathleen Rushlow
Media present: Joe Van De Laarshot

Approve Agenda: Motion made by Dennis, second by Mary Platner to approve the agenda in any order at the chairman's discretion. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Approve Minutes: Motion by Platner, second by Nielsen to approve the minutes from February 3, 2012 of this committee. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program –
Irish was unable to attend.

Lake Organizations, ER Unified Lakes Commission (ULERCLC) & Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association (VCLRA) –

VCLRA, Alger stated that the website for VCLRA has been updated and is at www.vclra.us.

Mining Issues – Overview

A power point presentation and a packet (both on file in the LWCD office) was given to all. The presentation was conducted by Larry Wawmnowicz, Gretchen Watkins, Kristen Hanson, from the Lac du Flambeau tribe, on the projected Taconite mining. The area that is being looked at is 22 miles long 1 – 1 1/2 miles wide and as deep as 1,600 feet deep with some of the property in Vilas County. There are many questions as to what impacts this could have to the water, air, and soil quality.

Agenda Format and Dept. Oversight Activities –

The Land and Water Conservation committee members gave some of their thoughts on how to streamline meetings. Sitzberger's suggestions were to give authority to the department head for approving the vouchers, approving projects, and approving out-of-county travel; written reports are not necessary unless the person cannot make the meeting; and resolutions for grants to be accepted and then another to use the funds, and another to adjust the amount if it doesn't come in at the amount requested – one resolution should be sufficient. Platner's suggestions were setting standard for resolutions, she disagreed about the reports and felt they are a good reference and every supervisor should take the time to read them, but agreed on department heads having more authority. She also stated that she doesn't want to lose the oversight of Lake Districts by County supervisors. Scholl asked if the committees go to the "super committee" format will each department attend every meeting or will they attend every other month or possible every third month. Sitzberger requested Leveille to forward these suggestions on to the County Clerk.

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

LWCD – Scholl, Ritter and Sheehan written reports (on file in the LWCD office) were distributed. Sheehan highlighted that she will be in Minocqua at the Garden show along with her counterpart from Oneida County, and she is working with Scholl and the DNR on putting more large pieces of wood back in the lakes and gathering the statistics for an erosion control study. Scholl announced that the office move took place and they are now getting organized. Lumberjack nomination papers for Forestry awards are now available and the next meeting is April 20th. DATCP's final allocation for 2013 has been received it will be \$96,359.00 for staffing

and \$41,950 for cost share totaling \$138,309.00 for the year. **Motion by Platner, second by Nielsen to approve the resolution for the DATCP 2013 Annual Funding grant. Motion carried, all voting aye.** Scholl also stated that the merger between WLWCA and WALCE has passed.

It is anticipated that the committee will go into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat., §19.85(1)(c) for the purposes of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.

Nielsen read the above wording and made the motion to go into closed session at 10:35 a.m., the second was made by Platner. Each person voted aye individually, Platner, Nielsen, and Sitzberger.

Adjournment of the closed session and return to open session –

Nielsen made the motion to go back into open session at 11:14 a.m. with each person voting aye, Platner, Nielsen, and Sitzberger. Motion carried.

Committee may consider ratifying any action taken in closed session –

Sitzberger stated that Platner will write up the results and Scholl will sign her annual employee evaluation. The results will then be forwarded to the Human Resource director.

Out-of-county travel –

A motion by Nielsen, second by Platner to approve the following out of county travel: Ritter on March 21st to Stevens Point for AIS Coordinators Training Workshop; April, 20th to forest County for the Lumberjack Council meeting, and May 8th and 9th to Stevens Point for the Annual AIS Coordinators meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget/Voucher approval –

The following vouchers were presented for payment: North Central Land & Water Conservation-\$150.00; Ted Ritter-\$146.52; Carolyn Scholl-\$421.57; Mariquita Sheehan-\$126.54; Vilas County News Review-\$182.84; and Wisconsin land & Water Conservation Association-\$1,657.09. **Motion by Nielsen, second by Platner to approve the vouchers as presented. Motion carried, all voting aye. Motion by Platner, second by Nielsen to approve the forwarding the purchase of partitions and equipment stands to help the staff settle in to their new office space to the Public Property Committee. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Letters and Communications –

The following items are on file in the LWCD office: Network News, February, 2012 and March 2012; Forestry Notes, February 2012; FSA March report, News Release on Conservation Reserve Program General Signup On-line Webinar Planned, and News Release on Wisconsin FSA Reminds Dairy Producers of MILC Program Requirements; and the agenda for the Public Hearing.

LCC Chair Comments –

Sitzberger stated that the Public Hearing will be on March 9th at the St. Germain Community Center at 9:00 a.m.

Future Meeting Dates/Items –

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Friday April 13, 2012 in the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521.

Adjournment –

Meeting was adjourned by Sitzberger at 11:28 a.m.

Minutes reflect the recorder's notations and are subject to approval by the appropriate board or committee.

Respectfully submitted by: *Rosemary Leveille*