

Sitzberger called the regular meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on April 5, 2011 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, Erv Teichmiller, Gene Cizek, and Dennis Nielsen; others Carolyn Scholl, Ted Ritter, Mariquita Sheehan, Brian Schwingle, Rollie Alger, and Rosemary Leveille  
The following County Board member(s) were excused: Mary Platner  
The following County Board member(s) were absent:  
Media present:

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

Approve Minutes: Motion by Nielsen, second by Cizek to approve the minutes from March 8, 2011 of this committee. Motion carried, all voting aye.

**Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program –**

Irish was unable to attend and had no report.

**Oak Wilt-**

Brian Schwingle, DNR Forest Health Specialist, gave a presentation of Oak Wilt. He is trying to get the information out to as many people as possible also a confirmed case has been reported on the Oneida County side of Cranberry Lake. Oak Wilt can decimate a tree in as little as two weeks. He gave the committee a publication on Oak Wilt and an information sheet on Annosum Root Rot (both on file in the LCWD office) and left some additional copies for handouts to the public. He announced that Oak Wilt will eventually make it into Vilas County and to have the public aware of what to look for can possibly help control this disease from spreading to fast. The committee suggested that a multimedia approach (psa, tv, radio, newspaper) might be the most effective way to reach the public

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

VCLA, Alger announced that VCLA was been approved for the grant to write a plant field guidebook with the help of Scholl and Sheehan.

**Response to ER Lakes Commission – review letter –**

The committee reviewed the letter on their own. **Teichmiller made the motion to accept and send the letter as is to the ER Lakes Commission second by Nielsen. Motion carried.**

**LWC Website – update; server use policy –**

The draft copy of the web server policy and release form (on file in the LWCD office) was send to the committee, with no changes to be made a **motion was made by Nielsen, second by Cizek to adopt the policy and release form. Motion carried, all voting aye.** The staff will be having a meeting with Tara from Information Technologies to discuss the template to be used.

**Conservation Camp Scholarships –**

The Conservation camp will be in Rusk County this year and will likely be moving to the North Lakeland Discovery Center in Vilas County next year. **Teichmiller made the motion to offer four (4) \$100 scholarships to students a second was by Cizek. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Application to DATCP for 2012 Grant funding –**

Scholl explained that the application for 2012 funding is now due and that this year they will be scrutinizing the percent of time that each staff member designates to soil and water management involvement. The amounts that are being applied for are staffing \$152,016.00 and cost share \$50,000.00. **Motion by Nielsen, second by Teichmiller to approve the applications and have the chair, Sitzberger sign. Motion passed.**

**Cost Share Program –**

Sheehan stated that at a recent DATCP training session it was suggested that if a county board member does not sign the cost share contracts then a staff member should be authorized by the committee. **Teichmiller moved to authorize Scholl and/or Sheehan to sign cost share contracts, second by Cizek. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

**Resolutions –**

**Motion by Teichmiller, second by Nielsen to accept and sign the resolution to apply for the 2012 annual DATCP Grant Funding application which also addresses future DATCP grant applications. Motion carried, all voting aye. Motion by Nielsen, second by Cizek to accept and sign the resolution to adjust the 2011 budget to increase \$3,000 to line item 100.56107.623 from Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership to help fund a LTE summer intern. Motion carried, all voting aye.** Both resolutions are on file in the LWCD office.

**County insurance coverage for applying herbicides –**

Sitzberger explained that the insurance costs and logistics are not possible at this time for applying herbicides by county employees. **A motion to table this item indefinitely was made by Teichmiller, second by Nielsen. Motion passed 3 ayes and Nielsen voting nay.**

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

Lumberjack, Teichmiller stated the next meeting will be April 28<sup>th</sup> in Rhinelander. LWCD – Scholl, Ritter and Sheehan distributed their written reports and one handout by Scholl on WLWCA and WALCE merger talking points (on file in the LWCD office). Sheehan stated that she has been working with her counterpart from Oneida County completing a native species list for the area to be used with cost share and other applications. Scholl stated that she and Sheehan met with Bill Lochte and Carol Linn from the “Commission” on forming a lake district and have also agreed to proceed as usual. She also showed the committee her draft time table for the groundwater project. Scholl presented the LTE position to the Personnel Committee and they have approved the position resolution with the contingency of pending funding.

**Out-of-county travel –**

**A motion by Nielsen, second by Cizek to approve the following out of county travel: Scholl on May 10<sup>th</sup> to Rice Lake for erosion control training; and Ritter on May 10<sup>th</sup> to Stevens Point for AIS coordinators Northern Region annual meeting; on May 20<sup>th</sup> to Minocqua for WHIP steering committee meeting; and May 24<sup>th</sup> to North Lakeland Discovery Center for an invasives presentation. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Budget/Voucher approval –**

The following vouchers were presented for payment: Donald & Louise Block-\$948.44; Ted Ritter-\$150.96; Carolyn Scholl-\$266.52; and Mariquita Sheehan-\$470.96. **Motion by Nielsen second by Cizek to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

**Letters and Communications –**

The following items are on file in the LWCD office: an email from K, Jennrich; WI Land and Water Conservation annual progress report; FSA, April report; March newsletter and news releases for March; NRCS, report to County Conservationists; Wisconsin Lakes, E-Lake Letter; Forestry Notes, March 2011; and Northeast Wisconsin Forest Pest Update all on file in the LWCD office. Scholl recommended that the committee members visit the WI Lakes website to view current policy and law making efforts that affect lakes.

**LCC Chair Comments –**

Sitzberger told the committee how the next meeting will be handled since it will be Scholl's evaluation.

**Future Meeting Dates/Items –**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 3, 2011 in the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521 at 9:00 a.m.

**Adjournment –**

**Motion by Cizek, second by Teichmiller to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 am. Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted by: *Rosemary Leveille*