

Sitzberger called the regular meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on August 3, 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 (arrive late at 9:20), Mary Platner, and Dennis Nielsen; others Carolyn Scholl, Ted Ritter, Callie Bertsch, Mariquita Sheehan, Mike Stinebrink, NRCS, Dan Anderson, Susan Hunter, FSA and Rosemary Leveille

The following County Board member(s) was excused: Gene Ciszek

The following County Board member(s) were absent:

Media present:

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

Approve Minutes: Motion by Nielsen, second by Platner to approve the minutes from July 18, 2011 of this committee. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program –

Irish did not attend this month.

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

VCLA, Anderson mentioned that VCLRA is working on the middle school class that will be presented in the fall at Trees For Tomorrow.

Little Tamarack Flowage – update –

Scholl received a message from Jennrich stating that they have not heard from the DNR as of yet.

NRCS Operational Agreement –

A draft copy (on file in the LWCD office) with the changes to the agreement was given to the committee.

A motion by Platner, second by Nielsen to accept the agreement as shown and sign when the agreement is corrected to reflect the changes. Motion carried unanimously. Scholl will make the changes and have it ready for the next committee meeting.

Department 2012 Draft Budget –

Scholl presented a preliminary 2012 draft budget along with a letter from DATCP regarding the 2012 allocation of funding from them (on file in the LWCD office) to the committee. An early 2012 proposed budget was requested by the Finance Committee. **Motion by Platner, second by Nielsen to approve the 2012 tentative budget and send it to the Finance Committee as per their request. Motion carried.**

Groundwater Project – update –

Scholl stated that the groundwater project is progressing. 165 people signed up for testing their water, but the study is only for 140. The elimination was done by pin pointing the parcels on a map and if two or more locations overlapped the numbers were put into a hat and picked for impartiality. Everyone will be picking up their bottles between August 3rd and 6th and returning the sample on Aug. 8th at specific locations. An educational program has been scheduled for Sept. 14th at two locations: Boulder Junction Town Hall from 3:00 to 5:00 pm and the Vilas County Courthouse from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. to receive the results. Kevin Masarek, Univ. of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Groundwater Specialist, and Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County Conservationist will give a presentation explaining the results and answer questions at both locations. All individual results will be kept confidential. This is a quality of water and educational event to benefit the County.

Cost-Share Program – update –

Scholl along with Dehne, DATCP engineer, visited the DeVos site and are working with them towards keeping their cost share contract in compliance. A complaint from an individual in Boulder Junction about water quality since came to Land and Water through Public Health stating that their neighbor has recently buried a dead horse. Scholl spoke to the complainant and has put them in the groundwater study that is currently going on. Scholl will also follow up to Judges with a letter requesting invoices for horse manure removal.

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

FSA – Hunter distributed and discussed her written report (on file in the LWCD office). LWCD –and Ritter, Scholl, and Sheehan presented their written reports (on file in the LWCD office). Scholl reminded the committee members of the upcoming Summer Tour on Aug. 12th in Stevens Point and asked who will be attending. The committee received a copy of the Lumberjack RC&D projects, and the information requested by the Schenk company for their Courthouse study (both on file in the LWCD office). Bertsch stated that her LTE position will end at the end of August. She has just a few locations to identify invasive terrestrials and will be finishing up her report. NRCS - Stinebrink made the committee members aware of the “local work group” meeting that will take place on Sept. 13th and invited all to attend so they can give opinions/suggestions on how the NRCS workers from the area are doing. A land owner in Phelps requested help from a NRCS program but he is not in a formal forest management program, Stinebrink is working with him and trying to help. Lumberjack RC&D - Teichmiller announced that the next meeting will be here in Vilas County on Oct. 19th the location was not been determined yet, and the annual conference will be in Stevens Point on Sept. 14th – 16th.

Out-of-county travel –

A motion by Teichmiller, second by Platner to approve the following out of county travel: Ritter on August 19th to Minocqua for WHIP steering committee meeting, and August 25th to Minocqua for Rotary Club invasive plants update; Scholl on August 12th to Stevens Point for the NCLWCA Summer Tour, and Sept. 21st – 22nd to Minocqua for an advanced lake leaders meeting; Nielsen and Sitzberger on Aug. 12th to Stevens Point for the Summer Tour; Nielsen and Platner on Sept. 14th – 16th to Stevens Point for the Lumberjack RC&D annual conference (all expenses except the pre diam to be paid by RC&D); and Nielsen and Scholl on September 13th to Rhinelander for the “local work group” NRSC meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget/Voucher approval –

The following vouchers were presented for payment: Callie Bertsch-\$114.34; Ted Ritter-\$135.98; Carolyn Scholl-\$65.49; Mariquita Sheehan -\$83.82; and Southern Computer Warehouse-\$529.71. **Motion by Teichmiller, second by Nielsen to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried, all voting aye.** Scholl also mentioned that she might have to adjust the 2012 tentative budget but the overall budget amount will not be increased.

Letters and Communications –

Scholl announced that she received notification from Phelps regarding a highway discontinuance (on file in the LWCD office). The following items are on file in the LWCD office: NRCS, notice of programs; Gazing Network News; and Forestry Notes, July 2011 Vol. XX, Issue 8.

LCC Chair Comments –

Sitzberger told the committee members of the new name tags for the County Supervisors to purchase if they wish.

Future Meeting Dates/Items –

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7, 2011 in the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521 at 9:30 a.m.

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Adjournment –

Meeting was adjourned by Sitzberger at 10:35 am.

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

Respectfully submitted by: *Rosemary Leveille*