

Sitzberger called the regular meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on September 7, 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 Mary Platner, and Dennis Nielsen; others Carolyn Scholl, Ted Ritter, Callie Bertsch, Mariquita Sheehan, Jeremy Irish, Lee Christiansen, and Rosemary Leveille
The following County Board member(s) was excused: Gene Ciszek
The following County Board member(s) were absent:
Media present: Jon Helgeson

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

Approve Minutes: Motion by Teichmiller, second by Nielsen to approve the minutes from August 3, 2011 of this committee. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program –

Irish distributed the Wisconsin Deer Donation 2011 agreement (on file) to the committee and explained that the DNR appropriated \$1,000 to the program for this year. **Motion to authorize Vilas County to participate in the Deer Donation program was made by Teichmiller, second by Nielsen. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Spotted knapweed bio-control participation consideration –

Ritter informed the committee of the spotted knapweed that is all over the County and the DNR is looking for willing partners to be part of a control program. The requirements are that the areas give permission for a WDNR project coordinator to introduce a non-native insect on road right of ways. The committee requested a presentation and question period by the coordinator and would like to include the Highway Committee in the decision. Ritter will try to set this up.

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

Scholl reported that Lost Lake Association in St. Germain is working on becoming a Lake District and will be ready to petition the County this fall or early winter.

Presentation – results of private forestland TIS summer surveys –

Bertsch gave a power point presentation of the properties that she surveyed this summer and summarized her findings.

NRCS Operational Agreement –

The final copy (on file in the LWCD office) of the agreement was presented to the committee for approval. **A motion was made by Teichmiller, second by Nielsen to have the chair sign the operational agreement between Vilas County Land & Water Conservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Motion was unanimous.**

LWC Department 2012 Draft Budget –

Scholl discussed the 2012 draft budget (on file in the LWCD office) with the committee: total request \$215,431; grants requested \$212,965. **Nielsen made a motion to accept the 2012 draft budget and present it to the Finance Committee for approval second by Platner. Motion carried.**

Groundwater Project – update –

Scholl stated that 136 bottles were given out and 132 were actually brought to the lab for testing. There will be an educational presentation and distribution of the test results to the program participants, which will be done by Scholl and Masarek, groundwater specialist from UW-Stevens Point lab. Two sessions will take place on September 14th 1) at the Boulder Junction Community Center from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. and 2) at the Vilas County Courthouse lower conference rooms from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

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

LWCD – Ritter, Scholl, and Sheehan presented their written reports (on file in the LWCD office). Ritter informed the committee of the successful CBCW program that took place this summer. This year there were 6 students totaling 2,604 hours of monitoring at 19 boat landings. He stated that the thought for next year will be 8 students. A meeting of the AIS partners will take place on October 13th to discuss the progress and ways of how to handle informing the public of AIS in the future. He also reported that Purple Loosestrife is abundant on the shores of the Eagle River Chain. A group of volunteers surveyed the 70 miles of shoreland this summer and will be starting an eradication process next spring by recruiting volunteers and landowners for help. Scholl asked for the chair's signature on the 2011 1st reimbursement request for the DATCP grant, for a total of \$79,009.00. An informational email has gone out to all Vilas County Schools about the Conservation Poster Contest. Scholl has arranged an additional local winner prize, an art lesson by a local artist. She also explained that the Youth Conservation Camp will be moving to Vilas County next year to be held at the North Lakeland Discovery Center. The coordinator will be the Iron County Conservationist and Scholl has been asked to be the assistant coordinator. A copy of a power point presentation (on file in the LWCD office) on the merger between WALCE and WLWCA was given to the committee with some explanation from Scholl. Sheehan stated that she has been working with the Zoning Department on some mitigation issues. Lumberjack RC&D - Teichmiller announced that the next meeting will be here in Vilas County at Trees For Tomorrow on October 19th.

Cost-Share Program – updates; discuss guidelines –

The situation at the DeVos property has been corrected and returned to the contracted specifications. A meeting with Land & Water, Public Health, and Corporation Counsel took place about Judgment Farms and the complaint from the neighbor. At the request of Corporation Counsel, Land & Water was to send a letter asking for proof of the manure removal as per their agreement, and Public Health was to find out where the horse was buried. The findings are not in yet. Sheehan stated that all of the 2010 carry over projects except one have been completed. The 2011 monies are contracted except for \$5,000 and most of these projects will be done in 2012. Scholl and Sheehan explained that written guidelines (requirements) for cost share projects are needed and asked for the committee's input of what they liked or would what changed.

Out-of-county travel –

A motion by Teichmiller, second by Nielsen to approve the following out of county travel: Ritter on Sept. 23rd to Minocqua for WHIP steering committee meeting; and Scholl on October 20th to Stevens Point for the Lake Convention Planning Meeting along with Platner. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget/Voucher approval –

The following vouchers were presented for payment: Callie Bertsch-\$82.14; Ted Ritter-\$281.39; Carolyn Scholl-\$485.81; Mariquita Sheehan -\$406.82; Harry & Georgiana Southwick-\$4,898.14; Charles & Patricia Thier-\$7,500.00; USDA-APHIS-\$1,917.92; and Joseph Zielinski-\$5,821.04. **Motion by Teichmiller, 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: FSA- September 2011 report from Susan Hunter, New Releases on Non-Insured Crop Disaster, USDA Compensation to Women and Hispanic Farmers, 2011 Livestock,

Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Loss, and Women and Hispanic Farmers and ranchers; Grazing Network News; and Forestry Notes.

LCC Chair Comments –

Sitzberger stated that Supervisor Bedish would like to be notified when anything with the Little Tamarack Flowage is on the agenda.

Future Meeting Dates/Items –

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 24, 2011 in the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521.

Adjournment –

Meeting was adjourned by Sitzberger at 11:30 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted by: *Rosemary Leveille*