

Sitzberger called the regular meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on October 24, 2011 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, Erv Teichmiller Mary Platner, and Dennis Nielsen; others Carolyn Scholl, Ted Ritter, Mariquita Sheehan, Susan Hunter, Rollie Alger, 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 Platner, second by Teichmiller to approve the minutes from September 7, 2011 of this committee. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program –

Irish distributed and discussed the 2012 budget for USDA-APHIS. The monies are reimbursed to Vilas County with 30% coming from USDA-WS and 70% coming from WDNR. **Motion by Teichmiller, second by Nielsen to approve the budget and have the chair, Sitzberger, sign. Motion carried unanimously.**

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

VCLRA, Alger stated that VCLRA is wrapping up 2011 and working on a 9 County Lakes Association conference for June of 2012 with a possible theme of AIS prevention teams.

Little Tamarack Flowage – update –

Scholl was informed by Jennrich, from the Little Tamarack Flowage committee, that they are thinking of becoming a lake district.

2011 Conservation Awareness Poster Contest –

The committee was given an invitation (on file in the LWCD office) to attend the presentation of the awards for the “2011 Conservation Awareness Poster Contest” on October 25th at the Walter Olsen Memorial Library. This year the judges have approximately 65 overall poster in three categories: Elementary Division 2nd & 3rd grades; Middle Division 4th thru 6th grades; and Junior Division 7th thru 9th grades. There will be 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place medals for the winners and certificates for all finalists as well as a bookmark for all that participated.

Department 2012 Budget - update –

Scholl explained how the staffing breakdown that is received from DATCP is funded and what is tentatively expected from the grant. She also reminded the committee of the DNR grant that is still be in effect for the next 2 years.

WLWCA/WALCE Merger –

The committee was given a copy of the Thursday Notes with a summary on the WLWCA/WALCE merger and asked to read it to be able to vote at the December conference. They were also told that they can vote by proxy if not attending.

Groundwater Project Summary Presentation –

A power point presentation was given by Scholl to show the numbers and results of the groundwater project. 136 bottles were distributed and 132 tests were done. A press release will be going out with the overall results, but no specific information on any one property will be disclosed.

Conservation Program – Project Monitoring Summary –

Monitoring cost share projects are part on the contract for 10 years. Sheehan and Scholl are working on a system to monitor every project at least 3 times during the 10 year contract and setting up guidelines. Sheehan and Dehne, DATCP engineer, have been to several sites in the last months and have found some to be doing great while others are not so good, part of the problem is that some of the native plants did not take very well and/or the practice that was decided on was not the proper one for the area. They are working on ways to correct the problems. The youth conservation camp that took place every summer in Rusk County will be relocated to Vilas County this year. The co-coordinators will be Vilas County Conservationist, Carolyn Scholl and Iron County Conservationist, Mary Jo Gingras. They are thinking about using the North Lakeland Discovery Center. A suggestion to inquire about using Trees For Tomorrow.

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

LWCD – Ritter spoke about the AIS partners' countywide meeting that took place last week. The meeting was well attended including Jeff Bode, Bob Wakeland and the CBCW coordinator. One of the topics was on should the CBCW information continue, phase out, for how long, and where in the state. He also stated that the coordinator of the "spotted knapweed" state program has received his permit from the WDOT. Ritter received a dvd from him and would like to share it with the committee at one of the upcoming meetings. Sheehan stated that all of the 2010 monies for cost share have been spent and the projects are complete. The 2011 monies are designated with a few contracts still to be signed by November. She will be working with the science teacher from NPHS to redo the native plant area at the school. Also, as a part of the cost share program biologists are used that are made of coconut which as you know are not native materials. She is working with a gentleman from American Excelsior to introduce a native biologic that is made from Aspen trees. Scholl stated that she is on two planning committees; one for the WLWCA conference and the other for the Wisconsin Lakes Convention. She stated that at the "Lakes Convention" there will be several breakout sessions on what Land and Water Conservation Departments can do for their counties. A copy of the Wisconsin Aquatic Invasive Species report was shown to the committee and they were told that Vilas County was highlighter in the report. FSA, Hunter distributed her report (on file in the LWCD office) and discussed the fact that the budget will receive a 23% cut for 2012 and they are looking to cut 12 employees by asking for voluntary retirements first. Lumberjack RC&D, Teichmiller said that last week's meeting went well. The new executive director is Claudia Baker. The next meeting will be January 13, 2012 and held in Florence County.

Out-of-county travel –

A motion by Teichmiller, second by Nielsen to approve the following out of county travel: Ritter on November 18th to Minocqua for WHIP steering committee meeting; Scholl on October 27th to Wausau for the NCLWCA meeting along with Sitzberger and Nielsen and Sitzberger on December 7th thru 9th to Wisconsin Dells for the WLWCA conference. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget/Voucher approval –

The following vouchers were presented for payment: Dinn Bros.-\$49.85; Clermont Printing and Office Products-\$8.99; Gary Cobus & Brigid Sullivan-\$5,024.07; Rita Mazur-\$7,327.25; Louis Mirek-\$7,500.00; Ted Ritter-\$125.43; Carolyn Scholl-\$619.07; Mariquita Sheehan -\$406.82; USDA-APHIS-\$569.46; and Bradley & Judith Waldmann-\$7,500.00. **Motion by Platner, second by Teichmiller to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried, all voting aye. .**

Letters and Communications –

The following items are on file in the LWCD office: Northwoods Land Trust 10th anniversary booklet; FSA reports – October 2011. Damage Assessment Reporting, Loss Filing for FSA's Livestock, Honey Bee and Farm Raised Fish Programs Extended, 2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment Program Eligibility on Crop Losses, and 2012 Perennial Crops Must Be Insured Before November 20th; Grazing Network – postcard for September 27th meeting, and Network News, Sept, 2011; Forestry Notes Issue 10 and 11; NCWRPC News, Fall Number 45; and USDA-NRCS update for Sept. 2011.

LCC Chair Comments –

Congratulations to Carolyn for a good job at the budget hearings.

Future Meeting Dates/Items –

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 4, 2011 in the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521.

Adjournment –

Meeting was adjourned by Sitzberger at 11:20a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted by: *Rosemary Leveille*