

Sitzberger called the regular meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on February 3, 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, Erv Teichmiller, Mary Platner, Dennis Nielsen, and Kathleen Rushlow; others Bryan Pierce, Rollie Alger, Carolyn Scholl, Mariquita Sheehan, Ted Ritter, and Rosemary Leveille
The following County Board member(s) was excused:
The following County Board member(s) were absent:
Media present:

Approve Agenda: Motion made by Nielsen, second by Teichmiller 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 January 6, 2012 of this committee. Motion carried, all voting aye.

LCC Chair Comments –

Sitzberger welcomed Rushlow to the committee and stated that he knows that she will be a great asset to the committee. He also stated that he felt there was not sufficient time to address the agenda format and dept. oversight activities at this meeting.

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program –

Nothing to report.

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

VCLRA, Alger mentioned that the Wisconsin Lakes Convention will be in Green Bay on April 10th thru 12th.

Northwoods Land Trust – Bryan Pierce –

Pierce explained how the Northwoods Land Trust got started and presented a power point on the program and showed a few of the properties that have been put into a conservation easement. A packet of information (on file in the LWCD office) was given to the members.

Rushlow left the meeting at this point.

DATCP Business –

Scholl stated that she is working on the 2013 staffing & support grant request and is waiting for one more piece from DATCP to finish and bring to the committee. She gave the members a draft of the resolution (on file in the LWCD office) for the annual DATCP grant funding application that will be brought to the County Board in March. The grant states that the request is \$137,233 for staffing and \$50,000 for cost share for a total of \$187,233. **A motion was made by Nielsen, second by Platner to add the proper language to the request to not have a resolution every year since this is the major funding for the department each year. Motion carried, unanimously.** Scholl presented the 2nd and final request for the reimbursement of 2011 totaling \$37,281. **Teichmiller made the motion to authorize the request and have the chair, Sitzberger, sign with the second by Nielsen. Motion carried.** Scholl also stated that the extension for the 2011 cost share funding was rejected by DATCP. The 2011 projects were moved to 2012. This will allow the department to become current and move on with other projects.

2012 Conservation Projects updates –

Sheehan discussed the research project of “Fish Sticks” being done in Vilas County. There will be a meeting with the DNR on February 16th to discuss the possibility and what needs to be done. She also discussed the project to assist NPHS with a native plant demonstration site, Sheehan also asked to join eco-scaper certification sessions with the Wild Ones group. **Motion by Platner, second by Teichmiller to support the project commitment with the time and expertise of Sheehan and for Sheehan to attend the certification sessions at the cost of \$45.00 each. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Agenda Format and Dept. Oversight Activities –

This item was put on the agenda by request of the County Clerk. After some discussion a **motion was made by Teichmiller, second by Nielsen to table this matter until the March 6th meeting to give the committee time to compile their thoughts and ideas. Motion carried.**

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

LWCD – Scholl, Ritter and Sheehan written reports were distributed and discussed. Ritter explained the purple loosestrife biological program that will take place this summer if the funding is secured. A few pieces of information (on file in the LWCD office) were given to the committee along with a map of a possible rearing site for the beetles. Ritter asked the members for their input on whom to ask for permission or if they knew of a different site. It was suggested to Ritter to ask the Highway Commissioner, Jarred Maney, and Public Property to use the fenced area behind the highway building for his “Purple Loosestrife Bio-control Rearing Site”. Sheehan stated that the 2012 cost share funds are committed except a small portion for possible changes or an urgent project comes in. Scholl stated that the “Early Bird” deadline for the WI Lakes Convention is in March. She passed out the brochure for the Conservation Camp (on file in the LWCD office) and stated that it will be in Vilas County this year at Trees For Tomorrow. Every year a “Conservation Observation Day” is observed and Scholl was asked if she and Vilas County would be interested. **Teichmiller made the motion to authorize Scholl to proceed with the conference and host the conservation day a second by Platner. Motion carried.** Scholl is planning on having the Youth highlighted and will have the conservation day on June 11th. The committee was also informed that the department will be moving to the east section of the Zoning office. The area will become solely the Land and Water Conservation Department. The time frame hasn’t been established yet. NCLWCA, Scholl had a list of the activities for the year and will forward it to all members. Lumberjack RC&D next meeting will be April 20th. The “Right of Way” project received the first approval at the last meeting.

Out-of-county travel –

A motion by Platner, second by Nielsen to approve the following out of county travel: Ritter on April 10th – 12th to Green Bay for the WI Lakes annual convention; Sheehan on Feb. 16th to Rhinelander for Alternative Shoreland Control Methods, March 10th to Minocqua for Gardening in the Northwoods meeting; and Scholl on March 29th – 30th to Waupaca for the Spring County Conservationist meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget/Voucher approval –

The following vouchers were presented for payment: **2011** – Boulder Junction Marketplace-\$55.00; Prime Choice Meat Market-\$440.00; USDA-APHIS-\$2,117.42; **2012** – Lumberjack RC&D-\$200.00; Ted Ritter-\$209.81; Carolyn Scholl-\$541.89; Mariquita Sheehan-\$6.93; and UWSP College of Natural Resources-\$300.00. **Motion by Teichmiller, second by Nielsen to approve the vouchers as presented. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Letters and Communications –

Scholl read the letter to Gene Ciszek for his service from the committee. She also discussed the letter from Senator Holperin that was received. The following items are on file in the LWCD office: DATCP Report, January; NCWRPC News, Winter 2012; Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, Inc. update, January, 2012; Forestry notes, January 2012; and Thursday Note, Volume 12, Issue.

Future Meeting Dates/Items –

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 6, 2012 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*