

Sitzberger called the regular meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on July 6, 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, Mary Kim Black, Dennis Nielsen, & Lorin Johnson; and others Jeremy Irish, Rollie Alger, Carolyn Scholl, Ted Ritter, and Mariquita Sheehan

The following County Board member(s) was excused: Kathleen Rushlow

The following County Board member(s) was absent:

Media present:

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

Approve Minutes: Motion by Nielson, second by Johnson to approve the minutes from June 1, 2012 of this committee. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program –

Irish discussed the 2013 venison donation program in an “agreement to participate”. He mentioned that Prime Choice will be the only vender in Vilas County next year that will be processing donated deer. Committee discussed the possibility of getting another vendor onboard but Irish stated that the process is not easy because vendors need to be approved by the USDA to participate. At this time, the wildlife abatement program has 19 fences up in the county protecting pollination operations of cranberry marshes and cut flowers – this includes 500-1000 bee colonies that are being protected by the fence. An additional 6 participants with fences up in fields include potato and hay farmers. **Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Black to participate in and have Sitzberger sign the 2013 agreement to participate. Motion carried, all voted aye.**

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

VCLRA, Alger shared information on the North-Central Lakes Workshop that took place at Nicolet College on June 15. He briefly discussed the events of the day and that there were 3 recipients of the Blue Heron Award. He also stated that there is a proposal in the works now from Wisconsin Lakes that would allow higher amount of funding in the WDNR for the purpose of AIS management. They would like feedback. Scholl will provide the LCC members with electronic version of this proposal and it will be placed on the August LCC agenda for discussion. The need for increased amounts of Citizen AIS In-Lake Monitoring was discussed at length. Scholl stated that Erv Teichmiller had attended the annual meeting for Little Arbor Vitae Lake District. At this time, they are working on a comprehensive lake management plan for the lake. She also stated that Big Sand lake in Phelps is in the process of petitioning landowners for District creation signatures. It is likely that a petition for formation of this district will come to the county by September, 2012. Scholl clarified the role of county supervisors as lake district commissioners.

Cost-Share Conservation Program –

Sheehan gave a brief summary of the current status of the cost-share program finances for 2012. Scholl / Sheehan discussed various options for future cost sharing and provided the LCC members with a handout (on file with the minutes). **A motion was made by Nielsen, seconded by Black to select Option I – the tier approach for the future with no maximum dollar limit placed on projects. Motion carried.**

2013 Draft Land Conservation Department Budget –

Scholl reviewed a first draft 2013 department budget. The budget proposed was reduced from 2012 by \$664 – for a bottom line of \$219,048 in 2013. Nielsen expressed that the committee should not reduce the budget until given a directive from the county to do so. **A motion was made by Johnson, and seconded by Black to keep the draft budget as proposed with the slightly reduced bottom line. Motion carried, Nielsen voted no.**

DATCP Business –

Scholl shared a letter with the LCC members which stated that counties will not see a 2013 preliminary allocation from DATCP until October 2013. The delay by DATCP is due to the fact that they have not yet been notified as to what their lapse requirement will be in 2013 (letter is on file with the minutes). It is likely that the lapse requirement will affect the staffing grants (GPR funds), the conservation grants (SEG funds), or both.

Supervisor Johnson was excused from the meeting at 10:40 am.

Conservation Observance Day & Conservation Camp 2012 –

Scholl provided an update of both the 2012 Youth Conservation Camp and the Conservation Observance Day activities that took place during the week of June 11-15 by doing a powerpoint slide show of the events.

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

LWCD, Ritter, Scholl, and Sheehan distributed their written reports (on file in the LWCD office) and discussed them. Sheehan stated that the field season for the 2012 project is on-going and she has been out monitoring sites as well. Soon she will be trying to select sites for the Good Wood project. She is also working with the science teachers and students at Northland Pines High School on the native garden plot at the school. Ritter shared with the committee that for various reasons, a person was not hired to complete the ROW project in Vilas County this year. The purple loosestrife project is on-going and the beetles were released at various sites throughout the Eagle River area this past week. He plans to monitor those sites next year. Scholl attended the NCLWCA meeting in Antigo and was voted onto the board of directors for WLWCA as the LCD rep for NC region. Tom Rudolph from Oneida County was voted in as the LCC rep for NC region. Sitzberger is the alternate LCC member. Scholl announced that the WLWCA annual meeting will take place October 4-5, 2012 in WI Rapids. All are invited to attend. **At this time, the October LCC meeting date was changed from October 5 to October 16, 2012.**

Out-of-county travel –

Sitzberger approved the following out of county travel: Scholl on July 9th to Stevens Point for WLWCA BOD meeting. **Motion by Black to approve travel requests, seconded by Nielsen.**

Budget/Voucher approval –

The following vouchers were presented for payment: Rita Mazur-\$1,228.49; Ted Ritter-\$175.38; Carolyn Scholl-\$269.93; Mariquita Sheehan-\$491.19; and Trees For Tomorrow-\$825.00. **Motion by Nielsen, second by Black to approve the vouchers as presented. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Letters and Communications –

The following items are on file in the LWCD office: Forestry Notes, June 2012; Trees For tomorrow, forest Fest flyer; and Grazing Network News, June 2012.

Future Meeting Dates/Items –

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Friday August 3, 2012 in the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521. Scholl/Sheehan will not be in attendance at the August meeting.

Adjournment –

Meeting was adjourned by Sitzberger at 11:23 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted by: *Carolyn Scholl*