

Sitzberger called the regular meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on October 16, 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, Kathleen Rushlow, Dennis Nielsen, & Lorin Johnson; and others, Jeremy Irish, Clyde Owens, Ted Ritter, Carolyn Scholl, Mariquita Sheehan, and Rosemary Leveille
The following County Board member(s) was excused:
The following County Board member(s) was absent:
Media present:

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

Approve Minutes: Motion by Johnson, second by Black to approve the minutes from September 7, 2012 of this committee. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program –

Irish distributed the 2013 budget (on file in the LWCD office) for the abatement program. He explained that this is at no cost to the county and is a 25% - 75% share program by USDA-WS and WDNR. **Motion by Rushlow, second by Nielsen to participate in the wildlife abatement program and for the chair, Sitzberger, to sign the budget. Motion carried. Jeremy left at 9:10 am.**

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

VCLRA - This year there will be 4 recipients of the Blue Heron Award that is given out every year to home owners the comply with the ecosystem stewardship of the shoreline. The annual meeting is in the planning stages and will take place in June at one of the following locations: Trout Lake Limnology Center in Sayner, Camp Manitowoc in Boulder Junction, or Conserve School in Land O'Lakes. VCLRA also send a newsletter out twice a year usually in January and June. Owens announced that VCLRA has voted to financially support the Lake District training done by the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department with costs not covered by the County. Big Sand Lake Association is in the petition process of becoming a Lake District and will be coming forth very soon with all of the required paperwork.

Technical Services Policy and 2013 Fee Schedule – Draft & Resolution -

The committee received the policy and a resolution (on file in the LWCD office) for discussion and possible approval. **Motion by Nielsen, second by Black to approve the policy and to forward the resolution to the full county board for adoption. Motion was unanimous.**

Tier Level Practices Policy - Draft –

A copy of the Conservation Cost Share Program Policy – Tier Level Practices (on file in the LWCD office) was given to the committee and discussed. The only item that still needs attention is the "Determination of Economic Hardship". The Finance Director needs to approve the accounting principles. This will be brought back to the committee next month for approval.

Performance Evaluations –

The committee was informed to fill out the evaluation forms if they so choose by Sitzberger. When the compilations are done a closed session will take place with the committee, the department head, and the Human Resource Director at a future date.

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

UWEX – Nielsen stated that the UW-Extension will be conducting their next meeting as an informative session to the public with the business portion followed by each agent showcasing their programs. LWCD - Scholl, Sheehan and Ritter presented their written reports (on file in the LWCD office). Sheehan highlighted a few of the items on her report. Ritter will be attending the Lumberjack RC&D meeting on the 17th to request approval for funding for 2 projects: the position to write the results of the roadside study and create the process for future studies; to have the Town of Three Lakes have their town roadsides studied for “terrestrial invasives”. There is a new grant for funding water craft inspectors at a 75% rate, because of this new grant the CBCW project with the University of Oshkosh students might increase from 8 to 15. Scholl stated that the NCLWCA poster contest took place in Vilas County on October 15th there were 3 divisions. She attended the first combined WLWCA meeting where the AIS Funding resolution passed and the Fulfillment of Wisconsin’s Land & Water Quality Commitment resolution passed also.

Out-of-county travel –

A motion by Rushlow, second by Nielsen to approve the following out of county travel: Ritter on Oct. 19th to Minocqua for a WHIP Steering Committee mtg.; Sheehan on Oct 17th to Waushara County for a Lake Level Monitoring Training mtg.; Scholl on October 17th to Plainfield for a Lake Level Monitoring Training mtg., Oct. 26th to Wausau for NCLWCA mtg., and Nov. 7th to Ashland for Cultural Resource Review training. Motion was amended to include Sitzberger and Nielsen for the Oct. 26th NCLWCA mtg. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Monthly Budget Review –

An update of the budget was presented to the committee along with the statement of the bills paid. **Motion by Rushlow, second by Nielsen to approve the bills. Motion carried.**

Letters and Communications –

Rushlow stated that the Alma Moon Lake District needs help in acquiring an additional USGS gauge. Scholl will contact the Lake District president to help assist him. The following items are on file in the LWCD office: NRCS report on the Land Conservation Committees; Lumberjack RC&D, Lumberjack’s Granting Policy, July 25, 2012 minutes, August 3, 2012 minutes, September 7th 2012 minutes, press release on USDA Secretary Vilsack Proclaims NARC&DC 50th Anniversary week, Fall-What’s New?, Lumberjack Updates, and October 17, 2012 agenda; NCWRPC News, Fall 2012 Number 48; FSA newsletter, September 2012; Forestry Notes, October 2012; and Northwoods Land Trust Newsletter, September, 2012

Future Meeting Dates/Items –

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Friday November 2, 2012 in the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521. Scholl will not be able to attend.

Adjournment –

Meeting was adjourned by Sitzberger at 10:40 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted by: *Rosemary Leveille*