

Sitzberger called the regular meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on December 7, 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 Carolyn Scholl, Rollie Alger, Mariquita Sheehan, Ted Ritter, and

Rosemary Leveille

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

Approve Minutes: Motion by Black, second by Johnson to approve the minutes from November 2, 2012 of this committee. Motion carried, all voting aye.

**Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program –**

Irish did not attend.

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

VCLRA – Alger stated that VCLRA will be sponsoring a grant for a dissolved oxygen meter to be used in lake studies. The annual celebrating of lakes meeting will be held at the Conserve School, Land O'Lakes on June 14, 2013. VCLRA is also writing a resolution in support of the Big Sand Lake Association becoming a district. Scholl informed the committee of the upcoming public hearing re: Petition to from Big Sand Lake District on January 3, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. which will be held in the Phelps School commons area. There will also be a meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup> for the Phelps town board to ask questions about the potential district. This will be attended by Scholl.

**Vilas County AIS Treatment Ideas –**

L. Johnson presented his idea of an alternative method of treating Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) other than toxic chemicals. The thought is to use a mat, such as rubber roofing, to block out the sun and cause the plants to die which will be done in early spring. He would like to see Vilas County on the cutting edge of a study and to be able to apply for grant funding. Everyone gave their thoughts, comments, objections, and ideas. Sitzberger asked that Ritter, Johnson, Scholl and anyone else that is interested get together and discuss the idea and bring back the possibilities to the committee at a future date.

**DATCP Business –**

Sitzberger was asked to sign the paperwork to extend the 2012 cost share funds. The committee agreed. There are two projects that will be extended into 2013. Vilas County has also received an additional \$6,000 for 2012 due to a request from Forest County since they were not going to use their complete cost share allocation. The request was made for signage to be put up when a cost share project is taking place for promotional purposes of the cost share program and also for the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department. Scholl gave the preliminary 2013 allocation plan (on file in the LWCD office) to the committee stating that the requested amounts and the preliminary amounts differ by a short fall of approximately \$47,000.

**Resolution – Draft: Grant Support for Land & Water Conservation Staff –**

**Motion to accept the resolution and present it at the January, 2013 county board meeting for approval was made by Nielsen, second by Black. Motion was unanimous.**

**Opportunity to solicit federal EPA grant funds for environment awareness –**

Scholl and Sheehan were approached by the AV-W 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher to help teach water quality and lake education. If the pilot program works Scholl would like to apply for EPA grant funds and have the program reach all school districts in the County. **Motion by Black, second by Johnson for the department to start the program with the AV-W students in water quality, data collection, field work, and other lake educational instruction. Motion carried.**

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

UWEX – Nielsen stated that the UW-Extension is looking into helping the county find a source for grant writing. LWCD – Ritter, Scholl and Sheehan distributed their written reports (on file in the LWCD office). Sheehan highlighted to the Annual Symposium of the North American Lake Management Society. Scholl stated that she will be busy with the Big Sand Lake petition for the coming month. She is also setting up the speakers for a portion of the Wisconsin Lakes Conference. Ritter has been in contact with the WDOT. They will be signing the MOU and have agreed to partner with WHIP. WHIP will be having an outreach meeting with all partners in the near future (possibly February). He also requested a personal contact for Vilas County. Sitzberger and Johnson gave their permission to contact them.

**Out-of-county travel –**

**A motion by Johnson, second by Nielsen to approve the following out of county travel: Scholl on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> to Stevens Point for the WLWCA Board meeting; Scholl and Sitzberger on Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> for the NCLWCA meeting; Ritter, Scholl, and Nielsen on Jan. 9, 2013 to Menomonee County for the Lumberjack meeting. 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 Nielsen, second by Johnson to approve the budget update and pay the bills. Motion carried.**

**Letters and Communications –**

The following items are on file in the LWCD office: FSA report for November, 2012; Forestry Notes November, 2012 and Forestry Notes December, 2012

**Future Meeting Dates/Items –**

A public hearing meeting will take place on January 3, 2013 at the Phelps School at 5:00 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Friday January 4, 2013 in the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521.

**Adjournment –**

**Meeting was adjourned by Sitzberger at 10:56 a.m.**

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

Respectfully submitted by: *Rosemary Leveille*