

Sitzberger called the regular meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on January 4, 2013 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, Kathleen Rushlow, Lorin Johnson, & Steve Favorite ; and others Carolyn Scholl, Rollie Alger, Mariquita Sheehan, Ted Ritter, Rosemary Leveille, and others (see attached list)
The following County Board member(s) was excused:
The following County Board member(s) was absent:
Media present: Ken Anderson

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

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

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

Scholl explained the process, time frame, and how a Lake District public hearing works. She noted that she received 14 letters in support, 3 in support from people not on the lake, 15 in opposition, 1 resolution in favor, and 5 requests to be have their parcels removed from the petition. The committee members were asked to give their thoughts and ideas that came from the Big Sand Lake District Public Hearing on January 3rd. VCLRA – Alger stated that the VCLRA newsletter will be out soon and that all county board supervisors will be receiving one. He also mentioned that the “Celebrating Lakes Day” will be on June 14, 2013 at the Conserve School in Land O’Lakes.

Resolution re: Formation of the Big Sand Lake District –

The motion to forward the resolution: “Approval of Big Sand Lake District Petition” to the county board was made by Nielsen, second by Rushlow. Scholl explained to the committee that the petition came in with the method by which owners of over 51% of the land area are in approval of formation of a lake district. She also explained why the timing of the public hearing was later than the petitioners had wanted originally. The County had required that the Petitioners bring in the petition along with a formal, written description of the proposed boundary. This delayed the hearing by about 4 weeks. Scholl then read out a summary of petition correspondence that was received by the County Clerk’s office: 14 support letters from lake residents, 3 support letters from non-residents, 1 resolution in favor of the lake district; 15 letters in opposition to the district formation from lake residents, and 5 of those requested that their parcel be removed from the proposed boundary. The members discussed their thoughts about the hearing testimony: Johnson is impressed with the Big Sand Lake Association lake management efforts, but will not support the district creation because he did not witness strong support from the property owners for the district. He would have preferred to see at least ¾ or more of the landowners in approval. Nielsen was in agreement with Johnson. Favorite said that it was mostly seasonal property owners that approve the district, not necessarily the locals. Favorite also spoke about the 4 criteria that the committee needed to consider: Requisite landowners – yes; Necessary – maybe not since the association is such a strong one and manages just fine; Public Health & Convenience – EWM is under control; and Benefit – yes it would be beneficial because the financial burden would be distributed. Sitzberger agreed with Favorite and said that the Lake Association was functioning well as it is. Sitzberger asked for a vote by member. YES meaning approval for district and NO meaning not forming a Lake District. **The vote: Yes nobody; No – Johnson, Nielsen, Favorite, Rushlow, and Sitzberger; Refraining – Black. The motion failed.**

Favorite left at 9:57 a.m. Media also left at this time.

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program –

Irish had no report and did not attend.

Conservation Projects – Compliance Monitoring update –

Sheehan gave a power point presentation of some of the conservation projects that she and Dehne (DATCP engineer) were able to monitor in 2012. They have discovered that the placement of biologists doesn't work in high activity areas, the landowner needs to take an active part in the maintenance, and the area needs to stay clear of trampling or being used as a storage area just to name a few problems. Some actions will be started in 2013 to combat these issues. A portion of the contract will be altered to help put more ownership on the landowner regarding the maintenance and other items.

DATCP Business –

Scholl reminded everyone that the extension of the 2012 conservation projects has been approved. The amount is approximately \$13,000 including the extra \$6,000 that was received from Forest County.

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

LWCD, Scholl, Sheehan and Ritter distributed and discussed their written reports (on file in the LWCD office). Scholl will be implementing the "Fee Schedule and Tier Costs" to the conservation projects in 2013. She will also be working on an AIS grant to help cover the cost of the AIS position in the department. Sheehan announced that she along with 9 other conservation departments have nominated Stacy Dehne for a WLWCA award. She will also be looking for funding sources for the "good wood project" for shore line conservation. Lumberjack, RC&D, Nielsen stated that there will be a meeting next week.

Out-of-county travel –

A motion by Rushlow, second by Nielsen to approve the following out of county travel: Scholl on January 25th to NCLWCA meeting, January 9th to Menomonie for Lumberjack RC&D meeting, January 31st for WLWCA Training Summit, and March 10th – 13th to Wi Dells for WLWCA Conference; Ritter on January 7th to Hurley for Spiny water flea grant project review, and January 22nd or 23rd to Stevens Point for CBCW program review and 2013 planning; and Sitzberger on January 25th for NCLWCA 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, Rushlow second by Johnson to approve the budget update and pay the bills. Motion carried. Motion by Rushlow, second Johnson to approve the payment for the WLWCA annual dues in the amount of \$1,652.55 for 2013, not the additional 2 items totaling \$400.00, and to inform WLWCA that Vilas County will be checking on the reasons why it is advantageous for them to remain members. Motion carried.**

Letters and Communications –

Nielsen asked why the FSA representative is part of the committee when he never comes to the meetings. The following items are on file in the LWCD office: WLWCA 60th annual conference flyer and the Dec., 2012 DATCP report.

Future Meeting Dates/Items –

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Friday February 1, 2013 in the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521.

Adjournment –

Meeting was adjourned by Sitzberger at 11:10 a.m.

Minutes reflect the recorder's notations and are subject to approval by the appropriate board or committee.
Respectfully submitted by: *Rosemary Leveille*