

Land & Water Conservation Committee

May 3, 2013

Sitzberger called the regular meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on May 3, 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, Dennis Nielsen, Kathleen Rushlow, Mary Kim Black, Lorin Johnson; and others – Carolyn Scholl, Mariquita Sheehan, Ted Ritter, Janna Kahl (Human Resources Director), Joe Marny, Steve Budnick (VCLRA & Conservation Congress), Larry Stevens (Vilas County Forest Administrator), Jill Nemecek (WI DNR Liaison Forester), Gary Black, and invited guests Rep. Rob Swearingen and Sen. Tom Tiffany.

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 Johnson, to approve the agenda in any order at the chairman's discretion. All voting aye, motion carried.

Approve Minutes: Motion made by Nielsen, second by Black, to approve the minutes from April 5, 2013 of this committee. All voting aye, motion carried.

Rep. Rob Swearingen, 34th Assemble District: Discussed the Mining bill, the LWCD DATCP funding situation, the AIS funding situation, and spear fishing/bag limits.

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program:

Irish had no report and did not attend.

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

VCLRA –The “Celebrating Lakes Day” will be on June 14, 2013 at the Conserve School in Land O’Lakes. Sitzberger approved attendance for Committee members.

County Conservationist Position Description: Motion by Rushlow, second by Black to Forward Notification to the Personnel Committee to pass the position description as Amended. All voting aye, motion carried.

Resolution re - Grant support for Vilas County Lakes Program Staff: LWCD is submitting 2 grant proposals to WI DNR for support. *Vilas County Lakes Program Staff_ Lakes & Watershed* for \$49,189.00, and *Vilas County Lakes Program Staff_ Shorelands* for \$125,915.00. **Motion by Rushlow, second by Nielsen to go through with Resolution and send to the May 28th County Board meeting. All voting aye, motion carried.**

Motion by Rushlow, second by Black to sign and apply for the grants. All voting aye, motion carried.

10:50 Stevens, Nemecek, and Black arrive

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

LWCD: Staff distributed their written reports (on file in the LWCD office). Nielsen reported that **UWEX** is moving ahead with a decision for secretarial support. Mary Platner substituted for Nielsen at **Lumberjack**, no report. **Ritter** prepared a fact sheet on Town Lakes Committees. He reported that WHIP hired a summer intern to survey the County Highways who will start on the 20th

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of May. Ritter will also give a road crew workshop with 20 Highway Dept employees. **Scholl** shared progress on the Youth Conservation Camp and sessions she gave and attended at the 2013 Lakes Convention. **Sheehan** presented the Large Woody Structure Pilot Study at the Lakes Convention and received plenty of support. She will also be updating the O&M section of the Cost Share Contract. **NCLWCA** spring meeting May 23rd in Antigo; Sitzberger, Rushlow, and Scholl to attend.

Out-of-county travel:

A motion by Rushlow, second by Nielsen, to approve the following out of county travel:

Sitzberger, Rushlow and Scholl – May 23 to Antigo for NCLWCA Spring Meeting. Sheehan – June 4, Kemp Station, AIS Early Detection Monitoring. **Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Monthly Budget Review:

- Scholl will continue with the Expense and Revenue Guidelines and copy of the current one page budget.
- Scholl will start on the 2014 and 2015 budgets

Sen. Tiffany and Black arrive 11:10

Sen. Tom Tiffany: Shared his thinking behind the Mining bill.

Sen. Tiffany, Nemeč, and Black leave 12:05

Letters and Communications:

Rushlow requested smaller mailing of agenda and minutes. Nielsen is going to the Lost Lake District meeting in May. The following items are on file in the LWCD office: RC&D brochure, DATCP Report March 2013; Forestry Notes, April 2013; Grazing Network News, April 2013; NRCS Report to the Land Conservation Committees April and May 2013; and NCWRPC News Spring 2013.

Email from Karl Jennrich, Town of Conover Supervisor, in relation the Little Tamarack Flowage Dam. Report from Stantec/Bonestroo: Revised Little Tamarack Dam Failure Analysis. Findings are: no known structures in the hydraulic shadow; the dam is overtopped at the embankment section during a 100 year storm event; the soil borings indicate poor soil conditions at the embankment section of the dam. Next steps: meet with WI DNR and get recommendations and costs for moving forward.

Sitzberger shared that there was a proposal to the Legislative and Judicial to combine Forestry, Highway, and Public Property into one committee. Sitzberger made some suggestions including LWCD, UWEX, and Economic Development. Another combination could be Forestry and Land Records together.

Future Meeting Dates/Items:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Friday June 7, 2013 in the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned by Sitzberger at 12:17 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted by: *Quita Sheehan*