

Land & Water Conservation Committee

August 2, 2013

Sitzberger called the regular meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on August 2, 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, Lorin Johnson, Mary Kim Black, and others –Ted Ritter, Carolyn Scholl, Michael Stinebrink, Jeremy Irish, Rollie Alger, and Steve Budnick (VCLRA & Conservation Congress).

The following County Board member(s) was excused:

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. All voting aye, motion carried.

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

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program:

Irish attended and brought final number of venison donations in 2012. Vilas County had 14 deer donated and meat was processed by Prime Choice Meat Market.

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

VCLRA –Alger reported that the grant that VCLRA had received for writing a guidebook has been sent back. He also reported about the VCLRA annual meeting and conference at Conserve School. They are now working on initiatives to inform realtors about shoreland property contact people, and as lake district guardians to make sure a petition is strong by the time it gets submitted to the county.

Legislator's Field Day: Planning for this event is on-going. A save-the-date flyer was sent out to all of the invited legislators. The registration form is ready to go and in the next week, invitations will go out to select guests.

DATCP Business: Scholl reported that the 1st 2013 reimbursement request to DATCP was completed in the amount of \$71,494 and a signature by Sitzberger was required. **Motion made by Rushlow, seconded by Nielsen, to accept the reimbursement request and send it on to DATCP. All voting aye, motion carried.** DATCP sent out their joint preliminary 2014 staffing and support budget in the amount of \$100,432 for Vilas County. The Committee was provided with a copy of the proposed amount. It was suggested that this item be placed on the next agenda.

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

LWCD: Ritter reported that CB/CW interns only have a few weeks left, he is trying to make sure all inspection hours are reported. He gave a brief report about a newly found Garlic Mustard infestation found in LOL. Nearby property owners have been informed and the ROW intern is working with Rod Sharka to do some education and mgnt of this infestation. WHIP is looking for a part-time coordinator at \$15-\$20 per hour. This person would be responsible for finding additional funding. Scholl reported that the next Lumberjack RC&D Meeting is scheduled for October 16, in Shawano County. At the next Lumberjack meeting she will propose a project to help the Eagle River library fund with a contingency that the money be tied to a conservation area within the new library. Scholl

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informed the Committee that a Department brochure is now available and each member was provided a copy. Prices to copy a large number of brochures will be looked into. The next NCLWCA meeting will take place in conjunction with the Summer Tour in Oneida County on August 23. Committee members were asked if they wanted to attend. Scholl told the committee that the WDNR Grant application for the Lakes and Watersheds program (\$49,188) was approved and contract paperwork for the grant needed the Chair's signature. Lastly, Scholl, Sitzberger, and Jim Vandebrook from WLWCA met with John G. northern representative from the WDNR regarding a new funding process that would benefit non-ag counties throughout WI. Staff distributed their written reports (on file in the LWCD office). Stinebrink reported that the NRCS will be meeting on their annual work plan for 2014, especially focused on EQIP. LCC and Scholl were invited to attend the local work group, August 14, to discuss local priorities.

Out-of-county travel:

A motion by Rushlow, second by Nielsen, to approve the following out of county travel: Scholl and any LCC member – to Rhinelander to attend NRCS meeting on August 14; and approve Nielsen to attend NCLWCA Tour in Rhinelander on August 23. **All voting aye, motion carried.**

Monthly Budget Review: A copy of the Department budget as of August 1, 2013 was distributed. Scholl informed the committee that a resolution to transfer money into the Xerox line item is en route through the courthouse to be reviewed by the committee at the September meeting. Sitzberger asked that Scholl email the comparison of 2013 budget vs 2014 Department budget.

Letters and Communications:

The following items are on file in the LWCD office: Northwoods Journal – August addition; Conservation Chronicle – August 2013; Forestry Notes – July 2013; and the Northwoods Landtrust

Future Meeting Dates/Items:

The next regular meeting was scheduled for Friday, September 13, 2013 in the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521. Note that this date has changed from the original September date. Scholl mentioned that the Fall Co Conservationist will overlap with the October LCC meeting. The LCC decided not to move the October date and Scholl will be excused.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned by Sitzberger at 10:38 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted by: *Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County Conservationist*