

Land & Water Conservation Committee

September 13, 2013

Sitzberger called the regular meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on September 13, 2013 in the Lower Level Conference Room #1, 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, and others –Ted Ritter, Carolyn Scholl, Quita Sheehan, and Rollie Alger (VCLRA).

The following County Board member(s) was excused: Lorin Johnson

The following County Board member(s) was absent:

Media present:

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

Approve Minutes: Motion made by Black, second by Nielsen, to approve the minutes from Aug 2, 2013 of this committee. All voting aye, motion carried.

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program:

Motion made by Black, second by Nielsen, to approve for the Wisconsin Deer Donation program for 2013, and to sign the agreement. Three voting aye, one nay, motion carried.

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

VCLRA –Alger reported that VCLRA is revising the Lake Courtesy code. He also reported that the Phelps Town Lakes Committee program “Kids Don't Float” is actually receiving donations of life vests at the life vest stations.

County Board Representative on Big St. Germain Lake District Commission: Scholl commented that a new representative will need to be discussed at a future date.

Legislator's Field Day:

Scholl reported that the Field day was canceled due to most of the invited legislators were not planning to attend. Scholl also reported on LWCD staff met with MaryAnn Lippert, Director of Northern Office, Div. of Intergovernmental Relations, WI DOA. We explained what LWCDs do and took her for a short Invasives field trip. MaryAnn Lippert shared what she could provide to LWCD, a contact in the Administration and a person who can help direct us to the appropriate State government departments as we need.

2013 Budget Line Item Transfer Request:

Scholl informed the committee that the process to cover shortfalls in the budget does not require a resolution from the LCC to transfer funds. Instead the process is to complete a Line Item Transfer Form, which requires a signature from the LCC Chair. To cover the shortfall in the Xerox line item Scholl has requested by the form, that \$200 be transferred from the Education line item to the Xerox line item, which has been signed by Sitzberger.

2014 Department Budget Proposal:

Scholl reported that the 2014 proposed travel budget has been reduced to \$4620, and LWCD staff will be expected to use available county Fleet vehicles for in County travel. Sitzberger congratulated Scholl for bringing in outside funding such that in the proposed 2014 budget of ~\$250,000, the County levy is \$16,800. **Motion made by Rushlow, seconded by Nielsen, to accept the Invasive Species**

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Coordinator position description as revised. All voting aye, motion carried.

Invasive Species Coordinator Position Description Revision:

Motion made by Rushlow, seconded by Black, to accept the Invasive Species Coordinator Position Description as revised. All voting aye, motion carried.

Conservation Specialist Position Description Revision:

Motion made by Nielsen, seconded by Rushlow, to accept Conservation Specialist Position Description as revised. All voting aye, motion carried.

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

NCLWCA: Scholl shared that the fall conservationist meeting will be Oct 25th in Marathon County. No agenda as yet. She also reported that she is on a subcommittee that is rewriting the NCLWCA Travel Policy which will be reviewed at the fall meeting.

LWCD: Staff distributed their written reports (on file in the LWCD office).

Ritter reported that CB/CW interns are finished with their work, contracts are satisfied and \$67,000 in grant funding was spent in Vilas County on the program. Interest in the 2014 program looks strong. He also reported the roadside invasive plant surveys are completed and the data are being organized by the Mapping department. The county is a step closer to a draft of a ROW Invasive Species Management Plan. Ritter shared that the interviews for the part-time WHIP coordinator position will take place Oct 16-17. WHIP will decide next week whether to apply for funding from Lumberjack to help support that position.

Scholl reported that the County Conservationist position description was reformatted. No revisions were necessary since it was recently revised. **Motion made by Rushlow, seconded by Nielsen, to accept the County Conservationist Position Description as reformatted. All voting aye, motion carried.** Sitzberger signed the PD for Human Resources.

Scholl met with Carroll Schaal and Kevin Gauthier (WI DNR) to discuss implementation of the \$49,000 Lakes and Watershed Grant. She shared that Schaal will be the next Lakes and Watersheds Section Chief for the DNR. Scholl has been invited to be part of a working group to develop a Lakes and Watershed funding program for LWCD, of which the Vilas Co grant project is the prototype. Scholl explained that the conservation Specialist will be inventorying past Vilas Co lake planning grants that were awarded to identify where the LWCD can assist Lake Organizations to move forward with implementation.

Sheehan shared information about the WI DNR Forestry Water Quality BMP Monitoring program that she was asked to assist with. She will be part of a 4 person team monitoring State and County logging operations in Vilas and Oneida Counties in Oct. She also shared information about the UWEX and VCLRA Realtor Initiative that is being developed.

NRCS: Sitzberger, Nielsen, and Scholl, attended a work group to assist the local NRCS in developing their annual work plan along with Forest, Oneida counties, and the State Conservationist. They reported that it appears the priorities for spending are less focused on Southern Wisconsin.

WLWCA: Scholl shared that a new secretary has been hired and that the Fall meeting will focus on strategic planning.

Out-of-county travel:

A motion by Rushlow, second by Black, to approve the following out of county travel: Scholl to Wisconsin Rapides Oct 2-4 for the Fall Co Conservationist/WLWCA BOD meeting. Ritter to Merrill Oct 16 for the Lumberjack RC&D quarterly meeting and Stevens Point Oct 29-30 for the Statewide AIS Coordinators meeting. Sheehan to Green Bay on Sept 25 -26 to attend ACOE Sedimentation Workshop. **All voting aye, motion carried.**

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Monthly Budget Review: A copy of the Department budget as of September 12, 2013 was distributed.

Letters and Communications:

Sitzberger asked if anyone remembered a donation from LWCD to the County Fair of \$2000 from the late 1990's or early 2000's. Scholl will review minutes to find a record of the donation.

Future Meeting Dates/Items:

The next regular meeting was scheduled for Friday, October 4, 2013 at 9am in the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521. Scholl will be attending the Fall Co Conservationist meeting on that date and is excused.

Adjournment:

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

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

Respectfully submitted by: *Quita Sheehan, Vilas County Conservation Specialist*