

Land & Water Conservation Committee

October 4, 2013

Sitzberger called the regular meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on October 1, 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, Quita Sheehan, and Rollie Alger (VCLRA). Carolyn Scholl was excused.

The following County Board member(s) was excused:

The following County Board member(s) was absent:

Media present:

Approve Agenda: Motion made by Rushlow, 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 Nielsen, second by Johnson, to approve the minutes from Sept. 13, 2013 of this committee. All voting aye, motion carried.

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program: Motion by Rushlow, second by Johnson to sign the 2014 Notice of Intent to Participate. Motion carried.

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

VCLRA – Next meeting is Tuesday Oct. 8, 2013. Grant sponsor needed for Smoky Lake. Wisconsin side of the lake will be eligible for an early detection / rapid response grant.

DATCP Business: Scholl was pleased with DNR comments.

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

NCLWCA:

LWCD: Staff distributed their written reports (on file in the LWCD office). Scholl provided written details of her monthly work activities and they can be found on the back side of her report. Ritter discussed phragmites, native and non- native kinds. There is a grant in place called "Push Back on Phragmites". Ritter has done follow up work in Vilas County and found patches. Ritter thinks all but one are native. Trout Creek area may be a non-native species. Ritter will be sending his report in to Madison. The new Wisconsin Invasive Report was handed out to the committee. Sheehan reports she went to an Army Corps of Engineer Training for Stream Sedimentation Monitoring. They are trying to encourage more people/lake associations to do more stream monitoring for watershed planning and management instead of just the lakes. They will be looking for volunteers to take this on. In August, Sheehan went to a DNR forestry training for water quality best management practices monitoring. Teams will be inspecting logging operations. This year they will be inspecting state and county forests, which we will be reimbursed for. The idea is that they will be inspecting everybody else's work to be sure the BMP's are being implemented and when they are being implemented if they work. Information also applies to the sustainable forestry certifications. Also this week Sheehan spent a couple days with the DNR and a person from Aspira Forest Company (aka Plum Creek) and they looked at places in Price & Oneida Counties. Vilas County and state forests will be next for inspection.

Lumberjack RC&D – Next meeting is October 16, 2013 in Shawano. WHIP co-op recently hired a very qualified coordinator with grant funding. He will find continuing funding and apply for grants to sustain the position. Project proposal drafted requesting \$10,000 from Lumberjack to continue the position for 2000 hours and some mileage reimbursement. Other projects include library funding.

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Letter and Communications: Rushlow reports on Moon Beach Camp Shoreline Protection Project. They are having a rabbit problem. They are requesting \$1000.00 for chicken wire. Chairman advises Moon Beach to put this in a formal request to Scholl. Committee members look at budget line items for funding. Sheehan thinks the Cost Share Program would be the appropriate place to take it from. Sitzberger suggests Rushlow send a letter from Moon Beach to Scholl. Sitzberger brings up the consolidation of committees. The new phrase out is no micro managing. Committees can only create, enact or change policy. Sitzberger proposes with regards to the letters, reports, agendas, out of county travel: letters and reports will be sent out to committee members for them to read and no need to report at the meeting. Out of county travel- no need for staff to put on the agenda any longer since it is controlled by the dept. head. The committee would only take care of a county supervisor planning on going out of county. Sitzberger asks each supervisor to look at the agenda and see if there is one item that has nothing to do with policy and justify taking it off the agenda. That way it will be a complete committee decision on what this committee will do or not do. Reports: give to Scholl and she can make the decision if it is policy changing or not. Sitzberger asked that we put "Agenda Consolidation" the agenda for next month.

Out-of-county travel:

A motion by Black, second by Johnson, to approve the following out of county travel: Nielsen to go to Lumberjack in Shawano and all Lumberjack meetings until April. **All voting aye, Nielsen abstained, motion carried.**

Monthly Budget Review: Mail out the budget to the committee members so they know what is going on.

Future Meeting Dates/Items:

The next regular meeting was scheduled for November 1, 2013 at 9am in the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned by Sitzberger at 9:55 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted by: *Gail Kukanich*