

Land & Water Conservation Committee

December 6, 2013

Sitzberger called the regular meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on December 6, 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, Ted Ritter, Quita Sheehan, and Bill Lochte, Carole Linn, Jeremy Irish.

The following County Board member(s) was excused: Johnson at 10:00 a.m.

The following County Board member(s) was absent:

Media present:

Approve Agenda: Motion made by Rushlow, 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 Nielsen, second by Johnson, to approve the minutes from November 1, 2013 of this committee. **All voting aye, motion carried.**

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program: Jeremy Irish – USDA Wildlife Services, explained the CSA/POA contract between the DNR, the County and Wildlife Services. Minor changes have been made in regards to verbiage and adding some species. (Copy on file with Scholl). Shooting permit compliance has also been more clearly worded in the agreement. **Motion made by Rushlow, seconded by Nielsen to accept and sign the CSA/POA contract. All voting aye, motion carried.**

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

VCLRA –Lake Organizations - ER Lakes Commission: Bill Lochte introduced Carol Linn, she works on all the grants. Lochte discussed grants/credits change in DNR policy. He wants to know where to go or who to talk to to understand what/why this change has occurred. Linn discussed the grant/in-kind credit that has drastically changed. Scholl discussed what Sheehan has done in regards to this issue. Scholl will contact Kathy Hansen and set something up with her and Lippert for a face to face meeting for public comment.

DATCP Business: None at this time

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

NCLWCA:

WLWCA: Scholl attended a meeting on Dec. 5th where the budget and personnel issues were discussed.

LWCD: Written reports given to committee members and on file with the minutes. Sheehan told the committee she has joined the VILAS Vision Program. Scholl asked the committee if they had any nominations for the Forestry Award. The deadline is January 13, 2014. She is also working on getting youth education up and running again this year, the planning committee is working on getting things out early this year for the camp. The registration fee was increased as well as the number of days. She is also the coordinator for the regional and local poster and speaking contest. She has to coordinate the regional contest and the local poster contests which are held in February. Scholl is also working on getting the Farmland Preservation and L&W resource management committee together. Invitations have been sent out to anyone who may be interested. She has had a lot of interest already. This will be a yearlong process and is moving along. Discussion on the Tamarack Flowage Dam land and who pays the taxes if any. Scholl to contact Eric Olson about the necessity of County signature on the petition. Conover Town Chair, Steve Rhode, has talked with Scholl on what the town needs to do concerning verification of signatures for the district. Sue Galloway came in and talked with Scholl about the district boundary. Scholl to talk with Corp. Council regarding if there should be a resolution go before the County Board. The 2014 meeting dates so far are: Jan. 3rd, Feb. 7th, March 7th and April 4th. Beyond

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that it will be with the combined committees.

NRCS:

Lumberjack RC&D – Meeting date is January 16th in Vilas County at Riverstone Restaurant.

Library Project Grant Proposal – Storm Water Runoff – Scholl updated the committee on the Library project through the Lumberjack grant. Scholl met with Jeff Visner and Mary Platner and discussed some of the options for storm water run-off with the new library. The grant proposals for next year are due on the 15th of this month. It was decided to put in a grant application in 2014 for implementation in 2015.

WHIP Project Proposal:

Farmland Preservation Plan Resolution: Scholl asked the committee if they have any changes or comments. It has already gone through Hilger, Kahl and Milanowski. **Motion made by Black and seconded by Rushow to sign the resolution and bring to full County Board. Motion Carried.**

Approval of WHIP Management Plan: Ritter gives some background on the Wisconsin Invasive Species on Right of Way Management plan. WHIP has gone to the highway departments several years ago with suggestions on what to be aware of and to offer their assistance. The plan is simple, implementation is more involved and requires a commitment. The action steps in the plan involves 3 different county departments: Highway, Land & Water and Mapping, as well as WI DOT. Ritter said they would like to start implementing the plan late this winter with workshops. Committee adopts and supports this draft plan. **Motion by Black, seconded by Nielsen to agree to adopt this draft plan. Motion carried.**

Department Technical Services Fees & Policy – Scholl discussed some of the fees that are charged for what Sheehan does. She has reduced it to \$5,000.00 for next year's budget. Sheehan discussed some comments from the public regarding technical fees that are charged. The contracts that are used were reviewed and discussed. Corp. Counsel Milanowski, to be asked about a new contract for Vilas County. **Motion by Rushlow, seconded by Black, to have Milanowski look into this. Motion carried.**

Letter and Communications: On file.

Out-of-county travel: No supervisors going out of county.

Monthly Budget Review: The committee was given a copy of the current status of the Department budget.

Future Meeting Dates/Items: The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 3, 2014 at 9am in the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521.

Meeting was adjourned by Sitzberger at 10:45 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted by: *Gail Kukanich*