

Land & Water Conservation Committee

January 3, 2014

Sitzberger called the regular meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on January 3, 2014, 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, Carol Lien, Lisa Burke, Leanne Posielenzny, Dennis Burg, Rollie Alger, Steve Budnick, Jane Malischke and Kathleen Hanson by phone.

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 Rushlow, 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 December 6, 2013 of this committee. **All voting aye, motion carried.**

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program:

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

VCLRA –Lake Organizations - ER Lakes Commission: DNR grant manager, Kathleen Hanson, by phone, to discuss concerns the ER Lakes Commission has regarding the reductions in volunteer in-kind grants/credits policy from the DNR. Dennis Burg speaks about: 1.) Why the donated values have been cut in half. Information regarding this was not given to the lakes commission until after they submitted their application. Per Hansen, the change took place a year ago and it is on the website. Because of abuse with the in-kind match the DNR needed to define the guidelines on how to use the in-kind match. Jane Malischke, DNR grant programs, discusses the application and what was lined out. She further explained the letter the lakes commission received. Parties to get together and have a conversation regarding a cost amendment. Rushlow has the district paper from Alma Moon that is on file.

VCLRA: Next multi county lake association meeting to be held June 13th at Nicolet College. The committee is in the process of finishing up report on the dissolved oxygen grant received for use in the western part of the county, also in the process of writing a new grant to develop a shore land stewardship covenant program.

DATCP Business: End of year 2013 cost share budget extension in on time. Dollars were extended. Cost share contract changes can be done as long as specific terms in ATCP 50 are met. Scholl will be working with Corp. Counsel on this matter. **Motion by Rushlow to explore and re-write contract with approval from Scholl, DATCP and Corp. Counsel, seconded by Nielsen. All approved.**

Scholl reported that the management planning process has been started. Scholl had a meeting by phone with regional planning commission this month regarding how to combine the farmland preservation plan and the land and water resource management plan. This has not been done before. DATCP opinion is that it be kept separate, but the planning process and public hearing can be together, reports to be separate. Scholl will continue to work on this through calendar year 2014.

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

NCLWCA: Next meeting will be February 21, 2014. Poster and speech contest will be held and at the same time, land & water conservation board will vote on state members.

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

LWCD: Ritter updated the committee on the proposed highway management plan. Ritter will attend

Land & Water Conservation Committee

January 3, 2014

hwy dept. meeting to get the plan adopted. Sheehan wrapped up 2013 and starts planning for 2014. She will attend the 2nd session of VILAS Vision this month. All reports on file.

NRCS:

Lumberjack RC&D – Meeting date is January 16th in Vilas County at Riverstone Restaurant. Sitzberger would like any committee members to attend.

2013 Cost Share Program: All money from 2013 is committed. There were 5 projects in 2013. So far for 2014 there are 10-15 landowners that are interested.

Letter and Communications: WLWCA sent out invoice for 2014 membership dues, Scholl asked the committee if they want to be a member as the WLWCA is very helpful with political issues down in Madison. **Motion made by Nielsen to pay the dues, seconded by Black. All approved.**
Annual conference for WLWCA will be held March 10-12 in Appleton.

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. Travel expense was reduced by about \$2000.00 because of the issue on the county cars. If the travel budget becomes a problem the committee will do a line item transfer. Johnson advises the staff to use the county car if possible to save money.

Future Meeting Dates/Items: The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2014 at 9am in the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521. Johnson to be excused.

Meeting was adjourned by Sitzberger at 10:12 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted by: *Gail Kukanich*