

Land & Water Conservation Committee

July 3, 2014

Chairman Beversdorf called the regular meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee to order at 9:03a.m., on July 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; Wally Beversdorf, Art Kunde, Paul Hennes, Kim Simac, and others – Carolyn Scholl, Ted Ritter, Steve Budnick, Matt Peplinski and Gail Kukanich.

The following County Board member(s) was excused: Mary Kim Black

The following County Board member(s) was absent:

Media present:

Approve Agenda: Motion made by Hennes, second by Simac - To approve the agenda in any order at the chairman's discretion. Wording on the 1st Agenda discussed and noted. **All voting aye. Motion carried.**

Approve Minutes: Motion made by Kunde, second by Hennes - To accept the minutes from June 6, 2014 of this committee. **All voting aye. Motion carried.**

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program: Jeremy Irish did not attend. No report.

Lake Organizations, ER Unified Lakes Commission (ULERCLC) & Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association (VCLRA): Budnick updated the committee on the multi county workshop held at Nicolet College, which he said went very well. He also thanked L&W department for their involvement. Scholl expounded on this workshop/training. Discussion. Hennes asked about the Blue Heron Program and was told it is through the VCLRA. Scholl asked the committee to share the contact information for the newly elected Lake District officers/representatives. Kunde reports on the last meeting for the Little Tamarack Lake Flowage district meeting. The annual meeting will be July 5th and he will be attending this meeting. Beversdorf went to the last Long Lake meeting.

Agent reports – UWEX – no report. **FSA** – Matt Peplinski, Regional FSA executive director, told the committee that elections for a FSA rep are open until Aug. 1st. This is a 3 year term. **NRCS** – annual work planning meeting is coming up on July 10. **NCLWCA** – no report. **Lumberjack RC&D** – next meeting is coming up July 31. **LWCD:** Ritter gave his report regarding the Watercraft Inspection Program (on file). Scholl updated the committee on the Youth Conservation Camp at Trees for Tomorrow. Next year will be bigger. She is working on the Land and Water Resource Management Plan and the Farmland Preservation Plan, the meetings for these are on July 8th. These meetings are important for committee members to attend. Hennes and Kunde will attend, Simac will try also.

2015 Department budget draft – 2nd: Final approval needed. Discussion. **Motion to approve and forward to Finance Committee by Kunde and seconded by Hennes. Motion carried.**

DATCP Business – LWRM plan update/Farmland Preservation update: Scholl explains these programs. Committee will need to adopt plans – packet given to committee members to look over for next meeting. Scholl will invite Farmer's Market director to the planning meeting.

2015 Watercraft Inspection Program – Ritter discussed this program and how it has evolved in Vilas County over the years. Land & Water Dept. has evolved this program and has now become very time consuming. UW Oshkosh has a presence here already and might be a good fit to continue this event. Funding is available through the DNR and is easily accessible. There are 14 students right now at the boat landings. UW Oshkosh does the housing for the students. This program is huge in Vilas County.

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Ritter would like to see this program out of the L&W Dept. and into another organization. There have been preliminary talks with Lumber Jack RC&D to take over this program. Ritter will be giving a presentation proposal at full Lumber Jack RC&D council in Forest County on July 31st. Discussion on keeping this “business” local. A lot of things have to happen in 90 days. Committee chair recommends they address this along with any options at the August 4, 2014 Land & Water meeting. Ritter will contact Bob Egan, the Economic Development Corporation Director in regards to any ideas/needs in the incubators. Any ideas from the committee should be emailed to Scholl and Ritter by July 23rd.

Out-of-county travel: Motion by Simac, seconded by Hennes to approve travel for Beversdorf, Hennes and Simac in July. Motion carried.

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

Letter and Communications: none

Future Meeting Dates/Items: The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2014 at 9am in the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521. Remaining meeting dates are as follows: Sept. 4, Oct. 2, Nov. 3 and Dec. 8th. Kunde to be excused for the Sept. 4, 2014 meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Hennes, seconded by Simac. All voting aye. Meeting was adjourned by Beversdorf at 11:09 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted by: *Gail Kukanich*