

Sitzberger called the regular meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on March 8, 2011 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, Erv Teichmiller, Mary Platner, and Dennis Nielsen; others Ted Ritter, Mariquita Sheehan, Carol Linn, Mike Meyers, Bill Lochte, Rollie Alger, Jeremy Irish, and Rosemary Leveille
The following County Board member(s) were excused: Gene Ciszek
The following County Board member(s) were absent:
Media present:

Introductions were done by each individual.

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

Approve Minutes: Motion by Platner, second by Nielsen to approve the minutes from February 8, 2011 of this committee. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program –

Irish distributed a venison donation history report (on file in the LWCD office) and stated that the damage control program results will be coming up very soon. An additional NRA Hunter Services department nationwide report on the 2009-2010 season was given to the committee (also on file in the LWCD office).

Conservation Cost Share Program –

M. Meyer gave the history of the DNR shoreland restoration project and updated the committee on the 2011 projects on Little St Germain Lake and Lost Lake. All projects will be monitored for 10 years to see if the "fix" (restorations) is bringing wildlife back, native plantings thriving and multiplying; and the comparisons of the undeveloped and developed lakes will add to the results. A request for the committee to approve \$50,000 for the cost share program was made. **Nielsen made a motion to have Scholl request \$50,000 for the cost share program for 2012 with a second by Teichmiller. Motion carried, all voting aye.** Alger pointed out the VCLA has applied for the grant to prepare a Plant Field Guide for use by the northern Counties of Wisconsin. The grant has 3 phases; 1) developing of the guide, 2) publishing, and 3) creating a workshop and sample project.

Policy – Use of LWC Website Server space –

A draft copy of a policy (on file in the LWCD office) was given to the committee – basically stated that any entity other than a County entity will only be able to have a link on the County website. All non-county entities that have information on the website now will have six (6) months to make other provisions and a disc of the information on the website now will be given to them. Some clarification and changes need to be made to the draft, therefore; **a motion to table the use of the LWC website until next month was made by Teichmiller and second by Platner.**

WI Headwaters Invasives Partnership –

A quote of \$2,266 premium cost with a \$5,000 deductible to have a Vilas County employee apply herbicides was presented to the committee from Rockhill Insurance of Minocqua. **Motion by Teichmiller, second by Platner to bring this decision back next month with all of the necessary information including what committee's need to be consulted, the Corporation Counsel's advice and all financial questions answered (where the monies are to come from for the premium and if the deductible needs to be paid where that will come from).** Motion carried, all voting aye.

Letters and Communications –

Sitzberger read a letter (on file in the LWDC office) from Bill Lochte on the working relationship with the Land and Water Conservation Department and the Unified Lower Eagle River Chain of Lakes Commission. Sitzberger asked if the committee and staff will give this matter some thought and be ready for discussion at the next meeting. The following items are on file in the LWCD office: DATCP February 2011 report; Grazing Network News February 2011; Forestry Notes February 2011; FSA – Rhinelander office monthly report, March 2011, FSA news release; and WDNR – Fin clips Angler Education News, winter 2011;

Lake Organizations, ER Unified Lakes Commission (ULERCLC) & Vilas County Lakes Association (VCLA) –

VCLA, Alger reiterated that the 2011 Wisconsin Lakes Convention will be April 12th -14th.

Resolution –

A resolution to create a summer LTE (on file in the LWCD office) was presented to the committee. **Nielsen made the motion to accept the resolution as written to create a summer LTE and forward to the full County Board the resolution, second by Teichmiller. Motion carried.** A copy of a second resolution to amend the budget was given to the committee for their perusal for the next meeting.

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

Lumberjack, Teichmiller stated that he has just returned from Washington D.C. representing Lumberjack RC&D. The federal budget was talked about and the USDA Forestry efforts might be one of the targets for financial cuts creating problems for RC&D. Lumberjack is one of the financial contributors of the Sustainable Forestry Conference that will be held on April 14th in Florence County and also has a scholarship for a high school student to attend. The next meeting will be April 28th in Rhinelander. LWCD – Scholl, Ritter and Sheehan distributed their written reports and a few handouts; WLWWCA - Benefits of Local Conservation; WLWWCA-WALCE Ad Hoc Committee agenda; 2011 Wisconsin Lakes Convention (all on file in the LWCD office). A Lumberjack RC&D Forestry Awards form to nominate for was offered if anyone needed one. Ritter stated that he was contacted by an Urban Forester from Wausau that would like to speak at a WHIP meeting about the infestation of “Oak Wilt” that is knocking on Vilas County’s borders.

Out-of-county travel –

A motion by Teichmiller, second by Nielsen to approve the following out of county travel: Scholl on March 21, 2011 to Wausau for DATCP training, and on March 31 & April 1 to Stevens Point for spring county conservationist’s meeting; Ritter on April 15 to Minocqua for WHIP; and Ritter and Sheehan on April 12 -14 to Green Bay for the WI Lakes Convention; and also for the WI Lakes Convention Sitzberger to attend all, Nielsen to attend 2 days, and Platner to attend 1 day. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget/Voucher approval –

The following vouchers were presented for payment: Clermont Printing and Office Supply-\$15.99; Ted Ritter-\$67.32; Carolyn Scholl-\$473.73; Mariquita Sheehan-\$388.78; and Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, Inc.-\$1,656.10. **Motion by Nielsen second by Platner to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

LCC Chair Comments –

Sitzberger thanked everyone for their hard work. Teichmiller stated he appreciated the dedication and work that the staff give to the County and anything that they have heard from anyone else is not of his opinion and he does not agree with them. Sitzberger agreed and so did all committee members in attendance.

Future Meeting Dates/Items –

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, 2011 in the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521 at 9:00 a.m. Platner stated that she will be unable to attend. She will be in Washington D.C. for the UW-Extension.

Adjournment –

Motion by Teichmiller, second by Platner to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 am. Motion carried.

Minutes reflect the recorders notations and are subject to approval by the appropriate board or committee.

Respectfully submitted by: *Rosemary Leveille*