

Land & Water Conservation Committee

June 6, 2014

Chairman Beversdorf called the regular meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on June 6, 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, Mary Kim Black and others – Carolyn Scholl, Quita Sheehan, Rollie Alger, and Steve Budnick, Matt Peplinski, Jason Hilger, Dave Mueller, Bill Lochte, Michael Stinebrink and Gail Kukanich.

The following County Board member(s) was excused:

The following County Board member(s) was absent:

Media present:

Approve Agenda: Motion made by Kunde, second by Simac - To approve the agenda in any order at the chairman's discretion. **All voting aye. Motion carried.**

Approve Minutes: Motion made by Kunde, second by Hennes - To accept the minutes from May 2, 2014 of this committee. Black to be excused from May 2, 2014 meeting. **All voting aye. Motion carried.**

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program: No report at this time.

Land & Water Conservation & Programs: WLWCA folder handed out to each committee member. Scholl went over the handout on funding mechanism. DATCP funding percentages for staffing was explained along with DNR grant programs. Technical fees policy was included in the packet and explained. General revenue line item on budget explained (handouts on file). Grant money and funding was explained. Scholl to discuss streamlining grant programs for counties with Carroll Schaal of the DNR.

2015 LWCD Early Budget Draft: Budget draft handed out and reviewed; questions answered and discussed. County car cost VS efficiency draft to be put on August agenda.

Cost Share Program – Sheehan discussed the cost share program and the economic hardship policy. Hilger discussed the economic hardship policy regarding revenue and expenses. Scholl is to look into how other counties complete their hardship cases. Scholl is to draft a hardship policy draft for discussion at the next meeting.

Lake Organizations, ER Unified Lakes Commission (ULERCLC) & Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association (VCLRA): Lochte oriented and updated the committee on the 2014 programs and budgets for the Unified Lakes Commission. He explained what these organizations do. Alger explained what VCLRA is and what they do. Alger introduced Steve Budnick as the soon-to-be new president of VCLRA. Scholl explained that a new Lake District rep is needed for Lost Lake, as Walt Maciag is no longer on the LWCC. **Motion made by Kunde, seconded by Simac to nominate Hennes as Lost Lake district representative. Motion carries.** Scholl to talk to County Clerk for official appointment at next full County Board. Scholl read an email from Corp. Counsel regarding a letter she received from the Little Tamarack Flowage Baker Spring Lake District regarding easements (on file). Scholl will follow up on this with Corp. Counsel as needed.

Agent reports – UWEX – no report. **FSA** – Matt Peplinski, Regional FSA executive director, explained what the agency does and what his duties are in 4 counties. There is no FSA rep in this county. Nominations for a FSA rep will be open June 9th and will close in August. Election will be in the fall. Peplinski will be here for the L&W meetings for now until January or February until there is a rep in this area. Per standing rules, L&W needs an FSA member to serve on the committee. Peplinski discussed the new Farm Bill (hand out on file). **NRCS** – Michael Stinebrink, District Conservationist, discussed what his agency does. This is a sister agency of FSA. Operational Agreement needs to be signed by LWCC Chair and County Conservationist. Stinebrink explained the Operational Agreement to the committee along with the Local Work Group meeting that will be held in Rhinelander on July 10th. Scholl will attend this meeting. This was discussed (handout on file).

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NCLWCA, Lumberjack RC&D: Simac and Scholl attended the NCLWCA meeting last week in Antigo. Dave Solin is the new president and the WLWCA Rep, Scholl was elected as the staff rep for WLWCA board of directors. Simac will try to make it to all the meetings, Hennes will replace Maciag as the NCLWCA alternate rep. July 31st is the next Lumberjack/RC&D meeting in Forest County. All written reports are on file. **LWCD:** Sheehan discussed hosting the bat monitoring program this summer. She also updated the committee on VCLRA educational table next week. Scholl updated the committee on the state Youth Conservation Camp at Trees for Tomorrow and reported that it is full to capacity this year. In regard to the Land & Water Resource Management and Farmland Preservation Plan revisions, the next resource advisory committee meeting has been set for July 8, 2014. Kunde and Hennes to attend.

Out-of-county travel: Motion by Black, seconded by Simac to approve travel for Simac and Hennes to Rhinelander. Motion carried.

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

Letter and Communications: Motion by Hennes, seconded by Black to have the Chairman sign the NRCS Operation agreement. Motion carried.

Future Meeting Dates/Items: The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 3, 2014 at 9am in the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521. Black may not be able to attend, Kunde to be excused for the Sept. 4, 2014 meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Kunde, seconded by Hennes. All voting aye. Meeting was adjourned by Beversdorf at 11:25 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted by: *Gail Kukanich*