

Rushlow called to order the regular meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee at **9:00 a.m.**, on April 8, 2009 in Court Conference Room #1, at the Vilas County Courthouse, Eagle River, Wisconsin.

Present: The following persons were present: County Board members Kathleen Rushlow, Mary Platner, Gene Ciszek, and Ralph Sitzberger; others Carolyn Scholl, Matt Wagner, Rollie Alger, Bill Jacobs (Muskie, Inc), Fred Brugle (Muskie, Inc), Tom Calstedt (Kentuck Lake District), Bill Lochte, and Rosemary Leveille.

The following County Board member(s) were excused: Erv Teichmiller & Leon Kukanich

The following County Board member(s) were absent:

Media present:

Approve Agenda: **Motion made by Ciszek, 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 Ciszek to approve the minutes from March 10, 2009 of this committee as presented. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Agenda item #10: Lake Organizations, ER Unified Lakes Commission (ULERCLC) & Vilas County Lakes Association (VCLA) – ULERCLC, Lochte - thanked the committee for their support concerning ULECLC. He stated that this year a grant for \$146,000 was received to treat 195 acres of the chain of lakes and to do the entire job they would need to treat 245 acres. In order to get the additional acreage treated they will need approximately an additional \$54,000. Some of the money has already been allocation from a cost amendment program and the remainder will have to come from the Lake Associations and the private sector. Lochte stated that because of the way the grants are paid out, the ULERCLC will most likely need to request a bridge loan from the County. Rushlow explained that the County will need the firm cost needed and for Lochte to bring this issue to the next Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting. VCLA, Alger stated that the planning for the annual meeting on June 12th is coming along fine. This year they will be having a lakes panel for questions, WAL will be doing a listening session, and Planning & Zoning will have a question and answer session on septic systems. On May 2nd an informational meeting will be sponsored by WAL and the town of Washington at the Northland Pines High School.

Agenda item # 3: Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program – Nothing for this month.

Agenda item #4: Land and Water Resource Management Plan – Scholl asked for comments or possible corrections to the draft plan. Platner commented on the septage law to possibly be put on the plan. If there are any other corrections they will need to be made by April 13th.

Agenda item #5: Lake Districts – Kentuck Lake District muskellunge size limit dispute. Jacobs from Muskie, Inc. stated that he was the person to propose that Kentuck Lake have a 50” muskellunge limit for the betterment of the species and the lake would adapt. Brugle from Muskie, Inc. explained the biology of the fishery and the WDNR Fish Managers’ reasons for accepting the limit of 50”. Calstedt, Kentuck Lake District chairman stated the Districts view of turning their lake into a “trophy” lake and the possible infestation of Eurasian Water Milfoil along with the fact that the District was never informed of the possible size limit change or asked for their acceptance. **A motion for Scholl to write a letter for presentation at the WCC meeting on April 13th in Crandon and Sayner from this committee in support of deferring Question #24 on the proposal to change the limit to a 50” Musky to another time until the Kentuck Lake District is apprised of the reasons and benefits/detriments to their lake at an annual district meeting. Motion carried, 3 aye votes and Sitzberger opposed.** A copy of Muskie, Inc. flyer, 2009 WDNR Fisheries Rule Development Proposal, potential impacts on Kentuck Lake, and a letter from Kentuck Lake Board of Commissioners (all on file in the LWCD office) was given to the committee.

Agenda item #6: Aquatic Invasive Species – Proposed bill SB123 and AB162 – A copy of the language changes (on file in the LWCD office) was given to the committee for their information.

Agenda item #7: Contracted Services - The committee was given a draft of a contract agreement between the County and an independent contractor for aquatic plant studies. This will be forwarded to Contractor, Barb Gajewski for her signature as well as LWCC chair, Rushlow.

Agenda item # 8 – Conservation Department Position Description – A few items on the position description need to be made. Motion by Ciszek, second by Platner to send the changes and a letter to the Personnel Committee for their approval and then to go to Corporation Counsel for final approval. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Agenda item # 9 – Agents Reports – RC&D, Alger, stated that the next planning meeting will be on April 13th and the quarterly meeting will be on April 30th. LWCD, Scholl, Ritter, and Wagner distributed their written reports (on file in the LWCD office). Scholl commented that this was the first time that the Lake Conference had a focused topic and it went so well that it is a possibility for future conferences. The 2010 DATCP grant application for \$203,104 was presented to the committee. A motion was made by Ciszek, second by Platner for the chair's, Rushlow, signature. Motion carried, all voting aye. Scholl went on to state some of the 2009-11 Biennial Budget Proposal cuts that will affect Land and Water Conservation Departments statewide. **A motion by Ciszek, second by Platner for the letter (on file in the LWCD office) written by Scholl to the Joint Committee on finance on behalf of the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Committee/Department stating their concerns of the proposed funding cuts of natural resource and water quality protection throughout the state. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Agenda item #11: Out-of county travel – **Motion by Ciszek, second by Planter to approve all travel for the LWCD staff that was stated or on their written reports. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Agenda item #12: Budget/Voucher approval – The following vouchers were presented for payment: Ted Ritter-\$573.90; Carolyn Scholl-\$984.46; and Matthew Wagner -\$170.40. **Motion by Ciszek, second by Platner to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Agenda item #13: Letters and Communications –All communications, flyers, and/or reports for the month from the following agencies DATCP, WLWCA, NCLWCA, NRCS, LWCB, and/or WALCE are on file in the Land and Water Conservation office.

Future Meeting Dates/Items: The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday May 13, 2009 in the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment: Motion by Platner, second by Ciszek to adjourn at 11:45 a.m. Motion carried, all voting aye.

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

Respectfully submitted by: *Rosemary Leveille*