

Rushlow called to order the regular meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee at **9:00 a.m.**, on July 8, 2009 in Court Conference Room #2, at the Vilas County Courthouse, Eagle River, Wisconsin.

Present: The following persons were present: County Board members Kathleen Rushlow, Gene Ciszek, Mary Platner, Erv Teichmiller, and Ralph Sitzberger; others Carolyn Scholl, Ted Ritter, Rollie Alger, Jeremy Irish, Steve Rhode, and Rosemary Leveille.
The following County Board member(s) were excused: Leon Kukanich
The following County Board member(s) were absent:
Media present:

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

Approve Minutes: **Motion by Ciszek, second by Platner to approve the minutes from June 10, 2009 of this committee as presented. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Agenda item #4: Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program – Irish stated that there will be changes for wildlife claims because of the budget cuts; the deductible will be \$500 instead of \$250 and the damage payment cap will become \$10,000 instead of \$15,000. It is not clear if the changes will be for 2009 but will definitely be in 2010, Irish will find out and get back to us. Since the wolf has been put back on the endangered list there will be no lethal controlling measures until the status changes.

Agenda item #5: Youth Education Activities – Conservation Camp, the camp was a success again this year; in fact this year had a record number of attendees. The camper that was sponsored by Vilas County was Bailey Tennikait. Her thank you note was passed around for the members to read. Upward Bound student volunteer, Makayla Fanning has started and will be working through July 16th. She is working on creating a logo for WHIP.

Agenda item #6: Conservation Program Update – Information program, Scholl gave a power point presentation on soil erosion and water quality and explained the departments' purpose. A listing of possible cost-share practices (on file in the LWCD office) was given to the members. Current projects, Scholl explained that the majority of the cost-share projects done here in Vilas County are "Streambank and Shoreline Protection" because of the large number of lakes in the county.

Agenda item #7: Land and Water Resource Management Plan – Heider, NCWRPC, presented a pre draft plan to Scholl for her approval. Scholl found a few changes. She will bring it to the committee when the changes are complete.

Agenda item #7: Agent reports: LWCD, Scholl and Ritter discussed and distributed their written reports (on file in the LWCD office). Ritter announced that WHIP is progressing. They sent out a mailing to all Vilas and Oneida County officials asking for their assistance in helping make the public aware of WHIP. On the aquatic side Ritter along with Kevin Gautier, DNR, had a meeting with the lake associations on the possibility of all the Lake Organizations of Vilas County applying as one group for the next grant cycle. The idea was somewhat accepted but more research needs to be done. Scholl stated that she will be putting her emphasis on implementation of the cost-share projects, education, and proceeding with the hiring of the Lake Specialist. She also discussed holding a "Public Hearing" for the acceptance and approval of the Land and Water Resource Management Plan. The date was set for Sept. 9, 2009 to be held before the next regular meeting. Lumberjack RC&D, Teichmiller reminder everyone that the state conference will be held on Sept. 24th & 25th in Rhinelander. Scholl will be setting up the next regular meeting for Lumberjack RC&D to be held in Vilas

County, July 24th. Ritter stated that Lumberjack RC&D is now in the process of hiring an AIS Coordinator for the combined counties of Lincoln, Langlade and Forest.

Agenda item #9: Lake Organizations, ER Unified Lakes Commission (ULERCLC) & Vilas County Lakes Association (VCLA) – VCLA, Alger gave a Thank You for all of the presentations by Land and Water at their annual meeting. It was also stated that VCLA will be presenting a "Blue Heron" award for lake stewardship within in Vilas County. Little Arbor Vitae Lake District had their annual meeting where they decided to start working on a lake management plan. There was nothing from the other districts for this month.

Agenda item #10: Out-of county travel – **Motion by Sitzberger, second by Ciszek to approve all travel for the LWCD staff. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Agenda item #11: Budget/Voucher approval – The following vouchers were presented for payment: Florida Micro LLC-\$242.90; Sydney Morris-\$4,461.09; Ted Ritter-\$149.60; and Carolyn Scholl-\$366.75. **Motion by Platner, second by Ciszek to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried, all voting aye. Motion by Teichmiller, second by Sitzberger to accept and place on file the update of the budget. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Agenda item #12: Letters and Communications – Steve Rhode, Town Chairman of Conover, explained a situation that Conover is facing. The town has been told by the DNR to repair a "dam" and Rhode is looking for some engineering and financial help. LCC has requested that Dehne & Scholl conduct a site visit to determine if/how DATCP funding from the cost-share program could be used for this project. Cost-share funds may become available in 2010 for Conover project cost assistance. This item will be placed on the August 12th agenda for action and Scholl will report on site investigation. Sitzberger asked the members if they have any suggestions for nominations to be on the Economic Development Corporation board. The following items are on file in the LWCD office: Grazing Network News; Pipeline, Spring 2009 Vol 20 No1; Northeast Wisconsin Forest Pest Update; Forestry Notes, Vol. XVIII, Issue 8; Thursday Note, Vol 12, Issue 4; and The Resource.

Agenda item #13: LCC Chair Comments – None for this month.

Future Meeting Dates/Items: The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 12, 2009 in the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment: Motion by Sitzberger, second by Ciszek to adjourn at 11:25 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*