

Rushlow called to order the regular meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee at **9:00 a.m.**, on December 11, 2009 in Court Conference Room #3, 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, Ralph Sitzberger, Leon Kukanich, and Steve Favorite; others, Martha Milanowski, Rollie Alger, Chuck Their, Carolyn Scholl, Ted Ritter, Kim Goerg and Rosemary Leveille

The following County Board member(s) were excused:

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 Sitzberger, second by Platner to approve the minutes from November 3, 2009 of this committee as presented. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Agenda item #4: Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program – Irish was unable to attend.

Agenda item #5: Land and Water Resource Management Plan, hardcopy distribution – Scholl stated that a resolution for the County Board to approve the Land and Water Resource Management Plan will be presented at the January, 2010 meeting. The committee would like Scholl to give a short presentation with a question period for the board.

Agenda item #6: Conservation Cost Share Program, update – The 2009 cost share money requested monies by Adams County was not taken and the Town of Conover did not request the monies either; so the allocation went to a Lost Lake project. All of the 2009 money allocations, signed contracts and extension forms have now been taken care of for the year. A signature of the chair, Rushlow was requested for the extension form. The 2010 contracts will be signed and money assigned after the final allocation arrives from DATCP.

Agenda item #7: WLWCA Resolutions –The following resolutions: Well Water Testing; and Deer Herd Management (on file in the LWCD office) were presented at the WLWCA conference. Both of them were defeated.

Agenda item #9: Preliminary 2010 Budget Allocation, update from DATCP – The preliminary 2010 budget allocation from DATCP was presented to the committee. The \$135,000 that was requested for staff has been reduced to \$104,000; the cost share request of \$75,000 was also reduced to \$62,000. The final allocation will not be received until the second quarter of 2010. The reduction in the staffing grant will now cover 100% of the first position, 70% of the second and leave 0% for the third position as opposed to 50% for the third position.

Agenda item #10: Lake Conservation Specialist Position, vacancy – The committee discussed what is the next step now that the preliminary 2010 budget has been received leaving 0% for the position. A suggestion of hiring a Limited Term Employee was mentioned. **A Motion by Teichmiller, second by Platner for Scholl to write a proposal on how to proceed in filling the position utilizing the county's allocated amount of \$27,000. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Agenda item # 12: Agent reports: UWEX, FSA, LWCD, NRCS, NCLWCA, Lumberjack RC&D - FSA, Kukanich stated that this was his last meeting as the FSA representative. The committee thanked him for his years of service and dedication. Kucinich's replacement will be voted on December 14, 2009. The FSA will

inform the county as to who it will be. LWCD, Scholl and Ritter discussed and distributed their written reports (on file in the LWCD office). Scholl asked for the committee's sponsorship to attend the VILAS Vision Leadership Program. **Platner made the motion for Scholl to attend the VILAS Vision Leadership Program, Sitzberger seconded the motion. Motion carried, all voting aye.** The department was contacted by the Unified Lakes Commission to write a letter to the Governor in support of their Invasive Species program and grant request. Scholl and Ritter asked what the committee's thoughts were and if it would be appropriate for them to write a support letter. The direction of the committee was for letters to be written by individuals not as staff or committee members. Ritter gave the committee the response from Milanowski (on file in the LWCD office) on the liability concerns when someone needs to obtain access to individual owned land. Milanowski's suggestion is to get written permission for each landowner. The committee is in agreement with this suggestion. **A motion by Teichmiller, second by Sitzberger for Ritter to work with Milanowski and develop a form letter and to take it to the Lumberjack RC&D committee for their input and possible use of the same. Motion carried, all voting aye.** Ritter announced that the CWMA groups from northern Wisconsin will be having a symposium. Rushlow was requested to sign the final report for the land planning grant. Lumberjack RC&D, Teichmiller stated that the next meeting will be January 28, 2010 in Antigo and he would like to take a suggestion with him for an at-large member for Vilas County. Also because of Kukanich stepping down a new alternate from the committee will need to be determined. Goerg stated that the January meeting will be a review of the 2009 expenditures and the 2010 budget. The Sustainable Forest Conference will be on April 15, 2010. He also mentioned that the meeting in April or May will be the voting and replacement of officers for RC&D.

Agenda item #11: Review of Land Conservation Committee Standing Rules – The committee made one correction to the standing rules. **A motion by Teichmiller, second by Sitzberger to change #8 to read – It shall have Lake District Hearings regarding creation of a new lake district. If a petition is addressed to the County Board and is filed with the County Clerk for the creation of or to amend the boundaries of a Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District, the petition shall be immediately referred to this committee, the committee shall conduct a public hearing within 30 days pursuant to ~33.26, Wisconsin Statutes. Following the hearing, the committee shall report to the County Board and the Board shall act on the matter pursuant to the provisions of ~33.26(3), Wisconsin Statutes, (Cr. #63-89). Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Agenda item # 15: Budget/Voucher approval – The following vouchers were presented for payment: Clermont Printing and Office Supply-\$71.74; Robert and Durel DeVos-\$2,195.75; Endangered Resources-\$400.00; Florida Micro LLC-\$301.31; David C. Keating-\$2,495.00; NACD-\$150.00; Ted Ritter-\$52.80; Carolyn Scholl-\$77.29; USI-\$42.65; USDA-APHIS_\$1,046.15; Vilas County-UW-Extension-\$100.00; and Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, Inc.-\$350.00. **Motion by Teichmiller, second by Sitzberger to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried, all voting aye. Motion by Platner, second by Ciszek to accept the financial budget update. Motion carried, all voting aye.** Rushlow explained the \$42,000 - \$44,000 short fall in WLWCA and stated that each county will be asked to pay \$800 more in dues for 2009. **Motion to line item transfer \$800 from line item #.238 to #.837 of the Land and Water Conservation budget was made by Teichmiller and seconded by Ciszek. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Agenda item # 14: Out-of county travel – **Motion by Platner, second by Sitzberger to approve all travel mentioned and on reports for the LWCD staff and for Leveille to attend the WALCE Conference in March. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Agenda item # 13: Lake Organizations, ER Unified Lakes Commission (ULERCLC) & Vilas County Lakes Association (VCLA) – VCLA, Their announced the Northern Lakes Conference will be on June 19, 2010 at Nicolet College. He also stated that VCLA is in total support of the Lake Conservation Specialist and they also understand the economic situation. Nothing from the lake districts this month.

Agenda item #8: Conservation Education Donation – Maggie Bishop was unable to attend.

Agenda item #16: Letters and Communications – Teichmiller announced that a conservation lobby day will be on January 26, 2010. Rushlow and Sitzberger reported on the WLWCA Conference – because of the snow storm most of the breakout sessions were canceled but they made many contacts and had discussions with the people in attendance from other counties. Sitzberger also stated that at the Governor’s Economic Summit the AIS presentation was disappointing. The following items are on file in the LWCD office: Thursday Note, Volume 12, Issue 7; Northeast Wisconsin Forest Pest Update; National Association of Conservation Districts, Forestry Notes; Conservation Connection, Wood County; USDA News Release FSA; Grazing Network Members, and Network News December, 2009.

Agenda item #17: LCC Chair Comments – Rushlow stated that the WLWCA conference was interesting.

Future Meeting Dates/Items: The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 13, 2010 in the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment: Motion by Sitzberger, second by Platner to adjourn at 11:25a.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*