

Land Information, Conservation and UW-Extension Committee
Minutes of Wednesday, December 3, 2008 9 a.m.
Lincoln County Service Center Meeting Room
801 N. Sales Street
Merrill, WI 54452

Members present: Carl Short, Frank Saal, Dave Fox and John Bailey

Visitors: Tammy Hansen, Brenda Janke, Art Lersch, Tom Cadwallader, Debbie Moellendorf, Amanda Kostman, Beryl Vandre Emerich, Diane Hanson, Terri Pankow and Kim Goerg

1. Call to Order

The Land Information, Conservation & UW-Extension committee meeting was called to order by Chair Saal at 9:05 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes from the November 12, 2008 Committee Meeting

Motion by Bailey, second by Saal to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2008 committee meeting. Motion carried, all ayes.

3. Discuss and Set Next Meeting Dates and Time

The next Land Information, Conservation and UW-Extension committee meeting will be held January 13, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in the Lincoln County Service Center.

4. Public Comment

No public comment

UW-Extension

5. Review Extension budget monthly report

Debbie Moellendorf provided an overview of the expense and revenue reports for October and November 2008 included in the committee packet. Supervisor Saal indicated that the written explanation included with the reports was extremely helpful to the committee. The committee had no questions regarding the report.

6. Discuss/Action on District 3 Wisconsin Associated County Extension Committees (WACEC) Annual Meeting to be held on January 9, 2009 at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point

Debbie indicated that each of the committee members should have received more information in the mail from the Central District UW-Extension office. Registrations are due by December 19th and committee members will confirm their attendance with Debbie prior to that date. Both Debbie and Tom have been asked to share programs during this meeting.

Motion by Short, second by Bailey to approve mileage, per diem and registration for any committee member wishing to attend the District 3 WACEC annual meeting. Motion carried, all ayes.

7. Q&A on Agriculture Development Agent Written Report

Tom Cadwallader's written report for October and November were included in the agenda packet for the committee to review and placed on file. Tom reported that the Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy Farmers is continuing to be a very successful program. The use of technology in delivering this program has allowed a great deal of flexibility on who and where the program can be offered throughout the state. He will be sharing more about this program at the District WACEC meeting. Tom also indicated that it has been 10 years since the comprehensive planning process took place in Lincoln County and discussions are beginning about revisiting this plan with the focus being transportation, economic development and other community facets.

8. Q&A on Community and Economic Development Educator Written Report

Art Lersch's written report for October and November was included in the agenda packet for the committee to review and placed on file. Art highlighted that this year's Business Planning Class was very successful.

a. First Impressions Presentation

Art provided an overview of the City of Merrill First Impressions Program. First Impressions was developed by UW-Extension as a way to obtain "secret shoppers" perspectives on communities. Nearly 500 communities have conducted a First Impressions study throughout America and in at least a few other countries. A team of Merrill city leaders, including the Mayor and city administrator, joined other key stakeholders and Art to complete comprehensive evaluations of Ashland and Baraboo. Ashland and Baraboo in turn sent teams to Merrill. The teams evaluated various community aspects including but not limited to downtown ambiance, community entrances, housing characteristics, quality of schools, and

recreation opportunities. Ashland and Baraboo team members agreed that Merrill's strengths include its park system, library, housing stock, cleanliness, and friendliness of downtown merchants. Identified weaknesses were the lack of riverfront development, an undefined downtown lacking "sense of place" character, and poor signage. Extension Committee members engaged in lively conversation about how Merrill could be improved based on the study findings, Art's recommendations, and other comments made by residents and city officials during recent Merrill Economic Development and Merrill Marketing Group meetings. Several First Impressions process elements are being used by a subcommittee of the Merrill Marketing Group to conduct a competitive analysis of other cities similar to Merrill. City officials, along with the Chamber, are discussing ways to implement a signage program. Study findings have further stimulated discussion about how the City of Merrill can become a more inviting place.

9. Q & A on Family Living Educator Written Report

Brenda Janke's written report for October and November were distributed at the meeting for the committee's review and will be placed on file. Brenda indicated that with the downturn of the economy she is being asked to provide personal finance training to area Financial Institution staff. They are requesting this train-the-trainer program so they in turn can assist residents they are seeing. Supervisor Saal indicated from her report the Transferring Non-titled Property "Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate" program also seems to be in need. Brenda indicated that she is in the process of working with Commission on Aging to schedule this program again due to continuing requests for education in this area.

Supervisor Fox left the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

10. Q & A on Wisconsin Nutrition Education Written Report

Tammy Hansen's report for October and November was included in the agenda packet for the committee to review and placed on file. Tammy indicated that the Educators from Marathon County and herself have been teaching the Lincoln County programs while we are in the process of filling the 50% Lincoln County Educator position. We had a great response to this position opening and have a very strong pool to interview. Tammy anticipates having the new educator on board in January.

11. Q & A on 4-H Youth Development Program Advisor Written Report

Amanda Kostman's written report for October and November was included in the agenda packet for the committee to review and placed on file. Amanda highlighted that her work with the 4-H Ambassadors is off to a great start for the new 4-H year. They are in the process of starting three 4-H after school clubs. She also indicated that Teen Court has been very busy and by the end of the year they will have had 26 cases. She is currently in the process of recruiting new panel members and planning for training in January or February.

12. Q & A on 4-H Youth Development Agent/Department Head Written Report

Debbie Moellendorf's written report for October and November was included in the agenda packet for the committee to review and placed on file. Debbie indicated that she is currently working with the Merrill Area Public Schools in applying for the next 5-year grant cycle for the Lincoln County Drug Free Communities Coalition efforts. Discussion and plans are underway to expand the coalition's efforts in the Tomahawk community during the next grant cycle. The grant is due in early March and if we are successful will provide \$125,000 each year to support the work of the coalition in Lincoln County to address alcohol, tobacco and other drug issues among youth.

Land Information and Conservation

13. Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association Annual Conference

a. Resolution review

Diane reviewed the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Resolutions with the committee.

b. Take action on voting proxy form

Motion by Bailey second by Saal to approve the voting proxy for Diane at the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association Annual Conference. Carried all ayes.

c. Review and take action on nominations for Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board

Diane reviewed the nominations for the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board no action was needed.

14. Review and Take Action on Accessibility and Dissemination of Land Records Information Report and Policy.

Diane reviewed the Accessibility and Dissemination of Land Records Information Report and Policy with committee.

Motion by Bailey second by Short to approve the Accessibility and Dissemination of Land Records Information Report and Policy. Carried all ayes.

15. Review and Take Action on Proposed Map and Copy Prices for 2009

The Proposed Map and Copy Prices for 2009 were included in the agenda packet for committee to review.

Motion by Saal second by Short to approve the Proposed Map and Copy Prices for 2009. Carried all ayes.

16. Review and Take Action on DNR Lakes Grant(s).

Diane reviewed the DNR Lake Grants with the committee

Motion by Bailey second by Saal to forward the resolution authorizing a grant for a dissolved oxygen meter to the December county board meeting. Carried all ayes.

17. Land and Water Resource Management Cost Share Agreement Approval

Diane reviewed the Land and Water Resource Management Cost Share Agreement for Hans Jr and Katherine Breitenmoser in the amount of \$3,399.20.

Motion by Bailey second by Short to approve the cost share agreement. Carried all ayes.

18. Adjournment

Motion by Bailey second by Saal to adjourn at 11:35am. Carried all ayes.

Minutes prepared by Beryl Vandre Emerich, Debbie Moellendorf, Terri Pankow and Diane Hanson