

Lumberjack RC&D Council Meeting Minutes
July 27, 2017 – Menominee Casino, Keshena, WI – Menominee Co.

COUNTY	BOARD MEMBERS/ALTERNATES	OTHERS PRESENT
Florence	Yvonne Van Pembrook – LCC	
Forest	Larry Sommer – LCC	
Langlade	Dave Solin – LCC Carol Feller Gottard - LCC	Molly McKay, Chris Arrowood
Lincoln	Bill Bialecki	Matt Bremer
Menominee	Mary Menore	Jeremy Johnson
Oconto	Darrel Pagel Mary Lemmen Bill Grady	Ken Dolata – LCD
Oneida	Not Represented	Paul Mueller, Tracy Beckman – Lumberjack Staff Mitch Ives – TIP Coordinator Rosie Page – WHIP Coordinator
Shawano	Not Represented	Scott Frank – LCD
Vilas	Not Represented	Carolyn Scholl
At-Large	Ted Ritter – Vilas Co Bob Hermes – Menominee Co Roger Luce – Oneida County Claudia Baker – Oneida Margie Yadro – Florence Co	Guests: Terry Seidl, Bob Seidl, Becky Guests

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Hermes at 9:36am. Facing the Flag of the United States, the Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTIONS: Those present introduced themselves and a roll call of Council members appears in these minutes.

REVIEW AGENDA – Sommer/Bialecki moved to accept the agenda as presented. Motion Carried.

PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mitchell Ives has been hired as the TIP Coordinator. Ives was present, introduced and spoke a bit about himself. All welcomed Mitch.

MINUTES: Members reviewed the minutes since the last meeting. Motion by Ritter/Luce to approve the minutes from the 4/27/17 Council meeting. Motion Carried unanimously. Motion by Pagel/Solin to approve the 7/18/2017 Executive Committee meeting. Motion Carried unanimously.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Treasurer Claudia Baker gave the report. The 6/30/2017 checking account balance is \$221,672.99 as shown on the balance sheet. Total assets as of 6/30/2017 are \$851,432.16 making a profit this past quarter of \$72,381.86. Baker explained several issues with the auditor Lumberjack engaged to do the 2016 audit. She explained the many deficiencies with the firm and that we have cut ties with them. She said we will still get bids but in her opinion, it would be best to go back to an accredited firm, such as Wipfli LLC to do our annual audit. Luce questioned why we couldn’t do an audit every other year or do a Review Statement instead of an Audited Statement. Baker & Beckman will check on both. Hermes said he wants the process to be very transparent so all members know what’s going on and that we have professionals doing the audit that can be trusted. Luce asked the reasons for having to do an Audited statement. Beckman explained it is required to be a member in good standing (Circle of Diamonds Member) of the National Association of RC&Ds and Baker stated some grants require an accredited and audited financial statement. The question was raised about the benefit of being a Circle of Diamonds member vs. the cost of the audit. Motion by Solin/VanPembrook to accept the budget as presented. Motion Carried unanimously. Motion by Pagel/Bialecki to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented pending audit. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE 2018 GRANT FUND: Members received a handout showing the policy and the calculation from which the 2018 Grant Funds available of \$112,636.10 is derived. Because of such a big gap between the amount available last year and this year (\$34K vs. \$112K) members discussed capping the fund. Hermes made some other suggestions about what could be done with excess funds over the cap. He also encouraged Council members to come up with innovative ideas that could be done with the excess. Members agreed having a cap is the best way to ensure continuity for future years. It was noted that the Council needs a means to address caps and amounts over and under the cap within the policy. The policy should also address funds approved but not used and that excess funds

would be restricted for only projects. Hermes said the Executive Committee will meet to come up with a Council recommendation for a policy change to the Strategic Financial & Project Plan of 2016-2018 that addresses all these issues. Yadro/Luce moved to approve the amount of \$112,636.10 for 2018 funding. Motion Carried Unanimously.

REVIEW/APPROVE 2017 PLAN OF WORK: Members received the Plan of Work prior to the meeting and it was posted on the Lumberjack website. Motion by Van Pembroke/Ritter to approve the 2017 Plan of Work as presented. Some edits were noted, email correction and page three to account for the correct number of counties and finally add in something about Marinette County. The question was raised about why Marinette county does not participate in the Council and Beckman said she is not sure but plans to contact them. Scott Frank remembers the Council voted in a 'payback' if Marinette County ever decided they want to participate again. Baker said there is a file and minutes describing these discussions and that Greg Cleereman from Marinette County would remember as well. It was noted that a 'buy back' requirement should actually appear in the Bylaws so Beckman will check in to that. Dolata suggested rather than requiring a buy back, counties that choose to leave and come back, pay regular dues but not be allowed to apply for a grant for a set number of years after their re-admission. Hermes suggested he and Beckman try to set up a meeting with members of the Marinette County LCD. With the suggested changes, the motion carried unanimously. Beckman encouraged members to send her suggestions for the 2018 Plan of work. Current suggestions: Better explain what FIA/CFI does & note that counties have plans of work from which ideas could be pulled.

PERSONNEL POLICY UPDATES: Members received the proposed updates prior to the meeting and they were posted to the Lumberjack website. There was discussion about including 'step parents' to the list of those for which excused family leave applies. Luce/Ritter moved to add 'step parents' to the excused family leave policy. Motion Passed by a majority. Luce/Solin moved to approve the rest of the changes as presented. Motion Passed by a majority.

D & O LIABILITY INSURANCE QUESTIONS: Following the passage of an employee Cell Phone Use Policy last quarter, a question surfaced as to the liability of Council members using cell phones. Beckman was asked to research the question and report back at this meeting. Beckman explained she talked to Susan Smith of Bee Hive Insurance Company, (the agent for Lumberjack's D&O Liability policy) who said this is an auto insurance issue and doesn't know of any D&O Policies that talk about cell phone use in vehicles. She said that everyone, including Council Members in their own vehicle but doing Lumberjack business, are required to follow local/state/federal laws regarding cell phone use for whichever municipality, town, state, etc. they happen to be driving through. She said since they are all different and since it is possible you could be putting Lumberjack in danger of being liable, common sense says to stay off the cell phone while driving.

BRANDING UPDATE: Beckman reminded everyone that a State Association of RC&D Brand Identity Guide was approved at the April Meeting and at the July 21, 2017 State RC&D Meeting, it was announced that the state tagline, "Conservation That Works!" has been trademarked by the State of WI. All local RC&Ds are encouraged to start using it. In addition, Lumberjack has begun using the approved color palette and the Roboto Font (and example of both can be seen on today's agenda.) Beckman has plans to meet with a graphic designer in early August to either tweek the current Lumberjack Logo and make it high resolution or to design an entirely new logo. Either way, both will comply with the Brand Guidelines from the State Association. Members talked about logo choice and their feelings about the axe that currently exists in our logo. It was noted there is a story of tree growth in addition to the axe. It was suggested to have students come up with ideas and possibly present. Beckman will check in to this. Beckman plans to begin communication and have choices available for input from the Council between the October and January meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS: There was no work for the committees so no reports were given.

UPDATES: Mitch Ives gave the update for TIP noting that negotiations with Upham Township, if successful, would be the first state township to budget for TIS control. Rosie Page reported for WHIP noting that WHIP received a donation from a local business they can use for cash match. Paul Mueller reported for FIA & WiCFI noting this year's work will be finished by 8/31/17 and they will start the 4th year of the 5-year contract on 9/1/17. Mueller will begin the new contract/budget work in about six months. He also noted a new truck will be purchased this fall and a new employee has been hired to replace Terry Schreiber who is retiring.

PRESENTATION – Sustainable Forestry Award Recipient, Terry Seidl. Scott Frank presented Terry Seidl with a sustainable forestry award and the group viewed a presentation from the WI DNR about Mr. Seidl's property.

The Next Meeting will be October 18th, WEDNESDAY in Oconto County.

ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.


