

Lumberjack RC&D Council Meeting Minutes  
July 25, 2019 – Bradley Town Hall, Tomahawk, WI Lincoln Co.

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>VOTING MEMBERS ALTERNATES</b>	<b>OTHERS PRESENT</b>
<b>Florence</b>	<b>Yvonne Van Pembrook</b> – LCC	
<b>Forest</b>	<b>Larry Sommers</b> – LCC	Al Murray - LCD
<b>Langlade</b>	<b>Carol Feller-Gottard</b> – LCC <b>Reinhardt Balcerzak</b> - LCC	Molly McKay – LCD
<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>Bill Bialecki</b> - LCC <b>Wayne Plant</b> – Past President	Matt Bremer – LCD Chris Heller
<b>Menominee</b>	<b>Absent</b>	Jeremy Johnson - LCD
<b>Oconto</b>	<b>Bart Schindel</b> - LCC	Catie Haight, LCD
<b>Oneida</b>	<b>Bob Mott</b> - LCC	
<b>Shawano</b>	<b>Arlyn Tober</b> - LCC	Scott Frank - LCD
<b>Vilas</b>	<b>Absent</b> – LCC	
<b>At-Large</b>	<b>Claudia Baker</b> – Oneida <b>Dick Gilles</b> – Oconto <b>Bob Hermes</b> – Menominee Co <b>Ted Ritter</b> – Vilas Co <b>Margie Yadro</b> – Florence Co	<b>Guests:</b> Ben Niehaus, Ed Hammer, Ron Yadro <b>Staff:</b> Tracy Beckman, Alix Bjorklund, Rosie Page, Randee Smith

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by President Hermes at 9:33am. Facing the Flag of the United States, the Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Those present introduced themselves and a roll call of members appears in these minutes. Hermes acknowledged and welcomed those attending their first meeting.

**REVIEW/APPROVE AGENDA** – Mott/Sommer moved to accept the agenda with the addition of Silver Lake to the Presentation portion. Motion Carried.

**PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Hermes reminded everyone of upcoming deadlines of October 1<sup>st</sup> for Sustainable Forestry Awards and Lumberjack Project Proposals. He also reminded that the Council will pay half (up to \$25) for Lumberjack-branded apparel for Council members. Hermes thanked Lincoln County representatives for hosting the meeting.

**MINUTES:** Members reviewed the minutes of the 4/25/19 Council meeting. It was noted that three vote items from the April meeting didn’t have motion results: **NARCD Membership Recommendation, Discussion – Central Location for October Meeting & Elections**. It was also noted that all three motions passed. Yadro/Plant moved to approve the minutes with the addition of ‘Motion Carried’ for these three items. Motion Carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Members reviewed the Treasurer’s report. Treasurer Baker explained the 6/30/2019 checking balance was \$92,308.27 as shown on the balance sheet. Total assets as of 6/30/2019 were \$804,309.36. Motion by Gilles/Tober to approve the 6/30/19 Treasurer’s report. Motion Carried.

Bialecki/Schindel moved to approve the 6/30/19 budget update. Mott questioned the \$56,665.47 excess funds from the Active Project Update sheet. Baker explained how the calculation works and that the Excess Fund account is a discussion topic later on the agenda. Without further discussion, Motion Carried to approve the 06/30/2019 budget update.

It was noted that the seven-year project “Lumberjack’s Sustainable Forestry Awards” has now used the balance of approved funds. This program has always been submitted in the same manner as any other project, however it is a project developed and implemented by the Council itself. It was also noted that according to recent grant policy changes, we no longer fund multi-year projects. It was recommended by the Executive Committee that this program

be added as a line item to the Class 01, Lumberjack Administrative budget. Motion by Mott/Johnson to add the line item "Lumberjack's Sustainable Forestry Awards" with a budget of \$500 to the 2019 and future budgets. Motion Carried.

### **2020 Projects**

Members received a handout showing \$45,636.92 available for 2020 projects according to the project fund policy. The Executive Committee recommended this be the amount approved for 2020 projects even though 1) the excess project fund balance is \$56,665.47 and 2) the Council may approve more than the \$45,636.92 if they choose.

Van Pembroke suggested the Council stick with the recommendation in hopes that the future will bring a multi-county project for which the excess could be used. Ritter pointed out that the Council shouldn't approve less than what is in the excess account as he feels it may discourage others from applying if they think that's all we have. Johnson agreed with Ritter but also pointed out that we don't yet know what projects will be submitted. It was noted that the next FIA/CFI five-year contract will be awarded on 8/30/19. Mott suggested we could justify approving more if we are awarded the contract. Mott asked about other contracts or services we could provide to diversify income. It was mentioned that we're doing plots in Bayfield and Iron counties. Murray said he's talked with Mueller about stewardship contracts with the Good Neighbor Program on the National Forest.

Yadro/Sommer moved that we continue with the formula laid out for us (i.e.: the handout showing the calculation of \$45,636.92) and not make any changes until after the October 1st deadline. Ritter said if the public knows the amount, it might discourage applicants. Hermes said people might want to know what the limit is. Others stated that we shouldn't make decisions that differ from policy without knowing whether we've been awarded the FIA/CFI contract. With no further discussion, Motion Carried.

In preparation for the upcoming funding vote at the October meeting, the Council took some time to review the Grant Policy and Procedures. An informational email will be sent to county conservationists giving them a reminder that it's the time of year when Lumberjack applicants ask to be put on their committee agendas. There were other policy items and it was decided that after the 2020 round of funding is approved, the Grant Committee meet to review what works and what needs improving. Specifically, the committee wants to review the cash match requirement and letters of support that could include some type of pledge form.

**State Association Updates** – Members received draft guidelines written by Bob Walker. The intent is that the State Association, when wanting to engage legislators, follow the guidelines set forth in the draft. Beckman explained the Executive Committee reviewed the document and recommends, as a Council, we go on the record in support of the guidelines. Motion by Van Pembroke/Gilles to approve the guidelines but to consider changing item 2 to allow 'two' weeks as opposed to 'one.' Motion Carried. Beckman will present the Council's approval at the State meeting on 8/1/19.

**Director's Report** – Members received a handout from Beckman showing progress on 2019 Plan of Work items.

### **Updates**

FIA/CFI – Many FIA items were discussed throughout the meeting and a quarterly update was available.

TIP – Bjorklund presented for TIP and had copies of their most-recent newsletter available.

WHIP – Page presented for WHIP and had a handout available.

WYFP – Smith presented for WYFP and had copies of their most-recent quarterly report available.

Beckman and Hermes recognized the hard-work and success of these Lumberjack-sponsored programs and the specific efforts of Bjorklund, Page and Smith. Following this, the three received a round of applause from the Council.

**Project Presentations:** Presented were *Newbold Township, Florence SD Greenhouse & Silver Lake Improvements.*

**ADJOURN:** The meeting adjourned at 12:05pm followed by lunch for Council members and guests.



Submitted 7/25/2019 by Yvonne VanPembroke, Secretary