

Lumberjack RC&D Council Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2018 – C & R Bar, Aurora, WI – Florence County

<i>COUNTY</i>	<i>VOTING MEMBERS ALTERNATES</i>	<i>OTHERS PRESENT</i>
Florence	Yvonne Van Pembrook – LCC	Scott Wolf - LCD
Forest	Larry Sommer – LCC	Al Murray - LCD
Langlade	Joe Novak – LCC	Molly McKay – LCD
Lincoln	Bill Bialecki - LCC Chris Heller - LCC Wayne Plant – Past President	Mitch McCarthy - LCD
Menominee	Mary Menore – LCC Liz Arnold - LCC	Jeremy Johnson - LCD
Oconto	Darryl Pagel	Brady Stodola – LCD Buzz Kamke
Oneida	Alan Van Raalte	Michele Sadauskas, LWCD
Shawano	Arlyn Tober Marvin Klosterman	Scott Frank
Vilas		
At-Large	Claudia Baker – Oneida Dick Gilles – Oconto Bob Hermes – Menominee Co Ted Ritter – Vilas Co Margie Yadro – Florence Co	Guests: Dennis Thornton, Tim Ewing, Baerbel Ehrig Staff: Paul Mueller, Tracy Beckman, Alix Bjorklund, Rosie Page

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Hermes at 9:35am. Facing east, the Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Scott from Florence County introduced himself and welcomed the Council to Florence County.

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

REVIEW/APPROVE AGENDA – Beckman asked that Sponsored Program Updates be added just before project presentations. Sommer/Pagel moved to accept the agenda with the addition. Motion Carried.

PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: Hermes spoke about the NARCD Board requesting nominations and that Tracy Beckman & Bob Walker had both considered it but for various reasons, have declined. Hermes explained there is only one nomination submitted for Lumberjack's Sustainable Forestry Awards, so the deadline has been extended to 12/15. Members are urged to submit nominations.

MINUTES: Members reviewed the minutes of the 7/26/18 Council meeting and the 10/4/18 Executive Committee meeting. Motion by Tober/Bialecki to approve the minutes as presented. Motion Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Claudia Baker gave the report. The 09/30/2018 checking account balance was \$38,133.89 as shown on the balance sheet. Total assets as of 09/30/2018 were \$761,405.18 making a loss for the quarter of \$6,432.01. It was noted on the balance sheet that the loss is because the FIA/CFI program did not invoice in September because the USFS was completing check cruises. Motion by Gilles/Yadro to approve the Treasurer's report and budget update as presented. Motion Carried.

Audit: A copy of the audited financial statements dated 12/31/17 was distributed to Council Members. Beckman noted an extension was granted for the filing of the 990 tax return which should be completed by Wipfli within the next month. The delay stems from further work that had to be done because of the 2016 auditor's incorrect work. Beckman had the Council take note of the deficiencies outlined on pages 3 & 4 of the Communications Letter: 1) Financial Accounting & Reporting – The auditor, Wipfli, states a deficiency exists because they are relied upon to complete the financial statements and as an outside company, do not have the same knowledge of the organization that Council Members do. 2) Segregation of Duties – The auditor, Wipfli, states a deficiency exists because one person has access to the accounting information and the assets. 3) Internal Control – The auditor, Wipfli, noted that while QuickBooks accounting software is an inexpensive product, it does have internal control issues. They recommend other council members, or a

finance committee approve disbursements and examine invoices prepared by the bookkeeper, continue to provide the Treasurer with a check register report, and always have the accounting software password protected. The letter explains that these are normal deficiencies for an organization of Lumberjack's size, however at the Executive Committee meeting in October, Hermes agreed to arrive early to future Executive Committee meetings in to review the books and Beckman agreed to continue to write policy that addresses other concerns. The Council acknowledges the deficiencies and will continue to look for ways to address them. Motion by Gilles/Yadro to approve the audit as presented. Motion Carried.

AIS Resolution – Beckman explained she has been in cooperation with Forest, Langlade & Lincoln County Conservationists to submit a DNR AIS Surface Water Grant due December 10th. This is the same grant and process used to secure the former Lumberjack AIS position that was not funded in 2016. The submission requires a Council Resolution approving the support and administration of the grant. Members reviewed the resolution. A roll-call vote was taken and all members in attendance and qualified to vote, voted AYE. There were no NAY votes. Resolution Approved. Hermes signed the resolution and Beckman will add it to the grant submission paperwork.

TIP Pathways Guide – Rosie Page (WHIP) and Alix Bjorklund (TIP) presented the Pathways Guide. The user-guide gives recreational and occupational users information and tips to help slow the spread of invasive species. The grant was secured by TIP, but development was a cooperative effort by the TIP, WHIP, WRISC Coordinators and the Lumberjack ED. The guide is made possible from a USFS GLRI grant and requires review by groups such as the Lumberjack Council. It is the first of its kind for our area because it targets user-groups instead of species and explains how invasive species can spread along pathways and corridors used by recreational groups and occupational groups. It cautions against the spread of terrestrial plants and pests, including Asian Carp currently threatening the Great Lakes. The guide will go to print in December and be available at the January council meeting.

Lumberjack's Private Forest Owners Initiative & Bayfield County

Paul Mueller explained the progress in a pilot program under which Lumberjack hopes to help private forest-land owners secure management plans to implement conservation practices on their own lands. Mueller is now a certified Technical Service Provider (TSP) with NRCS and a WIDNR Cooperating Forester. These are required to write forest management plans. Mueller explained he'd like to do a pilot project and asked if any council members are interested they should contact Beckman or Mueller.

Bayfield County – Mueller explained Bayfield County Forestry Department contacted him to inquire the feasibility of his crew doing inventory of Bayfield County forests. There are 47 plots under consideration if a price and timing can be worked out.

National Conference & UMISC Wrap-Up Report

Members of the Exec Committee spoke about their conference take-aways. Beckman explained she and Bob Walker presented the collaboration on Branding for the State of WI Association of RC&Ds. The presentation was well-attended and given good feedback. Members thanked the Council for allowing them to go.

UMISC – Page & Bjorklund gave an update and explained some of the ideas they'd like to implement.

Sponsored Program Updates

FIA/CFI was given by Mueller

WHIP – covered under project presentation later

TIP – covered under project presentation later

WYFP – Beckman gave an update for WYFP

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS – At the July meeting, the Council approved \$64,397 for projects in 2019. Eight projects were submitted, one since withdrew and two were disqualified for not having the required letters of support. The following five projects were approved to present at today's Lumberjack Council meeting. Applicants had 10 minutes to present and five minutes for Q&A. The following people presented for the projects named below:

2019-003 Alix Bjorklund – TIP Coordinator Support

2019-004 Rosie Page – WHIP Organizational Support

2019-005 Michele Sadauskas – Promoting Native Pollinator Conservation in North East Wisconsin

2019-006 Dennis Thornton - Town of Belle Plain Well Water Program

2019-007 Tim Ewing – Outdoor Education Resource Facility at Navarino Nature Center

Closed Session – Motion by Bialeck/Ritter to enter Closed Session. Motion Carried and the Council entered closed session to vote on funding for 2019 projects.

PROJECT DISCUSSION/VOTE: In closed-session, the Council discussed the projects, reviewed the ballot instructions and the policy requirement that each project must receive a majority vote of those members eligible to vote and present at this meeting. Hermes handed out one ballot to each voting member in attendance. There are currently 15 members eligible to vote. Of the 15 eligible, 14 were present. Hermes collected 14 ballots. Two members of the Executive Committee tallied the votes and the results appear below: Van Raalte/Sommer moved to return to open session. Motion Carried.

PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT: Beckman will notify the recipients of the results of the vote and give them further instructions. The projects listed below were chosen to be fully funded in 2019 for a total of \$41,352.

2019-003 – 12 votes

2019-004 – 12 votes

2019-005 – 14 votes

2019-006 – 14 votes

2019-007 – 14 votes

ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 12:04



Submitted 11/01/2018 by Yvonne VanPembrook, Secretary