

Lumberjack RC&D Council Meeting Minutes
April 29, 2021 – 9:00AM – Oconto Co Courthouse & Via Zoom

COUNTY	VOTING MEMBERS (includes first seat, alternate or proxy)	OTHERS PRESENT
Florence	Yvonne Van Pembrook – LCC	
Forest	Larry Sommer – LCC	Steve Kircher
Langlade	Absent	
Lincoln	Bill Bialecki – LCC Wayne Plant – Past President	Chris Heller - Lincoln 2nd– LCC
Menominee	Jeremy Johnson	
Oconto	Bart Schindel - LCC	Ken Dolata – LCD Rachel Wilcox – LCD Buzz Kamke – LCC Leonard Wahl – LCC John Matravers-LCC
Oneida	Absent - LCC	
Shawano	Arlyn Tober – LCC	Mary George - LCD
Vilas	Absent	
At-Large	Dick Gilles – Oconto Co Bob Hermes – Menominee Co Claudia Baker – Oneida Co Steve Heimerman – Oconto Co	Staff: Tracy Beckman, Randee Smith, Alix Bjorklund, Rosie Page, Quita Sheehan, Sarah Topp-Marquette County Conservationist
At Large EXCUSED		

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Hermes at 9:04am. Facing the flag of the United States, members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

REVIEW/APPROVE AGENDA: Bialecki/Plant moved to approve the agenda as amended. Motion Carried (11/0).

PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS: Hermes thanked Dave Solin for his time with Lumberjack as he has had to resign since he’s spending most of his time out west. Beckman explained the October meeting date (10/28/2021) conflicts with many County Board budget meetings. The group decided that the October meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 27, 2021. Then the group addressed the location because Forest County didn’t have their normal turn due to a weather cancellation however, the October meeting is always held in Forest County since that is the most central for the presenters who have to travel. It was decided that the July meeting will be in Shawano & the October meeting will be in Forest and the rotation will resume. Beckman will issue an updated 2021 calendar.

MINUTES: Secretary Sommer directed members to review the minutes of the 1/14/2021 Council meeting. With no changes, Johnson/Heimerman moved to approve the minutes as presented. Motion Carried (11/0). Sommers had the group to review the 4/15/2021 Executive Committee meetings. Tober/Gilles moved to approve the minutes with the change to #11. Motion Carried (11/0).

TREASURER’S REPORT: Members reviewed the Treasurer’s report/budget update. Because of technical issues, Baker was unable to give the report via Zoom so Beckman gave the report, stating the 3/31/2021 checking balance was \$126,463.51 as shown on the balance sheet and total assets as of 03/31/2021 were \$1,015,754.75 which in an increase of \$15,384.30 from April 2020. Motion by Tober/Gilles to approve the 3/31/2021 Treasurer’s report & budget update. Motion Carried (11/0).

BY LAWS UPDATE: Members reviewed the proposed changes due to Lumberjack being classified as a quasi-government organization (more than 50% of budget is government funds) which means Lumberjack is subject to Wisconsin’s Open Meetings Laws. Motion by Plant/Shindell to approve the bylaws with a change to L.7 (add ‘according to the law’.) Motion Carried. (11/0)

GRANT COMMITTEE - Sommer explained the grant committee was convened by Hermes to bring a recommendation to the Council regarding a discussion that took place at the January meeting. This discussion was whether projects that require taxpayer dollars or were considered infrastructure should be funded. Sommer presented the minutes of the Grant Committee for approval. After discussion members agreed that taxpayer dollars are used in many instances. It was also noted that there might be other funding sources available, and projects should be researching those and making the right choices for funding. Motion by VanPembrook/Gilles to approve the minutes of the 3/30/2021 Grant Committee. Motion Carried (11/0).

Members then reviewed the Grant Policy changes recommended by the Grant Committee. The committee acknowledged their prior hard work in arriving at the current policy. They believe the policy works well and shouldn't be changed but did feel strongly that our documents should put more stress on the importance of judging projects on their merit and not on location or whether there are enough funds for all projects. As a result, they recommend that the word 'merit' be placed at the end of the Policy Statement and this reminder has been added to the Grant Guidelines sheet: ***Project critiques should be based on their merits and mission alignment points, and not on location or whether funds are available for all projects.***

Other policy change recommendations are being made so that our policy adheres to WI Open Meetings Laws. Motion by Tober/Bialecki to approve the policy changes as presented. Motion Carried 11/0).

ELECTIONS:

Hermes acknowledged the hard work of three long-time Lumberjack Council Members who have chosen not to continue: Dave Solin, Ted Ritter and Margie Yadro. Many thanks to all of them for their hard work and commitment over the years.

Continuing At Large Members: Members reviewed the following four At Large Member Continuation forms received by the deadline of April 22, 2021: Baker, Gilles, Heimerman & Hermes. Motion by Johnson/Plant to approve the four continuations received for another term of two years. Plant noted that all four members have served with distinction and are very active. Motion Carried. (11/0).

At Large Nominations: There were no new At Large nominations received before or after the deadline of 4/22/2021. Members were encouraged to put forth nominations since there are now three At Large seats open. Beckman will review bylaws and policy and email the council whether At-Large members can be elected at any meeting.

REVIEW/APPROVE 2021 PLAN OF WORK: Members reviewed the 2021 Plan of Work. Motion by Shindell/Sommer to approve the Plan of Work with the correction to pg. 11, 19 DATCP. Motion Carried 11/0).

STATE ASSOCIATION UPDATE: Beckman gave the State Association Update. Now that Solin has resigned, at their meeting on May 27, they will elect a new President. More information will follow.

UPDATES/PRESENTATIONS: Randee Smith for WYFP, Rosie Page for WHIP & Alix Bjorklund for TIP updated the council with the work they'll be focused on this field season and into the future. Quita Sheehan presented an update on the Eagle River Library Project that was funded, in-part by Lumberjack.

Beckman updated the group on FIA & the FLOW AIS Program.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 11:50am.

Submitted 4/30/2021 by Larry Sommer, Secretary