

Un-approved

**Iron County Land Conservation Committee Meeting
1:00 P.M., Monday, October 27, 2008
Iron County Forestry Building
Board Room**

1.) Call to Order: Gerald Luke called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

Present: Gerald Luke, Heather Palmquist, Vernon Moore, Dale Wehmas, William Thomas, Steve Smith, Dennis DeRosso, MaryJo Gingras, Dave Schultz-WDACP

2.) Public Comment: Gerald commented that they appreciated the project tour held earlier today.

3.) Minutes: Motion to approve the Sept. 15, 2008 minutes as drafted by Smith/Thomas. MC.

4.) Iron County Poster Competition- this was the first year that Iron County participated in the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association Poster Contest. Heather did an excellent job organizing the program and working with teachers in Hurley and Mercer. In Hurley, she presented an education program to the Stars- after school program to provide information on water issues and in Mercer, she worked with Mr. Gross and Mr. Roeder to present an erosion program in their science class and then utilize their art classes for drawing the posters. Kindergarten - 6th grade students participated in this year's event with the following divisions: K-1, 2-3 grades, 4-6 grades, and Special designation. We will purchase \$50 savings bonds for the first place finishers in each division and every participant will receive a participation ribbon. The LCC voted on first, second, and third choice in each division. Heather will compile results and distribute awards. First place finishers will be judged at the area WLWCA meeting in Hayward on October 30th and any first place finishers there will move on to the state competition on November 8th. Winners for each division are as follows:

<u>K-1</u>	<u>2-3</u>	<u>4-6</u>
Robert Vinopal-1st Place	Skylar Traczyk- 1 st Place	Brianna Pemble- 1 st Place
Emily Barbacovi-2 nd Place	Lindsey Dashner- 2 nd Place	Gabrielle Stehli- 2 nd Place
MacKenzie Backman- Mention	Gavin Ransanic- Mention	John Michael Klopatek- Mention

5.) AIS Position- MaryJo distributed and reviewed the draft position description and asked for any comments or additions. A comment was made to add "and watershed groups" after lake associations in the first bullet "Collaborate with lake associations..." listed under the Duties and Responsibilities section." Dennis commented that we need to advertise the position as a Class A notice in the Iron County Miner for 3 weeks. The notice will be posted from November 6-27, 2008. The LCC will interview the applicants on December 18 starting at 3:00 pm. If there are more than 10 applications then the committee will meet with MaryJo on December 8th to select interview candidates.

6.) 2009 DATCP Allocation- MaryJo reviewed the 2009 DATCP Staffing and Support Allocation and explained that although Iron County is receiving more money in 2009 than in previous years there is a detrimental decrease in staff and support funding due to the fact that DATCP has not added any additional money to this fund since 1997. This poses a major concern as inflation and cost of living continue to increase. DATCP's funding structure pays 100% of the first position (regardless of the amount), 70% for position two, and 50% for any additional positions. In 2009, the funding is completely run out to pay third and additional positions. With this structure and no consideration for annual salary increase, counties that have high salaries in the first position extinguish money from the fund quickly. For 2009, DATCP cut funding to some organizations and cooperators and was able to

capture \$130,000 to use for staffing. Then they selected the top 13 counties that implement Nutrient Management and gave them an additional \$10,000. This decision is against their obligation under state statute Chapter 92.14 to FIRST completely fund the positions as described above (100%, then 70%, then 50%) and once that obligation has been met then any remaining money can be used to fund new staffing programs, such as that for Nutrient Management. MaryJo attended the Land and Water Board Meeting in October along with Butch Lobermeier- Bayfield County Conservationist and Greg Claireman-Marinette County Conservationist, to bring these concerns forward to the Board. All counties have the opportunity to provide comment back to DATCP by November 7th. MaryJo asked that the committee forward a resolution to the county board that will support locally identified priorities and full funding of the staffing structure prior to funding of additional priorities of DATCP.

7.) Motion to forward Resolution to Recognize the Value of Locally Identified Priorities in County Land and Water Resource Management Plans to county board for approval Smith/Thomas. MC.

8.) Farm Rental Rates: MaryJo revised the rates according to the requests made at the previous meeting. **Motion to accept proposed changes Thomas/ Moore. MC.**

9) WLWCA Annual Meeting- MaryJo handed out the registration packet for the annual meeting and asked for members of the committee to participate this year. There is money in our budget to accommodate it. She explained that WLWCA runs a silent auction at the annual meeting and we should donate something this year from our county. Ideas are a pair of lift tickets to a ski resort or a basket with local syrup, jam, honey, etc. It was decided to ask Whitecap to donate a pair of lift tickets.

10.) Staff/Conservationist Reports:

Dave Schultz (WDACP) is just wrapping up all claims for crop damage. He reported that money from many deer tag sales goes into the deer damage program. With the T-Zones and extra tags they are having problems with funding shortage. The fund was greatly tapped by the Chronic Wasting Disease research. Crop damage payments will most likely be prorated in 2009 because there is less funding and an increase in crop prices.

MaryJo provided a brief synopsis of completion of all 2008 cost-share project payments and reimbursement from the state, reimbursement is complete for all Nutrient Management payments made in 2008, and she is currently reviewing and surveying requests for 2009 projects. She hopes to have the projects ranked according to resource concern and rough cost estimates for the committee to review at the December meeting. MaryJo and Heather will provide an annual report and presentation at the end of the year.

11.) Next Meeting Date: The next meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, December 18 following the 3:00 pm interviews. It was decided to have a Christmas dinner at 6:00 pm after the meeting just like we did last year. MaryJo will check for availability at the Iron Nugget.

12) Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 2:30 Smith/Kern . MC.