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Michele Sadauskas

Subject: FW: Supervisor Compensation Question

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Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 8:54 AM
To: Tina Smigielski <tsmigielsk@co.oneida.wi.us>; Chad R. Lynch <clynch@co.oneida.wi.us>
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Subject: RE: Supervisor Compensation Question

If the UWEX Committee directs a Supervisor to attend a Lake District Meeting, such attendance would be eligible for a stipend.

§ 3.10

(8) Committee Meetings. As used in this section, committee meeting means the convening of a standing or special committee of the County Board for an authorized purpose and in public session pursuant to the provisions of Ch. 19, Subchapter IV, Wis. Stats., and pursuant to the rules of the County Board wherein an agenda is prepared and regular business is conducted. **Committee meeting also includes attendance at any school, institute, conference or meeting which the County Board or the committee of which the individual is a member directs him to attend.** This includes, without enumeration, all boards, councils, commissions and committees to which any supervisor or citizen member has been appointed by the County Board or the Board Chair to represent the County.



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LAKE DISTRICTS

A lake district is a specialized unit of government designed to manage a lake or group of lakes. One of the major differences between a lake district and a lake association is a lake district's ability to tax property within the district. Since 1974, when Wisconsin passed legislation allowing the formation of lake districts, over 200 lake communities have formed lake districts. Lake districts have a unique blend of powers and governance provisions tailored to fit the needs of local lake communities. A lake district is guided and operated by those that live in or own property in the district. A lake district's day-to-day operations are carried out by a board of commissioners composed of elected volunteers and local officials. The financial direction of the district is determined by district residents (electors) and property owners at an annual meeting.

Unlike other governmental units, such as towns or sanitary districts, nonresident property owners have the right to vote and hold office in lake districts. Lake districts in Wisconsin have tremendous opportunities to address lake and watershed management issues.

The laws governing lake districts can be found in chapter 33 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. Those legal questions that lake districts may have which are not addressed in Chapter 33 are often covered under the same body of municipal laws that govern Wisconsin towns and counties. For more information on Chapter 33 go to: <https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/organizations/guide.aspx>

Oneida County has seven (7) current active Lake Districts: Bear, Crescent, Horsehead, Mid, Nokomis, Squash and Thunder. Most Lake Districts have five commissioners. Three members are elected from the residents or property owners within the district. The other two commissioners are appointed by the local units of government. One of the appointed members is selected by the Conservation and UW-Extension Education Committee.

For additional information regarding Lake Districts go to: <https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/organizations/guide.aspx>

Lake District Commissioners Notes:

- **Five commissioners:** Most lake districts have five commissioners. Three members are elected from the residents or property owners within the district. The other two commissioners are appointed by the local units of government. One of the appointed members is selected by the county board of supervisors. (If the district includes territory in more than one county, this appointment is made by the county with the highest equalized valuation in the district). The other appointed member is selected by the governing body of the town, village or city with the highest valuation in the district.
- **Appointed Commissioners.** The appointment of commissioners by counties and municipalities helps promote harmony and coordination among local governments and the district. Members of lake district boards appointed by a county, town, village or city serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority, rather than for fixed terms. They can be replaced whenever the appointing authority chooses.
- **Chapter 33** does not establish further qualifications for appointed commissioners, giving local governments broad discretion to select persons they consider suitable. Typically, these appointed commissioners live or own property within the district or have a known interest in lake and water management
- **Voting:** Appointed commissioners have the same voting power on the lake district board as the elected commissioners. However, they are not eligible to vote at the annual meeting unless they qualify as a lake district property owner or elector.
- **Responsibilities** The board of commissioners is broadly responsible for the governance of the lake district. Except for powers reserved to the electors and property owners at the annual meeting, all of the powers of the lake district are exercised by the board of commissioners.

Powers

The board of commissioners has the specific power to:

- Initiate and coordinate research and surveys for the lake
- Plan lake protection and rehabilitation projects
- Cooperate with other units of government in enacting ordinances as needed.
- Adopt and carry out lake protection and rehabilitation plans
- Maintain liaisons with state government officials involved in lake protection and rehabilitation and provide the Department of Natural Resources with the names and addresses of current commissioners
- Control the fiscal matters of the district, subject to the powers and directives of the electors and property owners at the annual meeting

Wis. Stat. § 33.29(1)
Wis. Stat. § 33.29(2)

If the district has been authorized to exercise sanitary district powers or adopt boating ordinances, these powers are generally exercised by the board of commissioners.

Duties

The board of commissioners is legally required to carry out specific duties:

- Schedule the annual meeting of the lake district between May 22 and September 8 (unless a majority vote at the previous meeting scheduled a time outside those dates)
- Prepare an agenda and proposed budget for the annual meeting
- Have an audit prepared at the end of each fiscal year for the annual meeting. *For more information see Audit, page 75.*
- Mail a written notice (including the agenda and proposed budget) of the annual meeting (and any special meetings) at least 14 days in advance to:
 - each owner of property (as listed on the tax roll)
 - each elector whose address can be ascertained with reasonable diligence⁴
 - the Department of Natural Resources⁵
- Conduct the annual meeting (and any special meetings or public hearings). This is the responsibility of the chairperson
- Immediately following the annual meeting, select a chairperson, secretary and treasurer from among the commissioners
- Take charge of the finances of the district, including delivering certified statements by November 1st of any tax levied at the annual meeting to the clerk of each municipality in the district for collection (responsibility of the treasurer)
- Schedule special meetings, if needed
- Appoint persons to fill vacancies in the board as needed (responsibility of the chairperson)
- Meet at least quarterly as a board. The secretary is responsible for posting notices and keeping minutes of board meetings and any hearings held by the board. The chairperson is responsible for presiding at board meetings

Wis. Stat. § 33.29(1)(f)
Wis. Stat. § 33.30(1)
Wis. Stat. § 33.29(1)(g)
Wis. Stat. § 33.29(2)
Wis. Stat. § 33.30(2)(a)

Wis. Stat. § 33.29(3)

Wis. Stat. § 33.29(3)(c)
Wis. Stat. § 33.30(4)(a)
Wis. Stat. § 33.305(1)

Wis. Stat. § 33.28(7)

Wis. Stat. § 33.28(6)
Wis. Stat. § 33.29(3)