

MINUTES
 CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2019
 WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #115, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Kenneth Curry, Robert Ashbeck, Dave LaFontaine, Bill Leichtnam and Harvey Petersen

Members Excused: Mark Holbrook

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, and Stevana Hamus.

Land & Water Conservation Staff: Adam Groshek, Rodney Mayer, Maria Lewandowski and Lori Ruess.

UW Extension Staff: Jason Hausler and Nancy Turyk.

Others Present: Dist. #12 Supervisor Douglas Machon, Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendenning, Susan Kunferman (Wood County Health Department), Ken Schroeder, UWEX, and John Eron, Weed Commissioner.

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Curry called the CEED Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Declaration of Quorum.** Chairperson Curry declared a quorum.
3. **Public Comment.** Chairperson Curry mentioned that Shane Wucherpennig is out on medical leave for a couple of weeks.

Adam Groshek shared that on August 2nd the Wood County LWCD witnessed burned vegetation on a farm east of Pittsville on Lincoln Avenue. The burned vegetation was present all the way from the barn on the farm, continuously in the road ditch on the north side of Lincoln Road all the way into Little Hemlock Creek. This could be cranberry leachate. Water samples were taken; results of the samples have not yet been received. Pictures of the spill were handed out for the committee to view.

4. **Review Correspondence.**
 - A. Jason Hausler mentioned Jennifer Swensen, 4-H Regional Educator Specialist started working out of the Wood County UWEX office. Please welcome Jennifer if you see her.
5. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the July 3, 2019 CEED meeting, 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension and 3) staff activity reports from Adam DeKleyn, Jeff Brewbaker, Stevana Hamus (Skinner), Kim Keech, Victoria Wilson, Shane Wucherpennig, Adam Groshek, Rod Mayer, Emily Salvinski, Lori Ruess, Maria Lewandowski, Matt Lippert, Nancy Turyk, Jackie Carattini, Janell Wehr, Laura Huber and Kelly Hammond.
 - A. Minutes of July 3, 2019. Bill Leichtnam pulled agenda items 4A on packet page 2, 7E - page 3 and 12C - page 7 from the minutes.
 - Regarding 4A – Bill asked permission to hand-out a copy of a resolution similar to the Portage and Trempealeau county resolutions supporting local control for livestock siting. Bill added he would like to have this put on the September CEED agenda and have the CEED take some action.
 - 7E page 3 – Central Sands Groundwater Study future funding. Bill stated that a meeting has been held and supervisors from other counties attended. He added all is coming together quickly and he asked that this be considered as an agenda item under Committee Reports for future CEED meetings.

- 12C – page 7 – UW Madison Research Update - Nitrates above 30 ppm. Jason Hausler stated that at the time he reached out to Kevin Masarik there was no new technology for research. Following brief discussion, it was the consensus of the CEED to have Kevin Masarik or Mark Borchardt present at a future CEED meeting.

No changes were needed to the July 3, 2019 CEED minutes; just explanation of the items pulled.

- B. Department Bills. No additions or corrections needed.
- C. Staff Activity Reports. No additions or corrections needed.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine/Bill Leichtnam to approve and accept the July 3, 2019 CEED minutes, bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension, and staff activity reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Risk and Injury Report. None.

7. Land & Water Conservation Department.

- A. Introduce new staff. Rodney Mayer, Conservation Program Coordinator, and Maria Lewandowski, Summer Intern, were introduced. Rodney shared he has a degree in Civil Engineering and Wildlife and Forestry Conservation. He has experience working as a Land Information Technician and as an Electrical Engineering Technician, Maria shared she is attending UWSP and majoring in Soil and Land Management.
- B. Discuss 7 County Regional Groundwater Workgroup (now named the Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative – CSGSS) mission and MOU. Nancy Turyk stated she facilitated the 7 County Regional Groundwater Workgroup and gave a brief update.
 - The group split into three small work groups – outreach group, technical group and supervisor group.
 - The formal name is Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative – CSGSS
 - Supervisors leaned towards each county having an MOU.
 - Technical group met and came up with common ground to address. This group consists mostly of Land & Water Conservation staff.
 - Looking at technical advisors for a sampling design.
 - Analysis that is more detailed may be done in “hot spots”.
 - Would like to have an understanding where groundwater is most vulnerable to contamination.
 - Develop tools to provide uniform understanding to protect groundwater.
 - Timeline
 - Mid-September have budget and draft proposal.

Supervisor Leichtnam gave a brief update on the supervisor group meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 21st at 1:30 p.m. at the Adams Library/Community Center. He invited members of the CEED to attend and added supervisors need to be aware of what is going on.

- C. Presentation by John Eron, Weed Commissioner, on Giant Hogweed and request to declare it noxious. Ken Schroeder, Portage County Extension and John Eron, Farmer and Weed Commissioner, gave a presentation on Wild Parsnip and Giant Hogweed Identification and Management. Both of these plants are dangerous invasive plants.
 - Wild Parsnip has a greenish-yellow stem with a flat-topped cluster of yellow flowers. The plant can grow up to 5 feet tall with flowers 2-6 inches wide.
 - It blooms late spring to mid-summer in Wisconsin.

- Giant Hogweed can reach 10 to 15+ feet in height with 1 to 3 inch diameter stems. Flowers are 2 ft. across; white flat-topped clusters. One plant can produce 20,000 seeds.
- Sap from these plants can cause rashes, chemical burns and blistering in presence of sunlight. Giant Hogweed burns are more severe than Wild Parsnip. Blistering may lead to permanent scarring. Contact with eyes can cause temporary and sometimes permanent blindness.
- Ecological Impacts of Giant Hogweed include:
 - Reduced wildlife habitat
 - Increased erosion

John Eron explained management options for both of these invasive plants with the most effective being chemical treatment. Wild Parsnip has been declared noxious in Wood County. Mr. Eron asked Wood County to declare Giant Hogweed noxious as it gives the Weed Commissioner authority to take action to do something to get rid of it.

Mr. Eron explained Wisconsin States 66.0517 – Weed Commissioner. He added he may have to do hard enforcement in the future and wants clarification on how enforcement should be handled. Jason Grueneberg offered the suggestion of starting with Corporation Counsel to get the discussion started.

Supervisor LaFontaine expressed concerns in the event of someone intentionally baling Wild Parsnip in hay bales and selling it. He added with the public safety issues and blistering this could be as serious as the opioid crisis.

Supervisor LaFontaine requested a copy of the presentation. Ken Schroeder will email it to LWCD staff who can forward it to the committee.

- D. Discuss and take action on designating Giant Hogweed as a “noxious weed” along with the former “Wild Parsnip” within the county boundaries. Hogweed is on the state’s prohibited list, which means grants are available for eradication.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine/Harvey Petersen to approve and forward to County Board the resolution designating Giant Hogweed as a noxious weed in Wood County. Motion carried unanimously.

- E. Update Committee on July 19th County Conservationist meeting. Supervisor Ashbeck gave a brief report on the County Conservationist meeting and shared some information he picked up at the meeting.
- F. Future field equipment needs. Chairperson Curry explained that he had a conversation with Lori Ruess yesterday regarding the LWCD’s handheld GPS unit that is not working and unrepairable. This handheld GPS is used by staff to determine acreage of nonmetallic mines for annual permit fees, wildlife damage fence designs, and other projects in the LWCD. Chair Curry mentioned at the Executive meeting the possibility of having a new GPS for LWCD included in the 2020 CIP. However, the request was too late to include in the 2020 CIP and it was suggested that a resolution be put together to purchase the GPS in 2019 from contingency funds.

Adam Groshek mentioned that the LWCD also will need to replace their laser instrument in 2020. The laser is not as costly as the handheld GPS.

- G. Update on Water Quality Task Force Hearing in Stevens Point. Adam Groshek and Supervisor Leichnam reported briefly on the Water Quality Task Force Hearing. Speakers at the hearing included Jen McNelly, Portage County Water Resource Specialist, Mark Borchardt, USDA Research Scientist, Water Well Association, George Kraft, Professor Emeritus, UWSP, Shane

Wucherpennig, Wood County Conservationist and John Eron. Supervisor Leichtnam handed out highlights from the meeting.

- H. Golden Sands RC&D future participation/funding level. Per the March 6, 2019 CEED minutes, Supervisor LaFontaine requested Golden Sands RC&D funding be discussed before the 2020 budget.

- Annual RC&D dues are \$1,900; the CEED approved \$800 for dues in 2019.
- Supervisor Leichtnam is a delegate to Golden Sands RC&D and is in support of increasing dues.
- Most counties do not even pay half of their dues.

Jason Grueneberg suggested Wood County establish a work plan/program with RC&D to identify what we want from them. Discussion followed.

Motion by Ken Curry/Harvey Petersen to maintain the 2020 dues at the current funding level of \$800. Motion carried unanimously.

- I. 2019 Land & Water Continuity of Operations Plan. The Wood County Land & Water Conservation Continuity of Operations Plan was included in the CEED packet. Some minor updates were made to the 2019 plan. The committee should review the plan and if they have any questions or see any needed corrections/changes let the LWCD staff know. The completed plan will be submitted to Emergency Management in the near future.

J. Committee Reports

- i. Citizens Groundwater Group meeting. Supervisor Leichtnam gave a brief report on the July 15th Citizens Groundwater Group meeting. Supervisor Ashbeck presented on Nitrogen/Crop Rotation at the meeting. The Protecting Wisconsin Groundwater document was presented at the Task Force on Groundwater Quality meeting. This included 29 ideas on how to deal with nitrogen in groundwater from the Wood County Citizen's Groundwater Group.

Well water testing was held at the Saratoga Town Hall on August 4th.

- ii. Health Committee Report. Susan Kunferman had to leave the meeting before this agenda item. Bill Leichtnam reported briefly on the monthly teleconference.

The Committee recessed for a short break at 11:11 a.m.

The Committee reconvened at 11:21 a.m.

8. **Private Sewage.** Everything reported in the CEED packet.

9. Land Records.

- A. Update on filling Land Records Coordinator/GIS Specialist position Jason Grueneberg shared interviews took place last week. The number of applications received was low, but Jason was very pleased with the candidates he interviewed. He extended an offer to the first choice candidate and is awaiting acceptance of the offer.

10. **County Surveyor.** None

11. Planning.

- A. Discussion/action on Planning & Zoning Department Fee Schedule.
Jason Grueneberg presented a resolution to amend the Planning & Zoning Office Fee Schedule. Jason commented that the fee schedule has been discussed for three months, County Board

seen the presentation in the County Board Packet and it will be in the upcoming County Board packet. He has not received many comments from supervisors other than from this committee. The resolution shows County Board what the CEED was looking at with the requested fee increase. It mentions:

- Fees have not increased in 10 years.
- In some cases, Wood County fees are the lowest in the State.
- Some fees are being eliminated on the fee schedule.
- References state & regional average.

Jason explained, when fees are established, looking for a fee schedule to work with for 6-10 years. May have excess revenue, but over time it will even out. He added the old fees and proposed fees are attached to the resolution and asked for the Committee's approval of the resolution, so it can be presented to County Board in August with fees being effective September 1, 2019. Discussion followed.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine/Robert Ashbeck to approve and forward to County Board the resolution to amend the Planning & Zoning Office Fee Schedule, provided when it is presented to County Board it highlights some of Wood County's fees are the lowest in the State and fees haven't been raised in ten years. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Update on proposal for well location/abandonment program to be administered by Planning & Zoning. Stevana Hamus stated that a draft of Wood County Ordinance #708 Private Water System was included in the CEED packet. A model ordinance was provided by DNR and Peter Kastenholz has reviewed the draft Wood County Ordinance and had no problems with it. Stevana pointed out two areas in the ordinance where the Planning & Zoning Office is looking for approval or direction from the CEED.
- Page 64 – 708.17 Enforcement Actions # 2B – these forfeiture amounts mimics the forfeiture of private sewage. CEED has no problem with this.
 - Page 64 – 708-18 Fee Schedule currently reads – The private water systems and permit fees will be established by the Wood County CEED Committee and may be modified by motion of that Committee. With this wording, the CEED would control fees. The other option is to change the wording to have County Board approval for fee changes. It was the consensus to submit with option to have future fees approved by CEED.
 - Chairperson Curry recommended including the State is delegating their duties to the County.

12. UW Extension.

A. General Office Update

Jason Hausler shared the following office updates:

- Jennifer Swensen, 4-H Regional Education Specialist started in Wood County.
- Working on repurposing the ETN room to an office.
- It's fair season and staff is working hard on preparation for the Junior Fair.
- Met with Finance Department for 2020 budgets. Small reduction in the UWEX budgets.
- Looking at aligning policies and procedures.

B. Contract between Wood County and Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System.

Jason Hausler reviewed the contract between Wood County and Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System with the CEED. The contract was included in the CEED packet. The contract did not change at all in core language. Jason explained the fee structure on page 66 of the CEED packet.

- Educators flat fee for service.
- 4-H Program Coordinator 100% County funded.
- New Natural Resources Educator position – fee/total could change based on starting salary.

Once the Board of Regents approves the contract, County Representatives will sign.

- C. Natural Resource Educator Update. Jason Hausler shared the Natural Resource Educator position has been posted. Application deadline is August 22nd.
- D. Junior Fair Funding Discussion. Dale Christiansen, Central Wisconsin State Fair Executive Director/Manager, was not able to attend the CEED meeting. He was not able to put together a new detailed report, so submitted the one that was presented to CEED in the spring. Junior Fair expenses total around \$40,000. Discussion followed with questions from the CEED regarding the County's responsibility to support Junior Fair. Jason explained:
- As he understands it, there is no mandate or requirement for the County to fund the Junior Fair.
 - County fairs are eligible for state aid.
 - Central Wisconsin State Fair is a district fair; so not just a county fair.
 - UWEX is advisor to Junior Fair Board, it's a good partnership, but they do not direct the Junior Fair.

Following lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee a more detailed report of revenues and expenses is needed before an increase in county funding is considered.

- 13. Schedule Next Regular Committee Meeting.** The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Wood County Courthouse in Conference Room #115.

14. Agenda items for next meeting.

Under Committee Reports:

- A. Central Sands Groundwater Group Report.
- B. Discuss Resolution Supporting Local Control for Livestock Siting

- 15. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary.** Special CEED meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, August 20, 2019 @ 9:00 a.m., in Room 317A, and Tuesday, August 20, 2019 @ 1:00 p.m., in Room 114.

- 16. Adjourn.** Chairperson Curry declared the meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth A. Curry, Chair

Minutes by Lori Ruess, Land & Water Conservation Department

Review for submittal to County Board by Kenneth A Curry (approved on August 13, 2019 @ 2:20 p.m.)