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MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2015  
CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Wood County Courthouse, Room 115

**Members Present:** Hilde Henkel, Ken Curry, Gerald Nelson, Robert Ashbeck, Bill Leichtnam, Harvey Petersen

**Staff Present:**

- Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg, Jeff Brewbaker.
- UW Extension Staff: Peter Manley, Chris Viau, Amanda Darr
- Land Conservation Dept. Staff: Shane Wucherpennig, Tracy Arnold

**Others Present:**

- Lance Pliml – County Board Chair
  - Bill Clendenning – County Board Supervisor
  - Dennis Polach – County Board Supervisor
  - Steven J. Anderson – REGI
1. **Call meeting to order:** Chairperson Hilde Henkel called the CEED meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
  2. **Public Comments** (*brief comments/statements regarding committee business*)
    - Committee Member Gerald Nelson brought a brochure about the NCWR Planning.
      - The brochure highlights the benefits of joining the program.
      - Dennis Lawrence is a contact for this program and the Committee would like to schedule him to come and talk about this program during next month's meeting.
      - This program covers a multitude of things and it would be beneficial for the Committee to have an update about the program from Dennis.
  3. **Review Correspondence**
    - Committee Member Bill Leichtnam brought up a point about how groundwater protection needs to be a standing agenda item that the Committee discusses regularly
    - Peter Manley from UW-Extension handed the Committee a draft proposal of the State budget cuts and the impacts to UW-Extension.
      - Right now the plan looks like a multi-county area with a local presence component
      - Chris Viau notified the Committee that the final decision will be made by the Extension's Chancellor within the next couple of months.
      - Once Extension has a more concrete idea of the plans they will inform the Committee.
    - Peter also let the Committee know that the Wood County Executive Committee for Farm Tech Days would be visiting the host farm applicants on Thursday October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to decide which farm will be hosting FTD in Wood County for 2018.
    - Jason Gruenberg from Planning and Zoning brought up that there will be a Tribune Building Tour on Friday October 9<sup>th</sup>.
      - If interested you can register with Planning and Zoning.
      - The tour should take a half hour to 45 minutes
      - Jason handed out a brochure to the Committee with information on it regarding the tour.
    - Jason also notified the Committee about a brat fry for November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 for United Way
      - The brat fry will go from 11am – 2pm
      - It will be \$4.00 for a brat, chips, and a cookie
      - It will be held at the Courthouse and employees and Committee members are encouraged to participate
      - Any questions can be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department

#### **4. Consent Agenda**

The Consent Agenda included the following Items:

- 1) Minutes of the September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 CEED meeting, minutes of the September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 CEED meeting.
- 2) Bills from Planning & Zoning, UW Extension and Land Conservation
- 3) Staff activity reports from Jason Grueneberg, Justin Conner, Julie Akey, Jeff Brewbaker, Tracy Arnold, Shane Wucherpennig, Peter Manley, Matt Lippert, Teri Lessig, Sarah Siegel, Jodi Friday and Chris Viau, Kyli Brown.

**Committee Member Gerald Nelson motioned to approve consent agenda, and pay bills of the Planning & Zoning, UW Extension, and Land Conservation departments and Committee Member Ken Curry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **5. Risk and Injury Report**

- Nothing to report for this month.

#### **6. Economic Development**

- A.) Introduce recently hired REGI President, Steve Anderson
  - Steve has been on board with REGI since July of 2015
  - He has a diverse background in both economic development and law
  - Jason noted that Steve was the most qualified and suitable candidate for our area
  - Chairperson Hilde Henkel introduced Steve to all the Committee members
  - Jason brought up a Competitive Assets Assessment
    - He will make this assessment available to the whole board as a PDF
    - Steve is working on projects within the community associated with this assessment
    - Steve is looking at expansions and strategies for growth within the community
      - Retail attractions
      - Mentioned how the area is missing 80-90% of tourism dollars
      - There are 382 retailers looking for sites in Wisconsin and Steve is trying to come up with strategies to reach out to them to see if they'd be interested in this area.
      - Growth within this area is going to take a while; it won't be a quick process.
  - Lance Pliml brought up a point about building businesses
    - 180 degree thinking approach
    - People are drawn into areas due to lifestyle options
    - Businesses will follow the trained worker because people want to live where they can have lifestyle choices and if people are willing to go to an area businesses will follow.
  - Steve brought up the point that this area needs to maintain the workforce that is here right now, it will be an ongoing process but will be more beneficial than just spot developments

#### **7. Planning and Zoning**

- A.) Update on Private Onsite Waste Treatment System mailings
  - Jason handed out a calendar with dates regarding current mailing procedures
    - Reminder notices are sent out in October
    - \$20.00 invoices sent out November 2<sup>nd</sup>
    - The department is working on a quarterly newsletter which they plan to utilize as a marketing tool to let people within the community know about upcoming mailings and due dates.
    - The department also plans to send something to the town's officials to give notices about invoice due dates.
    - There are always some issues with individuals not submitting fees and completing pumping/inspections.

- Jeff Brewbaker suggested moving the due date for the pumping/inspections to August rather than September to help with the delay problems.
- Jason noted that the annual septic maintenance is the responsibility of the owner and is beneficial preventative maintenance.
- Jeff mentioned that he is working on enforcements of deadlines to have septic systems pumped
  - Instead of a 30 day notice he suggested bumping it up to 15 days
  - Sending out a second and third notice was also mentioned
  - By decreasing the length of time individuals have to get their septic systems pumped and notices paid it should speed up the process a bit
  - Committee Member Ken Curry suggested to charge late fees on the \$20.00 invoice due and have the fees compound the later it is neglected.
- Jason will follow up with late payments but due to limited staffing resources they may have to push to have their employees address other office issues.
- Lance made a point that they are looking toward an online method in a lot of areas that would allow people to pay fines and dues online rather than submitting a paper form.
- Committee Chairperson Hilde Henkel noted that the Committee would like updates in January regarding private sewage and the budget.
- B. ) Shoreland Zoning Regulations
  - The changes to Shoreland Zoning Regulations will not affect our shorelands in a dramatic way according to Jason.
  - Other counties may have to make larger changes to accommodate these changes.
  - The resolution would be to oppose the recent changes to Shoreland zoning regulations passes as part of the 2015 Wisconsin Act 55.
  - Ordinances would have to change but it wouldn't cause issues with how permits are being issued out.
  - The proposed regulations would diminish future flexibility to make some ordinance amendments.

**Committee Member Ken Curry motioned to make a resolution to reconsider changes to the Shoreland Zoning Regulations and Committee Member Gerald Nelson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

- Jason will prepare a resolution and the Committee will sign it on County Board day.

#### **8. County Surveyor**

- Nothing to report for this month

#### **9. Land Records**

- Nothing to report for this month

#### **10. Land Conservation**

- A.) Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Program Update
  - Tracy reported on how a graduate student from Madison wanted information regarding public records. The process of providing individuals with public records can be very time consuming. This one individual case took Tracy a total of 2 hours for her to collect all of the information.
  - Tracy commented that in the past she was collecting public records 5 to 6 times a week. Now the number has dropped down but she is still doing about 1 to 2 a week.
  - The DNR Audit that happened on September 3<sup>rd</sup> of this year went well according to Tracy and the department.
    - The auditor was very pleased with the administration of Tracy's programs and thought things overall were going really well.

- Tracy reported on Badger Sandstone
  - It has been permitted since 2004
  - The miners were expecting to be able to get more money for the stone but were unable to and in 2014 redid their plans.
  - Tracy has since been working to have the mine reclaimed.
  - Since the reclamation process had started the miners have done a lot of earthwork and vegetative growth is in process.
  - Transect data has been done on the site.
    - Tracy collected data from 130 various spots around the site
    - She passed out photos to show the Committee the improvements that have been made and all the work that still needs to be completed.
    - She has been spending a lot of time on nonmetallic mines throughout the county since the reclamation process can be very long.
- B.) Invasive Species
  - Purple Loosestrife Program
    - Tracy has done a lot of work with the Purple Loosestrife Program she set up in Wood County
    - She's taken the lessons and information into schools.
    - Students have grown plants in their classrooms as part of projects.
    - Beetles from the DNR that specifically feed on the plants were introduced to the classroom plants.
    - Once the plants were eaten the beetles were released into wild Purple Loosestrife on sites where permission from landowners was granted.
  - Rusty Crayfish
    - This is another program Tracy has introduced into schools within Wood County.
    - Students have traps set out to catch Rusty Crayfish and teachers incorporate lessons about Rusty Crayfish into a research project for students.
    - The traps are set up along the Yellow River as well as North Park
    - Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary takes the crayfish that are captured and uses them for animals in their wildlife facility.
    - The DNR sends questions to the Wood County Land Conservation Department regarding these programs and other schools throughout Wisconsin have asked Tracy to come and help set up the program in their schools. Pulaski near Green Bay was one of the schools Tracy helped start up the program in.
  - Japanese Knot Weed
    - This weed is very invasive.
    - It is so invasive it can break through asphalt.
    - The weed does require more than a 1x per year treatment it requires up to 2x per season
    - The Committee agreed that enforcement of regulations needs to be a push by the towns
    - The DNR has an invasive species rule that has an updated list from 2015 of invasive species listed on their website.
- C.) Consider resolution to amend the 2015 Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims budget for four approved fences.

- The Committee briefly discussed the resolution and the next steps in the process and agreed to amend the 2015 Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims budget for four approved fences.

**Committee Member Ken Curry motioned to approve the resolution to amend the 2015 Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims budget for four approved fences, and Committee Member Bill Leichtnam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

- D.) Approve and accept the low bid for D&B Sternweis Farm Inc., roof runoff and underground outlet project and Heather and Trent Schmitt's waste storage facility project.
  - The Committee briefly discussed each of the items up for approval and agreed to approve them and accept the low bid for the Sternweis Farm.

**Committee Member Harvey Petersen motioned to approve and accept the low bid for D&B Sternweis Farm Inc., roof runoff and underground outlet project and Heather and Trent Schmitt's waste storage facility project, and Committee Member Robert Ashbeck seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

- E.) Review manure runoff complaints and compliance options
  - Manure spreading complaints:
    - Heiman Dairy from Marshfield had a complaint about their manure tank overflowing and discharging to a road ditch
      - A new pump has been put in and the farm is currently working with an engineer to make a more efficient system with less error.
    - Excessive spreading complaint in the Town of Richfield
      - 15-20 unconfined manure stacks in a water quality management area were called in to Land Conservation.
      - Shane gave the farmer options and followed up with him and suggested a side contractor may be necessary to resolve the issue.
    - Committee Member Bill Leichtnam brought up the Central Sands Dairy and his concerns with some of the land being in Wood County as they are spraying manure.
      - Shane said he will look into it and contact necessary people to see if there is an issue with the manure spraying being close to the County.
      - The Committee agreed that during the special meeting in November for Land Conservation they would address this issue more extensively.

## **11. UW-Extension**

- A.) Clean Sweep Update
  - Peter Manley passed out some photos to the Committee from the Clean Sweep event that was held on October 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Town of Saratoga.
  - 7,500lbs of materials were collected during the Clean Sweep.
  - As far as traffic the event was not overly busy but the employees who helped out with the event stayed very busy throughout the day.
  - Florescent tubes are not a part of the collection items - ACE and Hillars collects these items though.
  - Motor oil was another item that was not accepted.
  - Prescription medicines were also not collected at this event since there was an Rx Drop-off at the police stations throughout Wood County all year.

- Peter noted that the only item the Clean Sweep was unsure of how to dispose of was small LP tanks. He concluded that further research of proper disposal will need to be done before the next Clean Sweep takes place.
- Bill Clendenning noted that the Town of Grand Rapids has applied for a grant of \$56,000.00 to collect items as well and that this is not to compete with or replace the Clean Sweep but to offer residents other options for proper disposal of chemicals and waste items.
- Overall, Peter said the event was very successful and residents were glad the event had taken place.
- B.) Fair Update
  - The Junior Fair started on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> – Entry Day
    - This was also the first day of school so it was a little challenging
    - It was the lowest number of Junior Fair entries in 8 years.
    - The number of exhibitors stayed relatively the same
    - There was a high rate of “no-shows” – 34%
    - Fair & Junior Fair Boards are working with UW-Extension to utilize technology better.
      - Future of Extension will impact how much support can be given to the Junior Fair from the Extension Office.
- C.) Parenthetical: Using Extension Resources for Local Needs
  - Chris Viau – UW-Extension’s 4-H Youth Development Agent presented a presentation to the Committee about a resource the UW-Extension Office utilizes regularly to work with youth and families.
    - myparenthetical.com is the website Chris showcased.
    - It is a partnership with the UW-Madison Human Ecology Department and UW-Extension.
    - It is staffed by UW-Extension specialists and provides research based and unbiased information regarding parenting information.
    - Chris personally uses these topics in newsletters, radio segments, and in 4-H lessons with 4-H groups.
    - Sarah Siegel from the UW-Extension Office and Chris applied for a grant and received money to do an outreach campaign. The outreach campaign will allow them to host workshops to let people in the community know what resources and tools are available to them with regards to parenting information.
- After Chris finished his presentation the Committee along with Chris and Peter discussed some of the restructuring that will be coming to UW-Extension with the budget cuts.
  - The Committee agreed to have Peter and UW-Extension keep them updated on any information they receive regarding restructuring.

**Committee Member Robert Ashbeck motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Committee Member Bill Leichtnam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 9:00 am in Room 115. This meeting will just include UW-Extension and Planning and Zoning. Land Conservation will have a special meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 9:00 am in Room 115.

*Kenneth A. Leung*

Recording Secretary – (Amanda Darr)