

MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY JULY 1, 2015
CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, July 1, 2015

TIME: 9:15 a.m.

LOCATION: Wood County Courthouse, Room 113

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

Staff Present:

- Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg, Justin Conner
- UW Extension Staff: Peter Manley, Amanda Darr
- Land Conservation Dept. Staff: Shane Wucherpennig, Tracy Arnold, Andrea Taylor

Others Present:

- Bill Clendenning
- Dennis Polach
- Lance Pliml

1. Call meeting to order: Chairperson Hilde Henkel called the CEED meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

2. Public Comments (*brief comments/statements regarding committee business*)

There were no public comments made.

3. Review Correspondence

Jason Grueneberg made a comment regarding an invitation for supervisors to attend Lunch by the River on Thursday July 2nd at 10:30 to learn more about the Wisconsin Rapids Downtown development plans.

4. Discuss Guidelines for Conference Attendance

- Chairperson Hilde Henkel brought up that new committee members should attend conferences.
- Committee Member Bill Leichtnam requested permission to attend a conference for LCD issues regarding phosphorous. The meeting is scheduled to be held in Wisconsin Rapids. He requested he be allowed to attend since supervisors are encouraged to attend.
- Chairperson Hilde Henkel denied the request for Committee Member Bill Leichtnam to attend since Shane Wucherpennig would be attending and could report back to the committee on the issues discussed.
- Committee Member Ken Curry suggested if Bill wanted to attend the committee would just need to know the cost. If the cost was too much of a concern Bill could pay his own fee and report back.
- It was decided that the committee would not send Committee Member Bill Leichtnam to the conference but he was welcome to attend on his own and report back if he would like.

5. Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda included the following Items:

- 1) Minutes of the June 3, 2015 CEED meeting, minutes of the June 9th, 2015 CEED meeting and minutes of the June 16th, 2015 Joint Meeting with the Executive Committee,
- 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.

Gerald Nelson motioned to approve consent agenda, and pay bills of the Planning & Zoning, UW Extension, and Land Conservation departments, Bill Leichtnam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Risk and Injury Report

- There was nothing to report for this month.

7. Planning & Zoning

A. Introduction of the newly-hired County Planner, April Opatik

- April was out of the office on site today and was unable to attend the meeting. Jason will introduce her at the upcoming August CEED meeting.

B. Discussion and possible action on setting a fee for establishing the boundary of existing cranberry farms under the recently amended Floodplain Ordinance.

- Jason Grueneberg discussed how the department is trying to come up with a way to create a reasonable fee schedule for Wood County and also find the best way to go about charging fees to cover costs.

He also discussed how the pilot project would work:

- Staff would be meeting in the office or going on site to work directly with the landowners
- Additional services may need to be contacted depending on how long it takes to determine the landowner's floodplains (i.e. surveyors)
- Jeff Brewbaker from the Planning & Zoning department had mentioned to Jason previously that he may be more comfortable proposing a cost after visiting a marsh and working with a landowner or two.
- Chairperson Hilde Henkel asked if it would make sense to start with a base fee and then reevaluate the fee cost based on each individual farm. She suggested starting with a fee around \$100.00 and then reviewing it again at the end of the summer.
- Jason agreed that this number would be a good start.
- Chairman Lance Pliml suggested that Jason and the department talk with Tom Lochner from the Wisconsin Cranberry Growers Association and see where the cranberry growers may be standing with this issue. The department may be underestimating what the growers are willing to pay.
- Chairperson Hilde Henkel suggested that Jason talk with the growers and come up with a number that would be suitable for the time being and address this at the County Board Meeting.
- Jason agreed with the proposed plan and will bring any updates to the next CEED meeting.

8. Economic Development

A. Consider resolution to continue participation in the Central Housing Region.

- The program has a 0% interest rate for housing repairs
- The program encompasses 9 counties – 9 County Consortium
- Jason brought a resolution to the meeting to utilize 2014 funding.
 - There is \$7 ½ million dollars available
 - Approximately \$200,000 available to Wood County
- Overall this program is a great resource and Jason stressed how important it is to refer people to this program.
- The recommendation was made to include language that would automatically renew the resolution every two-years unless terminated and better clarify the wording “decent housing” in the resolution.

<p>Ken Curry motioned to approve the resolution as amended with revisions, and Bill Leichtnam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously</p>

- Discussion regarding becoming a member of the North Central Regional Planning Commission:
 - Jason explained that if the county were to sign up as a paying member of the North Central Regional Planning Commission, this would cost less than municipalities in the county signing up individually.

- Chairperson Hilde Henkel would like Jason to look further into the benefits of signing up to be a member of the North Central Regional Planning Commission.

9. County Surveyor

- There was nothing to report for this month.

10. Land Records

- Justin Conner gave an update on the air photo project and discussed how the data can be checked at the end of July. The photographs will be ready by the end of August and the entire project will be completed by the end of the year.

11. Land Conservation

A. Consider resolution approving the 2015 Wood County Farmland Preservation Plan.

- Shane Wucherpennig gave a brief review of the topics discussed during the public hearing held prior to the CEED Committee Meeting:
 - The Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program (FFP) provides income tax credits to Wisconsin farmers in exchange for keeping land in agricultural use and maintaining compliance with soil and water conservation requirements.
 - Most counties have had a Farmland Preservation Plan since the early 1980's. Wood County's first plan was approved by County Board in 1984. This plan has not been updated since that time and is consequently largely out of date and not representative of current land use in the County.
 - In 2009, the Farmland Preservation Law changed to require all counties to update their Farmland Preservation Plan. Since that requirement came into effect, over 30 counties have updated their plans. Another 42 counties are scheduled to expire before December 31, 2017.
- Shane asked that the resolution be sent to County Board and discussed how there were no final implications to CEED from here on.

Gerald Nelson motioned to send the resolution to County Board, and Robert Ashbeck seconded the motion. The Farmland Preservation Plan passed unanimously.

B. Conservation Engineering Technician Position Update

- Shane Wucherpennig gave an update on the department's progress with the open position for a Conservation Engineer Technician
 - The position was posted on the County website
 - There were 15 total applicants which were then narrowed down to 3 candidates.
 - 2 candidates declined their interview dates
 - 1 candidate was interviewed on June 22nd, 2015
 - The final candidate met all the requirements and had a well-rounded background. Shane feels he will be a great addition to the department.
 - His name is Adam Grosheck, and he is from Portage County.
 - His start date is set for July 13th, 2015.

C. Consider options for date of fall CEED tour

- Tracy Arnold suggested some dates for the upcoming CEED tour.
 - She suggested having it sometime in September, possibly looking at the 23rd – 30th
- Peter Manley suggested that for the Extension portion of the tour the group could possibly stop at the Marshfield Agricultural Research Station or the Backpacks Program.
- Shane Wucherpennig suggested for their department stopping at some barns located in Marshfield.
- Jason Grueneberg said he will be able to pick out some sites based on the trip layout and route.
- Chairperson Hilde Henkel advised departments to report back at the next meeting with a date and a rough draft of an itinerary.

D. Transect data update

- Tracy Arnold discussed how the department has developed a transect data project to provide the county with crop, erosion, tillage, and residue data.
- Her intern for the summer, Andrea Taylor, has been a huge help in recording the data.
 - Andrea came up with a way to display information using aerial maps that shows the transect data within the county.
 - Tracy uses the aerial maps to direct where to go to assess the crop, erosion, tillage, and residue for the county while the intern drives the truck.
 - The transect data is beneficial to see where the county stands in comparison to neighboring counties and counties throughout the state.
- Shane discussed how this information is really important and how it will be influential in further research. Sue Porter from DATCP came to visit the department recently and discussed with Shane that if Wood County is able to give her the transect data she'll be able to pull the information into their SNAP Program and GPS databases. This will give the county additional tools and resources to further their data.
- Andrea Taylor also gave a brief presentation of the data already collected and passed around the transect data aerial maps for the Committee to view.
- The Committee was very impressed with her work and was interested to hear updates throughout the project as to how the transect data continues to further data within Wood County.

E. Summer Intern Update

- Tracy Arnold introduced Andrea Taylor as the summer intern for the department.
 - Andrea has been working as an intern for the department since the second week in May.
 - Over the past couple months she has been working on projects within the department such as:
 - Revising the brochures for the department
 - Creating new brochures to highlight other resources available that the department offers
 - Working with Tracy Arnold to collect transect data
 - Compiling transect data into tables and charts
 - Revising the maps used to assess transect data
- The Committee was impressed with the work Andrea has been doing during her time as an intern for the department.

12. UW-Extension

A. Encourage Economic & Professional Development

- Peter Manley introduced the topic and discussed what it all entails:
 - Blueprints for Tomorrow – a professional development program combining training, coaching, and community knowledge with evolving design and finance tools, to achieve together, projects that support community projects.
 - The curriculum sessions will begin in September and go through April (8 months)
 - 2 trainings/month
 - No charge to attend
 - Meetings are held at the Mead
 - Allows community organizations to participate in community change and development
- Both Peter and Jason are interested in participating.
- Jason discussed how this is a great opportunity to develop relationships with other departments and community organizations. This project could turn into a legacy for the community and is a great way to promote Wood County. He asked the committee for approval and support to participate.

Gerald Nelson motioned to approve participation of Peter Manley and Jason Gruenberg, and Robert Ashbeck seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

B. Financial Capability

- Sarah Siegel presented a PowerPoint presentation on the financial capability classes she is holding for residents within the community.
 - Financial budgeting has been identified as a need within the community
 - The classes teach basic financial principles to attendees
 - The classes are once a month and are held during the lunch hour. (Lunch & Learn)
 - The program is called the “Take 5 Financial Capability Program”
 - The program has 5 steps
 - Create a Plan
 - Set a Goal
 - Plan a Savings
 - Build an Emergency Fund
 - Take Charge
 - Committee Member Ken Curry asked how participation was so far since the program began.
 - Sarah responded that participation is still relatively low but she has had people contacting her regarding credit reports and credit scores.
 - Funding for the program is through the United Way.
 - For 2015 the program has \$3200.00
 - For 2016 the program has \$3000.00
 - Community partners such as; NACCP, Family Center, Childcaring, McMillian Library, MSTC, ADRC, South Wood County Hunger Coalition, Wood County Homelessness Coalition, were all mentioned as partners in this program.
 - The Committee discussed how this is an important topic that people within the community should be using as a resource, and also how students in schools should be given the opportunity to gain some of this knowledge as well.
 - Sarah concluded that although participation is still low, she is hopeful that with the updated marketing and networking techniques she and her department are using, there will be more accessibility for people to gain the information.
- The Committee agreed to have the next meeting scheduled at the Courthouse and to have the following in September in Marshfield on September 2nd.

Bill Leichtnam motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Harvey Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Kenneth A. Curry