

MINUTES  
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2020  
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #114, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Kenneth Curry, Bill Leichtnam, Robert Ashbeck, Dave LaFontaine, Jake Hahn and Carmen Good.

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn and Kim Keech.  
Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpfennig.  
UW Extension Staff: Jason Hausler, Laura Huber (via WebEx) and Karli Tomsyck (via WebEx).

Others Present: Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendenning and Dist. #16 Supervisor Lance Pliml (via WebEx), Nancy Eggleston, Wood County Health Department (via WebEx) and Kim McGrath, Wood County Human Resources (via WebEx).

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.** None
4. **Review Correspondence.** Shane Wucherpfennig shared that David Christensen started in their office as an intern 2-3 weeks ago. David Christensen attends college at UW-Stevens Point. He will be introduced at the next CEED Committee meeting.
5. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the May 6, 2020 CEED meetings, 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW-Madison Division of Extension and 3) staff activity reports from Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, Paul Bernard, Jeff Brewbaker, Kim Keech, Victoria Wilson, Shane Wucherpfennig, Adam Groshek, Rod Mayer, Emily Salvinski, Caleb Armstrong, Lori Ruess, David Christensen, Matt Lippert, Nancy Turyk, Jackie Carattini, Laura Huber, Hannah Wendels, Kelly Hammond, Rachael Whitehair and Allison Jonjak.
  - A. Minutes of May 6, 2020. No additions or corrections needed.
  - B. Department Bills. No additions or corrections needed.
  - C. Staff Activity Reports. No additions or corrections needed

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve and accept the May 6, 2020 CEED minutes, bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW-Madison Division of Extension, and staff activity reports as presented. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.*

6. **Risk and Injury Report.** None

7. **Land & Water Conservation Department.**

- A. Sales of 12'x12' overhead door. A 16'x12' overhead door was purchased to accommodate the No-till Drill that was 6" too big for the 12'x12' overhead door. Shane Wucherpfennig shared that he would like to sell the 12'x12' overhead door because it is taking up space and have had a few inquiries to sell the door. Shane Wucherpfennig would like guidance from the committee on selling the overhead door and then applying to CIP for the Roller Crimper or back to contingency.

*Motion by Kenneth Curry to allow the Department Head to attempt to sell the 12'x12' overhead door checking with Steve Kreuser as to the sale appropriated by the CEED Committee to delegate the proceeds once sold. Second by Jake Hahn. Motion carried unanimously.*

- B. Update of Department Status. Shane Wucherpfennig shared that the office is fully staffed as of 3 weeks ago. All technology equipment has been returned. Appointments are either in the office with limited onsite visits. River Block is still closed to the general public.
- C. Update of River Block re-opening. Shane Wucherpfennig commented that River Block is expected to open in 2-3 weeks. A date has not been determined. The re-opening of River Block will be the consensus of the Department Heads.

Shane Wucherpfennig shared that the No-till Drill has been booked solid since spring with over 500 acres tilled. Two landowners have purchased a No-till Drill after renting it from Land & Water Conservation Department.

Land & Water Conservation had a liability of \$20,000 for the tree sale that was cancelled. The Department was able to reduce the liability to approximately \$6,100.

D. Committee Reports

- i. Citizens Groundwater Group meeting Bill Leichtnam commented that the Citizen's Groundwater Committee meeting has not met since February due to COVID-19. A possible meeting at River Block or a virtual meeting is being discussed for the June meeting.
- ii. Health Committee report A conference call took place with the Armenia Growers Coalition (AGC) with an update on the MOU on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. The next teleconference is scheduled for August.

Water testing was completed on 15 homes with reverse osmosis systems installed in the Armenia/Port Edwards area. The purpose of the sampling was to verify that RO systems are providing a safe water source for these homes. All kitchen faucet samples tested at safe levels for nitrate in drinking water. One home requested two tests, one installed by AGC at the kitchen sink, and another system that was on an icemaker. The icemaker sample exceeded the nitrate standard. Thirteen homes in this area are seasonal and another round of post RO sampling will be done during the summer months.

AGC Reports:

- 3 water deliveries per week over the past two months, a downturn in deliveries primarily due to the amount of homeowners who had RO systems installed and no longer need bottled water.
- 63 installations of free water filtration systems which included two years' worth of filters.
- 7 installations of free special water filtration systems and booster pumps for >30 (this total is included in the 63 installs).
- Provided reimbursements to the equivalent cost of AGC installed RO systems for 6 residents who have proven they have installed their own system and official county post RO results are below 10 ppm.
- 14 residents who have requested a system still need installation. Most residents in this category need to return an Access Agreement or have requested more information.

The AGC provided a draft plan of the farmer led initiative that was slated to begin in 2019 per the MOU. The stated purpose was to determine the movement of nitrate in soil and groundwater in the land application agricultural fields surrounding the Central Sands Dairy. It involved monitoring wells, and determination of groundwater flow in the area. The DNR responded to this draft with extensive comments, beginning with the purpose of the proposed study differing from that laid out in the MOU, and the study area does not encompass the entire agricultural corridor. The farmer led initiative plan will be distributed

when it is finalized. UW Researchers are working with the DNR on the groundwater study that was referenced in the MOU. This study is funded by the DNR and the AGC. The project was delayed by the University going online due to COVID-19. They are beginning field work now.

- iii. Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative (CSGWCC) Committee Report. A virtual meeting was scheduled for Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> with 6 counties participating with 22 in attendance virtually.

The speaker was Wisconsin Representative Katrina Shankland. The Wisconsin Assembly passed 160 bills in early February. The Wisconsin Senate was to meet on March 24<sup>th</sup> to vote on the 160 bills which included the 13 Water bills. COVID-19 prevented the Wisconsin Senate from meeting.

Bill Leichtnam commented that there is a resolution going before the Judicial & Legislative Committee on Friday to ask the Wisconsin Senate to hold an extraordinary session to vote on the 160 bills that included the 13 water bills which should have been voted on in March.

*Motion by Jake Hahn to sign on to the resolution to request that the Wisconsin Senate hold an extraordinary session to vote on the 13 water bills. Second by Bill Leichtnam.*

Chairman Curry shared that the motion is premature because the resolution doesn't exist. A meeting with the Judicial & Legislature Committee needs to be set before County Board to sign on to the resolution. A meeting will be scheduled with Judicial & Legislature Committee on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Motion was withdrawn.

*Motion at 9:55 a.m. to go into closed session by Kenneth Curry. Second by Dave LaFontaine.*

*Roll Call Vote: Dave LaFontaine - Aye, Robert Ashbeck - Aye, Kenneth Curry - Aye, Bill Leichtnam - Aye and Jake Hahn - Aye.*

8. **Private Sewage.** Action by the CEED Committee during closed session has been filed in the Wood County Clerk's Office.

*Motion at 10:30 a.m. to go into open session by Kenneth Curry. Second by Dave LaFontaine.*

*Roll Call Vote: Dave LaFontaine - Aye, Robert Ashbeck - Aye, Kenneth Curry - Aye, Bill Leichtnam - Aye and Jake Hahn - Aye.*

Jason Grueneberg shared that Private Sewage sanitary permits are up and it has been a very busy construction year for contractors.

9. **Land Records.** Staff report in the packet.

10. **County Surveyor.** None.

#### 11. **Planning.**

- A. Review/Action on The Grand Pines – First Addition Subdivision Plat. Adam DeKleyn explained the request for the preliminary plat for The Grand Pines – First Addition Subdivision in the Town of Grand Rapids. The parcel is owned by Ruesch Land Development LLC proposing 12 lots ranging from 0.5-1.3 acres in lot size. The Wood County Land Subdivision Ordinance is administered countywide within the unincorporated areas of the county. This ordinance regulates procedures and standards for dividing a parcel of land into smaller parcels. Preliminary plat was sent to the Town of Grand Rapids for comment/review. Additional, copies of the subdivision were sent to the following review agencies for comment /review: County Treasurer's Office, County

Surveyor, Highway Department, Emergency Management, Sheriff's Department and applicable utilities. Planning & Zoning staff has reviewed the request and recommends to conditionally approve the preliminary plat of The Grand Pines – First Addition Subdivision.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to conditionally approve the preliminary plat of The Grand Pines – First Addition Subdivision in the Town of Grand Rapids. Second by Kenneth Curry. Motion carried unanimously.*

- B. Discuss creating a Broadband Forward Community Ordinance. Jason Grueneberg shared that he will contact counties who have a Broadband Forward Community Ordinance. The purpose of the ordinance is to expedite the review process for Broadband by having a point of contact in the county.
- C. Discuss Planning & Zoning COVID-19 response and strategy to reopen office in future. Jason Grueneberg shared that the office is now open to the public. Most communication continues through telephone, internet, mail and email. Plexiglas is temporary installed on the front counter. Staff will stagger times in the office and as confidence level increases staff will be utilizing the office more. Signage will be created to allow one person in the office at a time.

## 12. Economic Development

- A. Update on the Rural Economic Development Innovation Initiative. Jason Grueneberg shared that the REDI Grant has been put on hold due to COVID-19. The goal is to have the REDI document completed by the end of 2020. The USDA has extended the completion of the REDI Grant to 1 year. Purdue University teleconference once per month with the coordinators. Next meeting, may be a virtual platform.
- B. General Economic Development update. Jason Grueneberg shared that the Economic Development Roundtable used to meet quarterly but has been meeting weekly via WebEx every Thursday @ 9:00 a.m. due to COVID-19. COVID-19 has put a whole new spin changing Economic Development to Economic Recovery. Unemployment is ranging from 16%-18%. Loss in sales tax for governments. Revenue is down for businesses. Some Economic Development projects may not be completed. The roundtable is made up of a variety of partners such as Heart of Wisconsin, Ho Chunk Gaming, Visit Marshfield, UWSP, City of Wisconsin Rapids, City of Marshfield, Marshfield Chamber of Commerce, MSTC, UW – Madison Division of Extension, United Way, Incourage and UWSP. Meeting notes are in the packet.

Economic Development (Personal Protection Equipment) has been meeting once per week on Tuesday's by WebEx. Meetings are scheduled at 9:00 a.m. Meeting notes are in the packet.

- C. North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission update. North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission is in weekly conversation at the Economic Development Roundtable and has adjusted priorities due to COVID-19. Appointments have been approved from the State of Wisconsin. The following appointments: Dave LaFontaine (State appointee) and Jerry Nelson (Wood County appointee). The Wood County and State joint approval of Doug Machon has not yet been acted on yet.

## 13. UW-Madison Division of Extension.

### A. General Office Update

Jason Hausler shared the following office updates:

- State contracted employees are working remotely from home till the end of June.
- Plexiglas temporary installed on the counter.
- Due to social distancing constraints work space will be staggered to accommodate 6' social distancing.
- Working on Human Resources employee matters.

- State Staff will be furloughed between May 15<sup>th</sup> – October 31<sup>st</sup>. Furlough days are based on current salary. County share will be returned.
  - A decision to hold the Central Wisconsin State Fair will be made in early July. Extension programming is separate from fair programming due to insurance and liability.
  - 2020 Budget – Savings in staff furlough days, travel and open position. Department is being cautious on spending.
  - 2021 Budget – \$10,000 Educator Discount will remain. 2% increase to co-funded full-time positions in the amount of approximately \$1,700.
- B. County Board Presentation. Jason Hausler explained that a presentation at the monthly County Board meeting has taken place the last 2 years and asked the committee for feedback. Public who utilizes the UW-Madison Division of Extension understand what they do better than the general public. Consensus is to have a slide show presentation highlighting staff, sharing an update on the reorganization that took place 3 years ago and project programming.
- C. Educational Presentation-Laura Huber. Laura Huber gave a presentation on her role in Extension and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Extension Staff has been doing programming virtually while working from home.

Educational Programming:

- 4-H Creative Arts Day – Creative Arts Day was cancelled due to COVID-19. A YouTube video was created to show case Wood County 4-H talent. YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Ar-XDKZQmE&t=68s>
  - “Flat Stanley” 4-H pen pal project – Partnered with five other counties. Youth participants mailed a paper doll to another youth to journal for a week.
  - Provided educational curriculum based activity packets to the Boys and Girls Club for distribution with dinner in April and May.
  - Lego Club & Art Club – Held virtually every Sunday afternoon along with eight other counties. Open to all youth (4-H and non 4-H).
  - Virtual “Summer Camp...In A Box 2020” programming with seven other counties. The focus of summer camp is to share lifelong memories as a family. Summer camp is open to all youth (4-H and non 4-H) ages 5K and older. The cost is \$10 for the first camper and \$3 for each additional camper. Register at: <https://bit.ly/lumberjackcamper>
- 14. Schedule Next Regular Committee Meeting.** The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at Wood County Courthouse in Conference Room #114.
- 15. Agenda items for next meeting.** Agenda items are due by Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>.
- 16. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary.** A special joint CEED Committee and Judicial & Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 a.m. Location to be determined.
- 17. Adjourn.** Chairman Curry declared the meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Minutes by Kim Keech, Planning & Zoning Office