

MINUTES
 CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2016
 WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #115, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Hilde Henkel, Robert Ashbeck, Kenneth Curry, Peter Hendler, Bill Leichtnam and Harvey Petersen

Member Excused:

Staff Present: Land & Water Conservation Staff – Shane Wucherpennig, Lori Ruess and Wednesday Jordan
 Planning & Zoning Staff – Jeff Brewbaker
 UW Extension Staff – Peter Manley, Matt Lippert and Sarah Siegel

Others Present: District #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, County Board Chairman Lance Pliml, Jeffrey Gaier, Marshfield Airport, Jeremy Sickler, Alexander Field Airport, Joel Kuehnold, Golden Sands RC&D, Bruce Dimick, PWC

1. **Call CEED Committee Meeting to Order.** Chairperson Hilde Henkel called the CEED meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Public Comment.** There was no public comment.
3. **Review Correspondence.** Peter Manley brought Wood County Clean Sweep brochures and posters for anyone who wanted to take them. The Clean Sweep will be held September 24, 2016 at the Marshfield Fairgrounds.
4. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the May 4, 2016 CEED meeting 2) bills from, Planning & Zoning/Surveyor/Economic Development, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension and 3) staff activity reports from Jason Grueneberg, April Opatik, Justin Conner, Julie Akey, Jeff Brewbaker, Heather Marquardt, Shane Wucherpennig, Tracy Arnold, Adam Groshek, Lori Ruess, Peter Manley, Matt Lippert, Sarah Siegel, Jodi Friday, Chris Viau, and Kyli Brown.
 - a. Minutes of May 4, 2016 CEED Meeting. No additions or corrections needed.
 - b. Department Bills. No additions or corrections needed.
 - c. Staff Activity Reports. A correction to Jeff Brewbaker's staff activity report was noted. The Cranberry Farm tour at Glacial Lake Cranberries is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Friday June 3rd not June 17th. Discussion will be held later in the meeting on a couple Planning & Zoning issues (8A) and a Land & Water Conservation issue.

Motion by Robert Ashbeck to approve and accept the May 4, 2016 CEED minutes and the bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension as presented and staff activity reports from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation, and UW Extension with the corrected date for the Cranberry Farm Tour. Second by Harvey Petersen. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Risk and Injury Report.** Nothing new to report this month.

With no opposition, Chairperson Henkel moved up agenda item 7A.

Annual Update from Alexander Field and Marshfield Municipal Airport. Jeff Gaier, Marshfield Airport Manager thanked Wood County for their monetary contributions to the airport. He gave an update on current projects and future expansion that could take place at the airport. He added that they have their very first jet on the field and rebuilding of the main runway will take place in 2018 or 2019.

Jeff Gaier, introduced Jeremy Sickler, Alexander Field Airport Manager. Jeremy was hired as Manager of Alexander Field in early 2016. Prior to accepting the manager position in Wisconsin Rapids, he managed the Burnett County airport in Siren, Wisconsin. Jeremy also thanked Wood County for their monetary contributions. He gave a brief update on future developments at Alexander Field that could economically benefit Wood County.

Bruce Dimick asked about future taxi or rental car service at the airport. Jeremy stated it's not the airport's responsibility, however a taxi or rental car service could certainly be offered through a private investor in the future.

Bill Leichtnam asked if any terminal upgrades were planned to host people who would be flying in to golf at Sand Valley. Per Jeremy, currently there are no upgrades planned, but even \$10,000 from each of the four municipalities could help with ground/terminal improvements. Revenues for the airport are generated from sales of fuel and tax revenues from the four municipalities. There is no landing or take off fees/sales or federal or state money for daily operations. There is however, state and federal money for upgrades (i.e. large hangers).

Peter Manley asked about the current status of the proposed dog park. Jeremy stated that the original proposed site didn't work out and he hasn't heard if there would be another proposal for a different site on the airport grounds.

Chairperson Henkel stated if there is a meeting room available at the airport, the CEED Committee would like to meet and tour the Wisconsin Rapids airport in the near future. Jeremy stated a meeting room is available at the airport and the CEED is welcome to tour the facility.

- 6. Report on Golden Sands RC&D Project from Joel Kuehnhold.** Joel Kuehnhold, Golden Sands RC&D's Assistant Director, Grazing Specialist, and Forester, introduced himself to the committee. He stated he was attending the meeting to give a brief report on Golden Sands RC&D. Topics covered in his report included: What is a Resource Conservation & Development Council. How does a county benefit and use a relationship with RC&D? How are new projects created and continued? He also wanted to discuss how Wood County has benefited from their relationship with Golden Sands RC&D and can the relationship between Wood County and RC&D be improved for future projects.

A list of all projects that RC&D assists with, as well as the 2015/2016 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Summary, was handed out to the committee. Programs/assistance in Wood County includes: grazing issues, AIS, Woods & Wildlife, new demo forest site, forestry, Central Wisconsin Windshed, Invaders of the Water, and fiscal sponsor of the Friends of Mill Creek. The Prairie Chicken Festival will be sold as it was not profitable for the Council.

Following the report a couple of questions were asked. Bill Leichtnam asked about the Invaders of Waters project and if it is currently being used in Wood County schools. Joel stated that the Invaders of Waters project is geared towards elementary students and the curriculum can be given to teachers, or staff could go into the classrooms. Wood County could also do a field day that RC&D would facilitate. Ken Curry stated he doesn't understand the actual structure of this organization and still has concerns. Joel stated that the organization is very strong at this time and he feels that the concerns have been dealt with since the hiring of new staff. Bob Ashbeck added Golden Sands RC&D was excellent when they helped with Mill Creek.

7. Economic Development

- a. Annual Update from Alexander Field and Marshfield Municipal Airport. – This item was moved up on the agenda.

8. Planning & Zoning

- a. Update on Community Assistance Visit (CAV) and unresolved floodplain violations. Jeff Brewbaker reported on four violations found during the CAV. P & Z staff have researched files and found records on these violations. All four structures are part of a large complex of storage buildings (same location and landowners). Prior to construction of the buildings, the owners did not obtain a floodplain permit. Following research of several key documents and elevation surveys, it was determined the structures were built to the flood protection elevation. The base flood elevation was already identified and the grade surrounding these structures is above this height. Past staff was not requiring permits because the ground level is above the base flood or 100 year flood height. Since the floodplain map covered the site, a permit is required. Following lengthy discussion on how to handle the after the fact permit fee, the CEED authorized Planning & Zoning to go ahead with the standard permit rules (as written in the ordinance - \$50 fee per activity).

Jeff reported the POWTS audit last week went very well. Lance Pliml questioned why POWTS revenues were down this year compared to last, when there were three more systems installed this year. Jeff stated the difference is because of installation of different systems.

Revisions to the Shoreland Ordinance need to be completed by early fall. Jeff or Jason should communicate with Chairperson Henkel when setting a Public Hearing date and the Ordinance should be ready for presentation to County Board in September.

9. County Surveyor. Nothing to report

With no opposition, Chairperson Henkel moved up agenda item 13A.

Shane Wucherpfennig introduced Wednesday Jordan, LWCD Summer Intern. Wednesday is a student at UW Stevens Point majoring in Soil and Land Management and Water Resources. Wednesday's internship will be through August 23rd.

10. Discussion/Action on Process for Water Protection Policies for Wood County.

Chairperson Henkel stated with the recent concerns with water protection in Wood County, she would like to propose a change to the current water protection policy. Water protection is everyone's goal and she feels the CEED has the expertise to deal with water protection issues and concerns. She stated that we already have "boots on the ground" with qualified staff in Land & Water Conservation and Planning and Zoning Departments. These departments work daily with landowners on water quality issues. Enforcement is not the only answer; we need to find ways to provide incentives for landowners to make the best use of land and water while protecting our natural resources. Her suggestion was to form a Water Protection Subcommittee within the CEED Committee. Lengthy Discussion followed.

Lance Pliml explained; with the forming of the Water Protection Subcommittee under the CEED Committee the Judicial & Legislative Wood County Water Protection Subcommittee would dissolve; however, the Judicial & Legislative Committee would still do lobbying.

Bill Leichtnam stated that water issues of this state will only be resolved through legislation and the subcommittee should stay with the Judicial and Legislative Committee. He added, the Water Protection Subcommittee of the Judicial & Legislative Committee has made significant progress in the last three weeks.

At 11:12 a.m. Peter Hendler requested a five minute recess that was approved by Chairperson Henkel. The meeting reconvened at 11:17 a.m.

Discussion continued. Kenneth Curry stated there is no doubt that the CEED Committee holds the expertise in water quality and other natural resource concerns and it is the job of the Judicial & Legislative Committee to lobby in Madison; however, he would like to discuss who would be on the new subcommittee. Peter Hendler agreed that it would be most appropriate for the subcommittee to be part of the CEED and to let the Judicial & Legislative Committee do the lobbying.

Chairperson Henkel reiterated water protection is everyone's goal and long range strategic planning is needed as well as better ways of defining the subcommittee's mission and that it is important to work closely with the Land & Water Conservation Department and Planning & Zoning Department staff.

Bill Leichtnam stated he would not support a Water Protection Subcommittee of the CEED unless it was absolutely clear who is on the committee and how long there would be a subcommittee, as it must be long-term.

Shane Wucherpfennig stated that working through the LWCD would allow for more of a regional approach on water protection as there is networking going on with LWCD's throughout the State. If there are certain areas that are "road blocks" we need to lean on the Judicial and Legislative Committee to lobby in Madison. Also, Wisconsin Land + Water have lobbyists on staff.

Discussion continued.

Motion by Bill Leichtnam to postpone any action on the Wood County Water Protection Policies until the July CEED meeting. Second by Kenneth Curry. Motion failed with Hilde Henkel, Robert Ashbeck, Peter Hendler and Harvey Petersen all voting nay.

Motion by Peter Hendler to create a subcommittee within the CEED to deal with water issues. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion passed.

Voting Aye:

Hilde Henkel, Robert Ashbeck, Peter Hendler, and Harvey Petersen.

Voting Nay:

Bill Leichtnam – Cannot vote in favor unless I know what the subcommittee will be made up of, who will be on the subcommittee and how long the subcommittee will be active.

Kenneth Curry – Feels it should be handled by the County Board Chair and the Chairs of the CEED and Judicial and Legislative Committees; although he supports the CEED taking this issue.

Chairperson Henkel appointed – Peter Hendler, Chairperson, Bill Leichtnam and Harvey Petersen to the subcommittee. The subcommittee should work with and use the resources of the Land & Water Conservation Department, Planning & Zoning Department and the Health Department.

11. Land Records. Nothing to report.

12. UW Extension

- a. UW Extension Reorganization Update. Peter Manley reported he attended the May 31st reorganization meeting. The previous plan is no longer effective. The State is forming committees to review and come up with a revised reorganization plan. There will still be multi-county areas. Implementation is scheduled for early 2017. The primary concern expressed at the meeting was the need for better communication on the reorganization process.

Matt Lippert reported on how the reorganization will affect future Farm Technology Days. Currently, the local Ag Agent is the Secretary for Farm Technology Days; after 2018, Wisconsin Farm Technology will fund the position for the Secretary. UW Extension's responsibilities at Farm Technology Days will also be scaled down after 2018 as they will no longer give farm the tours. These changes will take effect after the 2018 Farm Technology Days which will be held in Wood County.

- b. Horticulture Educator Position Update. Peter Manley reported interviews for the Horticulture Educator position will be held on June 12th.
- c. Secretary Position Update. Peter Manley reported interviews for the Administrative Assistant position will be held on June 6th & 7th.
- d. Marshfield Community Learning Centers – Siegel. This agenda item was postponed until the July CEED meeting.

13. Land & Water Conservation Department

- a. Introduction of 2016 Summer Intern – Wednesday Jordan. This item was moved up on the agenda.
- b. Review Pay Progression Plan Modifications. Shane Wucherpennig provided copies of the draft Wood County Pay Progression Plan, Employee Recruitment & Retainment Policy. The purpose of the plan is to provide Departments with the necessary tools to be able to recruit and retain quality employees in an ever changing job market, while working within Wood County's current pay plan structure. Covered in the plan are employee recruitment guidelines and employee retainment guideline and pay plan review. Following review, the committee thought it was a good plan, but needs to include that the department's oversight committee will be informed of all offers and/or step increases.

Motion by Harvey Petersen to support the plan with changes to the guidelines to include the oversight committee will be informed of all offers and/or step increases. Second my Kenneth Curry. Motion carried unanimously.

- c. Report on North Central Land & Water Conservation Regional Spring Meeting. Wood County hosted the North Central Land & Water Conservation Regional Spring Meeting at Nepco Park Shelter House on Wednesday, May 25th. Speakers were Shelly Thomsen, WI DNR – Bureau of Water Quality, Paul Daigle – Marathon County LWCD, and Coreen Fallat – DATCP. Supervisors Henkel, Ashbeck, Leichtnam and the LWCD staff attended.
- d. RC&D Update. This was covered under agenda item 6.
- e. Russ Feingold Visit. Shane Wucherpennig reported that Russ Feingold and some of his staff visited the Wood County LWCD to learn about the programs offered through the Wood County LWCD and discuss environmental protection.
- f. Discuss Land & Water Conservation Presentation to County Board in June. Shane reported that he will give a presentation to the County Board in June based on the Wood County LWCD 2015 Annual Report.

14. Schedule next regular committee meeting. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 6, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

15. Adjourn.

Motion by Harvey Petersen to adjourn at 1:11 p.m. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Minutes by Lori Ruess, Land and Water Conservation Department
Review for submittal to County Board by Kenneth Curry (June 10, 2016)