

MINUTES
 CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2022
 WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #105, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Bill Leichtnam, Tom Buttke, Jake Hahn, Dave LaFontaine, Laura Valenstein

Members Excused: Carmen Good

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn – (WebEx)

Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpfennig, Kyle Andreae, Lori Ruess

UW Extension Staff: Jason Hausler – (WebEx), Kayla Rombalski

Others Present: Dist. #11 Supervisor Jeff Penzkover, Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendenning, Dist. #16 Supervisor Lance Pliml – (WebEx) Angel Whitehead, Heart of Wisconsin, Jeremy Sickler, Alexander Field Airport, Roland Hawk, Wood County Highway Dept. Ben Jeffrey, Environmental Health Supervisor – (WebEx).

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Leichtnam called the CEED meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Declaration of Quorum.** Chair Leichtnam declared a quorum.
3. **Public Comment.** Kayla Rombalski, UWEX Community Development Coordinator, introduced herself. She was previously employed at the Portage County Chamber and she is excited to be working in Wood County.

Bill Clendenning asked about the Sustainable and Renewable Committee. Chair Leichtnam explained this is number 15c on the agenda and briefly added he thinks this will be handled in the CEED Committee.

4. **Review Correspondence.** Shane Wucherpfennig mentioned the North Central Area Land & Water Conservation Tour, which will be held in Florence County on August 12th. In the past, Bob Ashbeck was the NCLWCA representative from CEED and would attend the meetings with Shane. Shane asked Chair Leichtnam if a new representative should be appointed? Chair Leichtnam stated a representative could be appointed or committee members could share the representation. Shane added all are welcome to attend the August 12th tour and meeting.
5. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the July 6, 2022 and July 19, 2022 CEED meetings, 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension and 3) staff activity reports from Laura Huber, Matt Lippert, Allison Jonjak, Hannah Wendels, Janell Wehr, Jacki Carattini, Shane Wucherpfennig, Kyle Andreae, Caleb Armstrong, Molly Kolano, Rodney Mayer, Lori Ruess, Emily Salvinski, Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, Paul Bernard, Jeff Brewbaker, Scott Custer, Victoria Wilson, Karoline Whitman.
 - A. Minutes of July 6, 2022. No additions or corrections needed.
 - B. Minutes of July 19, 2022. No additions or corrections needed.
 - C. 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 July 6, 2022 and July 19, 2022 CEED minutes, bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension, and staff activity reports as presented. Second by Laura Valenstein. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Review items, if any, pulled from Consent Agenda.** – None,

7. Risk and Injury Report. None.

- 8. Initial Discussion of ARPA Spending Priorities.** Chair Leichtnam commented that “initial” should have been removed from this agenda item as this item has been discussed at past meetings. He attended two meetings on ARPA spending and the discussion focused mostly on childcare and other countywide priorities.

At this time with consensus from the Committee, items 14c – 14g were moved up on the agenda. See 14c and 14g.

9. Land & Water Conservation Dept.

- a. Open/approve low bid for Todd Karl's (3) grassed waterway projects..
Kyle Andreae presented the bids he received. Bids were sent to at least six contractors. Only one bid was received for this project.
- Jeff Ertl Trucking & Excavating - \$60,133.25.
- b. Open/approve low bid for Marso Farms LLC waste storage facility closure.
Received two bids for the Marso Farms LLC waste storage facility closure.
- Becker Trucking & Excavating - \$6,234.29
 - Jeff Ertl Trucking & Excavating - \$6,157.54.
- c. Open/approve low bid for Barry Richardson's waste transfer pad & T-wall project.
Only one bid was received for this project.
- Jeff Ertl Trucking & Excavating – \$42,990

All bids came in higher than what Kyle projected. However, these were the first projects that were bid out in 2022, so there were no price comparisons to work off for his estimates. Shane Wucherpfennig explained that bids could also be higher due to the time of year, increase in fuel costs, and all contractors are obviously very busy because we did not receive many bids.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve and accept the low bids from Jeff Ertl Trucking and Excavating in the amount of 60,133.25 for Todd Karl's (3) grassed waterways, \$6,157.54 for Marso Farms LLC waste storage facility closure and \$42,990 for Barry Richardson's waste transfer and T-wall project for the purpose of basing cost-share dollars. This approval is based on recommendations from Land & Water Conservation staff and agreement of each landowner to move forward with the projects at the increased price or the option to reject bids and renegotiate bids with bidders. Contractors are to provide proof of Insurance. Second by Tom Buttke. Motion carried unanimously.

Following bid opening it was suggested that the Committee revisit the bid opening procedure at the September CEED meeting. This will be an item on the September CEED agenda.

Supervisor Hahn requested a break at 9:52 a.m. Chair Leichtnam called the meeting back in session at 9.57 a.m.

- d. Presentation to CEED on LWCD programs and functions.
Shane Wucherpfennig gave a PowerPoint presentation on programs and functions of the Land & Water Conservation Department. The presentation included:
- Land & Water Conservation's mission
 - Low disturbance manure injection, cover crops and cover crop interseeding, no-tilling, roller crimping, well closures, nutrient management plans, Animal Waste and Groundwater Protection Ordinance, Central Wisconsin Profitability Expo, Soil and Water Resource Management Grant, Non-metallic Mining Reclamation Program, Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims, Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV), and Mill Creek TRM Grant.

- e. Discuss department proposal for ARPA funds. Shane presented a proposal of the Land & Water Conservation Department's ARPA funds request. The proposal includes:
- Cost-share reverse osmosis systems for landowners with high nitrates in their well water.
 - Water quality improvement.
 - Field test plot training and field days.
 - Purchase of a drone to use for non-metallic mine inspections, wildlife damage fence inspections, and documentation of conservation practices.

The Committee will review and discuss at the September CEED meeting.

- f. Discuss Non-metallic Mining fees and financial assurance. Shane Wucherpennig mentioned the Non-metallic Mining Reclamation program is a self-funded program and permit fees and financial assurance have not been reviewed or increased in six years. Taking into consideration inflation, cost of fuel, and salary increases he feels there is a need to review and possibly increase financial assurance and permit fees. He will present a proposal to the CEED in September.

g. Committee Reports

- Citizens Groundwater Group meeting. Chair Leichtnam reported on the Citizens Groundwater Group meeting. He referred to pages 26, 29, 32, and 36 of the CEED packet. High nitrates in Nelsonville. He added high nitrates are not just in private wells but also in municipal systems.

The Citizens Groundwater Group meets the third Monday of each month. The next meeting will be August 15th.

- Health Committee report. Ben Jeffrey reported the AGC had a meeting. The MOU is set to expire the end of this year. The next meeting is October 25, 2022.
- Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative (CSGWCC) committee report. CSGWCC did not meet in July.
- Golden Sands RC&D report. Chair Leichtnam reported briefly on the July 21st Golden Sand RC&D meeting. 10 or 11 counties attended the meeting.
 - Talked about invasive species and lakes affected.
 - Groundwater lessons to fifth Grade students will now be offered in Wood and Marquette counties.
 - Large number of Zebra Mussels in NEPCO Lake.
 - Forestry and Ag Meeting – Japanese knotweed spreading. This plant has a vigorous, rapid growing root system that damages property foundations, pavement and drainage systems.

10. Private Sewage. No updates.

11. Land Records. No updates.

12. County Surveyor. No updates.

13. Planning. No updates.

14. Economic Development.

- a. North Central Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission Update. Jason Grueneberg gave a brief update. Last month he was appointed to the NCWRPC Commission. He replaced Gerald Nelson who resigned after serving many years on the Commission. He thanked Gerald for his service to the Commission. The following was discussed/covered at the meeting:

- Carbon Credits
- DNR Presentation – Central Sands Plan - in progress.

Jason handed out an amendment to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the CEED to review.

Dave LaFontaine commented on the five items outlined in the handout. All five items are very important to Wood County, but could be challenging, as there appears to be no solutions.

Jason Grueneberg mentioned Victoria Wilson has taken the lead in setting up the CEED Tour. She will be sending out a doodle poll in the near future for available dates. This tour is open to all County Board members as well as other agencies that the departments work with.

- b. Broadband grant and speed test update. Jason Grueneberg reported; the testing app for broadband speed is still out there. Approximately 800 test came in; the goal is to receive three to four thousand. Bug Tussel bonding documents are being signed and moving forward. Considering applying for a federal grant; but it is a very competitive grant.
- c. Update from Wood County Highway Department and consider release of 2022 Economic Development Grant Funds. Rowland Hawk, Wood County Highway Commissioner, gave a brief update on Phase III of the ATV Route and Trail System. He referred to page 45 of the CEED packet. Phase III ATV signing of County highways began in January of 2022 with ordering of new signs. Crews started marking the County Highways that are designated closed to ATV/UTV traffic in March. This portion of the signing was completed in May. Crews finished the ATV signing project at the end of June by placing signs at the borders of the County informing those entering that all County roads are open to ATV traffic unless posted. The average ATV/UTV user spends about \$200/trip. With the increased access to local businesses, an increase in riders in Wood County will be seen. Discussion followed. Tom Buttke shared his only concern is that a driver's license is not required to operate an ATV/UTV on roads.

Motion by Jake Hahn to release \$20,000 in 2022 Economic Development Funds to the Wood County Highway Department for the Phase III ATV Route/Trail System. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

- d. Update from Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce and consider release of 2022 Economic Development Grant Funds. Angel Whitehead gave a brief update on marketing and advertising.
- Worked with 82 different entrepreneurs.
 - Hosted surge event for entrepreneurs.
 - Hosted several trainings for the business community
 - Collaborated with five area chambers for work force solutions.
 - Community tour for potential employees.
 - Business series "Dive into the Rapids"

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to release \$19,500 in 2022 Economic Development Funds to the Heart of Wisconsin Incubator (Foundation) and the Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce. Second by Tom Buttke. Motion carried unanimously.

- e. Update from HOW, MACCI, Visit WR & Visit MFLD marketing video and consider release of 2022 Economic Development Grant Funds. Angel Whitehead gave a brief update on the progress of the video and photograph production for Wood County Marketing. She referred to CentralWisconsin.com a website that highlights things to do and places to stay in Central Wisconsin, specifically Marshfield, Wisconsin Rapids and Stevens Point. In addition, recreation video snips have been developed for use on County's website etc.

Motion by Tom Buttke to release \$4,000 in 2022 Economic Development Funds to the Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce, Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Visit Wisconsin Rapids and Visit Marshfield. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

- f. Update from Marshfield Municipal Airport and consider release of 2022 Economic Development Grant Funds. No one attended to give a report on the Marshfield Municipal Airport. However, the Marshfield Municipal Airport Management Year End Report is in the CEED packet starting on page 60.

Motion by Tom Buttke to release \$10,000 in 2022 Economic Development Funds to the Marshfield Municipal Airport. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

- g. Update from South Wood County Airport and consider release of 2022 Economic Development Grant Funds. Jeremy Sickler reported briefly on the South Wood County (Alexander Field) Airport projects and events. The fuel system replacement is underway; employment and supply issues have delayed the project. The majority of the Airport's paved surfaces will be crack filled and resurfaced this fall; this is routine maintenance. Discussion followed.
- Supervisor Buttke suggested that a list of all businesses that use the airport be included in future reports, as it really shows the community the usage and need of the airport.
 - Bill Clendening suggested the airport reach out to Sand Valley and Town of Rome.

Motion by Tom Buttke to release \$5,000 in 2022 Economic Development Funds to the South Wood County Airport. Second by Laura Valenstein. Motion carried unanimously.

15. Extension.

- a. General Office Update. Wrapping up budgets with Karli, as she will be going on maternity leave this month.

Tami Swenson, UW Stevens Point Professor will be based out of the Wood County Extension Office part-time. She will be working with the Health Department on public health.

Jason shared there is a buyer for the Meadowbrook 4-H property. Working with Corporation Counsel on a resolution for use of money from sale of the property.

- b. Staffing Update.

- Community Development - Kayla Rombalski introduced herself at the beginning of the meeting. Jason commented that he is very happy to have her joining the Wood County Extension team.

- Natural Resources – moving forward with the Natural Resources position, this will be a 1.0 FTE partnership position.

c. Renewable & Sustainable Committee. - No further discussion on this agenda item.

16. Request for per diem for meeting attendants. Chair Leichtnam requested per diem for attending the “Celebrate the passing of Act 223” in Plover on July 25th. Included in this act is one full-time hydrogeologist project position, Commercial Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program, and crop insurance premium rebates for planting cover crops at \$5/acre.

Motion by Tom Buttke to approve Chair Leichtnam’s request for per diem for attending the “Celebrate the Passing of Act 223” on July 25th. Second by Laura Valenstein. Motion carried unanimously.

17. Schedule Next regular committee meeting. Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

18. Agenda items for next meeting.

- Discuss streamlining bid opening procedure for Land & Water Conservation Department bids.
- Discuss ARPA funding proposal from Land & Water Conservation Department.
- Review/approve revisions to Nonmetallic Mine permit fees and financial assurance.
- REDI implementation.
- Review/approve resolution for Meadowbrook 4-H property.
- Review/approve 2023 Department budgets.

19. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary.

20. Adjourn.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to adjourn at 11:13 a.m. Second by Jake Hahn. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes by Lori Ruess, Land & Water Conservation Department