

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #115, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Kenneth Curry, Bill Leichtnam, Robert Ashbeck, Mark Holbrook (via telephone), Dave LaFontaine and Carmen Good.

Members Excused: None

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg and Kim Keech.
Land & Water Conservation Staff: Rodney Mayer, Caleb Armstrong and Lori Ruess
UW-Madison Division of Extension Staff: Jason Hausler, Matt Lippert and Karli Tomysck.

Others Present: Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendenning and Nancy Eggleston (Wood County Health Department).

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.**
Jason Grueneberg mentioned that the Central Housing Region has \$2.5 million dollars available in grants among the nine county region. The program provides no-interest, deferred payment home repair loans low-to-moderate income owner occupants. Jason Gruenberg shared that Wood County needs to pass a resolution to adopt an excessive forest ordinance. This will be an agenda for the April CEED Committee meeting.
5. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the February 5, 2020 CEED meeting, 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension and 3) staff activity reports from Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, Paul Bernard, Jeff Brewbaker, Stevana Hamus, Kim Keech, Victoria Wilson, Shane Wucherpfennig, Caleb Armstrong, Adam Groshek, Emily Salvinski, Rod Mayer, Lori Ruess, Matt Lippert, Nancy Turyk, Jackie Carattini, Hannah Wendels, Kelly Hammond, Laura Huber and Rachael Whitehair.
 - A. Minutes of February 5, 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 February 5, 2020 CEED minutes, bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW-Madison Division of Extension-Wood County, 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. Welcome new Conservation Specialist – Caleb Armstrong Caleb Armstrong, Conservation Specialist, introduced himself and shared he graduated from UWSP with a major in Soil and Land Management. His first day with Wood County Land and Water Department was February 17, 2020.

- B. Update on Farmer Led Conference & Cover Crop Conference held on February 19th and 20th in Stevens Point Rod Mayer read and handed out copies of the February 2020 CEED report by Shane Wucherpennig. Shane is attending the Wisconsin Land & Water Conference in Green Bay today through Friday.

The Farmer Led Conference & Cover Crop Conference was held February 19 and 20 in Stevens Point. This was the fourth annual conference and they offered a separate evening speaker on Ice, Water & Wind Exploring Soil Diversity in Wisconsin followed by discussion and dinner.

- C. Update on Joint Farm Bureau meeting held on February 25th Wood County hosted the February Joint Farm Bureau meeting at the Marshfield Ag Research on February 25. Matt Lippert moderated the evening titled "Farmer Talk". Speakers included Jason Cavidini, Shane Wucherpennig and John Eron. Topics covered included cover crops, no-till and farmer led initiatives. Carmen Good commented her husband attended the farmers talk and said it was a very good event.

D. Committee Reports

- i. Citizens Groundwater Group meeting Wisconsin Assembly approved a \$10 million package on February 18, 2020 of 13 Water Quality Bills designed to combat groundwater contamination in the state. The Senate was not scheduled to vote on the measures until the third week of March. All committee meetings are the third Monday of the month at 2:00 p.m. at the Wood County Riverblock Building, Room #206.

Motion by Bill Leichtnam that the CEED totally opposes all provisions in companion legislation ABB894/SB808 (Livestock Siting) and is particularly concerned that this legislation preempts local control. Second by Mark Holbrook. Motion carried with Supervisor Bob Ashbeck opposed – concerned how it will affect farmers.

Citizen's Groundwater Group project ideas include:

- a. Groundwater protection presentation in area schools.
- b. "How to do Water Testing in a Wood County Town" seminar.
- c. Field day on land practices and economic profitability for farmers.

ii. Health Committee report

Nancy Eggleston reported nothing new to update on the MOU with the Armenia Growers Coalition (AGC). A conference call with AGC is scheduled for Friday.

The Health Department received an open records request from Habush & Rottier for the AGC and is working on compiling the information. Juneau County received the same request. There was no discussion as to what the information will be used for. The Health Department will be billing for staff time.

Nancy Eggleston commented that she was asked to be on the NR151 technical advisory committee. NR151 directs the DNR to promulgate rule performance standards to meet water quality standards and address specific issues either geographically or by activity. The NR151 rule modification is to develop a targeted performance standard to address land spreading of manure on soils in sensitive areas of the state. The committee will meet monthly now through the end of summer with different speakers at every meeting. Eggleston presented at the February meeting. Chairperson Curry asked that the CEED receive a list of all the people who are on the NR151 technical advisory committee.

Supervisor Dave LaFontaine expressed the County well testing program should have a uniform number of wells tested in each township. Chairperson Curry clarified well testing

with the AGC and well testing through the Land & Water Conservation Department are funded differently.

Chairperson Curry referenced Peter Kastenholz' monthly report in the March 6, Judicial & Legislative Committee packet where he gave an update on the AGC MOU.

Nancy Eggleston reported the Health Department received a lead renovation project grant, to prevent child lead poisoning. She explained the grant currently will cover two homes up to \$27,000/each, Homeowners who meet grant specific criteria could qualify for 100% payment for lead abatement and landlords who meet grant specific criteria could qualify for 85% payment. The program will also pay 100% for contractor training. Supervisor Dave LaFontaine asked how information on the available funding will be publicized. Eggleston replied, the Health Department will target homes that already have evidence of child lead poisoning. Supervisor Dave LaFontaine suggested that information be sent to Town Chairs in order to reach rural areas.

Supervisor Bill Leichtnam asked if the Health Department was prepared in the event of a Coronavirus Virus outbreak in Wood County. Eggleston reported that the Health Department is heavily involved in COVID-19 preparedness. The Health Department is working with schools on prevention and developing school closure guidelines. The Health Department is also working with healthcare partners and EMS to be ready for coronavirus if we begin seeing cases in our area. DHS is providing regular updates on testing criteria and the role that Local Health Departments will play in disease tracking and contact investigations.

- iii. Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative (CSGCC) Committee report
Supervisor Bill Leichtnam explained the Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative is made up of six counties surrounding Wood County. The committee consists of three working groups: communication, technical and supervisors. Meetings are on the 4th Friday each month in the Town of Rome and are open to the public.

8. **Private Sewage.** Staff report in committee packet. Carmen Good mentioned that the Amish have been leaving the Arpin and Vesper area in the Town of Richfield. When these homes are sold and people non-Amish buy the property does the property have to be brought up to code? Jason Grueneberg shared that the property has to be brought up to code. A property can have an outhouse without interior plumbing. The home has to have a private onsite wastewater treatment system if the home has interior plumbing and running water.

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

10. **County Surveyor.** Staff report in committee packet.

11. Planning.

- A. Discuss creating a Broadband Forward Community Ordinance. Public Service Commission administers broadband development by certifying local communities as being Broadband Forward. A Broadband Forward Community Certification signals that a local unit of government has taken steps to reduce obstacles to broadband infrastructure investment. Jason Grueneberg discussed creating a Wood County Broadband Forward Community Ordinance. The purpose of the ordinance is to expedite the review process for Broadband and by having a point of contact in the county. Broadband improvements take place in the county without the department knowledge because these improvements take place in public right-of-way and utility corridors. The only time the office would be notified of a Broadband project is if the location is in a Shoreland or Floodplain area with permits pulled for that project. A Wood County ordinance would create an additional review process step for the contractor to go through and for the department to review something it is not familiar with. Centergy may be creating a regional resolution for Broadband Forward

Community. Wood County will wait see how Centergy will proceed. State of Wisconsin has additional funding for Broadband improvements.

12. Economic Development

- A. Update on the Rural Economic Development Innovation Initiative Jason Grueneberg shared that the steering committee met for two days in December 2019. Steering committee met to discuss goals and strategies on February 13th at MSTC in Wisconsin Rapids. Goals and strategies are being developed that promote economic development and improve quality of life. Draft is targeted for completion in June with the completed document in September. Steering Committee next meeting is Friday, March 20th from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 am at MSTC in Marshfield.
- B. Consider funding request for a City of Marshfield Sports Tourism Strategic Plan. There is a need in Marshfield for an assessment of recreation and sporting resources. The occupancy rates at hotels drops by 40-50% in the winter months. This affects local businesses because they do not see the foot traffic like they would want to see. The county would like to see outside money come into the county to increase the tax base. The current ice arena is a 40 year old structure and not year round because it is not insulated. The groups using the ice arena are the Hockey Clubs, Silver Laces Figure Skating Club and Curling Club. The groups are having to buy ice time in other cities which is a need for the study to take place. Strategic Plan cost is estimated at \$28,000. A shared funding model to pay for the study. They anticipate the clubs to cover \$3,000-\$5,000, Visit Marshfield \$15,000 and Marshfield Economic Board \$5,000. Visit Marshfield hopes that Wood County will fund \$5,000 of the Strategic Plan. A request for Matt McLean of Visit Marshfield to give a presentation at the April CEED Committee meeting.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to create a resolution to fund City of Marshfield Sports Tourism Strategic Plan in the amount of \$5,000 to be reviewed at the April CEED Committee meeting. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission update Jason Grueneberg shared that the Wood County appointments have been submitted to the Governor with a decision expected in 6 months. The appointments are not a high priority.

Projects:

- The resolution for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) 2020-2024 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant was been forwarded to the WisDOT.
- Marshfield Sewer Service Area Plan Update
- Nekoosa Safe Routes to School

Wood County is now eligible for federal economic development funds as part of the membership.

NCWRPC will be contacting the townships in Wood County notifying them that they are a member.

- D. Consider sponsorship request for Wisconsin Rural Partner Summit in Marshfield on April 22-23. Jason Grueneberg commented that the Wisconsin Rural Partners 2020 Rural Summit will be April 22-23 at Hotel Marshfield. Wood County has been asked to be a gold sponsor for the event. Gold sponsorship is \$1,000. Funds are not budgeted for 2020. A Planning & Zoning staff person will attend the summit.

Motion by Kenneth Curry to deny Wisconsin Rural Partner Summit gold sponsorship request in the amount of \$1,000 which is not budgeted for in 2020 budget year. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried 4-1. Mark Holbrook voted against.

13. UW-Madison Division of Extension.

A. General Office Update

Jason Hausler shared the following updates:

- John Exo will be presenting at the March 17th County Board Meeting. This will be a good opportunity for supervisors to hear about coordinated effort around the state regarding water quality. Jason will be in attendance and handle introductions at the meeting.
- Jackie Carattini, Human Development & Relationships Educator, is one of two delegates from Wisconsin attending the Public Issues Leadership Development conference in Washington D.C. this April. The intention of the conference is to raise awareness and promote Extension to legislatures. This is a great opportunity for Jackie to represent Extension and Wood County.
- Jason is looking for one or two volunteers from CEED to serve on the Horticulture Coordinator interview committee. The final in-person interviews are scheduled for Tuesday, March 31st. Please let Jason know if you are interested in participating.
- Extension is one of the only remaining departments not integrated into the County's print management program. Jason and support staff will be meeting with IT on 3/11 to discuss and streamline printing operations.
- A meeting between Extension and the fair board was recently held regarding the upcoming transition of responsibilities. The fair board has almost all new members who were unaware of the extent of Extension's time investment and involvement with administrative fair functions. The purpose of the meeting and plan of action is to realign Extension's role as an educational organization within the fair.

B. Delegation of Budget Authority Form

Jason explained with the transition to UW-Madison, the financial office raised questions about Area Directors (state employees) managing County budgets. Wood County does not currently have a Delegation of Authority Form in place. Jason discussed this with Corporate Counsel, Peter Kastenholz and reviewed a copy of the form (as presented in the packet) for the committee. Discussion followed.

Motion by Bill Leichtnam to approve authorizing and requesting acting Finance Director to sign the agreement on behalf of Wood County. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Cranberry Position Update

An offer has been made for the Cranberry Specialist position. Jason is currently waiting on a signed contract to release the name. Extension is tentatively planning for an April 1st start date.

D. Educational Presentation-Matt Lippert

Matt Lippert updated the committee that as of November 1, he is now split half time between Wood and Clark Counties.

Matt shared brochures for an upcoming program, 2020 North Central Heart of the Farm. This is a Women in Agriculture conference being held on March 17th at UW-Stevens Point Marshfield. Session topics include Farm Stress: Breaking the Cycle, Dairy Industry Trends and Milk Prices, European Agriculture Innovation and local family farm diversity. Presenters include Jackie Carattini (Extension Wood County), Mark Stephenson (Director of Dairy Policy – UW-Madison), Matt Lippert (Extension Wood & Clark Counties) and Darci Daniels (Garden Valley Farmstead).

Matt shared the Dairy program area recently sponsored programs on robotic milking in Sheboygan and Abbotsford. The program included a speaker from Finland, a specialist from University of Minnesota who has worked with many robotic installations and a panel of local

producers who are currently milking cows with robots. 40 people attended the Abbotsford session. Discussion on robotic milking practices followed.

14. Schedule Next Regular Committee Meeting. The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at Wood County Courthouse in Conference Room #115.

15. Agenda items for next meeting.

- A. Excessive Forest Ordinance
- B. Broadband Forward Community Ordinance
- C. City of Marshfield Sports Tourism Strategic Plan

16. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary. None.

17. Adjourn. Chairperson Curry declared the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Minutes by Kim Keech (Planning & Zoning Department section), Lori Ruess (Land & Water Conservation Department section) and Karli Tomysck (UW-Madison Division of Extension section).