

MINUTES
 CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
 WEDNESDAY JULY 6, 2016
 WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #115, WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI

Members Present: Hilde Henkel, Kenneth Curry, Robert Ashbeck, Bill Leichtnam, Harvey Petersen
Member Excused: Peter Hendler
Staff Present: Land & Water Conservation: Shane Wucherpennig, Tracy Arnold, Wednesday Jordan
Planning & Zoning: Jason Grueneberg, Jeff Brewbaker.
UW-Extension: Peter Manley, Wendy Young, Sarah Siegel, Jeremy Erickson
Others Present: Bill Clendenning

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.** Committee Member Bill Leichtnam shared a copy of the latest issue of the North Central Wisconsin Planning newsletter and had a concern that Wood County is not listed. It was brought up that we are not officially members as the cost is quite significant. Bill Clendenning stated that the city of Wisconsin Rapids as well as other towns are members and are also not listed. Jason Grueneberg stated that Wisconsin Rapids is not renewing their membership this year. He said that many cities only join when they have large developments going on.
4. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following items: 1) Minutes of the June 1st, 2016, CEED meeting 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, UW-Extension and Land & Water Conservation and 3) staff activity reports from Jason Grueneberg, Justin Conner, Julie Akey, Jeff Brewbaker, Heather Marquardt, Shane Wucherpennig, Tracy Arnold, Adam Groshek, Lori Ruess, Peter Manley, Sarah Siegel, Jodi Friday and Chris Viau.

Motion by Ken Curry to approve and accept the June 1, 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. Second by Harvey Petersen. Motion carried unanimously.

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

During a break in the meeting, Tracy Arnold shared that the CEED Tour is scheduled for Friday, September 30, 2016, from 8:00am – 3:00pm.

Peter Manley also clarified that the Veolia bill in the amount of \$2304.50 will be reimbursed to the Clean Sweep fund. He agreed to pay this amount for a landowner in Marathon county in a farm transfer situation. The amount will be reimbursed by the state. Bill Clendenning then had a question about the quantities of paint that can be brought to Clean Sweep by one person, since there is a lot of old paint in the Annex building. Peter said he would be able to help him dispose of the paint.

Due to technical problems, the committee moved on to item 7A while Jeff worked to pull up his presentation for item 6A.

Approve resolution for 2016 DATCP Grant Budget for unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$138,040.

- i. Shane Wucherpennig presented the resolution to amend the DATCP budget by \$138,040

Motion was made by Bill Leichtnam to approve the resolution for the 2016 DATCP Grant Budget for unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$138,040. Second by Bob Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Planning & Zoning.

A. Update on Community Assistance Visit (CAV) and unresolved floodplain violations.

- i. Jeff Brewbaker provided an update on 4 of the floodplain violations that he has been working on: numbers 328/331, 329, 332 and 333.
- ii. With the exception of violation 329, each of these violations are due to the landowner having not applied for the floodplain permit, thinking they were high enough vertically to not require the permit.
- iii. A permit was found to have been issued for Violation 329 on 9/26/2006. This was Valve Site work that Enbridge was doing, and the permit was issued for all work completed by Enbridge in 2006.
- iv. Jeff is providing most landowners with a deadline of 6 months to comply, unless there is a finding of immediate danger.
- v. Chairperson Henkel asked if the project is proceeding according to the timeline and Jeff said yes, he feels that everything is on track.
- vi. Ken Curry asked what is being done to prevent similar violations from happening in the future. Jeff has communicated with local towns, encouraging them to communicate with the Planning & Zoning office when building permits are issued so the property owners can apply for the floodplain permits if necessary. It was suggested that he also reach out to local realtors and others who handle property sales so they are aware of the floodplain permit requirement.
- vii. Ken Curry asked if there are additional costs to the landowner, other than the cost of the permits, that may be prohibitive. Jeff said that it depends on the situation, as additional fill may need to be brought in, or elevation surveys done, depending on the situation.
- viii. Chairperson Henkel asked Jeff to keep the committee informed about violations that are more complicated, so the members are aware of what is going on, in case they receive phone calls.

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

Prairie Chicken Festival

- i. Bill Clendenning addressed the committee at the request of Lance Pliml to ask them to consider budgeting funds from Economic Development to bring the Prairie Chicken Festival back to Wisconsin Rapids. About 3 years ago it was moved to Amherst and is run by Golden Sands RC & D. They do not have the viewing areas or attendance that the festival had when it was in Wisconsin Rapids.
- ii. Bill has talked to the Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce, Wisconsin Rapids Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Mead Inn and they are all interested in bringing the festival back to Wisconsin Rapids as well.
- iii. Jason suggested budgeting dollars, with the agreement that some of it would be used to leverage other funding.
- iv. The Committee had Consensus Approval to ask Jason to put money into the Economic Development budget in support of bringing the Prairie Chicken Festival back to Wisconsin Rapids.

7. Land & Water Conservation Department.

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- A. Badger Sandstone reclamation update.
 - i. Tracy Arnold started by sharing before and after photos of 2 reclaimed mines that they have completed.
 - ii. She then provided a brief background on the Badger Sandstone reclamation process. She has walked the property and marked the areas that need attention. Some of the areas are simple clean-up.
 - iii. The landowner has been provided with the steps that need to be completed and approved by Land & Water Conservation before the financial assurance release will be done.
 - iv. Tracy and Shane agree that the operator on the site does not have adequate equipment and manpower to complete the job. They have talked to a contractor who estimates it would take 2-3 weeks with 4-5 operators to finish the job. Due to the time of year, they will not be able to start until September.
 - v. Tracy has kept Chairperson Henkel up to date on the project, as well as the DNR and Corporation Counsel.
- B. Approve resolution for 2016 DATCP Grant Budget for unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$138,040.
 - i. This item was moved up on the agenda.
- C. Summer Intern update.
 - i. Wednesday presented TranSect data that she and Tracy Arnold recently collected from 383 locations in Wood County.
 - ii. The data was graphed and comparisons were made across the data points, dating back to 1999.
- D. NCLWCA Summer Tour (Marathon County).
 - i. The NCLWCA Summer Tour in Marathon County was discussed and the committee was asked if anyone was interested in attending.
 - ii. Bob Ashbeck said he is interested in attending and Chairperson Henkel will check her schedule to see if she can also attend.
 - iii. Shane will communicate with Bob and Hilde on the date and if there are mobility issues that would hinder Bob from being able to attend.
- E. Discuss CEED members attending the Water Presentation portion of the county Conservationist meeting on Thursday, July 21, 2:30-4:30 pm.
 - i. Chairperson Henkel provided a brief overview of this event. It involves a county in Iowa that is trying to recover money from 2 counties above the river for the cost of water treatment, citing that the counties didn't handle water drainage properly.
 - ii. Chairperson Henkel, Bill Leichtnam and Bob Ashbeck said they are interested in attending. There is a \$15 fee per person. Shane will handle the registrations.
 - iii. If any other members decide to attend, they should contact Shane.
- F. Discuss possible tour of John Eron Farm & cover crop/no till initiatives as part of the August CEED Meeting.
 - i. There was discussion about holding the next CEED meeting at the John Eron farm, since there will be cover crops being planted in August.
 - ii. Shane will communicate with John Eron to set-up the meeting and provide the information to Chairperson Henkel so she can extend the invitation to other County Board members. Committee members asked Shane to be sure to include a map in the packet.
 - iii. Chairperson Henkel reminded the committee to download the meeting packet before the meeting, as there is most likely no wireless connection there.
- G. Discuss Prairie Chicken Festival.
 - i. This item was moved up on the agenda.
- H. Conservation Farmer of the Year Award discussion.

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- i. In the past, Land & Water Conservation selected and recognized a local farmer who adopted conservation practices. There was discussion about doing this again, in an effort to recognize those who are doing good things.
- ii. Shane mentioned that the previous award winners were recognized at a large banquet in October, along with the speaking contest winners. The Conservation Farmer Award winner would also move on to the regional level, and possibly even the state level. At the state level, the competition is very tough, so local farmers didn't usually fare well.
- iii. The Committee had Consensus Approval to have Shane move forward with establishing a Conservation Farmer of the Year award. Land & Water Conservation will do the applicant screening and bring their recommendation to the Committee. The winner will be recognized at a County Board meeting, in the form of a plaque or certificate.

I. WI DNR No-Till Drill update.

- i. Shane has been working with the DNR and John Eron to purchase drills for widespread use in Wood County.
- ii. Friends of Mill Creek and the DNR are writing an MOU to have Friends of Mill Creek handle the administration of the units for countywide use with the help of Land & Water Conservation. John Eron will handle the refurbishment and the rentals will be administered by Friends of Mill Creek. The DNR will maintain ownership of the units, but this agreement will allow the drills to be available for use throughout the county.
- iii. The units should be ready for full use throughout the county next season.

8. Discussion/action on process for water protection policies for Wood County

- i. Since Peter Hendler was not in attendance and unable to provide updates on this topic, Chairperson Henkel asked the Department Heads to work on putting together lists of ideas from the people that their departments work with to address water quality. This information should be forwarded to Peter Hendler.
- ii. Bill Leichtnam provided updates from the Judicial & Legislative Committee on recent events that have taken place in regards to water protection policies.
- iii. There was discussion about efforts to review and re-write county ordinance 101.01 regarding prohibitive discharges.
- iv. Bill Leichnam commented that he was advised more work could get done quicker by proceeding in the manner we currently are, instead of setting up a task force. He is working on setting up a meeting with Julie Lassa early in the next biennium.

9. UW Extension

A. UW Extension Reorganization Update

- i. Peter Manley reported that the reorganization work groups are being formed. He declined to be a co-chair of the Academic Departments Workgroup. Chris Viau was appointed as a member of the Volunteer Workgroup.

B. WI Assn of County Ext Comm Conference Report

- i. Peter Manley, Peter Hendler and Bob Ashbeck attended the Wisconsin Association of County Extension Committees in Wausau on Monday, June 20, 2016. Peter Hendler questioned the Extension Reorganization Executive Committee about their advocacy with legislators. Peter Manley attended sessions on co-parenting education and on groundwater testing awareness. Bob Ashbeck attended a session on positive youth development and healthier lifestyles.

C. Horticulture Educator position, update

- i. Peter Manley introduced Jeremy Erickson, who has just begun as the Horticulture Assistant. Jeremy brings education, passion and a great variety of practical experience to the position. Staff and residents are looking forward to having this position filled.

D. Secretary position, update

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- i. Peter Manley informed the Committee that Katie Tomsyck will be filling the open secretary position, beginning July 25, 2016.

E. Marshfield Community Learning Centers

- i. Sarah Siegel presented on the education that she has been doing in Marshfield with the Community Learning Centers. The committee was impressed with the number of children participating in the before and after school programming and Siegel's efforts to promote UW-Extension.

10. Schedule next regular committee meeting. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 3, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. at the John Eron farm.

11. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary. There are no additional meetings that need to be scheduled.

12. Adjourn.

Motion by Bill Leichtnam to adjourn at 11:12 a.m. Second by Bob Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.
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Respectfully submitted,



Minutes by Wendy Young, UW-Extension

Review for submittal to County Board by Kenneth Curry (date)