

MINUTES
 CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2016
 WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE TO TOUR SITES

Members Present: Hilde Henkel, Kenneth Curry, Bill Leichtnam, Bob Ashbeck (joined the tour at 10:30 a.m.)

Member Excused: Adam Fischer & Harvey Petersen

Staff Present: Land & Water Conservation Staff – Shane Wucherpennig, Tracy Arnold, Lori Ruess
 Planning & Zoning Staff – Jason, Grueneberg, Jeff Brewbaker, Heather Marquardt, Adam Dekleyn
 UW Extension Staff – Peter Manley, Matt Lippert (Matt was only at CJ Searles Cranberry Co site)

Others Present: District #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Roy Diver, NRCS, Russ Biebl, NRCS (joined tour at lunch site)
 Sam Warp, Marshfield Wastewater Treatment Plant, Dennis Bangart, United FCS, (joined tour at Marshfield Waste-Water site) Dan Bowers, Portage County Planning & Zoning

1. **Call CEED Committee Meeting to Order.** Chairperson Hilde Henkel called the CEED meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.
2. **Public Comment.** There was no public comment.
3. **Committee Tour of Wood County Land & Water Conservation, Planning and Zoning and UW Extension Project Areas.** Tracy Arnold welcomed everyone to the 2016 CEED tour, introductions took place, and the bus departed from the Courthouse to the tour sites at 8:15 a.m.
4. **CJ Searles Cranberry Company, LLC -** At this tour stop Steve and Corey Searles talked about the history of their Cranberry Company, CJ Searles Cranberry Company. The company planted its first vines in 1991. They currently have 56 acres of cranberry vines and grow Stevens and High Red varieties. Their berries are marketed through Mariani. Matt Lippert, Jeff Brewbaker and Tracy Arnold each explained how they have assisted Steve and Corey with specific issues on their marsh. Matt is the only Ag Agent that works with cranberry growers in the area. He assists cranberry growers with pesticide application and other marsh issues. Jeff has advised the Searles regarding flood plain regulations and Tracy designed and bid out their wildlife damage fence.
5. **Marshfield Wastewater Treatment Plant -** Sam Warp gave the tour of the Marshfield Wastewater Treatment Plant. The wastewater treatment plant is one of the largest “simple” plants. We viewed the fine step screens where garbage and inorganic solids are removed. The debris is compressed, dried, bagged and landfilled. The wastewater travels to oxidation ditches which are aerated to sustain the microorganisms that consume the organic material in the wastewater. The wastewater flows to final clarifiers where microorganisms in the wastewater are allowed to settle to the bottom of the tank and are then pumped back to the oxidation ditch to mix with incoming wastewater. Bio-solids are stored in two storage tanks and land-spread on farm fields during spring and fall. The treated water is discharged to the Mill Creek.
6. **Lunch -** Lunch was served at Wildwood Park in Marshfield.
7. **Open WDACP Fence Bids for Hemlock Trails (Warren Brockman) and Hilltop Cranberry (Travis Tritz) –** Chairperson Hilde Henkel opened the bids received. Bids were as follows:

Hemlock Trails –	Real Fence Company -	\$31,290.00
	Straight Line Fence Company -	\$36,890.00
Hilltop Cranberry –	Real Fence Company -	\$28,770.00
	Straight Line Fence Company -	\$31,550.00

Motion by Kenneth Curry to accept the low bid from Real Fence Company in the amount of \$31,290.00 for the Hemlock Trails fence and \$28,770.00 for the Hilltop Cranberry fence for the purpose of basing cost-share dollars. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **Flying Dollar Cattle, LLC** – At this tour stop we viewed the open feedlots where Lee DeBoer raises up to 650 beef cattle. We also saw the vegetated treatment area, manure storage and pumping systems that are being cost-shared through a DNR Notice of Discharge (NOD) grant. These practices were installed to prevent feed leachate and manure runoff from entering Mill Creek. These improvements are expected to prevent approximately 600 pounds of phosphorus from being discharged to Mill Creek.
9. **Alexander Field** – Jeremy Sickler, Airport Manager, gave the tour of the airport. The airport was built in 1920 for Nekoosa Edwards Paper Company subsidiary Tri-Cities Airways and named after its executive John Alexander. Ownership was transferred to Wood County in 1961. The airport is governed by the South Wood County Airport Commission which is made up of one representative from the City of Wisconsin Rapids, City of Nekoosa, Town of Grand Rapids, and Village of Port Edwards. The Town of Rome has expressed interest in joining the Commission.

Airport use has been increasing mainly due to the new Sand Valley Golf Course. With the increased use, there is a need for a new hanger for large planes, fueling truck, and a ground power unit, or the airport could lose business to airports that already have these. Reconstruction of a 30 year old runway and apron expansion would also help increase airport use.

The Alexander Field tour ended at 2:45 p.m.

10. **Return to Courthouse by 3:00 p.m.** – The bus returned to the Courthouse.

11. **Adjourn.**

Motion by Bill Leichtnam to adjourn at 3:00 p.m. Second by Kenneth Curry. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Minutes by Lori Ruess, Land and Water Conservation Department
Review for submittal to County Board by Kenneth Curry (10/05/2016)