

MINUTES
 CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
 WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2012
 WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #115, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Hilde Henkel, Robert Ashbeck, Kenneth Curry, Dale Gehrke, Ruth Moody, and William Winch

Member Excused: --

Staff Present: Land Conservation Staff - Jerry Storke and Lori Ruess
 Planning & Zoning Staff – Jason Grueneberg and Scott Kramar
 UW Extension Staff – Peter Manley and Teri Lessig

Others Present: District #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Clarence Thurber

1. **Call CEED Committee Meeting to Order** Chairperson Hilde Henkel called the CEED Committee meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. **Public Comment** There was no public comment.

3. **Review Correspondence** Jason Grueneberg handed out a packet of information he received from a concerned citizen group regarding the proposed Golden Sands Dairy in the Town of Saratoga. Chairperson Henkel asked Grueneberg to thank the group, on the committee's behalf, for providing written information for the CEED to review.

A meeting will be held on the proposed dairy on Thursday, July 19th at 6:00 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center in Wisconsin Rapids. Jim Wysocki and Jacquie Wille will give a presentation on the proposed Golden Sands Dairy.

4. **Consent Agenda** The Consent Agenda included the following items: a) minutes of the June 6, 2012 CEED meeting; b) bills from UW Extension, Land Conservation, and Planning & Zoning; and c) staff activity reports.

Robert Ashbeck asked about the Kickapoo Valley Cheese floodplain and shoreland zoning permit and variance issues. Jason Grueneberg explained that Gary Popelka met with Joe Behlen, DNR Engineer, and Kickapoo owners and managers to discuss the issues. Their engineer is running new flood models. Planning & Zoning hasn't seen the results.

Motion by Ruth Moody to approve and accept the consent agenda items including the minutes of the June 6, 2012 meeting; bills from UW Extension, Land Conservation and Planning & Zoning; and the staff activity reports as presented. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **University Extension**

- A. Family Living Educator Visioning and refill process. Peter Manley provided a summary of the UW Extension Wood County Family Living Educator Visioning Session which was held on June 18, 2012. The purpose of the visioning session was to identify issues within the Family Living Program and prioritize needs for the future. Group participants identified seven key areas that will be utilized in developing the position description. The timeline for filling the position will depend on the state budget restrictions. Tom Schmitz, UWEX Regional Director, will attend the August 1st CEED meeting.
- B. Master Gardener update. Teri Lessig gave an update on the Master Gardener program. Her update focused on the Community Gardens project. The gardens are located at First Presbyterian, Good Shepherd and Lincoln/St. Albans in Marshfield. Together the community gardens make up 80 garden beds which are rented out to the community. She also provided copies of the new monthly newsletter "Weekly Weeder" which is sent via email (no printing or postage costs) to Master Gardeners. Included in the newsletter are community updates, educational articles, recipes and comics.

Kenneth Curry and Peter Manley reported on their attendance at the 2012 State Wisconsin Associated County Extension Committees (WACEC) Conference, which was held June 25th and June 26th at the Tundra Lodge Resort & Conference Center in Green Bay. Curry attended the WACEC member orientation for new members and said it was a very good session. He also toured Pagel's Ponderosa Dairy and said that was very interesting.

6. Planning & Zoning

- A. Possible motion to reconsider previous committee action to grant a variance from s.701.05 (6) C. access, to Clarence Thurber to access proposed lot via an easement vs. frontage on a public right-of-way – Town of Saratoga. Chairperson Henkel explained that she received a request to reconsider the previous committee action to grant a variance to Clarence Thurber for access to proposed lot via an easement from Ruth Moody who seconded the motion and voted aye to approve the variance as proposed by Clarence at the June 6, 2012 CEED meeting. Following the June CEED meeting, Ruth Moody said she drove Squirrel Trail to check where Mr. Thurber would be building his new home. After checking out the site she realized that emergency vehicles would have a difficult time getting their equipment to the site if necessary, so she stopped at the fire department to discuss her concerns. She was told there is no way fire trucks could turn around or even get down Squirrel Trail. William Winch questioned if reconsidering the action was following parliamentary procedure. Chairperson Henkel asked Jason Grueneberg to summarize the information he received from Peter Kastenholz, Corporation Counsel. Grueneberg summarized the information and stated that Peter Kastenholz gave clear direction that the committee could reconsider the action. He also briefly reviewed the legal guidelines for handling variances and added that historically Planning & Zoning has handled variances through the CEED Committee; however the Land Subdivision Ordinance may need to be revised to clarify the variance process. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Thurber explained that he wanted to go through the proper procedures and do everything correctly with Wood County and the Town of Saratoga. He has talked to his attorney and stated that he will be building through a life estate no matter the outcome of the meeting. He stated that he wasn't concerned about emergency vehicle access and that he would be discussing his intent to split his lot and build a house on the back (south) lot with the Town of Saratoga. Grueneberg added that if the variance is denied, the option of a life estate is legal; however it could cause problems with the parcel in the future. Discussion followed.

Motion by Robert Ashbeck to rescind the June 6, 2012 motion to grant the variance as proposed by Clarence Thurber in the application for Parcel #1800169E and to deny the variance. Second by Ruth Moody. Chairperson Henkel called for a roll call vote and asked each member to state their reason for voting in favor of denying or against denying the variance based on the three legal requirements that must be met for a variance to be granted.

William Winch – Nay – feels all three legal requirements are being met.

Kenneth Curry – Aye – legal requirement #2 – the variance will harm the public interest.

Hilde Henkel – Aye – legal requirement # 3 – Unnecessary hardship is not present. Also, there is a concern with poor access for emergency vehicles.

Robert Ashbeck – Aye – legal requirement # 2 – the variance will harm the public interest.

Ruth Moody – Aye – legal requirement #2 – the variance will harm the public interest.

Motion carried 4-1.

Mr. Thurber requested a letter from Planning & Zoning explaining the variance denial. Jason Grueneberg told Mr. Thurber that Planning and Zoning will send him a letter and include the minutes from the CEED meeting.

- B. Introduction of Code Technician Scott Kramar. Jason Grueneberg introduced Scott Kramar, Code Technician. Scott began work in Wood County on July 2nd. Scott has done extensive work in Wood County as a Soil Tester and POWTS Designer. He is licensed as a Certified Soil Tester, POWTS Inspector and Engineering Systems Designer. Scott added that he is thrilled to be a servant to Wood County and its residents.

- C. Update on inquires regarding the dairy proposal in the Town of Saratoga. Jason Grueneberg gave an update, based on the packet of information the Planning and Zoning Department and Land Conservation Department received from Jim Wysocki and Jacquie Willie on the proposed Golden Sands Dairy. He gave the committee a copy of the map highlighting the dairy production side and project parcels which was included with the information. The 3,500 proposed dairy will include up to 6,000 acres of irrigated land. The land is currently in the managed forest law (MFL) program; Ellis Industries Saratoga, LLC (Golden Sands Dairy, LLC) has the option to buyout of the MFL. Wood County and the Town of Saratoga will receive payment if there is a MFL buyout.

Gruenberg stated that the Planning and Zoning office is receiving a lot of calls from concerned citizens with questions on groundwater impact and other concerns. Peter Manley stated the Extension Office is receiving calls from Saratoga residents who want to have their well water tested. He added that the Extension Office plans to offer a water testing program in the fall. Other concerns include: impact on open space, hunting land, snowmobile trails, and roads.

Scott Kramar stated he issued the sanitary permit in the name of Plum Creek for the Golden Sands Dairy office restroom facility. Jerry Storke stated the Land Conservation Department has not yet issued the animal waste storage facility permit.

Gruenberg gave the committee information on "Confronting CAFO's through Local Control" by John Ikerd, which was dropped off by a concerned citizen. Grueneberg asked how printed material regarding the proposed dairy should be forwarded to the CEED and County Board. Chairperson Henkel stated that the most efficient way to get information to the County Board Supervisors would be to have printed material regarding the proposed dairy sent or emailed to the County Clerk to include in the County Board packet or put on the County Board Supervisors desks. Grueneberg will check and approve this with Cindy Cepress.

7. Economic Development

- A. Recommend appointment to County Board Chairman for a Wood County representative to the regional housing consortium.

Motion by Kenneth Curry to recommend appointment of Hilde Henkel as Wood County representative to the regional housing consortium. Second by William Winch. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Henkel requested that Grueneberg check if an alternate representative from Wood County could be appointed.

8. Land Conservation

- A. Review and approve resolutions to amend Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) budget and transfer funds from Nonmetallic Mining budget to DATCP budget. Jerry Storke presented a resolution to seek County Board approval to amend the 2012 Wood County DATCP grant budget by transferring \$12,459 from the 2012 Nonmetallic Mining budget.

Motion by Robert Ashbeck to approve the resolution to amend the 2012 DATCP grant budget by transferring \$12,459 from the 2012 Nonmetallic Mining budget and forward the resolution to the County Board for consideration. Second by Ruth Moody. Motion carried unanimously.

Jerry Storke presented a resolution to seek County Board approval to amend the 2012 Wood County DATCP grant budget for unanticipated state aid monies and to appropriate those monies to the DATCP grant budget expenditures.

Motion by Ruth Moody to approve the resolution to amend the 2012 DATCP grant budget for unanticipated state aid monies and forward the resolution to the County Board for consideration. Second by Dale Gehrke. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. North Central Land and Water Conservation Association meeting update – Ashbeck. Robert Ashbeck and Jerry Storke reported on their attendance at the North Central Land and Water Conservation Association meeting which was held June 8th at the VFW Hall in Antigo. Educational topics presented at the meeting included: the Antigo Flats Enterprise Area; organizing a Cooperative Weed Management Area; the Legislative Process on Conservation Issues; the impact of High Capacity Wells on Groundwater; and an update on Frac Sand Mining.
- C. North Central Land and Water Conservation Association tour update. Jerry Storke gave an update on the plans for the North Central Land and Water Conservation Association summer tour and business meeting. Wood County will host the August 24th tour. Two tour stops are planned; Completion Industrial Minerals and New Page paper mill. The registration form, tour itinerary and business meeting agenda will be emailed to the County Conservationists in the North Central area this week.

9. Schedule next regular meeting.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 1, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.**

10. Adjourn.

William Winch moved to adjourn at 11:40 a.m. Second by Ruth Moody. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth Curry, Secretary

Minutes by Lori Ruess, Land Conservation Department

Review for submittal to County Board by: Kenneth Curry (*approved via telephone July 19, 2012*)