

MINUTES
 CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2013
 WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #115, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Hilde Henkel, Robert Ashbeck, William Winch, Ken Curry, Ruth Moody and Harvey Petersen

Staff Present:

Land Conservation Dept Staff – Jerry Storke, Tracy Arnold, Shane Wucherpennig, Lori Ruess, Heather Marquardt, summer intern.

Planning & Zoning Staff – Gary Popelka, Jason Grueneberg,

UW Extension Staff – Peter Manley, Mary Spencer, Kyli Brown, Matt Lippert

Others Present: Dennis Polach, Dist. #14 Supervisor; Bill Clendenning, Dist. #15 Supervisor; Ed Reed, Wood County Human Resources

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

2. **Public Comment.**

- A. Public Comment. (Brief comments/statements regarding Committee Business)
 No Public Comment

3. **Review Correspondence.**

Gary Popelka provided copies of a letter from Corinne Johnson indicating that she has complied with requirements concerning a violation of the POWTS ordinance.

Popelka received an e-mail from Brian Slinkman, First Weber Realty, showing that home sales are up about 8%. He also reported that sanitary permits are up about 11% over last year.

He distributed a brochure which is called “Private Onsite Water Treatment System Grant Program,” Informational Paper 68 from the Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau, which will be made available to the public to help answer questions about the grant program available to homeowners if a replacement or rehabilitation of a system is required.

4. **Consent Agenda.**

The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the May 1, 2013 CEED meeting, 2) bills from Land Conservation, Planning & Zoning, and UW Extension and 3) staff activity reports.

- a. Minutes of May 1, 2013 CEED Meeting. No additions or corrections needed.
- b. Department Bills. Department Claim Sheets were distributed for approval and signature.
- c. Staff Activity Reports. One comment/question was covered in Item 11.

Motion by Ken Curry to approve and accept the consent agenda items including the minutes of the May 1, 2013 CEED Committee meeting, bills from Land Conservation, Planning & Zoning, and UW Extension, and the staff activity reports as presented. Second by Ruth Moody. Motion carried unanimously.

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

6. **Land Conservation**

- A. Summer Internship Introduction.

Jerry Storke introduced Heather Marquardt, summer intern in Land Conservation. Heather is attending UW-Stevens Point majoring in Soil and Land Management and will be graduating next year. Heather will be working in the office on database projects, assisting staff with Transect survey,

environmental education projects, wildlife damage fence inspections, surveys and other field activities.

Chair Hilde Henkel asked Jerry Storke to remind employees to take appropriate safety steps for Lyme's disease prevention when working in the outdoors.

B. Open bids and approve low bid to base cost-share amount for Brian Vruwink's barnyard and waste transfer system.

Chair Henkel opened the bids which the County received for the barnyard and waste transfer system for the Brian Vruwink property. The County received five (5) bid responses from the nineteen (19) invitations which were issued. The bids were as follows:

Palmer's Cornerstone Concrete	\$59,330.02
Rick Weiler Construction	\$59,469.13
Becker Trucking, Sherry	\$50,868.33
Braun Concrete & Excavation	\$81,404.15
Advanced Concrete & Excavation	\$55,218.07

Motion by Harvey Petersen to accept the bid of \$50,868.33 from Becker Trucking for the Brian Vruwink's barnyard and waste transfer system, as the basis for cost sharing pending verification by Land Conservation Engineer that bid is accurate and complete. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Land Conservation Department programs overview presentation

Tracy Arnold gave a Powerpoint presentation highlighting activities and projects of the Land Conservation Department including the wildlife damage abatement and claims program, nonmetallic mining reclamation program, environmental education programs such as groundwater, rusty crayfish trapping, and bio-control for purple loosestrife. They are involved with the annual tree sale, host an annual conservation practices tour, provide scholarships to area youth to attend conservation camps, and sponsor a speech and poster contest for area youth. They administer the Farmland Preservation Program and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. They also administer the County Animal Waste Ordinance, assist landowners with implementation of conservation practices, including waste storage systems, barnyards, well closures, and stream bank improvement.

Chair Henkel reminded the Committee that the fall conservation tour will be held in September and if there are any sites, facilities, or farms that the Committee would like to see included in the tour to let the Land Conservation Department know so they could try to include them on the tour.

D. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association Planning Meeting Report.

Robert Ashbeck attended the meeting. There was a presentation on the Wisconsin River and the dams in Wisconsin. The association is also working on Squash Lake near Rhinelander by using divers to treat and pull out invasive species.

E. Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC & D) update.

Ruth Moody and Bill Clendenning gave a brief report. Ruth will serve on the Personnel/Finance Committee. The Council will be working on cleanup of Nepco Lake on June 14. The RC&D will also be submitting a grant proposal to fund a terrestrial invasives project for Wood and Portage County. Chair Henkel asked the two representatives to continue to provide information on the activities of the group.

7. University Extension

A. Manley, Lippert Compensation Options

Peter Manley provided information on the unique compensation situation which has arisen for both him and Matt Lippert. The Carlson-Dettman study and subsequent adoption of their ranking system did not include their positions. The two positions are currently supported by Wood County (40%) and the State/ University System (60%). Because they were not included in the Carlson-Dettman study, they are not eligible for future county pay increases. One option to address this would be for the State/University to convert the positions to full 133 contracts similar to all the other UW Extension agents/educators and new educators hired in the future. However, since the two incumbents are long-term Wood County employees, some of their benefits would be lost. Cost-savings to Wood County would be the cost of health insurance while Manley would lose sick leave benefits and vacation due to his longevity with the County. Matt Lippert anticipated potential salary increases as a loss to his benefits. Ed Reed, Human Resources Director, reported the other option is to have Carlson-Dettman review their JDQs (job description questionnaires) and rank them within the newly adopted ranking system.

Motion by William Winch to convert Peter Manley's and Matt Lippert's positions to 133 State contracts as of July 1, 2013. Second by Ken Curry. Motion failed.

Aye: Ken Curry, William Winch

No: Hilde Henkel, Ruth Moody, Robert Ashbeck

Reasons: Delay action until more information is received on the JDQ evaluation outcome.

Requested to revisit at November 2013 meeting unless process changes.

B. WNEP Program Coordinator Position Update

Peter Manley reported that the position for the WNEP Program Coordinator for Portage and Wood County has been filled. The new coordinator is Jill Hicks who is currently employed by Portage County. Ms. Hicks is the direct supervisor of Wood County's nutrition educator, Jodi Friday.

C. Broadband Listening Session

Peter Manley, in conjunction with the Incourage Community foundation, held a listening session on the broadband future in Wood County. He provided information to the Committee to keep them informed regarding this topic and potential costs. The purpose of the session was to identify internet broadband and technology concerns, issues and solutions and resources needed to improve local broadband connectivity particularly in the rural areas.

D. Resource Advocacy Network

Peter Manley asked for suggestions from the Committee for people who might be interested in serving on the UW Extension Resource Advocacy Network. The members of the network receive e-mails approximately once a month on issues affecting UW Extension from Dean Rick Klemme. The members of the group contact representatives, supervisors, and local politicians explaining issues and asking for their support of issues affecting UW Extension. Contact Manley with any nominees and he will contact them.

E. "Eggs-periments" 4-H Cloverbuds

Kyli Brown demonstrated a project with eggs that was used as a learning experience as well as a fun experiment for children in the kindergarten through grade 2 age group at the Cloverbud Day Camp in Auburndale. The demonstration showed the condition of an egg when it is soaked in vinegar, food coloring or corn syrup and how the shell disappears and the "naked" egg (membrane around the egg) remains. A total of 47 children attended when less than 20 were expected. It was a very successful and fun day for the children.

8. Planning & Zoning

No new business

9. Economic Development

A. Consider resolution of support for the Regional Economic Growth Initiative (REGI)

Jason Grueneberg provided the Committee with a copy of a draft resolution asking for support of the Regional Economic Growth Initiative (REGI). Currently, the group is focusing on South Wood County primarily because many of the communities in South Wood County and the cities of Wisconsin Rapids, Nekoosa, and Port Edwards have expended time and money in conducting research in analyzing the economic challenges of the area and are looking for support in implementing growth strategies that would be more effective if a collaborative regional approach were used rather than an individual community effort. Committee members asked about including ALL of Wood County. Grueneberg explained that funds have currently been committed by South Wood County and hoped that North Wood County communities would also consider similar efforts as more interest in REGI's work showed value throughout the County. Grueneberg will bring a revised resolution for the Committee's review to the July meeting. The Committee recommended that the information be presented to the Executive Committee for joint support of this effort.

Motion by Robert Ashbeck to move the effort forward and to support the concept of the Regional Economic Growth Initiative (REGI). Second by William Winch. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Land Records Program

No report

11. County Surveyor.

Chair Henkel asked about the public land survey system corner discrepancy which appeared in the staff report of the Planning & Zoning Department, page 4, item 6 B. The county surveyor has been working to resolve this issue by meeting with both surveyors and landowners to find the problem area.

12. Schedule next meeting.

The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 3, 2013 at 9 a.m.** in Conference Room 115.

13. Adjourn.

Motion by Ruth Moody to adjourn at 11:59 a.m. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth Curry, Secretary
Minutes by Mary Spencer, Wood County UW Extension Department
Review for submittal to County Board by: Kenneth Curry, Secretary *Approved 6-10-13*