MINUTES

CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, September 3, 2014

WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, CONFERENCE ROOM 115, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Hilde Henkel, Robert Ashbeck, Kenneth Curry, Gerald Nelson, Bill Leichtnam and Harvey Petersen

Member Excused: N/A

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff – Jason Grueneberg

UW Extension Staff – Peter Manley, Chris Viau, Mary Spencer

Land Conservation Dept. Staff – Jerry Storke

Others Present: John Bergin, REGI; Rick Merdan, REGI; Dennis Polach, District 14 Supervisor; Bill Clendenning, District 15 Supervisor; Melissa Reichert, Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce; Gus Mancuso, REGI; Joe Terry, Village of Port Edwards; Kelly Ryan, Incourage Foundation

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

**Public Comment.** (brief comments/statements regarding committee business)

No public comment this month.

1. **Review Correspondence.**

There was no public correspondence for review. Chair Henkel reported that she and Robert Ashbeck had been appointed to the Ad hoc Committee on Manure Irrigation.

1. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the August 6, 2014 & August 13, 2014 CEED meeting, 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, UW Extension and Land Conservation and 3) staff activity reports from Jason Grueneberg, Julie Akey, Jeff Brewbaker, Justin Conner, Jerry Storke, Tracy Arnold, Peter Manley, Matt Lippert, Teri Lessig, Sara Siegel, Jodi Friday, Chris Viau, Kyli Brown, and Christine Hollar.

*Motion by Gerald Nelson to approve and accept the August 6, 2014 & August 13, 2014 CEED minutes and staff activity reports from Planning & Zoning, Land Conservation, and UW Extension as presented and to accept the bills as presented from Planning & Zoning, Land Conservation and UW Extension. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.*

1. **Risk and Injury Report.** Nothing to report this month.
2. **Land Conservation**
3. Budget Update

Jerry Storke reported that he had met with the Executive Committee and the preliminary 2015 budgets for Land Conservation, DATCP Grant, Wildlife Damage Abatement, Non-metallic Mining Reclamation, Yellow River Non-Point Source, Land Conservation Trust, and Permits and Fines were approved as presented. One observation made by the Executive Committee regarding the Non-metallic Mining budget was that the carryover from year to year was decreasing. Storke reported that in preparing the 2016 budget, provisions may need to be made to consider fee increases in the future.

1. Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards Report

Bill Leichtnam and Bill Clendenning attended an event, *Pontoons & Politics*, sponsored by the Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards (PACRS). Leichtnam reported that a video produced by Amy Kowalski, in collaboration with the UWSP Center for Watershed Science & Education and the UW Extension Lakes Center for Land Use Education, was shown to the group which showed an aerial view of the Wisconsin River and its tributaries. The video showed areas of the river and the phosphorus concentrations on the

river and areas of concentration of excessive algal growth in the Wisconsin watershed. There continues to be concern about the levels of phosphorus caused by shoreland runoff and the affect it has on the State’s waterways and potential health problems when exposed to the water where the phosphorus concentrations levels are high.

1. CEED Committee Tour

Jerry Storke reminded the Committee that the fall tour is on Thursday, September 11, 2014 with the bus leaving the Courthouse at 8 a.m. Participants may organize in the Auditorium at 7:45 a.m. The tour is open to all county board members and will consist of four stops: Growing Friends Wisconsin Rapids Community Garden, Non-metallic Mining Site, an aerobic unit and modified mound for onsite waste water disposal system, and a dairy farm implementing several Best Management Practices for waste storage and waste transfer systems.

1. **Economic Development**.
2. Activity update from the Regional Economic Growth Initiative (REGI)

Jason Grueneberg introduced members of REGI who were present. He gave a brief overview of the activities of REGI stating that they hoped to hire an economic development director in March. Chair Henkel asked Grueneberg to arrange that some of the REGI members also attend a future county board meeting to bring the supervisors up to date on the group’s activities. Board members are interested in the progress the group has made and also what the county’s financial support has accomplished. The group can provide direct feedback to the supervisors.

Grueneberg introduced John Bergin and Gus Mancuso. Bergin provided a brief presentation on what has been accomplished. REGI filed and received approval to become a 501C(3) Corporation. Governance documents and bylaws have been prepared outlining standards of operation. In addition, the group prepared, filed and were approved for a $50,000 grant to complete an infrastructure study. An RFP for a consultant to complete the study has been completed and Diane Luebke and Associates has been hired to conduct the study. Luebke’s group has completed rural studies and will provide a perspective that addresses the unique situations in Wood County. The next step will be to hold a municipal forum to involve each of the communities in the south Wood County area (Wisconsin Rapids, Grand Rapids, Biron, Port Edwards, Nekoosa, Pittsville, and Town of Rome.) Currently, these communities will be the primary service area while including other communities as secondary areas. Bergin reported that the infrastructure study framework which provides a detailed plan will be available this week and the study will begin next week and continue through February. Bergin stated it is important to identify what the communities will be comfortable with for growth and development. Each representative present provided their perspective on how organizations or communities may be able to budget for long-term support of economic development since some are already funding their own development whether it be from applying for grants and seeking funding from local businesses. Joe Terry, Village of Port Edwards, suggested that some communities are using a very small percentage of the mill rate to support economic development already and by providing that funding to REGI could help provide collaboration and communication to develop a regional plan to involve all communities in Wood County.

Gerald Nelson asked that communication continue with north Wood County and continue working together to accomplish what is good for all of Wood County. Gus Mancuso confirmed that the group is constantly in touch with the leaders in Marshfield and results are based on needs. Melissa Reichert stated that any marketing that is done through her organization is for Wood County, not south or north Wood County. Kelly Ryan stated that there are regular meetings between the mayor of Wisconsin Rapids and the mayor of Marshfield and that the myth of competitiveness and not working together can only harm all of Wood County. Ryan asked the County to provide leadership and develop relationships and support common interests that can benefit and reshape the economic development which needs to take place to benefit all communities.

1. Report to Committee by Hilde Henkel on recent tour of Wisconsin Trapshooting Association Homegrounds Facility in the Town of Rome

Hilde Henkel reported on a recent tour of the Wisconsin Trapshooting Association Homegrounds Facility located in the Town of Rome, Adams County. This is located to the south of Wisconsin Rapids on Highway 13 just over the county line. Originally, the organization looked at Wood County for the facility but the sites proposed did not suit their needs. Henkel encouraged committee members to visit the site if they have not. The site also has a RV park. The manager is available for tours of the facility and open to discussion on youth education and participation. This facility provides an opportunity which could lead to more economic development for Wood County.

Gerald Nelson reminded committee members that there is a proposal for the development of several golf courses in the Town of Rome which also could potentially impact the economic development of Wood County.

Hilde Henkel asked Jason Grueneberg to consider scheduling representatives from all of these groups for a future County Board meeting to bring the county supervisors up to date on all of the development and potential development for the area.

1. **Planning & Zoning**
2. Budget Update

Jason Grueneberg reported that he had met with the Executive Committee and all of the preliminary 2015 budgets for the Planning & Zoning Department were approved as presented.

Hilde Henkel asked about the post cards which will be going out in the mail to residents for the POWTS servicing fees. Grueneberg stated he was working with the Systems Department and the mailing would be going out in a few weeks. There is a 30-day window for payment of the fee unless residents called the Planning & Zoning Office to request more time to make payment.

1. **Land Records**

A report will be provided at a future meeting. They are working on some grant requests at this time.

1. **County Surveyor**
2. Public Land Survey System (PLSS)

Public Land Survey System (PLSS) maintenance project has been completed. Some road work has required PLSS maintenance. Grueneberg is working on plans with the county surveyor to begin an additional PLSS maintenance project for 2014.

Gerald Nelson asked about an update on CWED (Central Wisconsin Economic Development Fund which gives out low interest loans to businesses). The new administrative service provider will be the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Grueneberg reported Wood County is not a member of the planning commission but that a proposal to suggest that Wood County become a member should be considered in the future. Membership would benefit townships and several Wood County departments. Grueneberg will look into this more.

1. **UW Extension**
2. Budget Update - Manley

Peter Manley reported that the budget for UW Extension went through the initial stage with no changes and was approved by the Executive Committee with no changes.

Interviews for the 4-H Secretary position will begin next week.

Christine Hollar, 4-H Youth Development Educator, part-time educator which is the backfill for Christopher Viau’s liaison position, has accepted a position as the full-time 4-H Youth Development Educator for Clark County. Her last day at Wood County is September 14, 2014.

Manley reported that he is also working on the grant application for the Clean Sweep event.

He will be presenting a workshop for woodland owners, “Learn About Your Land,” starting on October 1, 2014 to be held in Marshfield.

1. Preliminary Fair Report - Viau

Christopher Viau reported on the Junior Fair. He is involved with only the Junior exhibitors. He reported that initially fair entry registrations were up this year; however, the actual entry of exhibits is still being calculated and numbers will be available in another two weeks.

There is a new fair manager and staff in the Fair Office this year and with help from the previous fair manager, work was completed according to schedule. The rain may have been a factor for attendance and participation but more information will be available in the next few weeks.

A meeting with the new fair manager and the staff and the 4-H Youth Development staff will be held

to help clarify each departments responsibilities and roles.

Support for the Market Sale seemed good as Viau did not hear any complaints. Viau reported that in the future the State Veterinarian may be more strict as more animal health issues may require monitoring requiring animal health records for each animal upon check-in. This year a swine virus threat caused careful monitoring of the animals.

1. 4-H Program Report - Viau

Christopher Viau reported on the Leadership Washington Focus trip and distributed information to the Committee about the trip. This was a first-time experience offered through the National 4-H Center in Maryland. Approximately 30 youth and 5 adults travel from Central Wisconsin (7 were from Wood County.) There were 130 youth from 13 different states that participated. The youth from Wisconsin traveled to Milwaukee by bus and then took the AmTrak to Washington D.C. Comments from the youth showed that it was both a valuable learning experience as well as a fun trip.

**13. Schedule the next regular CEED meeting.**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 1, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

**14. Adjourn.**

Motion by Harvey Petersen to adjourn at 11:05 a.m. Second by Bill Leitchnam. 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, 9-8-2014