

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2013
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #115, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

4

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

Member Excused:

Staff Present: Planning & Zoning Staff – Gary Popelka, Jason Grueneberg
UW Extension Staff – Peter Manley, Sarah Siegel
Land Conservation Department Staff – Jerry Storke, Lori Ruess

Others Present: Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor William Clendenning

1. **Call 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.** Planning & Zoning provided copies of the Marshfield Airport report. Gary Popelka has requested a report from the Wisconsin Rapids Airport.

The Town of Grand Rapids is holding a South Wood County “Choose to Re-Use” event on September 14th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Residents from all municipalities are welcome.

4. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the August 7, 2013 CEED meeting, 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, UW Extension and Land Conservation and 3) staff activity reports. No additions or corrections were made.

Chairperson Henkel stated she would be asking for additional information on number 5 A (7) (Jeff Brewbaker's report) when Gary Popelka reports on the POWTS program.

Motion by Ruth Moody to approve and accept the consent agenda items including the minutes of the August 7, 2013 CEED Committee meeting, bills from Planning & Zoning, UW Extension and Land Conservation, and the staff activity report. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.

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

6. Planning & Zoning.

- a. Update on Policies and Protocol Regarding the POWTS Program. Gary Popelka provided the information Chairperson Henkel requested on 5 A (7). This is the first jury trial in the history of Planning and Zoning.

Gary Popelka reported on recent changes made in the Planning & Zoning office regarding the POWTS program.

- Integrated staff members into program.
- Both Code Administrator and Code Technician investigate violations.
- Door hangers are used for visit notification when landowner is not home.
- Staff leaves property immediately, if requested to leave by landowner.
- Specific landowner issues are reported by staff to Gary Popelka or Jason Grueneberg.
- Have team discussions at staff meetings for violations.

- Dealing with complaints on a one-to-one basis.
- Sending program educational materials to landowners on a regular basis.
- Regulation agency; constantly working on public image.
- Future plans include conflict resolution training for the entire staff.

Bill Winch commented that the program should focus on customer service and suggested discussing and developing a complaint form. He provided an example of a complaint form used by the Sheriff Department. Discussion ensued.

Chairperson Henkel stated she would not object to a complaint form if the rest of the committee agreed; but is hearing that complaints are being handled efficiently.

The complaint process will be further discussed and a decision on the complaint form will be made by the committee at the October CEED meeting.

7. Economic Development.

- Update on CWED Economic Development Grant program. Gary Popelka reported the Advisory Committee met on August 27th. Staff from the WisDOA and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation talked extensively about issues they are working through with the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). A number of issues directly related to CWED were discussed. To increase efficiency and accuracy, the WisDOA is working toward having all applications and reporting forms completed and submitted electronically. The loan portfolio now exceeds \$16 million and \$71 million of private funds have been leveraged through the program. Vilas and Oneida Counties have joined CWED.

Jason Grueneberg reported briefly on the Central Housing Consortium meeting held August 20th in Wood County. All nine counties in the consortium were represented at the meeting. The primary reason for the meeting was to select a new lead County as Waupaca County decided they could no longer take the lead. The Juneau County Housing Authority was selected by the Central Housing Consortium to assume the role as lead. A follow-up meeting will be held in September. Chairperson Henkel suggested that the meeting be held centrally located.

8. Land Records Program. No report.

9. County Surveyor. No report.

10. Land Conservation

- NCLWCA Business Meeting and Tour. Robert Ashbeck, Ruth Moody and Jerry Storke attended the North Central Land and Water Conservation Association meeting and tour on Friday, August 23rd. Jerry Storke gave a brief report on the tour.
- 2014 Department Budgets Update. Chairperson Henkel mentioned that the Executive Committee voted on September 3rd to lower the increase in health insurance premiums from 6% to 3.5%. This will decrease expenses in all 2014 budgets.

Jerry Storke reported all seven 2014 Land Conservation Department budgets met the required budget parameters and were approved by the Executive Committee on September 3rd.

- c. NRCS Contribution Agreement. Jerry Storke is working with Roy Diver, NRCS District Conservationist, on a NRCS Contribution Agreement. This agreement would reimburse the Land Conservation Department approximately \$3,500 for two projects that Shane Wucherpennig would design and oversee. Jerry and Roy are currently working on completing all the forms for the agreement. The committee requested that the agreement be reviewed by Peter Kastenholz prior to signing.
- d. Wisconsin Counties Association Resolutions. Jerry Storke reviewed the two resolutions that will be acted on at the Wisconsin Counties Association Conference. Resolution 42 – Requesting Restoration of Base-Level Funding to County Land Conservation Programs as Supported by the Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin Farmers Union, and Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and Resolution 43 – Requesting that the State Restore Base-Level Funding as Supported by the Wisconsin Counties Association and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

Chairperson Henkel stated that all comments and recommendations from the CEED should go to Lance Pliml as he will be voting on the resolutions at the WCA.

Motion by Ruth Moody approving support of Resolution 42 – Requesting Restoration of Base-Level Funding to County Land Conservation Programs as Supported by the Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin Farmers Union, and Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and Resolution 43 – Requesting that the State Restore Base-Level Funding as Supported by the Wisconsin Counties Association and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau. Second by Harvey Petersen. Motion carried unanimously.

- e. Central Sands Lake and Stream Base Flow Monitoring Project. Jerry Storke reported on the Central Sands Lake and Stream Base Flow Monitoring Project and presented a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Central Sands Counties of Adams, Marquette, Portage, Waupaca, Waushara & Wood. The purpose of the MOU is intended to increase the number of monitored water bodies and monitoring frequencies through a low cost effort by engaging the resources of trained volunteer monitors. The intent is to establish monthly stream baseflow discharge and lake level monitoring throughout the six counties.

Counties are responsible for selecting volunteers and monitoring sites, housing flow meters, collecting monitoring data from volunteers, uploading data to WDNR Surface Water Integrated Monitoring Systems (SWIMS), and providing project updates to WDNR.

Jerry explained, in the draft MOU the period of performance was originally effective for a period of five years. A proposed change to paragraph IV - Period of Performance reads: The agreement shall become effective on the date of the last signature hereto and shall continue annually from the date unless terminated by any party.

Motion by Robert Ashbeck to approve and proceed with monitoring and approve the Memorandum of Understanding after the draft has been modified to include the proposed change to paragraph IV - Period of Performance and reviewed by Peter Kastenholz. Second by Kenneth Curry. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Clendenning handed out an article from the Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune on the Central Wisconsin Resiliency Project.

- f. Fall Conservation Practices Tour. Jerry Storke reported that the Fall Conservation Practices Tour will be held on Tuesday, September 24th. The tour has been changed from a full day to a half-day event. Tour sites will include Brian Vruwink's barnyard runoff control system and vegetative buffer strip, Nancy Baldwin's streambank rip-rap project and Haessly and Haessly non-metallic mine reclamation site. Informational flyers will be included in the September County Board packet.

11. UW Extension

- a. Budget Update. Peter Manley reported that all UW Extension budgets were approved by the Executive Committee on September 3rd.
- b. Preliminary Fair Report. Peter Manley reported that it is too soon for specifics on the fair, but the attendance appeared to be pretty good. Crop items were down; possibly due to the early cool, wet weather followed by late hot, dry weather which could have affected crops.

Robert Ashbeck expressed concerns with the dairy participants at the Fair decreasing due to the loss of small family farms and increase in large dairies.

Ruth Moody expressed her appreciation for the County Fair and the money that was put towards recent improvements.

- c. Report, Taste of Central Wisconsin. Sarah Siegel reported on the Taste of Central Wisconsin. This is a local education event and effort which supports local vendors, encourages eating fresh and nutritious products and provides an opportunity for UW-Extension and local vendors to meet community members. Vendors are given the opportunity to showcase their food products and/or ingredients, highlight their history and qualities that make their business and products unique.

Participating vendors at the Central Wisconsin State Fair included: Burich Bunch Bakery, The Market on Strongs and Raikowski Farm, Central Rivers Farmshed, Wenzel's Farm Sausage, Auburndale Food Cooperative, Cherokee Bison Farms/Cherokee Sun, and Back to the Country Store. These vendors also donated items to a raffle basket. Participants were able to move around the tent and have each vendor mark off their punch card and then enter to win the raffle basket.

Sarah was there promoting proper food preservation and food safety methods to community members.

12. Schedule Next Meeting

- a. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 2, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.
- b. Future Discussion Items: POWTS complaint form/process. Review language on POWTS forms that are sent to landowners.
- c. Reminder: Tuesday, September 24, 2013, 8:30 a.m. – Noon - Fall Conservation Tour. This will be a posted meeting.

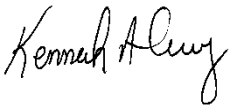
CEED MEETING

September 4, 2013

13. Adjourn

Motion by William Winch to adjourn at 10:40 a.m. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.
--

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth Curry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kenneth Curry, Secretary
Minutes by Lori Ruess, Land Conservation Department
Review for submittal to County Board by Kenneth Curry (approved September 10, 2013)