

MINUTES
 CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2012
 WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #115, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Thomas Haferman, Ruth Moody, Robert Ashbeck, Gerald Nelson.

Member Excused: Hilde Henkel, Dale Gehrke

Staff Present: Land Conservation Staff - Jerry Storke and Tracy Arnold and Shane Wucherpennig
 Planning & Zoning Staff - Gary Popelka
 UW Extension Staff – Kyli Brown and Mary Spencer

Others Present: Lance Pliml, Chair, Wood County Board of Supervisors; Dist #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach;
 Shannon Rohde, Project Manager, Windshed Project

1. Call CEED Committee Meeting to Order. Vice Chairperson Thomas Haferman called the CEED Committee meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Public Comment.

a. No public comment.

3. Review Correspondence.

a. The Central Wisconsin State Fair Board and Carol Kerper sent a thank you for the support of the fair.

4. Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda included the following items: a) minutes of the January 31, 2012 CEED meeting; b) bills from UW Extension, Land Conservation, and Planning & Zoning; and c) staff activity reports.

a. **Minutes of Previous Meeting.** Tom Haferman asked for a correction to the minutes of January 31, 2012. Item 3a. Line 3: "...it was, decided that it *would be placed on the agenda of the next meeting (February 28, 2012) for committee approval* to submit a recommendation to Dennis Lawrence (NCWRPC) that Tom Haferman be appointed to fill this vacancy."

Motion by Gerald Nelson to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2012 meeting as corrected. Second by Ruth Moody. Motion carried unanimously.

b. **Department Bills.** Department Bills were presented for approval.

Motion by Ruth Moody to accept the bills for UW Extension, Land Conservation, and Planning & Zoning. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.

c. **Staff Activity Reports.** Staff activity reports were presented for acceptance.

Motion by Robert Ashbeck to accept the staff reports for UW Extension, Land Conservation, and Planning & Zoning as presented. Second by Ruth Moody. Motion carried unanimously.

5. University Extension

A. Family Living Educator Refill Update. Peter Manley provided a written summary to update the committee on the progress of the search to fill the Family Living Educator vacancy. Three candidates were interviewed and one candidate was selected. References were checked and an offer was made. We are waiting to hear from the candidate. The anticipated start date would be mid-March.

B. 4-H Program Review. Kyli Brown provided an overview of the 4-H activities in Wood County for 2011. There are 28 4-H clubs in Wood County. Kyli started her 11th year as advisor. Her presentation highlighted activities for the youth which included scenes from the Central Wisconsin State Fair, Creative Arts Day, visiting with the legislators in Madison, PALS training, camp activities and scholarship activities. Kyli Brown also encouraged the Committee

members to contact her if they have projects in their communities where the 4-H youth could become involved. The 4-H leaders are always looking for projects.

6. Planning & Zoning

- A. Floodplain Zoning Community Assistance Visit (CAV) Status Report. Gary Popelka reported that Jeff Brewbaker has been working weekly with the DNR regarding clarification of issues which have been identified as potential areas for improvement. An example of a situation requiring clarification is the new floodplain maps showed a structure in the floodplain when previously it was not; therefore, further clarification is needed from the DNR. Tom Haferman asked if Gary anticipated a lot of inconsistencies in the new mapping. Ruth Moody asked if the changes were due to the September 2010 flooding. Gary responded that there were a few inconsistencies but he didn't anticipate many changes. He said that most of the changes were due to newer technology which gives a more detailed view of the region and provides more accurate information. Costs to correct problems could be a financial burden to many home owners. It was expressed that a grant or cooperative efforts among property owners would help reduce the costs. Gary summarized that progress is being made but it is proving to be more involved than anticipated.
- B. Report on Shoreland/Floodplain Administration Activities. Gary Popelka reported that clear/cutting on property at Nepco Lake subdivision development has been occurring all the way down to the shoreline. A cease and desist order was issued to the owners and to the developers based on the State requirements for shoreline development. In response to the order, information on developments such as Lake Wazeecha and Lake Dexter was requested by the developers. However, State statutes have changed since these areas were developed; consequently, they cannot be used as examples. The developers and owners will be asked to restore the shoreland. We are aware of the situation and investigating it to determine what needs to be done to meet State regulations.
- C. Report on NCWRPC Meeting. Gerald Nelson reported on this meeting last month.
- D. Forward Recommendation to County Board Chairman to fill NCWRPC vacancy. Tom Haferman said he was willing to serve; however, he wanted to make the Committee aware that he did not know how long he would be able to continue as his place of residence would change. Gerald Nelson said that someone who is active in the County business affairs is needed.

Motion by Gerald Nelson to forward to the County Board Chairperson the Committee's recommendation to have Thomas Haferman fill the vacant NCWRPC position. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Economic Development

- A. Report on Housing Loan Program. Hilde Henkel provided a written report on the Wood County CDBG Program. There are two projects on the agenda for approval at the next meeting. Fourteen projects have been funded with an average loan amount of \$25,861.49. There are three projects in the bid process and one application needing an inspection. There is currently \$61,896.16 available to lend. All funds must be obligated by June 30, 2012. It appears that all funds will be obligated since there are four projects in progress and applications will continue to be taken.
- B. Report on Regional Revolving Loan Fund. Gary Popelka provided an updated on the Regional Revolving Loan Fund which includes Adams, Portage, Marathon, and Lincoln Counties and the City of Merrill. McDevco, a branch of the Wausau Chamber of Commerce, administers the funds. The Wood County Loan Review Board reviews loan applications for funds up to \$200,000. The regional review board (CWED) reviews applications for funds over \$200,000. On January 31, 2012, the loan fund balance was \$4.4 million and outstanding loans of \$12.6 million. One significant change is that the fund should not be idle or the money could be moved to other communities. It is the objective of the fund to keep the money working.

There have been two inquiries in Wood County in recent months. Both interested parties discussed the application process with Gary Popelka and the program administrator; however, neither application was returned.

- C. Report on CWED Board of Directors meeting. Gerald Nelson reported that the CWED Board of Directors met on

Thursday, February 23, 2012, with the Economic Development Board. The board reviewed 15 applications and approved 13 applications. One loan has been paid off and several loans are in default. Nelson indicated that a new Vice President of the Board would need to be elected as Mary Jo Carson, the incumbent, will be retiring. Several counties, including Vilas County, have submitted membership applications.

8. Land Conservation

- A. Windshed Update. Shannon Rohde, Project Manager, Windshed Project, based out of the Hancock Agriculture Research Station was present and provided an overview of the windshed project which is in progress. His primary task is to install natural windbreaks throughout Waushara, Wood, Portage, and Adams Counties but also works in whatever county that contracts for their service. He works primarily with potato growers and large farms. His annual goal is to plant 15.5 miles of trees for windbreaks to prevent wind erosion and provide a living snow fence. Last year they planted 16.6 miles of trees throughout the counties. They plant primarily conifers (spruce mostly) along with maple, oak and use shrubs in the power line areas. They will maintain the trees for three years and guarantee a 95% survival rate. If a natural disaster occurs, they are not able to replace what was damaged but will continue to cleanup and maintain the area originally planted up to three years.
- B. Wood County Speaking Contest. Wood County has sponsored a county-wide speaking contest for many years. In past ten years, the number of participants has decreased to only 14. Only two teachers in the county prepare and send students to the competition. Jerry Storke reported that each year strategies to increase participation are used; however, interest is declining. He asked the Committee for input in how to promote this contest. UWEX has assisted in the past. The contest is usually held in October. The cost to continue the program is approximately \$400-\$500 with a maximum expense of \$700 if students progress to the area contest. It was suggested that this item be placed on the next agenda for further consideration.
- C. Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Program Update. Tracy Arnold distributed the Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation County Info Summary which detailed the differences between county reclamation ordinances throughout the State. The fee charged is based on the footprint of the digging not on output. She asked the Committee to review the report and to prepare questions for a discussion at the next meeting. At the next meeting, the Land Conservation staff will provide their recommendations and proposals for changes for the Committee's review. The application form will also be revised and the manual reviewed so any loopholes will be closed. It was suggested that prior to implementation of any changes an informational meeting should be held for public end users.
- D. DATCP Lapse. Jerry Storke reported that the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's (DATCP) latest budget lapse proposal will leave a shortfall of \$12,000 for Wood County conservation staff funding. Funds from the Nikolai nonmetallic mining reclamation ordinance violation forfeiture and other resources will offset the shortfall in 2012. Revenue generating strategies will need to be discussed for the future.
- E. DATCP Dues. Jerry Storke reported that he received the invoice for the DATCP dues for 2012. The dues are \$1,484.58 and due May 31, 2012. He asked the Committee for a recommendation to pay the dues in order to become voting members.

Motion by Ruth Moody to pay the DATCP dues to allow Wood County to become voting members. Second by Gerald Nelson. Motion carried unanimously.

- F. NCLWCA Summer Meeting & Tour. Jerry Storke asked the Committee for input in places to include on the tour. The meeting date is August 24, 2012. Tom Haferman has arranged a tour at New Page for a tour of the mill. The tour could be one-half hour to one hour—he would need to know which is preferred. He reminded the Committee that there may be places on the tour that would not be handicap accessible. Tom will report back to the mill to finalize arrangements. The tour of the frac sand facility may not work out. Everyone who is on the site must wear a hard hat and only 10 hats are accessible; however, the tour is usually about 25 people so due to safety regulations, this might have to be postponed. A driving tour could possibly be arranged. A tour of a craisin facility in Wisconsin Rapids will be the second stop. Bob Ashbeck suggested one of the larger dairy farm operations as a stop. Jerry will look into this and arrange a third stop which will be in close proximity to the mill and craisin facility.

- G. Approve Land Conservation Department Mission Statement. Jerry Storke presented a proposal to change the Land Conservation Department mission statement. The proposed statement clarifies and includes all facets of the responsibilities of the Land Conservation Department.

Motion by Gerald Nelson to approve the Land Conservation Department Mission Statement as presented. The statement is "Protect, improve, and manage land and water resources in Wood County through technical and financial assistance, educational opportunities, enforcement of County Ordinances, and administration of State programs to permanently benefit land and water resources for its citizens." Second by Ruth Moody. Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Schedule next regular meeting.**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 27, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.**

10. **Adjourn.**

Gerald Nelson moved to adjourn at 11:10 a.m. Second by Ruth Moody. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruth Moody, Secretary
Minutes by Mary Spencer, Wood County UW Extension
Review for submittal to County Board by: Ruth Moody, Secretary