

MINUTES  
 CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
 WEDNESDAY, November 6, 2013  
 WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #115, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Hilde Henkel, Robert Ashbeck, William Winch, Ruth Moody and Harvey Petersen, (Excused at 9:53 a.m.)

Member Excused: Ken Curry

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff – Gary Popelka, Jason Grueneberg

UW Extension Staff – Peter Manley, Mary Spencer

Land Conservation Dept. Staff – Tracy Arnold

Others Present: Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach; Dist. #15 William Clendenning; Kaycie Stushek, Golden Sands RC& D; Roy A. Diver, USDA-NRCS

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Hilde Henkel called the CEED meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.
2. **Public Comment.** There was no public comment.
3. **Review Correspondence.**
  - a. Peter Manley provided copies of information for the Public Issues Leadership Development Conference (PILD) to be held in April 5-9, 2014 in Washington, DC. Committee members were encouraged to apply to attend.
  - b. Peter Manley provided a copy of the Junior Fair Expenses which will be presented for approval at the December meeting.
  - c. Gary Popelka provided a copy of the October Case Law Update and asked if this was an item of interest. Hilde asked to have those included in the packet each month.
  - d. Jason Grueneberg provided a copy of a summary regarding a USDA grant application opportunity for the development of rural communities. The grant program is titled the Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) and an application is being submitted by the Incourage Community Foundation that includes the Planning & Zoning Office. If successful the grant will provide up to \$300,000 towards collaborative redevelopment practices that will create a stronger local economy through the redevelopment of our built environment. Incourage will provide the dollar-for-dollar match if the grant application is successful.
4. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the October 2, 2013 CEED meeting, 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, UW Extension and Land Conservation and 3) staff activity reports. Robert Ashbeck raised a question about the total on the bill submission statement for Planning & Zoning. Jason Grueneberg took the statement to have it clarified by the P& Z office staff.

*Motion by Robert Ashbeck to approve and accept the October 2, 2013 CEED minutes and staff activity reports from Planning & Zoning, Land Conservation, and UW Extension as presented and to accept the bills as presented from Land Conservation and UW Extension. Second by Ruth Moody. Motion carried unanimously.*

A calculation error had occurred in the bill statement provided by Planning & Zoning. The corrected total was \$6,324.11 instead of \$4,333.00 as presented.

*Motion by Robert Ashbeck to accept the bills as amended from Planning & Zoning. Second by Ruth Moody. Motion carried unanimously.*

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

## 6. Land Conservation

- a. Approve Operational Agreement between Wood County Land Conservation Department and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Roy A. Diver, USDA-NRCS office, was present to answer any questions regarding the operational agreement between Wood County Land Conservation Department and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Tracy Arnold was also present to answer any questions for the Wood County Land Conservation Department. There were no changes to the agreement which has been working well and members of each department are able to help constituents when coverage is needed which was demonstrated in the recent government shutdown and accident recovery situations.

Diver also provided a written NRCS activity report. Chair Henkel asked if there were any other questions regarding the agreement or the report. No further questions or discussion.

*Motion by William Winch to approve the Operational Agreement between Wood County Land Conservation Department and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service as presented. Second by Harvey Petersen. Motion carried unanimously.*

- b. Approve the Low Bid to base cost share for the Ron Knuth waste storage, transfer, and barnyard project.

Committee members reviewed the Bid Summary presented for the Ron Knuth waste storage, transfer, and barnyard project. There were no additional questions.

*Motion by Harvey Petersen to accept the bid of \$32,184.00 from Rich Weiler Construction for the Ron Knuth waste storage, transfer, and barnyard project as the basis for cost sharing. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.*

- c. North Central Land and Water Conservation Association meeting update.

Robert Ashbeck, Ruth Moody, and Jerry Storke attended the meeting; Ashbeck provided a summary of the meeting activities. Topics discussed included the Yellow Floating Heart, an invasive perennial, rooted aquatic plant that invades slow-moving water bodies. It is not widespread, yet, in Wisconsin and the sale of this plant is prohibited in Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. There is a resolution from La Crosse County opposing SB-349 limiting local control regarding non-metallic mining, air and water quality, and highway damage and use contracts. The wolf resolution presented by Wood County at the last meeting was approved to be forwarded to the WLWCA Board. A resolution on timber management in National Forests is also being considered.

- d. Golden Sands RC&D Aquatic Invasive Species Program Update.

Kaycie Stushek, Golden Sands RC&D Council Inc., was present to provide an update on the Summer 2013 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Activities. The focus is on education and technical assistance in training groups to become knowledgeable in controlling aquatic invasive species. In Summer 2013, they worked with two counties (Wood and Marathon) out of the nine counties in the Council. Golden Sands worked with Tracy Arnold on providing Pittsville High School with a classroom lesson on rusty crayfish trapping in the Yellow River, participated in Earth Day Port Edwards, worked with Wood County on the Lake Nepco Cleanup Day, completed surveys and mapping of area lakes finding and documenting curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, rusty crayfish and banded mystery snails. AIS stream monitoring took place on Mosquito Creek and Hemlock Creek. A stand of

Japanese knotweed on Lake Nepco near a cranberry bed was reported and volunteers have been working to provide some control of the plants without using a foliar treatment.

## 7. Planning and Zoning

### a. Wisconsin Supreme Court Decision Limiting Reach of the Public Trust Doctrine.

Gary Popelka provided information on a recent Wisconsin Supreme Court decision regarding DNR authority to use the Public Trust Doctrine to regulate levels of Lake Koshkonong, and the impact on shoreland zoning. Gary reported that the issue was regarding the Public Trust Doctrine and not the statutory police power to regulate shoreland areas. County shoreland zoning ordinances, including Wood County's, are adopted under the police power and, as such, are not affected by the Supreme Court decision. There has been some confusion that the decision eliminates shoreland zoning. It does not.

### b. Position Description for Planning and Zoning Director.

Gary Popelka presented a draft of the position description for the Planning and Zoning Director asking for input to update the position description. Chair Henkel asked the Committee for additional updates or changes. She also asked that all positions within the department be reviewed. After discussion and checking for approved language, it was agreed the presented position description appropriately covered the duties.

*Motion by Ruth Moody to approve the position description for the Planning & Zoning Director to be forwarded to Human Resources as presented. Second by William Winch. Motion carried unanimously.*

## 8. Economic Development.

Information provided in the Staff Activity Report for November 6, 2013.

Chair Henkel asked about the November 13, 2013 meeting of the Housing Committee which is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Henkel said it was unclear as to whom the chair of the committee is and what the chain of command is. Jason Grueneberg reported that the Lead County assumes the direction of the group; however, he will work with the group to clarify the leadership.

## 9. Land Records Program.

The Land Information Council is meeting today (November 6, 2013) at 12:30 p.m. Staff Activity Report of November 6, 2013 provided this month's report.

## 10. County Surveyor

During the discussion regarding the Planning and Zoning Director position description, a question was raised about the County Surveyor position and the close working relationship this position has with the Planning and Zoning Department. Currently, the County Surveyor has courthouse hours four hours a week and accomplishes a great deal in that short of time. The Planning and Zoning staff works with the County Surveyor and the Land Records Program as much as ten hours a week. However, there is no documentation as to the connection of this position with Planning & Zoning and the Land Records Program. Gary Popelka asked about formalizing the reporting link to the Planning and Zoning Director. Chair Henkel asked Popelka to raise this question with Corporation Counsel.

## 11. University Extension

### a. Budget Update. Nothing new to report.

b. 133 Contracts.

Peter Manley presented the University contracts for Chris Viau, Kyli Brown, Theresa Lessig, and Sarah Siegel for Committee approval and signature. There were no changes to the contracts. The contracts are for existing, budgeted positions.

**12. Schedule Next Meeting**

- a. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.
- b. Items for action for UW Extension
  - i. Presentation for approval of bill for Clean Sweep, \$20,000
  - ii. Matt Lippert & Peter Manley Contracts discussion
  - iii. Presentation of Junior Fair Budget for approval

**13. Adjourn**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Hilde Henkel, Chair

Minutes by Mary Spencer, UW Extension Office

Review for submittal to County Board by Hilde Henkel (approved November 8, 2013)