

MINUTES
 CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2012
 WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #115, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

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

Member Excused: Dale Gehrke

Staff Present: Land Conservation Staff - Jerry Storke
 Planning & Zoning Staff - Gary Popelka and Jason Grueneberg
 UW Extension Staff –Peter Manley, Kristen Charn, and Mary Spencer

Others Present: Dist #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach;

1. Call CEED Committee Meeting to Order. Chairperson Hilde Henkel called the CEED Committee meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

2. Public Comment.

- A. Wood County Speaking Contest. Jerry Storke reported that Wood County has sponsored a county-wide speaking contest for many years. In the past ten years, the number of participants has decreased to only 12 for this year. Tracy Arnold has tried each year to increase participation; however, interest is declining. The contest is usually held at the Pittsville School District. This year they are charging \$25 per room which is now adding to the total expense. Jerry was asking for guidance to continue the project as well as ideas for covering expenses. Hilde Henkel said the Don Aron Memorial Fund could be used for educational expenses to help this year's expenses. Further consideration of this could be added to a future agenda.
- B. Cattle Inspections. At a previous meeting, William Winch asked if Wood County or the State of Wisconsin required inspection of cattle being brought in from outside the state or county. Peter Manley reported that out-of-state cattle should be inspected; in most cases cattle should have an ID ear tag. There is some suspicion that some cattle are not inspected. If they do not have an ID tag and the farm cannot produce evidence of an inspection, we can notify the Department of Agriculture. Bill expressed concern about a potential problem for spreading of disease if this is not regulated particularly if property owners allow cattle to cross farm boundaries and mix with neighboring stock and purebred stock.

3. Review Correspondence.

- A. No correspondence to review.

4. Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda included the following items: a) minutes of the August 1, 2012 and the August 21, 2012 CEED meeting; b) bills from UW Extension, Land Conservation, and Planning & Zoning; and c) staff activity reports.

- A. **Minutes of Previous Meetings.** No additions or corrections.

Motion by Ruth Moody to approve and accept the consent agenda items including the minutes of the August 1, 2012 and the August 21, 2012 meetings as presented. Second by Bob Ashbeck. 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 as presented. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Staff Activity Reports. Staff activity reports were presented for acceptance.

Hilde Henkel asked about the status of the Golden Sands application for a Wood County animal waste ordinance permit. Jerry Storke reported that all of the information for the application was not provided. To date the information has not been received. We have 15 calendar days from the receipt of the missing information to approve or disapprove the application.

Hilde Henkel complimented Gary Popelka for having all parties present at the joint meeting held regarding the Kickapoo Valley Cheese Company. This is a major issue which required a great deal of clarification and explanation of the compliance requirements and process. Legislators, County Chairperson and supervisors, the DNR, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation representative and the CWED revolving loan fund administrator were all at the table which helped to provide options to the company.

Bill Winch asked about notification of residents along the UW Highway 10 project who would have address changes. Gary Popelka reported that Emergency Government notifies the residents of the address changes and that is being worked on as updates and road name changes are completed.

5. Land Conservation

- A. 2013 Department Budget Update. Jerry Storke reported that the budget review with the Executive Board went very well. There were no major problems or areas of concern.
- B. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association Summer Meeting & Tour Update. Jerry Storke reported that the participation in the tour was good. There were 20-25 people who attended. He said that this was down a little for the previous years when the usual participation was about 35. It was felt that the required boots, hard hats, and the heat and safety restrictions may have prevented a few more participants from attending. The tour of the Completion Industrial Minerals wash station for frac sand near Marshfield was the first stop. The information about this site was well-planned and very informative. Hilde Henkel commented that it is gratifying to know that 50% of the sand goes to product and 50% goes back to the land thus reducing the impact on the environment after the mining process. Many questions were anticipated and answered as part of the presentation. This helped to keep the tour on schedule.

Lunch and the business meeting for the group were held at the North Wood County Park shelter house. The second part of the tour was of New Page Corporation where the group viewed the 16th highest rated paper machine in production. The machine is impressive in the technology used in producing paper and is an environmentally clean operation. Jerry Storke and the Committee members who attended felt that it was a very successful tour.

The Committee discussed actions taken by the North Central Land and Water Conservation Association. Bill Winch pointed out one of the resolutions the Association wants to present to state legislators, the Office of the Governor, the National Association of Conservation Districts, and the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources involved implementing registration fees for trailers, registration of non-motorized watercraft, and the revision of the gas tax formula to generate approximately \$2 million for the study of aquatic invasive species, and other species which impact the local and state economies, and the tourism industry. This resolution was asking for the state budget to increase funding to the AIS programs. He felt that groups requesting this increase of funding should prioritize their research and studies and stay within budget rather than impose fees on areas that adversely affect the public. *A vote on this will take place at the annual meeting on October 4, 2012. (Note: A copy of the resolutions was provided to the committee members by e-mail or sent in the packet if you do not have e-mail. If you need a copy, please request a copy from Land Conservation.)*

- C. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development 40th Anniversary Banquet update. Ruth Moody reported on her attendance. This was a celebratory event (not a business meeting) celebrating their 40th anniversary.

6. University Extension

- A. 2013 Budget Update. Peter Manley reported that the Executive Committee approved the budget for UW Extension. The biggest change was funding for the Clean Sweep event to be held in 2013.
- B. Drinking Water Program. The UW Extension will facilitate a drinking water program this fall for the Saratoga residents to have their water tested. The program will be providing residents who participate with a baseline report of their drinking water. Peter Manley is working with the DNR to determine what tests are needed in addition to bacteria and nitrate tests. Results will show the current environmental impact on the water. More information will be provided when the details are worked out.

Chairperson Hilde Henkel confirmed with Peter Manley that UW Extension and Wood County would receive an accurate baseline report summary which provides a realistic picture of the test scores.

Gary Popelka asked if there are mapping reports. Peter replied that typically groundwater level maps are available, but this doesn't show the location of wells. There is no State requirement to obtain a permit for a sand point well. A municipality could require a permit but many do not. Consequently, there wouldn't necessarily be a record of all the wells in the area. Gary thought that his office might be able to map sand point wells based on the septic system permit records and number of households to get a fair estimate of the location of wells in order to get a visual assessment of the area.

- C. Family Living Program Update. Kristen Charn, Interim UW Extension Family Living Educator, provided an update on activities provided through the Family Living program. She is currently working with a program called, "Supporting Children in the Shadows" with inmates in the Wood County jail. The program started with 8 male inmates and 4 female inmates and included five 1 ½ -2 hour sessions. Four males successfully completed the program. Some participants left due to release from or transfer out of the Wood County jail. The focus of the program was to make the inmates aware of what their child(ren) experience when a parent(s) is(are) incarcerated and how their actions impact people in their lives. Kristen reported that she had very good participation in class and felt the program was helping a group of people who can make big changes in their lives and the lives of their families.

7. Planning & Zoning

- A. 2013 Budget Update. Gary Popelka reported that the budget for Planning and Zoning was approved for 2013 by the Executive Committee. There were no significant questions or concerns. The Census & Redistricting line item was the biggest change in that the account was converted to a non-lapsing account with a budget of \$2,500. This can be used for training and appropriate expenses incurred for redistricting.

Jason Grueneberg reported that unemployment expenses hit small department budgets very hard when a former employee of the department files for unemployment. Each department pays its own unemployment expenses. These expenses are usually unexpected and often difficult to manage. He asked if there was a better way to plan for this type of expense. In the past, Wood County typically has many long-term employees so this has not been an issue. Kenneth Curry suggested that one way to plan for this expense is to purchase unemployment compensation insurance. Another way would be for each department to pay into a fund based on department FTE (similar to the way health insurance is handled.) Hilde Henkel suggested requesting this item be added to the Executive Committee agenda after November.

8. Land Records

- A. Server Purchase for County Interactive Mapping Application. Jason Grueneberg asked the Committee to consider approval for upgrading the server which powers the interactive mapping software for the public on the website. This is an important service to the public. Typically, the mapping software is upgraded periodically; however, the current server cannot handle the newest upgrade. The server is usually replaced every four to five years and is due to be replaced in one year. Jason requested that the server be replaced one year early to allow the necessary upgrade be made to provide current information to the public.

Motion by Kenneth Curry to approve the purchase of a server replacement for the County Interactive Mapping Application. Second by William Winch. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Economic Development

- A. Recommend Alternate to be appointed to the Regional Housing Consortium. Hilde Henkel is currently the representative to the Consortium. She was unable to attend the last meeting due to a scheduled Executive Committee meeting and Jason Grueneberg filled in as an ad hoc member. In order to have a legal vote, we need to appoint an alternate in the event Hilde is unable to attend in the future.

Motion by Ruth Moody to appoint Jason Grueneberg as Alternate for the Regional Housing Consortium. Second by Kenneth Curry. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Schedule next regular meeting.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 3, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.** There will be a 15-minute presentation by Scott Larson, Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce, at this meeting and Melissa Loken, Wisconsin Rapids Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce will be invited for the November meeting.

11. Adjourn.

William Winch moved to adjourn at 10:50 a.m. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth Curry, Secretary

Minutes by Mary Spencer, Wood County UW Extension

Review for submittal to County Board by: Kenneth Curry, Secretary