

MINUTES
 CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2014
 WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, AUDITORIUM, 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, Julie Akey

UW Extension Staff – Peter Manley, Matt Lippert, Mary Spencer

Land Conservation Dept. Staff – Jerry Storke, Tracy Arnold, Chris Bandura, Shane Wucherpennig, Lori Ruess

Others Present: Becky Larson, Donald Genrich, Helen Donahue, Leroy Donahue, Ruth Ann Swanson, Donald Swanson, Gloria Wycklendt, Thomas Wycklendt, Kathy Hogan, Paul Hogan, Ken Heiman, Gail Kretschmer, Barry R. Hansen, Sr., Alvin Bussan, Jacquie Wille, Bill Clendenning; Ed Wagner, Dennis Polach, Thelma Strand; Marion Lavinus, Kitty Belanger, Marla Maleski, Melissa Reichert, Rick Georgeson, Don Ystad, Julie Kreutzer, Rick Potter, Bruce Dimick, Doreen Dimick, Paulette Sullivan, James Sullivan, Criste Greening, Brian Hamm, John Bergin, Jamie Mendrzycki, Michael Mendrzycki, Fred Reichert, Pat Reichert, Jill Hinz, Rhonda Carrell, Rita Light, Nancy Eggleston, Dennis Bangart, Scott Larson

1. Call to Order. Chair Hilde Henkel called the CEED meeting to order at 9:16 a.m. The committee members were introduced to the public audience. In consideration of the audience present, the presentations on manure irrigation were given first.

2. Presentations on Manure Irrigation.

A. Overview of Manure Irrigation and Impacts

Rebecca Larson, Biowaste Specialist, Biological Systems Engineering, UW Cooperative Extension Service, provided an overview of research being conducted on *Monitoring Aerosol Drift from Irrigated Manure*. This research is being conducted by a workgroup of 18 members including university specialists, health officials, DNR, DATCP, dairy farmers, etc. and conservationists who are assessing application benefits and concerns in comparison to other practices of applying manure to field crops. The research is examining impacts related to human health, water quality, air quality, drift, etc. looking for a balance of best practices and low impact. Samples are taken when the liquid manure is being applied and the size of droplets are measured while considering effects of wind speed, wind gusts, and solar intensity. Current methods of application are a traveling spray gun, a central pivot, or a central pivot with a spray gun. Researchers are measuring airborne pathogens found at different ranges of the spray evaluating data based on risk factors. A report is expected to be completed by early 2015. Information is available at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/manureirrigation/>.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Chair Henkel asked for questions from the Committee. Ken Curry asked what initiated the study. Rebecca Larson reported that it was in response to an increase of using this method of application and in response to complaints received by DNR from the public expressing concern for human health. This method of application has been used for 20 years or so; however, there has been an increase in use within the last 5 years.

Bill Leichtnam asked where the studies were being conducted. Dr. Larson reported that her group has five sites in Wisconsin; one in Central Wisconsin and four others throughout the State. Mr. Leichtnam also asked if there are any comparisons being done showing the impact on health issues near a site as opposed to one mile away from the site. Dr. Larson reported that currently they are studying the presence of pathogens (bacteria, protozoa, and bovine polyomavirus) where the manure is concentrated plus measuring the drift and checking for presence of pathogens in that drift.

B. Review of the Adams County Manure Ordinance

Donald Genrich, Adams County Agricultural Agent, UW Cooperative Extension Service provided a copy of an ordinance which has been implemented by Adams County. A work group of 10 to 12 people was formed made up of the agriculture and non-agriculture communities and two county employees. The work group reported to the Land & Water Committee of the Adams County Board of Supervisors. The work group began studying the issue before Dr. Larson's research began. The ordinance is the result of 18+ months of reviewing and researching information available. As a result, Adams County enacted an ordinance to put a moratorium on the use of spray irrigation manure distribution systems in Adams County. The ordinance established an application process to apply for a license to use spray irrigation manure distribution systems. While no one has applied yet, each situation will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The ordinance will be reviewed annually and will be reviewed, again, after the completion of the study being done by Dr. Larson's group.

Don Genrich emphasized the need to involve all affected communities of people in the discussion using the concept of "Can you live with this?" as their guideline allowing open, respectful discussion on the topic.

After the presentations, Chair Henkel asked for comments from Wood County staff members.

Matt Lippert, Wood County Agricultural Agent, stated that there are major differences in soil and livestock operations between Adams County and both north Wood County and south Wood County. Revenue in Wood County from livestock operations was \$72 million with \$62 million generated by dairy operations. As a comparison, Adams County revenue from livestock operations was \$12 million with \$2.9 million for dairy operations. There are 20,000 dairy & beef cattle in Wood County and 9,500 in Adams County.

Lippert also stated that the use of irrigation guns in north Wood County has been seasonal and depends on the weather that may cause manure pits to overflow; hence, the irrigation unit is often used to solve a problem in a hurry when a farmer would be in violation of DNR regulations if action wasn't taken.

Shane Wucherpennig of the Wood County Land Conservation Office stated that Wood County maintains a database of the number of manure pits in the county estimating that there are between 200 to 300 but exact numbers could be obtained. He stated that often farmers will use the irrigation unit instead of hauling manure in tankers due to weight limits on roads during certain times of the year. Tankers often get stuck in fields if the weather has been unseasonably wet; therefore, the irrigation units are a more viable option.

Wucherpennig added that a survey would need to be conducted to get a firm number of users and conditions of use for accurate data.

Hilde Henkel asked if people had complaints about overspray or other issues and where are these complaints registered. Wucherpennig said they usually come to the Land Conservation Office; and currently, a large number of complaints are received on an annual basis regarding overspreading. There are no pivot irrigation units in northern Wood County primarily because they do not need to irrigate the soil there as they do in southern Wood County.

Henkel asked Jason Grueneberg, Director of Planning & Zoning, for his comments. He stated that his office currently administers County ordinances. An ordinance of this nature would have a heavy impact on the County resources. It would be difficult to enforce at this time. He recommended forming an ad hoc committee (similar to Adams County) to address this county-wide issue and provide solid data and more information once the study by Dr. Larson's group is completed. Imposing bans on the use of the irrigation systems for applying manure will impact the economic development of the entire area.

3. Public Comment.

Chair Henkel outlined the guidelines for public comment asking for respectful consideration of different points of view. Each person would be allowed three minutes to state his/her comment.

Helen Donahue asked to have a moratorium placed on the use of the manure irrigation units until health studies are completed. The impact to the public health should be a primary concern.

Gloria Wycklendt, Town of Rome, asked who is monitoring how the irrigation systems are used. She expressed concern for public health and effects on water and air quality and health issues resulting from irrigation systems being used by the large CAFOs.

Christe Greening asked Wood County supervisors to protect all of its citizens including the children and stated that bans are being implemented by at least seven states and asked for their support to impose bans in Wood County particularly in populated areas.

Ken Heiman stated that he works with 219 dairy farmers and his business depends on dairy farmers mostly in central to northern Wood County. He suggested looking at the soil you are dealing with in different parts of the county before imposing bans on all operations.

Doreen Dimick read a statement from Scott Murray who could not attend the meeting. The statement said he had observed frequent violations of current regulations. His home was permeated with the odor; outside of the house was contaminated with overspray; he and his family and friends could no longer enjoy the yard or patio due to the contamination and overspray from the drift of the pivot systems.

Paulette Sullivan read a testimonial from the Miller Family against the CAFO in their area that used a pivot system. They also experienced large amount of drift accumulating on the house and windows which attracted flies. The father was confined to a wheelchair and had limited mobility. The drift accumulated on the ramp making it slippery to use.

Brian Hamm asked the county supervisors to look at this situation from a three-prong approach: public health, mental health, and economic health.

Scott Larson, Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry asked the county supervisors to consider the matter from a global perspective considering what is good for the people and for the county and to balance the decision so that it doesn't harm one end of the county to solve a problem in the other end of the county.

Julie Kruetzer reported her husband is already dealing with health issues which can be affected by effects of allowing use of manure spraying irrigation systems. She asked the supervisors to consider the differences between both ends of the county and how these irrigation systems are harmful to one end of the county residents even though it helps the other end.

Gail Kretschmer drew the attention to the research work group website which provided the meeting notes and discussions of the group indicating there are many unknowns which the study does not address. She asked for support to ban the use of the irrigation systems.

Bruce Dimick asked for a global economic viewpoint of the economic development of the county. He reported that small business development in the Town of Saratoga is welcomed. Many businesses have one or two employees; however, he feels the CAFO and its operations will affect businesses starting up and staying in the area. He also stated that real estate prices are already plummeting in this area.

Rick Potter agreed that the land values in the Town of Saratoga are decreasing and the CAFO is having an adverse effect on property values for the area. He observed that when a property owner's activities impact the rights of others consideration should be given to what is taking place. He encouraged that the county supervisors pass a moratorium on the use of the manure irrigation systems.

Melissa Reichert, President, Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce, supported the forming of a work group to study the issue more thoroughly before making quick decisions and to take the work group's recommendation to the County Board for action.

A.J. Bussan, formerly employed by University of Wisconsin and currently employed at Wysocki Farms, stated that there are three state laws which govern the application of fertilizer by direct application. From a food safety perspective, there is no allowance for application of liquid manure to food crops.

Don Eastman, member of the Adams County work group drafting the ordinance, indicated that there was no argument about the economic benefit of spraying manure; however, the argument is about public safety. He hoped Wood County could take the work that Adams County did and build on what they have done to come up with a solution that works for Wood County.

James Sullivan asked the county supervisors to be pro-active in this issue before problems develop.

Don Swanson expressed his concern about water and air quality in the Town of Saratoga with all the issues developing around the proposed CAFO. His wife is experiencing health-related problems already and which could potentially develop into greater problems; he would consider selling his house and moving to another area; however, he feels his options are limited for selling due to decreased property values and being able to afford living elsewhere. He asks the supervisors to support a resolution to limit the use of the irrigation systems.

Bill Clendenning, Chair of the Judicial and Legislative Committee, announced that he has rescheduled the meeting of the Judicial and Legislative Committee to discuss the responsibilities of the Ad Hoc Manure Irrigation Study Group. He plans to take a resolution to the County Board in September. His Committee will meet on August 13, 2014 at 1:15 p.m.

Chair Hilde Henkel asked for any additional public comment. She thanked everyone for their comments. She also reminded everyone that the CEED Committee is not currently involved with the preparation of the resolution that is going to the County Board. However, there were many supervisors present today who heard the concerns. Henkel also pointed out that it takes a great deal of time by a committee to draft an ordinance that is enforceable and recommended and approved by the full County Board. The Planning and Zoning Office and the Land Conservation Office (which both report to this Committee) are both involved with enforcing ordinances once they are approved.

The Committee recessed for a short break at 11:15 a.m.

The Committee reconvened at 11:35 a.m.

4. Review Correspondence.

There was no correspondence for review.

- 5. Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the July 2, 2014 & July 15, 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 Ken Curry to approve and accept the July 2, 2014 & July 15, 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 Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.

- 6. Risk and Injury Report.** Nothing to report this month.

7. Land Conservation

A. Fall CEED Tour.

Tracy Arnold announced the Fall CEED Tour would be held on September 11 with the bus leaving at 8:00 a.m. and returning at Noon. There are four stops planned. Planning and Zoning will show a holding tank being converted to a mound system; UW Extension will provide a tour of the Community Gardens near Riverview Hospital; Land Conservation will provide a tour of a mining site for Frac Sand. The 4th stop will be announced later; however, it is planned to illustrate a conservation practice being

implemented. The tour will need to move along quickly if there are four stops. Inclusion of the 4th stop will depend on the location.

B. R C & D Update

Bill Clendenning reported that Glacier Land R C & D dissolved. This was representation from the Green Bay area. Clendenning asked our Corporate Counsel to talk with the Personnel & Finance Committee regarding allowing Clendenning to attend the closed sessions.

Bill Leichtnam reported to the R C & D group about Wood County's rusty crayfish project and the emerald ash borer dangers in the area.

8. Planning & Zoning

A. Introduce recently hired Wood County Code Technician, Heather Marquardt

Jason Grueneberg introduced Heather Marquardt, the recently hired code technician for Planning & Zoning. Heather is a graduate of UW Stevens Point and served an internship with the Land Conservation Department last year.

B. Consider Request for Holding Tank Waiver (Kollross-Tn of Arpin)

Ed Kollross applied for a permit to install plumbing (toilet) in a pole building which is the farm shop. Due to the expense he requested an application for a holding tank rather than a mound system explaining that the facility would receive minimal use. The house is located across the road and having a facility in the farm shop would be more convenient. Jeff Brewbaker asked the Committee to recommend a waiver of installing a mound system. Hilde Henkel asked the size of the building and if there was a potential for future use which would require a mound system or if the property were sold. The building is approximately 100' x 200' but Brewbaker anticipated that this would not occur. Brewbaker felt there was no risk for misuse and anticipated the usage to be less than 150 gallons per day. Brewbaker recommended that the project be approved for a low flow system. He said that the permitting process will be reviewed and that situations like this might be an example of when a holding tank could be used. Hilde Henkel asked for a report within a year.

Harvey Petersen asked about water use for washing off equipment. He felt that 150 gallons could be used quickly. Brewbaker said the floor drains would not drain into the holding tank.

Motion by Gerald Nelson to approve a waiver and allow a "low flow system" for the Ed Kollross property. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Economic Development.

A. Activity update from the Regional Economic Growth Initiative (REGI)

Jason Grueneberg reported that the Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry was represented at the Wisconsin State Fair. They had a booth which provided information to promote the area. Grueneberg reported that he had received positive feedback from this effort.

REGI will have a representative at the August 13, 2014 meeting to provide an activity update.

10. Land Records

No report

11. County Surveyor

No report

12. UW Extension

A. Budget Update - Manley

Peter Manley distributed the budget printouts for the UW Extension 2015 budget. He explained that there were several additional summary sheets because of the upcoming Clean Sweep and the Farm Technology Days. He attached a revised cover sheet to indicate the changes which will occur. The budget will be reviewed at the August 13, 2014 meeting.

B. Broadband Study Update - Manley

Peter Manley reported that he had received a grant to study broadband speeds in Wood County. There was a delay in receiving the grant money; however, the study will get underway in September.

C. 4-H Secretary Retirement - Manley

Jean Steinkopf, 4-H Administrative Services Assistant, retired as of August 1, 2014. She was with Wood County for 21 years. She will be moving to Minnesota. The job will be posted within a few days and a search will begin to fill the position.

13. Schedule special budget meeting and the next regular CEED meeting.

The special budget meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, August 13, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

- Review all department budgets
- Update on REGI activities
- Further discussion of Manure Irrigation Issue

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 3, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

14. Adjourn.

Motion by Gerald Nelson to adjourn at 12:20 p.m. Second by Harvey Petersen. 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, 8-11-2014