

MINUTES
 CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
 TUESDAY, July 26, 2011
 WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #115, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Hilde Henkel, Thomas Haferman, Ruth Moody, Robert Ashbeck, Gerald Nelson, Dale Gehrke.

Member Excused:

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

Others Present: Dist #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach; Kris Pethick, Community Development Grant Housing Program; and Adam Tegen, Director of Planning & Economic Development, City of Wisconsin Rapids

1. **Call CEED Committee Meeting to Order.** Chairperson Hilde Henkel called the CEED Committee meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Public Comment.**
 - a. Gerald Nelson reported he had been asked why Wood County did not pay the dues for membership in the Regional Planning Commission. Gary Popelka responded that Wood County chose not to join because we have a planning staff.
3. **Review Correspondence.**
 - a. Hilde Henkel invited Kris Pethick from the Community Development Grant Housing Program to attend the CEED Committee meeting to provide an update on the status of the program. Kris reported that the program received 30 applications. Six projects meeting the criteria and will be reviewed at the meeting on July 26, 2011. Applicants have been from residents from across the county including Arpin, Auburndale, Biron, Grand Rapids, Marshfield, Milladore, Richfield, Rudolph, Saratoga, Seneca, Sigel, Vesper. Types of projects included repairs to roofs, windows, doors, septic, and hazard reduction.
 - b. Gary Popelka reported he had received a note from someone thanking his office for their assistance. In addition, he reported that another resident, who had holding tank violations and upgraded to a septic system, was so grateful for the help he received and the extremely helpful way the staff worked with him that he brought in a cake—while not a letter, an unusual thank you.
4. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following items: 1) minutes of the June 28, 2011 CEED meeting; 2) bills from UW Extension; Land Conservation and Planning & Zoning, and 3) staff activity reports.

Motion by Thomas Haferman to accept the minutes of the June 28, 2011 meeting as presented. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Thomas Haferman asked for clarification as to why the Planning and Zoning staff was not invited to the initial meeting with Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield mayors and city planners. (Item 1, Popelka Report) Gary responded that the cities were seeking the county supervisors' opinion on preparing a county zoning ordinance to establish "county-wide" planning and economic development. As indicated in the report, the Wood County Planning and Zoning Office was asked to initiate regular meetings with the city planners and chamber of commerce executives of both cities.

Thomas Haferman also asked for clarification on the action taken by State Legislature when they enacted the legislative redistricting plan. (Item 3A, Popelka Report) The State plan has caused changes in three wards in Marshfield where they are straddling the legislative boundaries thus creating additional work and expense at the local level. Hilde Henkel said this is an ongoing, effort-changing issue which will be addressed at the Census &

Redistricting Committee meeting on August 5, 2011. Gerald Nelson asked if we could request reimbursement of funds from the State as this could have a large financial impact.

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

5. Land Conservation

A. Discuss Fall Conservation Tour Stops

Jerry Storke asked the CEED Committee for input regarding the tour stops for the Fall 2011 Conservation Tour. He suggested the farm robotic operation near Marshfield that was partially funded through the revolving loan program. Robert Ashbeck and Gerald Nelson suggested the Frac Sand wash site. In addition, Steve Grant with the Forestry project and the Buckthorn Control Project will be included. Robert Ashbeck and Gerald Nelson suggested that the lunch stop could be at the park in Marshfield or the zoo.

Jerry asked when would be the best day to schedule the tour. Robert Ashbeck suggested that we might get better attendance if the tour could be scheduled after the County Board meeting (September 20). Other dates suggested were the week of September 12-16 and September 21-22. Jerry will bring a proposed schedule to the August meeting.

B. Review & Approve Resolution to Amend the 2011 Wood County DNR Grant Budget

Jerry Storke presented a resolution to amend the 2011 Wood County DNR Grant Budget indicating that this was for the Bob Pankratz Project. The project was not completed in 2010; therefore, the funds need to be carried over to Year 2011.

Motion by Gerald Nelson to approve a resolution to amend the Wood County State Aid Land Conservation Department Account to accept \$7,662.74 of state aid monies and to appropriate those monies to the DNR Grant Budget expenditures for disbursing cost-share funds to Wood County landowners and/or farm operators who implement measures to meet nonpoint source water pollution abatement needs. Second by Ruth Moody. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Resources Conservation & Development Meeting Report

Ruth Moody reported that she and Jerry Storke attended the meeting. There was no new business.

Jerry did announce that the North Central Land & Water Conservation Association Meeting is scheduled for August 12, 2011 at the Schmeekle Reserve at the UW Stevens Point campus. Reservations are required by August 4. Several committee members expressed interest in attending.

D. Farm Technology Days Report

Robert Ashbeck, Dale Gehrke, Hilde Henkel, and Jerry Storke all attended one day of the Farm Technology Days at Seehafer Acres in Marathon County. All staff in Land Conservation attended. Everyone was impressed with how well laid out the exhibits were, how well organized it was, and the number of demonstrations and vendors at the event.

E. North Central Association of RC & D Council's 2011 Conference

Information and the registration form were distributed as part of the packet from Land Conservation. The conference will be held in Stevens Point this year. The breakout sessions have not yet been identified. Jerry will provide this information when it is available. Robert Ashbeck expressed interest in attending depending on the breakout session topics.

Motion by Thomas Haferman to approve attendance for the Land Conservation staff, delegates to the council (Bill Clendenning, Jerry Storke, and Ruth Moody) and one other member of the CEED Committee. Second by Gerald Nelson. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Budget Update

Jerry reported that the 2012 DATCP Staff Allocation will be cut by 10%. He will have a figure in his budget proposal that will be reflective of what will be provided.

6. Planning & Zoning

A. Status of NR 115 and Shoreland Zoning Ordinance

Gary Popelka reported that Jim Wegter was attending a public hearing regarding the NR 115 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code while the CEED Committee was meeting. The Wood County ordinance has been revised and is in draft form based on previous revisions. However, the State Legislative Committee is still making revisions and has even proposed scrapping the revisions and NR 115 in its entirety. The current deadline for changes was February 2012; however, it was proposed that the deadline would be extended to January 2014. Therefore, Gary is seeking the Committee's input as to how to proceed. Should we go ahead and continue to make changes according to what has been changed in NR 115 or should we wait until the State Legislative Committee has finished making revisions before proceeding? When the final document from the State Legislative Committee is available, Gary will review the Wood County proposed ordinance to ensure that it complies with the Wisconsin Administrative Code. The CEED Committee agreed by consensus to wait until Gary received more information from the State before putting more time into the document.

B. 2012 Budget – Look Ahead

Gary reported he does not anticipate any major issues in preparing the budget for 2012 and felt he would be able to maintain services with the 0% increase directive.

The Land Records project is in good shape with no anticipated upcoming large projects. The website has many new improvements for ease of obtaining information.

7. County Surveyor

No Report

8. Economic Development

As reported earlier, Gary Popelka will be meeting with Chamber of Commerce Executives and City Planners to enhance communications between city and county planning offices and to begin meeting regularly to discuss each office's role in economic development and city- and county-wide planning.

9. University Extension

A. 2012 Budget Intro

Peter Manley reported that he did not anticipate any major changes to the budget for 2012. Although, the cost of fringe benefits for the 4-H Program Advisor position and the Horticultural Assistant position has increased to 44% from 42.5%. This will result in a \$3,000 increase. The State has allocated \$900 to help offset this increase; in addition, the salary savings from the resulting increase of employees' contribution toward retirement will also help offset this increase.

B. Farm Technology Days

Chris Viau reported that he is part of the 4-H STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Team. Their purpose is to offer activities to explore ways these areas can be made interesting to students. A 4-H Youth Development tent was at Farm Technology Days. Simple, interesting experiments were provided for students to stop by and participate.

C. Gateway Academy

- a. Chris Viau, Wood County UW-Extension Youth Development Educator, worked with the Kern Family Foundation and the Wisconsin Rapids School District to host a week-long Gateway Academy for area 7th graders where they could experiment with robotics and electricity. The students built wind-powered turbines, programmed their robots, and created solar cars. In addition, the students had an opportunity to visit the Midwest Renewable Energy Association Headquarters to see alternate energy at work. Sixteen students attended with twelve males and four females in the class. This academy is funded by a grant from the Kern Family Foundation. The grant will probably not be available next year.
- b. Hilde Henkel asked how home-schooled children are informed of the opportunity to join 4-H. Chris responded that typically newspaper articles, web pages, and word of mouth are the venues. The Home School Association is also provided information.

9. **Schedule next regular meeting.**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 23, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. The September meeting will be scheduled for **WEDNESDAY, September 28, 2011**, instead of the regular Tuesday meeting (September 27) due to conflicts with a conference for County Board members.

10. **Adjourn.**

Ruth Moody moved to adjourn at 10:40 a.m. Second by Bob Ashbeck. 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