

MINUTES
 CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 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 and Tracy Arnold
 Planning & Zoning Staff - Gary Popelka and Jason Grueneberg
 UW Extension Staff – Peter Manley, Matt Lippert, and Mary Spencer

Others Present: Lance Pliml, Chair, Wood County Board of Supervisors; Dist #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach

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. No public comment.

3. **Review Correspondence.**

Robert Ashbeck reported that yellow post cards had been received by people in the Town of Sherry which provided residents information about the Community Development Grant Housing Program.

4. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following items: a) minutes of the September 28, 2011 CEED meeting; b) bills from UW Extension, Land Conservation, and Planning & Zoning; and c) staff activity reports.

- a. **Minutes of Previous Meeting.** Hilde Henkel asked for a correction to the minutes of September 28, 2011. Dale Gehrke was listed as present and as a member excused. He was excused from the meeting and did not attend.

<p>Motion by Thomas Haferman to accept the minutes of the September 28, 2011 meeting as corrected. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.</p>

- b. **Department Bills.** Hilde Henkel asked for clarification on the UW Extension Voucher #30110098 for a speaker's fee. Peter Manley reported that this item was for a speaker & expenses for a State conference on Healthy Wisconsin Communities and was completely reimbursed from the conference registrations.

<p>Motion by Gerald Nelson to accept the bills for UW Extension, Land Conservation, and Planning & Zoning. Second by Ruth Moody. Motion carried unanimously.</p>

- c. **Staff Activity Reports.**

<p>Motion by Gerald Nelson to accept the staff reports for UW Extension, Land Conservation, and Planning & Zoning as presented. Second by Ruth Moody. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
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5. **University Extension**

- A. 2012 Budget Review

No feedback, yet, from the County Board.

- B. Open Secretary Position

Peter Manley announced that there is a vacant Family Living secretary position in UW Extension. Rhonda Narlock resigned her position and the position was posted internally. There may be one or two internal candidates. Interviews will start as soon as testing is completed.

C. Department Head Vacation Carryover

Peter Manley submitted a request to carry over 80 hours of unused vacation time. Department Heads require oversight committee approval to carry over vacation hours. Manley will lose 103 hours of unused vacation even if the 80 hours of carryover vacation is granted.

Motion by Gerald Nelson to grant 80 hours of carryover vacation for Peter Manley. Second by Ruth Moody. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Agriculture Agent Report

Matt Lippert, Wood County Agriculture Agent, gave a presentation on emerging cranberry production in Newfoundland, Canada. He was invited to attend a conference in Newfoundland to give a presentation on cranberry production in Wood County. Newfoundland is exploring alternative economic development due to the decline in the paper industry, the depletion of the fishery, and the inability to export vegetable products. There is some dairy farming but very little agricultural crop production. Newfoundland's climate allows cranberry production; and they have developed cranberry beds which are about ten years old with success. The growers are working to develop a market in Europe for cranberries and wanted to learn more about successful cranberry production in order to improve their production. Compared to Wood County and Wisconsin, Newfoundland has sparse resources and many land limitations to improve their production. In addition, everything is imported (and exported) to the island.

6. **Planning & Zoning**

A. Update-Floodplain Zoning Community Assistance Visit

Gary Popelka reported that he had not received official feedback from the DNR yet. He will provide information on the visit when he receives the final report.

Hilde Henkel asked if the report would address specific areas of concern or address general implementation observations. Gary replied that he expected the report to address implementation issues. The floodplain elevations were established in the 70's & 80's and he expects that, in some cases, the DNR will no longer accept those elevations as viable levels. He felt that some areas may require engineering studies in order to establish new elevations. Parts of the report may provide a simpler solution of raising the electrical boxes at a camping park in the floodplain; however, other solutions may require raising the elevation in some areas. Wood County could make recommendations to the landowners and developers and also make attempts to invite the landowners to come in to discuss the information provided in the report.

B. Update-AB303 Comprehensive Planning

Jason Grueneberg provided an update on the status of 2011 Assembly Bill 303. The bill has been introduced to amend and create statutes relating to comprehensive planning and making an appropriation to the State. The bill would allow communities to opt out of the comprehensive plan with 24 hours notice. In addition, the first \$2 million received in each fiscal year would be appropriated to the State. This provision significantly decreases the amount of funds available to the County. Grant monies were available to counties to develop a comprehensive plan; however, many counties are not completing their plans. A comprehensive plan allows a local governmental unit to protect good agricultural land; Gary said this is why it is in the best interest of the local governmental unit to establish a plan.

Gerald Nelson suggested working with the Legislative Committee to write a resolution which can be taken to the State Legislature to establish Wood County's view on this issue. Representative Scott Suder would have the authority to take this resolution to the Assembly.

Motion by Ruth Moody to co-sponsor a resolution with the Wood County Legislative Committee to be sent to State Legislature to oppose the opt out portion of Assembly Bill 303 and support the funding portion of the bill. Second by Gerald Nelson. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Consider Attending WCA Seminar, "Mining in Wisconsin: Issues Facing County Government," November 14, 2011 in Stevens Point

Committee members Robert Ashbeck, Hilde Henkel, and Gerald Nelson will be attending. Jerry Storke and Tracy Arnold from Land Conservation will also be attending.

- D. Resolution for "Fair Housing Month"

Gary Popelka asked the Committee to consider sending a request to the County Board to proclaim December 2011 as Fair Housing Month in Wood County to urge citizens to recognize this celebration throughout the year. The proclamation or resolution is part of the Community Development Grant Housing Program guidelines. Gary will verify if the requirements of the grant require a proclamation or resolution from the County government.

Motion by Ruth Moody to request the appropriate mechanism from the County Board to designate December 2011 as Fair Housing Month in Wood County. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.

7. County Surveyor

No additional county surveyor report provided. Information was provided in the staff activity reports.

8. Economic Development

- A. CWED Membership Update

The Committee reviewed the CWED Fund Inc report provided by Gary Popelka. He pointed out that \$2 million of the PSB Defederalized fund was earmarked for Stevens Point. In addition, Hilde Henkel noted that \$188,629 was the year-to-date expenses for Administrative Charges and asked where is the money going. Gary said that an accounting of this expense was already requested as it was felt that more of this expense may be put to better use in loan funds if possible. He will followup on the request.

Lincoln County and Merrill have asked to join the group. The Board of Directors will be meeting on November 17 to consider adding these two local government units.

Additional discussion occurred regarding the status of a loan for the Heeg Farm. There has been little activity on the farm and there are indications that the owner has returned to Holland. A report regarding a problem which might be affecting water quality was reported to Land Conservation. Jerry Storke reported that he had investigated the situation and the DNR was now involved. Jerry reported that he was contacted by a real estate agent concerning the property as well. It is a viable operation and could become an operating farm with the right buyer.

- B. Consider attending Governor's Conference on Economic Development, February 8-10, 2012 in Madison

Committee member, Ruth Moody, is considering attending. There is still time to register if others are interested in attending. Room reservations are due January 9, 2012 if you stay at the conference site.

9. Land Conservation

- A. Discuss and possible action to reconsider paying the remainder of 2011 WLWCA Dues

Jerry Storke reported that \$1082 had been budgeted for dues for WLWCA. He later reported that the full amount for the dues (\$1473) was required to be paid to be a voting member of the group. At a previous meeting, the Committee approved paying \$391 so that Wood County could be a voting member. Jerry later found out that the bylaws stated that dues needed to be paid by May 31, 2011 in order to be a voting member. Hilde Henkel

observed that there would be no point in paying the additional \$400 at this time if we do not gain voting rights. She suggested sending a letter to the merger committee to inform them that the fee schedule is an issue and that voting privileges are an important aspect of paying the dues.

Motion by Ruth Moody to rescind approval given at the August meeting to pay the remaining balance (\$391) on the dues for WLWCA. Second by Bob Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Discuss and possible action to approve attendance at WLWCA Conference, December 8-9, 2011 at Chula Vista

Committee members, Thomas Haferman and Ruth Moody, expressed interest in attending the conference. Jerry Storke will be attending as well.

Motion by Dale Gehrke to approve the attendance of Thomas Haferman and Ruth Moody at the WLWCA Conference on December 8-9, 2011. Second by Gerald Nelson. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Update on Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Program

Tracy Arnold reported that she has reclamation plans in all stages that she is working on. She recently received news that there are another 120 acres in Wood County that went into mineral rights. She is currently working primarily with the frac sand issues at this time.

She has been trying to set up a tour of the frac sand processing facility in Marshfield for the Committee. The owners are concerned about security and the possibility of unauthorized people going on the tour. Peter Manley reported that if committee members are present, it becomes a meeting and subject to the open meetings law. The Committee agreed that Tracy should continue to try to arrange something or check to see if the owners would provide a presentation to the Committee at one of its meetings. The Committee would like to try to schedule something for November if possible; otherwise, it will need to wait until spring.


10. Schedule next regular meeting.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 29, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.** Hilde Henkel asked the Committee's preference for combining this meeting with the December meeting. With December being the end of the fiscal year, there was some concern about approval for bills. It was decided to discuss the December meeting next month; however, the Committee would not be meeting on December 27, 2011. An earlier date or deferral until January will be discussed.

11. Adjourn.

Gerald Nelson moved to adjourn at 11:01 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