

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2020
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #114, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Kenneth Curry, Robert Ashbeck, Jake Hahn (via WebEx), Dave LaFontaine, Bill Leichtnam and Carmen Good.

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, Scott Custer and Kim Keech.
Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpfennig.
UW Extension Staff: Jason Hausler and Jackie Carattini.
County Surveyor: Kevin Boyer

Others Present (for part or all of the meeting): Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendening, Hannah Butkiewicz (Golden Sands RC&D), Joshua Benes (Golden Sands RC&D), Ray Bossert (Village of Port Edwards) and Angel Whitehead (Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce).

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Curry called the CEED Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Declaration of Quorum.** Chairperson Curry declared a quorum.
3. **Public Comment.** Carmen Good complimented the Planning & Zoning Department staff for positive feedback among town residents.
4. **Review Correspondence.** None.
5. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the November 4, 2020 CEED meetings, 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension and 3) staff activity reports from Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, Paul Bernard, Jeff Brewbaker, Scott Custer, Kim Keech, Victoria Wilson, Shane Wucherpfennig, Adam Groshek, Caleb Armstrong, Emily Salvinski, Rod Mayer, Lori Ruess, Matt Lippert, Allison Jonjak, Janell Wehr, Jackie Carattini, Hannah Wendels, Kelly Hammond, Rachel Whitehair and Laura Huber.
 - A. Minutes of November 4, 2020. No additions or corrections needed.
 - B. Department Bills. No additions or corrections needed.
 - C. Staff Activity Reports. No additions or corrections needed

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve and accept the November 4, 2020 CEED minutes, bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension, and staff activity reports as presented. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Review items, if any, pulled from Consent Agenda.** None.
7. **Risk and Injury Report.** None.
8. **Land & Water Conservation Department.**
 - A. Discuss Engineering Technician position. Shane Wucherpfennig shared that Adam Groshek has accepted a position in private business. Last day of employment with Wood County is January 4, 2021. Engineering Technician position is 100% state funded. Position is posted on the Wood County website with closing date to apply by December 20th. A tentative start date is for the third week of January 2021.

- B. Open bids for Jake Gropp's waste storage facility closure. Shane Wucherpfennig commented that Jake Gropp has retired, sold the cattle and is no longer farming. The waste storage facility was built in the 1970's. Land & Water Conservation Department's estimated cost to abandon the waste storage facility is \$8,000 - \$10,000. Two bids were received from private contractors. This is a cost sharing project.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to accept the low bid in the amount of \$9,285.00 from Kolo Trucking & Excavating in Rudolph to abandon Jake Gropp's waste storage facility. Second by Carmen Good. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Approve Jeremy Kring's CREP Grazing Plan. Shane Wucherpfennig commented that the Jeremy Kring's CREP Grazing plan is in the CEED Committee packet. CEED committee had already approved the Kring's plan previously. CEED Committee resigned the grazing plan due to some edits.

- D. Review County Conservationist's 2021 Goals. Shane Wucherpfennig shared his 2021 goals.

Motion by Kenneth Curry to accept the County Conservationist's 2021 goals. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.

- E. Consider clean water non-binding referendum on April 2021 County ballot. Bill Leichtnam explained that Governor Ever's declared 2019 to be the "Year of Clean Water". Wisconsin Assembly took a step in addressing the problem by passing 13 "Water Bills" on February 18, 2020 and the State Senate did not consider these "Water Bills" when it was scheduled on March 24, 2020 postponed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wood County Resolution 20-60-1 "The Wood County Board of Supervisors requests the State Senate to convene in "extraordinary session" to address the 13 "Water Bills" passed in the Assembly earlier this year". This resolution has been extended to other counties: Waushara, Eau Claire, Pepin, Brown, Adams, Juneau, Walworth, Green, Langlade, Kewaunee, Bayfield and Ashland.

Wisconsin voters can encourage continued legislative attention to the issue of water quality by speaking out. "Clean Water" Referendum Resolution drafted to place an advisory question on the Wood County, April 2021, ballot. Minimal cost to the County depending on size of the ballot. Discussion followed.

Motion by Bill Leichtnam to create a resolution for "Clean Water" non-binding advisory referendum question to be placed on the April 6, 2021 ballot. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

Tree sale is being planned for 2021. The sale will be virtual with no contact pick-up.

F. Committee Reports:

i. Citizens Groundwater Group

Bill Leichtnam shared that Don Ystad, 14 Mile-Watershed & Tri Lakes, "Our Clean Water Efforts in the 14-Mile Watershed" was the speaker. Highlights of the presentation:

- Man-made lakes created 1969-1973.
- Tri Lakes – Lake Arrowhead, Lake Camelot and Lake Sherwood.
- 1979 Watershed Study warned of potential pollution issues with increased agriculture & lake homes.
- 2002 Watershed Study confirmed 1979 warnings.
- 2016 – Blue Green Algae present. Pets died.
- Tri Lakes Committee formed.

- Focus on impact on water quality, water tests, soil tests, and fertilizer ordinance and citizen education program.
- 9 Key Element Plan – Study of the lakes with a long-term improvement plan.
- 2020 Year of Recognition – DNR Secretary/Director Award and EPA approval of 9 Key Element Plan

Katrina Shankland has asked for a Water Quality Task Force committee be part of the 2021-2023 Wisconsin legislature session.

Citizens (Wood County) Groundwater Group next meeting is on Monday, December 14th at 2:00 p.m. and are held virtually through WebEx.

- ii. Health Committee report A conference call is scheduled for December 2nd @ 1:00 p.m. with the Armenia Growers Coalition.
- iii. Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative (CSGWCC) committee report. Bill Leichtnam reported that the December meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for January 2021. CSGWCC meets the third week of the month.
- iv. Golden Sands RC&D report. Joshua Benes explained that the Resource Conservation & Development Council was formed in 1962 by congress allowing public and private entities to collaborate across county lines on regional conservation issues. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council was formed by 10 county board supervisors in 1972 with the directive to sustainable agriculture, healthy forests, clean water and abundant wildlife. The mission of Golden Sands RC&D is to “manage natural and human resources in ways consistent with sound conservation principles by working across county lines to address local concerns”. Golden Sands RC&D works with 12 counties with Columbia County being the 13th in 2021. 25-30 directors made up at-large and county representatives. Council meetings meet the third Thursday every month. The next meeting is January 21st.

Carmen Good was excused at 10:35 a.m.
Break @ 10:35 a.m. Meeting reconvened @ 10:45 a.m.

9. **Private Sewage.** Jason Grueneberg reported that the first notice of the Triennial Program Fee has been mailed to property owners. A second notice is scheduled for early December.
10. **Land Records.** Wood County Land Records Council meets annually every year. A virtual meeting is being planned for December 8th at 9:00 a.m.
11. **County Surveyor.**
 - A. Presentation of County Surveyor Annual Report. County Surveyor Kevin Boyer updated the CEED Committee on a brief history of the County Surveyor and 2020 past maintenance work. 2020 County contract was with Rutzen Survey Services for 206 corners. Town/Highway Contract was with Central Staking for 28 corners for town road maintenance. 2020 due to COVID, there has been limited access for face to face meetings. Calls and emails are primary contact platform. Nationally, surveyor's and land data fields are beginning to prepare for a datum change for all coordinates in the country which has not been changed since 1983. PLSS monuments are fed into mapping. In 2021, maintenance budget may need to apply to control network observations to ensure Wood County data accuracy when the datum goes live. The Surveyors annual report is in the CEED packet.
 - B. Consider 2-year renewal of County Surveyor contract with Kevin Boyer. County Surveyor became an appointed position in January 2009. Jason Grueneberg recommends renewing appointed County Surveyor 2-year contract for Surveyor Kevin Boyer.

Motion by Kenneth Curry to appoint and extend County Surveyor 2-year contract for Kevin Boyer. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Planning.

- A. Request to Approve (2) Zoning Map Amendments/Rezones – Town of Grand Rapids. Adam DeKleyn explained the request to approve (2) Zoning Map Amendments/Rezones for the Town of Grand Rapids.
- i. Zoning Map/Amendment/Rezone: Lot 1, CSM #10790 (Parcel #0700003B) – Existing zoning is Commercial (B-1) and Agricultural (A). The request is to rezone the approximately 19 acres to Commercial (B-1) for the purpose to allow for a future storage unit facility.
 - ii. Zoning Map/Amendment/Rezone: Lot 1, CSM #3892 (Parcel #0700677) – Existing zoning is Commercial (B-1). The request is to rezone the approximately 9 acre parcel to Agricultural (A) for the purpose to allow for agricultural animals.

Town of Grand Rapids Plan Commission recommended to approve both zoning amendments on October 12th. Town of Grand Rapids Town Board held public hearings and approved both zoning amendments on October 13th. Planning & Zoning staff has reviewed the request and recommends forwarding the resolution to the County Board of Supervisors approving (2) zoning map amendments/rezones for the Town of Grand Rapids with a favorable recommendation.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve the request of (2) Zoning Map Amendments/Rezones for the Town of Grands. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Review Planning & Zoning Director 2021 Goals. Jason Grueneberg shared 2021 goals with the CEED Committee.

Motion by Kenneth Curry to accept the Planning & Zoning Director's 2021 goals. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Economic Development

- A. Update on the Rural Economic Development Innovation Initiative. Jason Grueneberg commented that the plan completion is expected by the end of the year. Meetings are held virtually with limited in person contact. Broadband is part of the REDI Initiative. The REDI Initiative plan will be presented to the County Board of Supervisors.
- B. Consider Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for South Wood County bicycle and pedestrian trail wayfinding signage project. Jason Grueneberg updated the committee on the wayfinding signage project and using the unexpended funds from the 2020 Economic Development budget. Jason Grueneberg recommends considering a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Village of Port Edwards to install a bicycle and pedestrian trail wayfinding signage. The MOU is to use unallocated 2020 Economic Developments funds for the project. Funds would be disbursed in 2020 for project completion in 2021. Village of Port Edwards is expected to do the project. Ray Bossert, Village of Port Edwards Administrator explained the wayfinding signage project. Discussion followed.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to accept proposal and direct the Planning & Zoning Director, Jason Grueneberg to draft a Memorandum of Understanding with Peter Kastenholz to present at the CEED Committee meeting before County Board of Supervisors. Second by Jake Hahn. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission update. NCWRPC has been assisting in the Broadband strategy, Bicycle Pedestrian Plan, ATV Study, Wood County land use and VERSO closure. A work program will be established for 2021. Broadband Grant applications are due January 1st.

14. Extension.

A. General Office Update

Jason Hausler shared the following office updates:

- Limited in-person programming due to COVID.
- DATCP is suspending pesticide applicator in-person training certification testing. DATCP is extending current pesticide applicators with certifications that expire January 31, 2020 – November 30, 2021 until December 31, 2021. This is in response to the pandemic.
- Jason Hausler shared that Human Resources has contacted him to serve as the facilitator for the Department Head meetings for 2021 which he accepted.
- There is a State Advisory Committee being formed made up of the County Fair Association, 4-H Leaders, FFA Leaders and partners throughout the state to look at the roles and responsibilities of county fairs.
- The second round of Extension furloughs will occur in January 2021.
- UW System interim President, Tommy Thompson has expressed interest in investing in additional Extension regional positions.

B. Educator Presentation – Jackie Carattini, Human Development & Relationships Educator. Jackie Carattini gave a presentation on COVID and mental health programming.

Mental Health educational programming:

- Central Wisconsin Partnership for Recovery – Marshfield Clinic received a grant on behalf of the Central Wisconsin Partnership for Recovery for implementation project, “Rural Communities Opioid Response Program.” This program focuses on the care of prevention, treatment and recovery to the Opioid epidemic.

Rent Smart – National Award October 2020. Rent Smart focuses on the knowledge of skills essential for a successful renting experience. It challenges participants to understand their rights and responsibilities of their landlord. Program is designed to educate those individuals with little or no rental experience and those having difficulty obtaining housing.

Rent Smart Modules: Virtual Series consisting of 6 session series with a maximum of 40 participants. There is a waiting list for the virtual series. Train the trainer trains partners to deliver programming for the Rent Smart series.

- Aging Mastery Program – COVID pandemic has isolated many individuals with no social interaction. Aging Mastery is evidence based education program and behavior change incentive program for aging well. Virtual sessions to start January 2021 with twice per week sessions for 10 weeks.

15. Requests for per diem for meeting attendants. None.

16. Schedule Next Regular Committee Meeting. The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at Wood County Courthouse in Conference Room #114.

17. Agenda items for next meeting. Agenda items are due by Wednesday, December 30th.

18. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary. A special CEED meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 15th at 8:30 a.m. at Wood County Courthouse in Conference Room #114.

19. Adjourn. Chairman Curry declared the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Minutes by Kim Keech, Planning & Zoning Office