

# **MINUTES**

## **CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 3, 2024

**TIME:** 9:00 AM

**PLACE:** Courthouse – Room 114

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bill Leichtnam, Dave LaFontaine, Laura Valenstein, Jake Hahn, Tom Buttke, Joe Behlen

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Trent Miner, County Clerk; See attached sign-in list

1. Chairman Leichtnam called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and declared a quorum present. Leichtnam welcomed Behlen to the committee.
2. There was no public comment.
3. Motion by LaFontaine/Buttke to approve the minutes of the previous meetings. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Motion by LaFontaine/Buttke to approve the vouchers, monthly department reports and committee reports. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Wucherpennig reported the Wisconsin Land & Water Association annual conference is coming up, a county core value award was recently awarded to a LWCD staff member, and that he is reviewing his APRA proposal for a drone for the department.
6. Grueneberg requested that a portion of the REDI grant funding be used to conduct a housing survey in conjunction with the work being done for our housing plan by North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Motion by Buttke/Hahn to approve the amount, not to exceed \$1,000, to fund the housing survey. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Rombalski reviewed the actions of the REDI Roundtable for 2023, including the number and types of meetings held. A calendar of 2024 meetings was included. Motion by LaFontaine/Hahn to approve the report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
8. The economic grant funding process was discussed in depth and at length. A number of proposals came forward, including having the grant applications tie into the REDI plan better, making sure the committee has a dollar amount to spend before the process, possible scoring of applications prior to any award meeting, matching fund requirement, and cap the number of times an applicant can apply. Staff will work on an application form and bring back to the committee for review.
9. Solin provided an Extension office update:

- a. Space designers have been working with Extension to come up with additional space for offices for the new educators.
  - b. Final interviews coming up for the Natural Resources Groundwater Educator position.
  - c. Upcoming presentation to committee on services to the Hmong population.
10. Leichtnam requested per diem to attend the interview for the Natural Resources Groundwater Educator position. Motion by LaFontaine/Buttke to approve the per diem and attendance. Motion carried unanimously.
11. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.
12. Chairman Leichtnam declared the meeting adjourned at 10:56 AM.

Minutes taken by Trent Miner, County Clerk, and are in draft form until approved at the next meeting.

## Conservation, Education, & Economic Development Committee

**January 3, 2024**

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