

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2017
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #115, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Hilde Henkel, Kenneth Curry, Robert Ashbeck, Bill Leichtnam, Adam Fischer and Harvey Petersen.

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg and Kim Keech.
Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpfennig.
UW Extension Staff: Peter Manley.

Others Present: Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendenning, Sue Kunferman (Wood County Health Dept), Jason Angell (Marshfield Economic Development Board, Rick Bakovka (Regional Economic Growth Initiative) and Warren Kraft (Wood County Human Resources).

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Henkel called the CEED Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Public Comment.** None
3. **Review Correspondence.**
 - A. Chairperson Henkel handed out a memo to the CEED Committee and Wood County Board regarding WCA Agriculture, Environment & Land Use Steering Committee.
 - B. Shane Wucherpfennig shared that the Golden Sands RC&D Meeting requested \$14,000 from area counties.
 - C. Bill Leichtnam handed out Golden Sands RC&D active Wood County projects.
 - D. Peter Manley shared that the 2018 Clean Sweep \$16,000 grant has been approved.
4. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the Wednesday, November 1, 2017 CEED meeting, 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension and 3) staff activity reports from Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, Justin Conner, Jeff Brewbaker, Stevana Skinner, Kim Keech, Victoria Wilson, Shane Wucherpfennig, Tracy Arnold, Adam Groshek, Emily Salvinski, Lori Ruess, Peter Manley, Matt Lippert, Jodi Friday, Chris Viau, Laura Huber and Jeremy Erickson.
 - A. Minutes of Wednesday, November 1, 2017. No additions or corrections needed.
 - B. Department Bills. No additions or corrections needed.
 - C. Staff Activity Reports. No additions or corrections needed.

Motion by Adam Fischer to approve and accept the November 1, 2017 CEED minutes, bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension, and staff activity reports as presented. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Risk and Injury Report.** None.
6. **Land & Water Conservation Department.**
 - A. Update on the 9-Key Element Planning Grants for Mill Creek Watershed & 14 Mile Watershed
Shane Wucherpfennig presented a summary of the proposal for the 9-Key Element Planning Grant for Mill Creek Watershed & 14 Mile Watershed. Watershed plans consistent with EPA's 9-Key elements provide a framework for improving water quality within a geographic watershed. The Mill Creek Watershed grant for \$22,000 and 14 Mile Watershed for \$25,000 has been approved by DNR but hasn't been officially received. Shane Wucherpfennig and Emily Salvinski

are heading up the grant writing. Shane Wucherpfennig shared that a 9-Key Plan has to be approved both by the DNR and EPA. The county wide Land & Water Resource Management Plan meets 1-6 of the key elements but 7-9 key elements required in writing a 9-key plan are more challenging. The main focus of the Mill Creek Watershed grant will be on phosphorus and the main focus of the 14 Mile Watershed will be on nitrogen. Counties bordering Wood County are also assisting in the Wood County project with Shane Wucherpfennig as the Financial Agent for the grant. Shane Wucherpfennig is hopeful of a partnership with UW Discovery Farms for equipment which might be obtained for monitoring at no cost to the county.

- B. Approval of 2017 crop prices Shane Wucherpfennig presented the 2017 Crop Prices for Field Corn \$3.26/bushel, Soybeans \$9.49/bushel, Other Hay \$73.14/ton, Alfalfa \$104.73/ton and Cranberry (fresh fruit) \$51.40/barrel.

Motion by Harvey Petersen to approve the 2017 Crop Prices. Second by Adam Fischer. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Discussion of existing county equipment and usage Shane Wucherpfennig shared that the department currently owns 4 tree planters which aren't used much. Shane Wucherpfennig is asking the committee guidance if the department can sell the tree planters retaining the funds and purchase a used No-Till Drill for planting no-till and cover crops. Discussion followed. Chairman Henkel encouraged Shane Wucherpfennig to find out the county practice regarding the sale of department equipment and purchase cost of a Drill updating the committee at a future meeting.
- D. Discuss #5 and #6 of Supervisor Leichtnam's recommendations. Bill Leichtnam introduced recommendation #5 to urge the Wood County Board to fund "clean water research & projects undertaken by the Central Wisconsin Groundwater Group. Bill Leichtnam shared that it would be beneficial for the Central Wisconsin Groundwater Group and Healthy Waters to sit at the same table sharing resources. Shane Wucherpfennig feels it is beneficial to include the groundwater component but needs Healthy Waters approval. Adam Fischer commented that the CEED Committee doesn't have jurisdiction to incorporate with Healthy Waters but can encourage emails and concerns of committee members. Chairman Bill Leichtnam shared that the next meeting of the Central Wisconsin Groundwater Group will be December 18th at the Saratoga Town Hall.

In recommendation #6 Bill Leichtnam would like to urge Wood County Board to support regional groundwater protection initiatives undertaken by other Central Sands counties like Waushara and Portage County. An interconnection with surrounding counties would be beneficial for a regional approach. Chairman Henkel commented that there needs to be some shared approach among counties. Shane Wucherpfennig added that he is aware of what other counties are doing by attending meetings and conferences. Chairman Henkel added that an update from the department of the County Con Meetings would be beneficial to the committee as a future agenda item.

7. UW Extension.

- A. Fair presentation process Peter Manley explained the past practice of disbursing the Central Wisconsin State Junior Fair funds in the amount of \$32,000. Past practice was to disburse ½ of the amount in January and the other ½ after the Fair Financial Report was shared with the committee. Peter Manley stated that the Financial Report hasn't been received from the 2017 Junior Fair. Kenneth Curry commented that any organization that the county gives money to should give a report to the committee sharing use of funds and benefit. Robert Ashbeck feels that all of the money should be disbursed in January to the Fair Association. Chairman Henkel stated that how the funds are disbursed is the decision of the CEED Committee. Discussion followed.

Motion by Kenneth Curry to invite the Central Wisconsin State Fair Director to give a Financial Report of the Junior Fair at the January CEED Meeting releasing the funds with the January vouchers Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried 4-1. Robert Ashbeck voted against the motion because he has concerns that the CEED Committee doesn't trust the fair with the county money.

- B. Visioning Session review Peter Manley explained that the consensus of the CEED Committee is to consider interviewing an internal candidate for the UW Extension Family Living position. A similar position is being eliminated in another county. Chairman Henkel shared that the county would consider an internal employee but the county does not commit to hire them. Discussion followed. Consensus of the committee is to hold a special CEED Meeting on Tuesday, December 19th at 12:30 p.m. to interview an internal applicant.

8. Economic Development.

- A. Update from Marshfield Economic Development Board Jason Angell shared with the committee that he is resigning from the City of Marshfield effective December 22nd and moving to Arizona. The job has been posted with interviews scheduled December 14th and 15th. Jason Angell thanked the committee for their continued support in economic development in Marshfield. The partnership between the City of Marshfield and the CEED Committee has strengthened which is important to expanding economic development opportunities. Chairman Henkel commented that relations are important to working together.
- B. Regional Economic Growth Initiative Update Rick Bakovka feels that the roundtable discussion among Economic Development stakeholders on the future role of Wood County in Economic Development in March was beneficial in sharing ideas and strengthening relations.
- Accomplishments of Regional Economic Growth Initiative:
- i. Mid-State Technical College offering a Hospitality Certification Program
 - ii. Small Business Development Center Tours
 - iii. City of Nekoosa Strategic Planning
 - iv. Possible expansion of strategic planning with City of Pittsville, Village of Rudolph, Village of Vesper
 - v. Legislatures encouraging Economic Development Central Wisconsin Summit
 - vi. Golf Week Magazine article regarding the Sand Valley Golf Course
 - vii. New facility for YMCA/Boys & Girls Club signed and approved.

9. **County Surveyor.** Nothing to report.

10. **Planning.** Nothing to report.

11. **Preliminary to Closed Session.** Warren Kraft discussed with the CEED Committee how to complete the Department Head Performance Evaluations. Discussion followed.

CLOSED SESSION - At 11:13 a.m., it was moved by Adam Fischer, and seconded by Robert Ashbeck, pursuant to Wis Stat 19.85(1)(c) to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the Land & Water Conservation Department Head's performance and Planning and Zoning Department Head's performance. Roll call taken: Curry – aye, Leichtnam – aye, Fischer – aye, Ashbeck – aye, Petersen – aye. Harvey Petersen was excused at 12:02 p.m.

Return to open session. At 12:22 p.m., it was moved by Bill Leichtnam, seconded by Adam Fischer, to return to open session. All ayes.

12. **Schedule Next Meeting.**

The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the Wood County Courthouse in Room #115.

13. Agenda items for next meeting.

- A. Kevin Masarik, UWSP Groundwater Education Specialist
- B. Dale Christiansen, Central Wisconsin State Fair Executive Director
- C. County Con Meeting Report

14. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary.

A special closed meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 19th at 12:30 p.m. to interview an internal candidate for the UW Extension Family Living position.

15. Adjourn.

Motion by Adam Fischer to adjourn at 12:35 p.m. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth Curry, Secretary
Minutes by Kim Keech, Planning & Zoning Office
Review for submittal to County Board by Kenneth Curry (approved on December 12, 2017 @ 9:32 a.m.)