

MINUTES
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE AND CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #114, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Donna Rozar, Allen Breu, Adam Fischer, Marion Hokamp, Tom Buttke, Jessica Vicente, Kenneth Curry, Robert Ashbeck, Mark Holbrook, Dave LaFontaine, Bill Leichtnam,

Member Excused: Lori Slattery-Smith and Harvey Petersen

Staff Present:

Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpfennig, Lori Ruess.
Health Department Staff: Susan Kunferman, Nancy Eggleston
UW Extension: Jason Hausler, Nancy Turyk

Others Present: County Board Chair Douglas Mahon, Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendenning, Peter Kastenholz, Corporation Counsel, Brad Kremer, ASA

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Rozar called the CEED meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.
2. **Declaration of Quorum.** Chair Rozar declared a quorum.
3. **Public Comment.** There was no public comment.
4. **Review and Approval of 2019 UW-Extension Contract by CEED Committee.**
Jason Hausler presented the 2019 UW-Extension Contract between Wood County and the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System for the Wood County Educator's positions and asked for the CEED's approval

Motion by (Dave LaFontaine/Bill Leichtnam) to approve and sign the 2019 UW-Extension Contract between Wood County and the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System.

5. Discuss Groundwater Contamination in South Wood County and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Armenia Growers Coalition (AGC).

Bill Leichtnam brought in a map that showed the Ag corridor with red/pink shading to indicate the fields being used by AGC. Nancy Eggleston and Shane Wucherpfennig gave an overview of the water sampling results from the sampling that was done by Wood and Juneau counties in May of 2018. Of the 104 samples taken, 41 percent of the wells exceeded the state drinking water standard of 10 mg/L for nitrates. Following the well sampling, the AGC was formed by three large area farming operations within the Ag corridor. The AGC has voluntarily coordinated and collaborated with Wood and Juneau Counties on a response effort to offer residents bottled water and an in-home point-of-use water treatment system for wells in the Ag corridor that exceeded 10 mg/L. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Wisconsin DNR, Juneau, County, Wood County and the AGC has been drafted with several revisions.

The most recent revised draft of the MOU dated 10/25/2018 was handed out to committee members. Chair Rozar explained the purpose of this meeting was to review the MOU and discuss the County's role. Lengthy Discussion followed.

Some concerns brought up during the discussion included:

- Cost to the County – currently the only cost not being cover is staff time.
- Vegetable growers not being required to have a nutrient management plan.
 - EPA did Isotope testing; some of the contamination came from manure and some from commercial fertilizer.

- Problems with the MOU.
 - After the reverse osmosis systems get installed, it's the homeowner's responsibility for upkeep and maintenance.
 - The MOU will terminate in 2022; should be a 10 year MOU.
- Role and responsibility of the Health Department.
 - Health Department's responsibility is education.
 - Concerns with the current staff workload, once the notification letters (approximately 1200) are mailed as this may generate a substantial increase in phone calls
 - Follow-up calls needed to residents who have high test results.
- Peter Kastenzholz, Corporation Counsel shared history of the MOU. If there is a signed MOU, either party or any party can extricate themselves at any time. He added that if County does not sign the MOU, the County has no obligation as to testing the wells.

It was pointed out that an advantage to an MOU is shared results of the testing and well information.

Al Breu feels the County is heading in the right direction with the MOU, but should negotiate a longer time frame and get some reimbursement.

Bill Leichtnam shared he would like to see the MOU as it was originally before the revisions. He added if the MOU does fail he would like to see alternative action to help affected residents.

Mark Holbrook expressed that there is an overwhelming responsibility to people who live on the land and whose water has been polluted and it is not asking too much of large corporations to solve the problems of the water table that has been polluted.

Tom Buttke shared the Health Department's responsibility is education; he could support an MOU if there was proper funding.

Dave Lafontaine expressed the problem with the MOU is the County will be left "holding the bag". If AGC created the problem they should correct the problem.

Donna Rozar shared she does not completely support the MOU as it put the Health Department at a different level.

Shane Wucherpfennig stated additional changes may not be made to the revised MOU, but the next best thing the County could do is to look at the future and what can be done to help residents.

- Educate residents
- Offer water testing
- Eventually build a 3-D groundwater model

Ken Curry commented that the purpose of the meeting today was not to approve or disapprove the MOU.

Peter Kastenzholz, Sue Kunferman and Shane Wucherpfennig agreed that they received the information needed to move forward with the MOU. Chair Rozar shared that the committees have provided information on where they stand and their expectations and now their responsibility is to educate the full County Board.

6. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary.

Another meeting will be scheduled in December; a date was not set.

7. Adjourn.

Chair Rozar declared the meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Curry

Donna Rozar

Donna Rozar, Chair of HHS and Kenneth Curry Chair of CEED

Minutes by Lori Ruess, Land & Water Conservation Department

Review for submittal to County Board by Donna Rozar and Kenneth Curry (approved on [Click here to enter text.](#))

