

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2018
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #114, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Kenneth Curry, Robert Ashbeck, Mark Holbrook, Dave LaFontaine, Bill Leichtnam, Harvey Petersen

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg
Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpennig, Lori Ruess.
UW Extension Staff: Jason Hausler, Laura Huber, Nancy Turyk

Others Present: County Board Chair Douglas Machon, Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendenning, Kim McGrath, Human Resources Administrator, Susan Kunferman, Health Department Director, Peter Kastenholz, Corporation Counsel.

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Kenneth Curry called the CEED meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Declaration of Quorum.** Chair Curry declared a quorum.
3. **Public Comment.** None.
4. **Review Correspondence.** There was no correspondence to review.
5. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the October 3, 2018 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 Wucherpennig, Tracy Arnold, Adam Groshek, Emily Salvinski, Lori Ruess, Matt Lippert, Jodi Friday, Chris Viau, Nancy Turyk, and Laura Huber.
 - A. Minutes of the October 3, 2018 meeting. Harvey Petersen questioned the next meeting date of September 7th instead of November 7th. After reviewing, it was verified the date in the minutes was correct – November 7, 2018.
 - B. Department Bills. Bill Leichtnam asked for clarification from UW Extension on the \$107,499.26 for agent contracts. Jason Hausler shared that this is the second billing cycle for the educators' contracts and varies from the first billing due to filling a vacant position.
 - C. Staff Activity Reports. No questions or comments.

Motion by (Bill Leichtnam/Dave Lafontaine) to approve and accept the October 3, 2018 minutes, bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension, and staff activity reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Risk and Injury Report.** None.
7. **Human Resources Presentation on Performance Evaluation Criteria.**

Kim McGrath shared with the committee, copies of Instructions for doing evaluations, the 2018 Wood County Pay Structure, copies of the County Conservationist's and Planning & Zoning Director's 2017 performance evaluations, and a copy of the 2018 blank performance evaluation form. Kim explained the evaluation system, core criteria and selective criteria and cautioned against adding criteria that the Department Head is not aware of. She added that evaluations are due to the Human Resources Department by Friday, December 7th. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Holbrook commented that he would like to have the criteria “well in advance” to reliably gauge how an employee is performing.

Chair Curry stated that a closed session is on the agenda for the purpose of discussing the performance of the Land & Water Conservation department head and Planning and Zoning department head and asked if it was the committee’s wish to go into closed session today or to schedule a special meeting for the performance evaluations. Following discussion it was the consensus of the committee to hold a special meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 12, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.

Shane Wucherpennig and Jason Grueneberg gave copies of their 2018 goals to the committee to review prior to the November 12th meeting.

8. Land & Water Conservation Department.

- A. Discussion and Possible Action on Non-Ferrous Metallic Mining Ordinance. Shane briefed the committee on the Non-Ferrous Metallic Mining Ordinance which was presented and discussed at past CEED meetings. At the October CEED meeting there was a motion to take the necessary steps to hold a public hearing in November. The public hearing was not scheduled as Peter Kastenholz informed Shane Wucherpennig that it was not necessary.

Motion by (Dave Lafontaine/Bill Leichtnam) to sign the Non-Ferrous Metallic Mining, Land Use and Reclamation Ordinance and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Weed Commissioner Agreement Renewal In June of 2017 a resolution authorizing the CEED to appoint a Weed Commissioner and enter into a contract with the Weed Commission that sets forth the powers and duties was passed by County Board.

The Weed Commissioner Contract is a one year contract which is signed by the Weed Commissioner and the County Conservationist. Shane Wucherpennig informed the committee that he has the 2018-2019 Weed Commissioners’ Contract signed by John Eron, Weed Commissioner.

Motion by (Dave Lafontaine/Harvey Petersen) to approve to extend the Weed Commissioner’s contract to 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

At this time Chair Curry moved up agenda item 8e for discussion because Sue Kunferman needed to leave by 10:30 a.m.

- C. Discussion/Approval of Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Financial Assurance. Wucherpennig explained the need to increase financial assurance for the nonmetallic mining reclamation program. A financial assurance comparison with neighboring counties was completed and Wood County was lower than most. Wood County is currently at \$4,000/acre and is requesting approval to increase to \$4,500/acre.

Motion by Bill Leichtnam/Mark Holbrook to increase the Wood County financial assurance fees for the nonmetallic mining reclamation program to \$4,500, effective immediately. Motion carried unanimously.

- D. Discussion on Groundwater. Bill Leichtnam shared that there is a state wide groundwater problem and it bothers him that the CEED committee and County Board have not stepped up to do something. He added that the Citizen’s Groundwater Group has done more than the CEED or County Board and asked if the Citizen’s Groundwater Group could be given advisory status with the CEED Committee. Following discussion it was decided that the following item would be added to the December 5th CEED meeting agenda: Discuss the process whereby the Citizen’s Groundwater Group can be advisory to the CEED.

Bill gave a brief report on the WCA Agriculture, Environment & Land Use Steering Committee meeting held at the Mead Inn in Wisconsin Rapids on November 2nd. Speakers at the meeting included Shawn Pfaff and Kara O'Connor. Subjects they spoke on included the 2018 midterm election and problems with agriculture today. The next meeting will be Friday, April 5th in Stevens Point.

Shane Wucherpfennig reported he is moving forward with the proposed well-testing program.

E. Armenia/Port Edwards Memorandum of Understanding with AGC (Armenia Growers Coalition). Discussion Combined Health & Human Services Meeting with CEED.

Shane Wucherpfennig shared information on the well testing that took place in Wood and Juneau County. 40 percent of the well that were tested came back with nitrates above the federal standard of 10 milligrams per liter. Three major vegetable growers that farm in both Wood and Juneau counties formed a coalition called the Armenia Growers Coalition (AGC). A Memorandum of Understanding between AGC, Department of Natural Resources, Juneau County and Wood County was drafted by AGC with several revisions completed to date. As of a few weeks ago we received a copy of the latest draft of the MOU. Peter Kastenholz reviewed and drafted a memo addressing the substantive issues the counties, EPA and DNR have with the latest draft. Lengthy discussion followed.

Peter Kastenholz shared that the county has an educational obligation, but legally does not have an obligation to provide clean drinkable water to our residents.

Sue Kunferman shared that on Friday, November 9th letters will be mailed to residents in Juneau and Wood counties for offering water testing on a voluntary basis. Sue shared her concerns with the significant increase in work load and phone calls the letters could generate. She added that it is going to be difficult, but it needs to be done.

Bob Ashbeck shared that he agrees with the water testing, but what is our future? He added that changes to fertilizer uses are needed to stop groundwater contamination.

Doug Machon, County Board Chair, shared his concerns with sending the letters without having a signed MOU.

Mark Holbrook and Bill Leichtnam expressed their feelings regarding obligations to constituents.

Bill Leichtnam expressed his concern with AGC taking too long and the need to move along quicker with the MOU process.

Nancy Turyk asked a question regarding acceptable sampling protocol. Peter Kastenholz added that this is AGC's problem and they need to rectify it. They should be doing the follow-up testing.

Dave LaFontaine stated he couldn't support the MOU because it leaves the County hanging.

Mark Holbrook stated he is opposed to the MOU.

- He doesn't feel the time frame of the MOU is long enough.
- He has problems with the idea in section D paragraph 2 – farmer led solution to the problem. This should be multiple groups.
- He has a problem with water testing being done by a third party, especially if hired by AGC.

Bill Leichtnam questioned if the Land & Water Conservation Department has enforcement authority for over application of fertilizer to fields in Wood County. Shane added that he has the authority to enforce over application in Wood County, however, vegetable growers are not

required to have a nutrient management plan and for CAFOs it has to be complaint driven for LWCD to step in and do something.

Shane Wucherpfennig added that all concerns expressed at the meeting were addressed at one time and may have been removed from the MOU. He reminded the CEED that the MOU is not an enforceable document and any of the parties can terminate for any reason at any time.

Bill Clendenning expressed a concern with a CEED member being omitted in conversations regarding the MOU. Peter Kastenholz stated nobody was left out, He explained, the last meeting Shane Wucherpfennig invited Chair Curry to attend. He was the only member from the CEED committee that was asked to attend and was only there to sit in and listen. Juneau County hasn't had their chairperson or supervisors attend.

Chair Curry added that this will be discussed further at the dual Health and Human Services and CEED meeting on Tuesday, November 13th.

9. Economic Development

- A. Wood County ATV Trail Committee Update. Jason Grueneberg gave a brief update on the Wood County ATV trails. A special order of business on the joint efforts of Highway, Parks & Forestry and Planning & Zoning Departments to improve the ATV/UTV trail system in Wood County will be on the November 13th County Board agenda. Action can be taken that day.

A question was asked regarding trails on private land. Jason stated it is not a recommendation currently to have trails on private land.

- B. Consider Approval of Budgeted \$5000 for County Marketing Efforts to Purchase ATV/UTV Trail and Route Signs. Jason Grueneberg explained the procedure established for use of the \$5,000 in the budget for marketing. At the time the \$5,000 was put in the budget for marketing and approved, he told the CEED he would come back and let them know how the money would be used. He shared that marketing of ATV/UTV is a challenge since County Board has not yet approved the ATV/UTV trails/routes and there is no route signage. Signage would cost approximately \$200 - \$600 per mile. Jason Grueneberg asked the CEED for approval to take the \$5,000 that was budgeted for marketing in 2018 and use it towards the ATV/UTV signage expenses. If the ATV/UTV Wood County trail system is approved by County Board, marketing would take place in 2019. Discussion followed.

Motion by (Dave LaFontaine/Mark Holbrook) to approve the request to use the \$5,000 budgeted marketing for ATV/UTV signage. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Update and Approval of Release of Budgeted Funds of \$2,500 for 2018 Wisconsin State Fair Booth. Jason Grueneberg stated in 2018 Wood County had a booth at the state Fair which was staffed by volunteers from the Wisconsin Rapids, Steven's Point and Marshfield area. He added that the booth was right across from the travel Wisconsin booth, a lot of people visited the booth and he feels it is worth the \$2,500 to have a booth. He asked the committee for approval to release \$2,500 from the Economic Development funds for the 2018 Wisconsin State Fair booth.

Motion by Robert Ashbeck/Dave LaFontaine) to approve release of \$2,500 from Economic Development funds to be used for the 2018 Wisconsin State Fair Booth. Motion carried unanimously.

- D. Discussion on Wood County's funding and role in Economic Development. A meeting to discuss this agenda item will be held on Monday, November 12th at 1:00 p.m. in room 114 at the Wood County Courthouse.

Nancy Turyk handed out some materials for the committee to review prior to the November 12th meeting.

10. Private Sewage

Jason Grueneberg gave a brief update on the private sewage program. The \$20 invoices have been mailed; approximately one-third of the payments have been received.

11. County Surveyor – Nothing to report.

12. Planning

A member of the CEED asked why Wood County isn't a member of the Regional Planning Commission. Jason stated that in the past he talked with other Department Heads and gave a presentation to the full county Board and there was no desire to be a member.

A short break was called by Chair Curry at 11:27 a.m. Chair Curry reconvened the CEED Committee meeting at 11:34 a.m.

13. UW Extension

Office Update. Jason Hausler reported Katie Tomsyck is resigning. Her last day hasn't been finalized, but will either be the end of December or early January. She is moving out of state. Her position is posted with hopes of having it filled prior to her departure.

December 4-6 all professional staff will be attending training.

Jason needs the CEED to approve of the 2019 UW-Extension Contract. This will be added to the November 13th CEED/ HHS joint meeting agenda.

Wood County received all their money back from Farm Tech Days (\$63,000).

Jason Hausler met with Shane Wucherpennig and Jason Grueneberg and discussed how to move forward with the CEED tour. The 2019 CEED tour is scheduled for Friday, October 4th.

Horticulture Educator Update. The Horticulture Educator position was in administration transition, but has now been approved and is moving forward. Jason is waiting for the "green light" to post the position.

Presentation 4-H Program Update, Laura Huber. Committee introduction took place, as a couple of new members joined the CEED since Laura last gave a presentation. Laura gave a PowerPoint presentation on 4-H. She shared where 4-H enrollment was in 2017 and where they are today. She also shared her program goals for the year, some of which included:

- Improve opportunities available to youth through community partnership.
- Offer older youth opportunities of leadership development, healthy relationship building and fun.
- Develop strong youth and adult partnership stressing the importance of youth leadership and life leadership skills.
- Support volunteers through training, peer support programs and club leader guidance.
- Introduce new audiences to 4-H through targeted, project-based program and SPIN clubs.
- Promote 4-H in under-represented areas of the county.

Laura thanked the CEED and County Board for their support of the 4-H Youth Development Program. The Committee offered suggestion on how to attract participation in specific areas of Wood County,

14. Closed Session. Motion to go into Closed Session Pursuant to the Exemption Contained in S.19.85(1)(c) Wisconsin Statutes for the Purpose of Discussing Land & Water Conservation Department Head's Performance and Planning & Zoning Department Head's Performance.

This item will be on the November 12th CEED meeting agenda.

15. Schedule Next Meeting.

The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the Wood County Courthouse in Room 114.

16. Agenda items for December 5th meeting.

- Discuss the process whereby the Citizen's Advisory Groundwater Group can be advisory to the CEED.

17. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary.

Monday, November 12th at 1:00 p.m. in Room 114 at the Wood County Courthouse

Tuesday, November 13th at 11:00 a.m. in Room 114 of the Wood County Courthouse

18. Adjourn.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine/Mark Holbrook to adjourn at 12:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Holbrook, Secretary

Minutes by Lori Ruess, Land & Water Conservation Department

Review for submittal to County Board by Mark Holbrook (approved on November 23, 2018 @ 1:38 p.m.)