

MINUTES  
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2019  
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #115, WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI

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

Staff Present:

Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpennig  
Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg, Victoria Wilson  
UW Extension Staff: Karli Tomsyck, Nancy Turyk

Others Present: Bill Clendenning (Supervisor District 15), Marla Cummings (Finance), Nancy Eggleston (Health), Doug Machon (Wood County Board Chairperson), Jim Webster (Ho-Chunk Gaming Nekoosa), Bryce Hembrook (City of Marshfield), Dennis Polach (Supervisor District 14), Angel Whitehead (Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce), Scott Larson (Marshfield Area Chamber Foundation Inc.), Adam Tegen (City of Wisconsin Rapids), Tami Hahn (City of Pittsville)

1. **Call meeting to order.** Chairperson Curry called the CEED meeting to order at 9:00am.
2. **Declaration of Quorum.** Chairperson Curry declared a quorum.
3. **Public Comments (*brief comments/statement regarding committee business*).** None.

4. **Review Correspondence.**

Jason Grueneberg shared the CEED Tour will be held on October 4th. The tour will leave the Courthouse at 7:45am and return around 3pm. Attendees will see highlights of what projects staff are working on. Lunch will be held at Hewitt's Meats in Marshfield. Jason noted not many people have signed up yet. The tour will not be cancelled but if participation is low, the tour will not run again next year as it is a lot of work for staff and host sites to coordinate. If supervisors know of anyone who may be interested in attending, please let Jason know.

5. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following items: 1) minutes of the August 20, 2019 CEED meetings, 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension and 3) staff activity reports from Adam Groshek, Rod Mayer, Emily Salvinski, Lori Ruess, Adam DeKleyn, Jeff Brewbaker, Stevana Hamus, Kim Keech, Victoria Wilson, Laura Huber, Matt Lippert, Nancy Turyk, Jackie Carattini, Janell Wehr and Kelly Hammond.
  - a. **Approve minutes of previous meeting.** No additions or corrections needed.
  - b. **Approve bills.** No additions or corrections needed.
  - c. **Receive staff activity reports.** No additions or corrections needed.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve and accept the August 2019 CEED minutes, bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension, and staff activity reports as presented. Second by Mark Holbrook Motion carried unanimously.*

6. **Risk and Injury Report.** None.

7. **Land & Water Conservation Department**

- a. Review and consider approval of proposed 2020 LWCD budgets  
Shane Wucherpennig shared the Land & Water Conservation 2020 budgets are in the packet for committee review; however, there has been some difficulty with new software and initial data entry. Shane recommended a special meeting to approve LWCD budgets. Chairperson Curry suggested the Economic Development meeting on September 17th. Marla Cummings noted the Executive Committee

is meeting to review all budgets on September 25th. Marla will attend the September 17th meeting for budget review.

- b. Consider/take action on Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative (CSGCC) resolution.  
Shane Wucherpennig shared this is the resolution that all 7 counties in the Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative (CSGCC) are taking to their oversight committees and forwarding to County Boards. The CSGCC is made up of 7 counties that have been meeting since early 2019 regarding a groundwater study for the central sands region.

The resolution gives counties support to continue working with the group and pursue financial support from the state. There will be no financial impact to Wood County with the resolution; its intention is to show commitment that Wood County wants to move forward with support. Bob Ashbeck expressed concerned that money is involved and the resolution is not properly worded. Ken Curry said this is a test resolution to see if the County Board supports future activity. Whether monetary support is necessary will be a future item.

Bill Clendenning has the resolution as an item on the upcoming Judicial Legislative Committee agenda. Shane suggested Bill takes it to that meeting and then forwards to County Clerk for the County Board packet.

*Motion by Bill Leichtnam to approve sending Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative resolution to County Board in September. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.*

- c. Update on second round of countywide nitrate testing.  
Shane Wucherpennig presented at County Board in January and requested funds for a county-wide groundwater testing for nitrates only. Funding was approved for 822 sections in the county at \$10.00 per sample. Shane shared 165 private well owners participated during the first round of sampling in May. The results provided a good distribution over the county but Shane would like to see a better turnout so another round will be done September 7th and 8th. There will be 1 collection site on Saturday, 1 site on Sunday and 3 sites on Monday.

Shane noted over 560 residents were called to participate in the second round and follow-up post cards were mailed to them last week. For the first round of testing, 790 residents received letters regarding sampling. Shane is hopeful the second round will have higher participation since it will be held over a weekend. Letters were re-sent to those who did not participate in the first round. Nancy Eggleston confirmed analysis will be done by Wood County.

Ken Curry requested results from the first 165 samples. Shane reported:

- 7 tests were above 10ppm, with the highest being around 20.4ppm.
- Around 20% were greater than 5ppm.
- Very few were between 1-5ppm.
- Remaining samples were low detection.

Shane will share the preliminary map with the first 165 points at the October CEED meeting. The document will be in the packet with hard copies available for members at the meeting.

- d. Discuss Representative Robin Vos' Groundwater Task Force Hearings.  
Supervisor Leichtnam gave an update on the task force during the August CEED committee meeting since Shane Wucherpennig was unable to attend. Shane testified at the Stevens Point hearing and shared information regarding collaborative work, what has been effective with farmer-led groups, promotion of no-till drilling and conservation cover crops and the money that has been coming into departments has been well spent and is producing results. Shane pushed for continued support of farmer-led grants; including nutrient-management planning/certification.

CSGCC has been monitoring the task force hearings. There will be at least one more hearing in Mid-September. Discussion followed.

Nancy Turyk is facilitating the CSGCC meetings and working to align tasks and timelines. Katrina Shankland's staff indicated they need something from the committee by September 16th for inclusion in the task force report. Nancy requested clarification on whether the CSGCC resolution gives permission to submit a letter regarding the group's goals and strategies on behalf of Wood County or if additional approvals are required before it is sent. Discussion followed. Nancy then provided copies of the CSGCC's letter and resolution for committee members to review. Shane feels the Wood County letter should come from Land & Water Conservation on their department letterhead. Chair Curry stated a motion is not necessary but it is important that the committee was made aware Land & Water Conservation will send the letter to Katrina Shankland and representatives.

Following further discussion, it was decided that Chair Curry and Shane Wucherpennig will both sign the letter after the September 17<sup>th</sup> County Board meeting.

e. Discuss Portage County siting resolution.

Bill Leichtnam noted this resolution has to do with the ATPC 51 and current hearings to restore local control with regard to concentrated livestock feeding operations. Bill shared copies of the resolution with committee members and requested a meeting before County Board and for Corporate Counsel to write a resolution for Wood County. Bob Ashbeck expressed concern with the restrictions on CAFOs. Bill noted that Trempeleau County has been looking to reword the resolution to remove the emphasis on concentrated CAFOs.

Following lengthy discussion, it was decided that Supervisor Ashbeck and Shane Wucherpennig will meet to produce a resolution with emphasis on local control before it goes to Corporate Counsel.

*Motion by Ken Curry to refer resolution on local control for livestock siting to Supervisor Ashbeck and Land & Water Conservation staff for review and future agenda. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.*

f. Committee Reports

i. **Update on Citizen's Groundwater Committee meeting.**

Bill Leichtnam shared that reports from Vos' task force and their findings announced in Stevens Point were presented during the August Citizen's Groundwater Committee meeting. There was no speaker. The next meeting is scheduled for 2pm Monday, September 16th at the Riverblock building in room 206. Seth Hofmeister will be presenting.

i. **Health Committee report.**

Nancy Eggleston provided an updated and reported:

- The last MOU call was completed mid-August.
- 35 houses were called between mid-July and mid-August for follow-up questions.
- 36 homes had water delivered mid-July through mid-August.
- 58 access agreements were signed; which means those are homes who have agreed to come on-site to install RO systems.
- About 32 RO systems have been installed so far.
- AGC ordered 100 sets of filters to satisfy the MOU agreement and provide 2 years of replacement filters.
- On average, about 14 water deliveries have been made per week. 252 gallons were delivered.

Nancy also shared they are trying to get a master list of those who have not been sampled but it has been difficult due to the organization of AGC's database. It is organized by first name of one person on the property, which causes problems with multiple owners, trusts, etc. The Health Department is working to get this straightened out with AGC to make sure the county reaches homes that still need to be tested. Ellen Hetzer, LTE Environmental Health, is working on this project, which includes data entry, completing more samples and working with Shane Wucherpennig on water collection for the county.

ii. **Update on CSGCC meetings and where/what is being proposed.**

Chair Curry noted this will be a standing agenda item for CEED moving forward.

**8. Private Sewage.** Nothing to report.

**9. Land Records.**

a. Update on filling Land Records Coordinator/GIS Specialist position

Jason Grueneberg shared the position has been filled by Paul Bernard. Paul is a former Wood County employee and most recently has 3 years of experience in GIS with Lincoln County. He starts on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**10. County Surveyor.** Nothing to report.

**11. Planning**

a. Review and consider approval of proposed 2020 Planning & Zoning Budget.

Jason Grueneberg shared copies of the 2020 budget reports for committee review. Chair Curry stated Planning & Zoning and Land & Water Conservation budgets will be reviewed at the CEED Economic Development meeting on September 17th.

**12. UW Extension**

a. Review and consider approval of proposed 2020 Extension budget

Karli Tomsyck shared the overall Extension budget decreased by .046%. Brief discussion followed.

*Motion by Bill Leichtnam to approve the 2020 Extension budget as presented. Second by Dave LaFontaine.  
Motion carried unanimously.*

*Mark Holbrook requested a break at 10:51am. Karli Tomsyck, UW-Extension, was excused. Victoria Wilson, Planning & Zoning, recorded remaining meeting minutes.*

**13. Review 2020 Economic Development Grant Requests**

Jason gave an overview of the grant applications and how they were solicited to applicants. He recommended that the committee review the applications of those applicants that were present at the meeting.

- a. Ho Chunk Gaming Nekoosa – Jim Webster gave an overview of the grant request of \$38,018 towards ATV/UTV wayfinding signage. Questions followed.
- b. Marshfield Economic Development Board – Bryce Hembrook gave an overview of the grant request of \$2,000 for the appraisal of potential industrial land the City of Marshfield has the option to purchase to expand the industrial park. Questions followed.
- c. Marshfield Economic Development Board – Bryce Hembrook gave an overview of the grant request of \$15,000 towards the redevelopment of the area of South Central Avenue in Marshfield.
- d. Marshfield Economic Development Board – Bryce Hembrook gave an overview of the grant request of \$25,000 towards a feasibility study to create a man-made lake in the Marshfield area. Questions followed.
- e. Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce – Angel Whitehead gave an overview of the grant request of \$19,500 towards enhancing the economic development mission in the South/East region of Wood County. Questions followed.

- f. Marshfield Area Chamber Foundation Inc. – Scott Larson gave an overview of the grant request of \$19,500 towards supporting Wood County’s economic development mission of fostering a business friendly environment with a skilled workforce, maintaining and enhancing our quality of life, creating awareness of recreation opportunities and promoting the County as a tourism destination. Questions followed.
- g. City of Wisconsin Rapids – Adam Tegen gave an overview of the grant request of \$10,000 towards wayfinding signage for the trail network. Questions followed.
- h. City of Wisconsin Rapids – Adam Tegen gave an overview of the grant request of \$40,000 towards the Rapids Rediscovered/New Housing Investment Program. Questions followed.
- i. City of Pittsville – Tami Hahn gave an overview of the grant request of \$5000 towards erecting signage to promote and direct people to the Yellow River Kayak Launch. Questions followed.
- j. City of Pittsville – Tami Hahn gave an overview of the grant request of \$30,000 towards supporting the City of Pittsville’s Residential Building Incentive Program.
- k. Jason indicated that there were three other grant requests from Roy Shwery Field (\$10,000), Alexander Field (\$10,000) and State Fair Booth (\$2,500), however those applicants were not present to give an overview of their requests.

**14. Review and consider approval of proposed 2020 Economic Development budget.**

Discussion took place regarding the grant requests, the membership cost of joining the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and office expenses for economic development.

*Dave LaFontaine made a motion to approve the grant requests of \$226,518, membership cost of \$43,000 in NCWRPC and office expenses of \$7325.00, for a total of \$276,843. Mark Holbrook seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.*

**15. Schedule next regular committee meeting.**

The next CEED-ED meeting will be Tuesday September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 11:00am. The next CEED meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 at 9:00am.

**16. Agenda items for next meeting**

Budgets will be discussed at next meeting.

**17. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary**

None.

**18. Adjourn.**

Bill Leichtnam made a motion to adjourn. Mark Holbrook seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 12:45pm.

Minutes by Karli Tomsyck - Extension, *Agenda items 1 through 12*

Minutes by Victoria Wilson - Planning & Zoning, *Agenda items 13-18*