

MINUTES  
 CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2019  
 WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM 115 WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Kenneth Curry, Mark Holbrook, Robert Ashbeck, Bill Leichtnam, Harvey Petersen and Dave LaFontaine (arrived at 9:06 a.m.)

Member Excused:

Staff Present: Land Conservation Staff – Shane Wucherpennig, Adam Groshek, Rod Mayer and Lori Ruess  
 UWEX Staff – Jason Hausler, Rachael Whitehair, Nancy Turyk, Laura Huber and Wendy Young  
 Planning & Zoning Staff – Jason Grueneberg

Others Present: District #12 Supervisor Doug Machon, District #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach (arrived at 10:43 a.m.)  
 District #15 Supervisor Bill Clendenning

1. **Call CEED Committee Meeting to Order.** Chair 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.** (Item 13d was moved up on the agenda) Jason Hausler introduced Rachael Whitehair, Natural Resource Educator. Rachael started with Wood County on October 21<sup>st</sup>. and will cover Wood and Marathon counties. Rachael gave a brief report on her former work experience and added the last two weeks she has been busy meeting with people in Central Wisconsin.

Bill Leichtnam stated he had four items he wanted to bring up for discussion.

- a. Press release put out by Central Sands County Collaborative Committee. Chair Curry pointed out that this is on the agenda and will be discussed under 8d.
- b. Discovery Farms Conference – December 11<sup>th</sup> in Wisconsin Dells. Supervisor Leichtnam noted that there is a very good agenda with items of interest to this Committee. He asked that someone from CEED or Land & Water Conservation Department attend. Shane Wucherpennig will be attending this conference.
- c. Wisconsin Land + Water Winter County Conservationist Meeting December 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn & Convention Center in Stevens Point. Bill Leichtnam expressed interest in attending this meeting. It was the consensus of the committee that he could attend and this item will be put on the December 4<sup>th</sup> CEED agenda for per diem authorization.
- d. Bill Leichtnam referred to page 42 of the WCA magazine; the DNR surface water grant. He added it might be worth looking into and applying for this grant.

Robert Ashbeck expressed his concerns regarding agenda items 8d and 8e and proposed that the CEED “back off” on information being sent to Madison.

5. **Hand out Performance evaluations to committee for department heads.** Chair Curry handed out the evaluation packet for Department Heads. He briefly explained the changes to the form and what sections the CEED needs to complete. He added, HR has defined smart goals for 2020 and it is up to CEED to determine if the Department Head goals fit into this category. Following discussion, it was decided that the Department Heads should complete a self-evaluation to bring to the November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.
6. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the October 2, 2019 CEED meeting, 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension and 3) staff activity reports from, Shane Wucherpennig, Adam Groshek, Rod Mayer, Emily Salvinski, Lori Ruess, Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, Paul Bernard, Jeff Brewbaker, Stevana Hamus, Kim Keech, Victoria Wilson, Laura Huber, Matt Lippert, Nancy Turyk, Jackie Carattini, Janell Wehr, Rachael Whitehair and Kelly Hammond.
  - A. Minutes of October 2, 2019. No additions or corrections needed.
  - B. Department Bills. No additions or corrections needed.

C. Staff Activity Reports. No additions or corrections needed.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine/Mark Holbrook to approve and accept the October 2, 2019 CEED minutes, bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension, and staff activity reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

7. **Risk and Injury Report.** No injuries to report.

8. **Land & Water Conservation Dept.**

- a. Set crop prices for the Wildlife Damage Claims Program. Rod Mayer explained the 2019 statewide and local crop prices that were included in the CEED packet. The prices are an average compiled from various newspapers, co-ops and reports. The approved prices will be used for claims paid on crops damaged by a hunt-able wildlife species. Proposed prices: field corn - \$3.66/bushel, soybeans - \$8.36/bushel, other hay/\$148/ton, alfalfa - \$186.56/ton and fresh fruit cranberries - \$50.10/barrel. Doug Mahon expressed concern with only having a "fresh fruit" price for cranberries and not a processed price, as most of the cranberry crop goes to concentrate at a much lower price. Wucherpfennig explained that there were no claims for cranberries this year, but Mayer still included the price for cranberries. In the future, prices for fresh fruit cranberries and processed cranberries will be calculated and presented.

*Motion by Harvey Petersen/Bill Leichtnam to accept and approve the 2019 crop prices for wildlife damage claims as presented.. Motion carried unanimously.*

- b. Open bids/approve low bid for Twin Lake Cranberry's woven wire fence. Rod Mayer presented two sealed bids for Twin Lake Cranberry's woven wire fence. Chair Curry opened the bids - Straight Line Fence LLC - \$66,800 and Real Fence - \$62,500. Mayer added that he received bidders proof from both of these contractors.

*Motion by Harvey Petersen/Mark Holbrook to accept the low bid for Twin Lake Cranberry's woven wire fence in the amount of \$62,500 from Real Fence. Motion carried unanimously.*

It was requested that a copy of the low bid be included in the December County Board packet.

- c. Open bids/approve low bid for Martin Wolf's waste storage facility closure. Adam Groshek reported; seven contractors received bid packets for Martin Wolf's waste storage facility closure and two submitted bids. Chair Curry opened the bids – Dean Altmann Trucking & Exc. - \$8,500 and Pankratz Trucking LLC - \$7,000. Groshek added he estimated the project would cost \$5,360, but the bids could be higher due to the wet weather or topsoil over the site being included in the bid. Discussion followed. Mark Holbrook suggested that the county's estimate be included in the bid packet to bidders in the future. Dave LaFontaine added this could be an advantage to the County when bids come in high, but could also be a disadvantage. Wucherpfennig and Groshek agreed with LaFontaine, as there have been projects where the bids have come in lower than what they estimated.

*Motion by Bill Leichtnam/Harvey Petersen to accept the low bid in the amount of \$7,000 from Pankratz Trucking LLC, for the purpose of basing cost-share dollars for Martin Wolf's waste storage facility closure. Motion carried unanimously.*

- d. Discuss UW Extension Madison letter to Wood County on Nitrogen application rate guidance request. Bill Leichtnam referenced the letter on page 25 of the CEED packet from Douglas Reinemann, Associate Dean for Extension and Outreach. He added it's a big deal to have the College of Agricultural & Life Sciences recognize the growing needs and challenges in the area of water quality in Wisconsin. The letter states a special water quality project coordinator will be appointed to help 1) organize existing resources, 2) communicate with County Board Supervisors and stakeholders in Wood County, and 3) identify needed research and Extension program support. Chair Curry commented this item was put under Land & Water Conservation on this agenda, but UWEX is a big part of it too. Jason Hausler gave a brief update and stated it is all coming together and will be a wonderful partnership.

Bill Leichtnam mentioned he would like to see monthly reports regarding this, possibly through the new Natural Resource Educator, Rachael Whitehair.

The CEED directed Jason Hausler to see if Kevin Masarik is available to present at the December County Board meeting or a meeting in 2020.

- e. Discuss resolution on NR151 rule revisions to the state. Shane Wucherpennig presented a resolution he drafted encouraging the Wood County Board of Supervisors to support the proposed revisions to NR151, which will set new-targeted Performance Standards and Prohibitions. Chair Curry explained the writing of this resolution was due to a motion unanimously passed at the October CEED meeting. The CEED read the resolution; lengthy discussion followed.

Bill Leichtnam, Mark Holbrook and Bill Clendenning expressed their satisfaction with the well-written resolution.

Supervisor Ashbeck expressed his concerns with the third "WHEREAS". He added he could not support this, as it will affect farmers in Milladore. Shane Wucherpennig explained revisions to NR151 would take place with or without this resolution.

*Motion by Bill Leichtnam/Mark Holbrook to forward to County Board the resolution encouraging the Wood County Board of Supervisors to support the proposed revisions to NR151, which will set new Targeted Performance Standards and Prohibitions to abate groundwater pollution by nitrate in areas with highly permeable soils. Motion passed.*

*Voting Aye: Ken Curry, Bill Leichtnam, Mark Holbrook, Dave LaFontaine*

*Voting Nay: Robert Ashbeck – This should be handled by the State; the CEED should not get involved.  
Harvey Petersen - With the adverse effect of weather on farmers, he cannot support this.*

#### f. **Committee Reports.**

- i. Citizen's Groundwater Group meeting – Bill Leichtnam gave a brief report on October 21<sup>st</sup> Citizen's Groundwater Group meeting. Guest speaker was Senator Patrick Testin. Senator Testin spoke on "Nitrate Pollution & Water Quality in the Central Sands". The next meeting is scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup>, at River Block, Room 206.
- ii. Health Committee Report - Chair Curry read the email from Nancy Eggleston stating she would not be able to attend the CEED as the Health Department was conducting the next round of water testing. They have not recently heard from the AGC.
- iii. Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative (SCGWCC) Committee report - Shane Wucherpennig reported the committee has not met since the resolution and letter. Nancy Turyk gave an update on the Communications Work Group.
  - Drafted a press release.
  - Working to identify common threads to prepare and disseminate.
  - Need to work through governance and how they would like to speak as a group.

**9. Private Sewage.** Nothing new to report.

**10. Land Records.** Nothing new to report.

**11. County Surveyor.** Nothing new to report.

**12. Planning.** Nothing new to report.

#### **13. UW Extension**

- a. General office update. Jason Hausler reported he is working with the State with all the new organizational branding. He is also working to resolve some issues UWEX staff could have with going through the courthouse security. This could include cooking and baking utensils used by the FoodWise program for teaching and demonstrations outside the courthouse and pressure cookers brought in for UWEX to test.

November 18-20, staff (except for administrative assistants) will be attending an all Colleague Conference.

Jason updated the CEED on office space concerns due to increase in staff. He also gave a brief update on possible partnerships and changes to county fairs.

- b. 2020 Extension Contract. Jason Hausler stated a copy of the contract between Wood County and the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System was included in the CEED packet. The language in the contract has not changed and the contract has been reviewed by Peter Kastenzholz. Jason reviewed the positions covered under the contract and explained the changes to the two co-funded positions (Agriculture Extension Educator – Dairy and Agriculture Extension Educator – Cranberry). The fee for these two positions is not changing, just the fee structure. Jason added, with the transition Madison assumes all risk and liability, which potentially saves the County money. Discussion followed.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine/Mark Holbrook to approve the 2020 contract between Wood County and the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System upon Wood County Board's approval of the 2020 Wood County Budget. Motion carried unanimously.*

- c. FoodWise Education Update. Jason Hausler reported; Hannah Wendels accepted the FoodWise position and will begin employment with Wood County on Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.
- d. Natural Resources Educator – Rachael Whitehair. This agenda item was moved up on the agenda.
- e. Agricultural Educator/Cranberry Specialist Update. Jason gave an update on the Agricultural Educator/Cranberry Specialist position. He explained more state dollars would be coming into the County, but there will also be additional costs for office space and office supplies.

At this time, Laura Huber gave an update on the Youth Meat Processing Contest, held at Hewitt's Meat Processing. This contest was made possible by a Wood County Farm Progress Days grant received by the Wood County 4-H. Contest participants created their own flavored brats. Laura provided cooked samples of apple, cherry, cranberry wild rice, gummy bear and orange Kool Aid flavored brats created by the youth. She added these flavored brats are available upon request at Hewitt's Meat Processing. During the sampling, Laura gave a brief update on 4-H enrollment and the stuff the desk event and handed out updated 4-H brochures.

**Schedule next regular committee meeting.**

- November 12, 2019 - Economic Development and department head evaluations.
- The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at 9:00 a.m., in Room 115 of the Wood County Courthouse.
- The January CEED is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 115 of the Wood County Courthouse.

**14. Agenda items for next meeting.**

- NR151 Resolution
- Authorize per diem for Bill Leichtnam to attend the Wisconsin Land + Water Winter 2019 County Conservationist meeting on Thursday, December 12, 2019.

**15. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary.** No other meetings were scheduled at this time.

**16. Adjourn.** Chair Curry declared the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Minutes by Lori Ruess, Land and Water Conservation Department.