

MINUTES
 CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
 WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2017
 WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM 115

Members Present: Hilde Henkel, Ken Curry, Bill Leichtnam, Robert Ashbeck, Adam Fischer, Harvey Petersen

Staff Present: Land & Water Conservation: Shane Wucherpfennig
Planning & Zoning: Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, Heather Marquardt
UW-Extension: Peter Manley, Chris Viau, Katie Tomsyck

Others Present: Bill Clendenning, Lance Pliml, Jason Angell, John Hochkammer, Jason Stringer, Keith Langenhahn, Dennis Polach, Denise Sonnemann, Sam Warp

1. **Call CEED Committee Meeting to Order.** Chairperson Hilde Henkel called the CEED meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Public Comment-**no public comments.
3. **Review Correspondence**
 - A. Jason Grueneberg informed the committee that former Planning and Zoning employee, Julie Akey, passed away. Julie retired from the county in December. She was a county employee for 41 years.
 - B. Jason Grueneberg announced that Heather Marquardt, their environmental specialist, will be taking a position in Walworth County. That position will be posted later today.
 - C. Bill Leichtnam shared that there will be an Emerald Ash Borer Workshop on Monday, June 3rd; the cost is \$15.00.
4. **Consent Agenda:** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: A) minutes of the April 5, 2017 CEED meeting, B) bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension and C) staff activity reports from Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, Justin Conner, Jeff Brewbaker, Heather Marquardt, Kim Keech, Shane Wucherpfennig, Tracy Arnold, Adam Groshek, Emily Salvinski, Lori Ruess, Peter Manley, Matt Lippert, Sarah Siegel, Jodi Friday, Chris Viau, Kyli Brown and Jeremy Erickson.
 - A. Bill Leichtnam brought forward the second motion in 6A of the minutes, stating that he would examine recommendations for groundwater legislative actions at further meetings.
 - B. Harvey Peter asked Shane Wucherpfennig to clarify the multiple farm expenses on the bills. Shane responded that they were tuition reimbursement and are grant-funded.

Motion by Ken Curry to approve and accept the April 5, 2017 CEED minutes, bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension, and staff activity reports as presented. Second by Adam Fischer. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Risk and Injury Report-** nothing to report.

Hilde Henkel asked to move to item 10A on the agenda.

10. Economic Development

- A. Discussion of Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (PACE) – Jon Hochkammer with WCA introduced himself and gave a brief overview of the Green Tier Legacy Communities

program. He then introduced the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. Jon stated that if Wood County passes the resolution, there is nothing else that the municipalities need to do to be involved in the program, and that there is very limited legal liability to the county. Jason Stringer from the Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation (WECC) introduced himself and explained that PACE has been passed in 15 Wisconsin counties. PACE is represented by a board of director's commission, one of which comes from each of those counties. Jon Hochkammer added that Marathon County will most likely pass it in May and Portage County is showing interest in the program. Jason then gave an overview of the PACE program, its eligible improvements and property types and the benefits of the program. He explained that PACE minimizes risk and the member county is not required to contribute any capital or operating budget to participate. If Wood County decides to pass the resolution, the county's role would be to appoint a representative to the commission and publicize the program. Lance Pliml shared that PACE is a valuable tool and it is wholeheartedly supported by the Counties Association. Lance recommends that the committee forward it to the board. Hilde Henkel strongly recommended that the CEED committee present a resolution to the county board. Jon added that Wood County would have to pass the resolution first, then the ordinance. Both of these have been passed identically in the other 15 counties. The committee agreed to host a special meeting before the next County Board Meeting to present this.

- 6. Enbridge Pipeline update and Introduction of Community Ambassadors-** Denise Sonnemann, the Central Wisconsin Community Ambassador from Enbridge introduced herself to the committee and gave an update on the plans with the pipeline. She states that there are no current plans for expansion that she is aware of. Ken Curry asked if there will be an increase in the volume of pumping. She responded that they are currently not at maximum capacity.
- 7. Water Issues-** Bill Leichtnam shared that State Senate Bill 76 passed yesterday evening. He passed around a summary sheet that he put together on State Senate Bill 22/ Assembly Bill 50 and gave an overview of the bill to the group. Bill suggested that the committee sends a letter of support for this bill. Hilde Henkel stated that she would like the conservation experts' view on this. Ken Curry addressed his concerns that the bill could be dead-on-arrival because the bill is solely democratic-sponsored. Adam Fischer wanted more information and documentation before sending a letter. Jon Hochkammer agreed to provide feedback on this matter within the next week. This item will be added to the agenda for the special meeting on May 10th. Later in the meeting, Jon Hochkammer gave an update that this bill has been pushed to the side. He suggested the committee look at specific pieces of the bill and speak with Representative Krug and Senator Testin about those areas, and invite them or their staff members to come speak to the committee on these issues.
- A. Water issues – Sam Warp, the wastewater superintendent in Marshfield introduced himself to the committee and gave an update about the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) limits that the EPA will be enforcing. He hopes to have the limit numbers from the DNR sometime in 2017. They are currently at 1000/ppb for phosphorus, and are expecting that they will need to be at 75/ppb, which is a huge reduction that he believes will be unrealistic. Last year, he hired a consultant to estimate what the cost will be to get that reduction. The estimate was twenty-seven million dollars to get the phosphorus levels close to where they need to be. Sam is currently working with agriculture community to develop a water quality trading program. He explained that the municipality will trade dollars with farmers to improve farming practices that will keep phosphorus out of the river. He mentioned that the smaller communities will likely be doing the multi-discharge of variance. Ken Curry asked if Sam anticipates any changes with TMDL with the new administration in the EPA. Sam responded that he sends a letter to

the EPA daily. He also mentioned that he has been getting good participation from the agriculture community.

- B. Update on April 27th SE Wood County Groundwater Group meeting. Peter Manley gave an overview of the meeting. Mark Borchardt presented to the group about a groundwater study that he did in Kewaunee County, which was funded through grants from the DNR and EPA. The study found that groundwater is being contaminated from both bovine and human waste. Mark would be interested in doing a study in Wood County. The group also completed work on the mission statement to include the "central sands" area in the mission statement. Peter also gave an update on the well testing that was done in Saratoga. Of the 13 participants, no wells tested positive for high nitrate or bacteria problems, which is typical for Saratoga water.

8. Land & Water Conservation Department

- A. Discussion/action on resolution to allow Conservation Program Coordinator to travel to Emmitsburg, Maryland for the 2017 National Envirothon. Shane Wucherpfennig shared that Tracy Arnold received awards from the WI Land and Water Conservation Association and the WI Association of Environmental Educators. The resolution would allow Tracy to travel to the 2017 National Conservation Foundation event in July, which would be paid for by the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association. Jason Grueneberg stated that there is no need for a resolution, just a motion to approve the travel. The committee agreed.

Motion by Bill Leichtnam to allow Wood County Conservation Program Coordinator, Tracy Arnold, to travel to the 2017 National Conservation Foundation's National Envirothon in July of 2017 at no cost to the county. Second by Ken Curry. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Update on move to River Block. Shane Wucherpfennig shared that the moving company is taking longer than expected. They hope to be settled in by the end of the week.

9. UW Extension

- A. nEXT Generation Reorganization Update-Peter Manley shared that they are still waiting to determine what area specialists and outreach coordinators will be in this area, and what the cost will be for the county positions. The Area Extension Directors (AEDs) will be selected and will start on July 1. Peter also mentioned that the 133 contracts will be extended through the end of 2017. He clarified that the AEDs are not intended to be the department heads of the four counties, but instead will be focused on talent development and program development. However, the AEDs will still be negotiating with the oversight committees. The existing Department Heads will continue through the end of 2017 but will not be there in 2018. Hilde shared her concerns for that and believes someone needs to be present for day-to-day issues. She asked how the committee should move forward with budgeting. Peter responded that by August, they should know the costs of the positions. This is very late in the budget process. Peter mentioned that they are currently sitting on the open secretary position to allow some flexibility within the budget. He clarified that if we offer state specialist office space, we also offer them support staff. The WACEC will have its annual business meeting the morning of September 26 from 7 to 8:15am.
- B. 4-H Program Update- Chris Viau explained that 4-H provides positive learning experiences, builds positive relationships between youth and adults, creates safe environments, and promotes positive-risk taking. Chris also mentioned trying to reach out to more cultures in our area to get involved in 4-H, specifically the Hmong, Ho-Chunk and Hispanic communities. Hilde Henkel asked Chris how we get kids more involved in the local government. Chris responded that the schools have not been helping and that our meeting times don't work for students because their academics must come first. Hilde Henkel suggested that we could be going to the students. Bill Leichtnam suggested that Chris might have more success by

approaching the social studies teachers. Peter Manley gave a report on Youth Government Day. Fifty-three 3rd graders participated.

10. Economic Development (*continued*)

- B. Presentation of Marshfield Residential Incentive (MRI) Program – Jason Angell had to leave for another commitment before he could present. He offered to come back next month. Jason Grueneberg gave an update on the program in his place. Jason explained that they are not making a financial request at this moment, but would like the CEED committee to consider this for the 2018 budget. They have two different proposals , the first being a one-year investment, the second being a two-year investment, and they are looking for feedback from the committee. Hilde asked why a house of \$200,000 or more is now included in the brochure. The focus of this program is to get people to locate within the City of Marshfield, instead of outside the city limits or into Marathon County. Adam Fischer mentioned that the average citizen is more excited about this project than they were about the subdivision. Hilde Henkel asked Jason Grueneberg to tell Jason Angell that the CEED committee supports the concept, but does not know if they will be able to support financially, depending on the budget.
- C. Review and discuss draft mission statement for Wood County Economic Development. Jason Grueneberg passed out two drafts of a mission statement. He asked the committee members to individually look at them and bring him feedback. Bill Leichtnam suggested changing the word “build” to “plan”. Adam Fischer agreed and commented that developing a skilled workforce needs to be a priority and that the marketing piece is also important. Dennis Polach commented that in order to promote a business friendly environment, those businesses will need some incentive.

11. The next regular CEED Committee meeting will be held at 9:00 am Wednesday, June 7, 2017.

12. Agenda items for next meeting

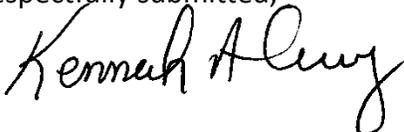
13. A special meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 16th at 9:15am before the County Board meeting. Agenda items include PACE and Groundwater Legislative Correspondence.

Dennis Polach commented that last month’s minutes need to be amended to include him in attendance.

*Motion by Adam Fischer to amend the April 5th CEED minutes to include Dennis Polach in attendance.
Second by Bob Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion to adjourn 12:18pm by Adam Fischer. Second by Harvey Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth A Curry, Secretary

Minutes by Katie Tomsyck, UW-Extension

Review for submittal to County Board by Ken Curry (approved on May 09, 2017)