

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2017
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #115, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Hilde Henkel, Kenneth Curry, Robert Ashbeck, Bill Leichtnam, and Harvey Peterson

Members Excused: Adam Fischer

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg, Adam Dekleyn, Jeff Brewbaker, and Heather Marquardt

Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpfennig, Tracy Arnold, and Lori Ruess

UW Extension Staff: Peter Manley and Matt Lippert

Others Present: Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendenning, Dist. #16 Supervisor Lance Pliml, Shannon Rohde, Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP), Scott Larson, Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce (MACCI), Melissa Reichert, Heart of Wisconsin Chamber, Nancy Sii, and Adileen Sii,

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Hilde Henkel called the CEED meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Public Comment.** None.
3. **Review Correspondence.**
 - a. A memo from Chairperson Henkel to the CEED Committee and Wood County Board regarding the WCA Agriculture, Environment & Land Use Steering Committee meeting.
 - b. A written statement from Adam Fischer with comments for agenda items #4 - Review Correspondence and #10c - Review and discuss former Wood County Transportation & Economic Development Mission.
4. **First place senior division speech – Adileen Sii – “The Resource Games: Forestry Management and Wisconsin’s Watersheds”**
Adileen Sii, First Place winner in the Wood County Speaking Contest - senior division delivered her speech titled “The Resource Games: Forestry Management and Wisconsin’s Watersheds.” The Committee and County Board Chairman commended her on her speech, wished her the best going forward, and thanked her for coming to the CEED meeting. She will compete at the area completion in Eagle River on February 10th.
5. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the January 4, 2017 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, Kim Keech, Jeff Brewbaker, Heather Marquardt, Shane Wucherpfennig, Tracy Arnold, Adam Groshek, Lori Ruess, Peter Manley, Matt Lippert, Sarah Siegel, Jodi Friday, Chris Viau, Kyli Brown and Jeremy Erickson.
 - a. Minutes of January 4, 2017 CEED - It was mentioned that the last names of the committee members were omitted in the motion/second to adjourn the January 4th meeting. Bill Leichtnam stated he had comments on 4a, 4b, 6d & 9. It was suggested that these concerns be discussed under agenda item #14.

Motion by Kenneth Curry to approve the January 4, 2017 CEED minutes with the following amendment to the motion adjourning the meeting: (Motion by Bob Ashbeck to adjourn at 11:34 a.m. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously). Second by Harvey Petersen. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Department Bills. No questions or comments.
- c. Staff Activity Reports. No questions or comments.

Motion by Robert Ashbeck to accept the bills and staff reports as presented from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension. Second by Kenneth Curry. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Risk and Injury Report. Nothing new to report this month.

With no opposition, Chairperson Henkel moved up agenda items 8e, 10a, and 10b.

7. Water Issues.

- a. Update on the January 24th SE Wood County Groundwater Group meeting held in Nekoosa. Peter Manley gave an updated on the January 24th SE Wood County Groundwater Group meeting. The minutes have been completed and were sent to the CEED. A diverse group of people attended and discussion at the meeting was very good; will start concentrating on potential future actions.

Bill Leichtnam gave a summary on the meeting and presented a map of gradient and direction of groundwater flow. He noted there are concerns with nitrate levels in a Town of Saratoga monitoring well. The Town of Saratoga Board asked Extension to send a letter to landowners within one mile of this monitoring well informing them that private well testing is available. Overall, a lot has been accomplished at the last two meetings. He will bring recommendations from future meetings back to the CEED. Lengthy discussion followed.

8. Land & Water Conservation Department

- a. Windshed Program update. Shannon Rohde gave an update on the projects he is working on in the Windshed Partnership. The Windshed offers a full-service windbreak establishment and follow-up maintenance program. The maintenance program includes, mowing, hand weeding, and replacement of dead trees/shrubs for the first three years of establishment. 2016 was one of the busiest years with maintenance of weeding and mowing.
- b. Comment on counties options to manage farms. Shane Wucherpfennig gave a summary of his perspective on an article written by Donna Gilson, DATCP Communication Specialist, titled "Counties Have Options to Manage Farms." He summarized how each category in the article pertains to the protection of ground and surface water, offered his opinion regarding whether additional authority is needed and provided recommendations as to whether a new ordinance is needed or changes in existing ordinances would be preferred. Lengthy discussion followed.

Following discussion, Bill Leichtnam asked Shane to reach out to the Saratoga Town Board for possible discussion on the Farmland Preservation Program and Ag Zoning. It was also suggested that Shane Wucherpfennig and Jason Grueneberg, or representatives from their departments, give a presentation on agriculture zoning to the Towns Association.

- c. Towns Association February 17th agenda – invasive species. Shane Wucherpfennig and John Eron will be giving a presentation to the Towns Association on wild parsnip, an invasive weed in Wood County. A resolution to put wild parsnip on the Wood County noxious weed list will be presented to the CEED in March.
- d. Update on Conservation Specialist position. Emily Salvinski was hired to fill the Conservation Specialist Position. Her first day of employment with Wood County was January 23, 2017.
- e. Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Update. Tracy gave a PowerPoint presentation on a nonmetallic mining reclamation site. She went over steps that are taken throughout the reclamation process, covered the dos and don'ts in reclamation, and explained what she looks for before "signing off" on a reclaimed site.

Following the presentation it was suggested that the PowerPoint presentation be used for future education and training purposes.

- f. Consider resolution to amend the 2017 DATCP grant budget. Shane Wucherpfennig presented a resolution to amend the 2017 DATCP grant budget for unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$19,800.

Motion by Robert Ashbeck to approve and forward to County Board the resolution to amend the 2017 DATCP grant budget for unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$19,800. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.

**The Committee recessed for a short break at 11:50 a.m.
The Committee reconvened at 11:55 a.m.**

9. Planning & Zoning

- a. Update on Wood County Private Onsite Waste Treatment Maintenance Program. Jeff Brewbaker & Heather Marquardt gave an update on the number of sanitary permits issued in 2016 and presented a summary of POWTS maintenance and program fees in 2016. The staff was commended for their outstanding organizational skills which helps the success of the program.

An educational seminar for pumpers and plumbers is being planned for Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at the Hotel Mead.

- b. Approve increasing Department petty cash amount from \$50 to \$100. Jason Grueneberg requested permission to increase the Planning and Zoning Department petty cash from \$50 to \$100.

Motion by Kenneth Curry to approve increasing the Planning & Zoning Department petty cash amount from \$50 to \$100 through the Wood County Finance Department accounting system. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Economic Development

- a. Update from Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce Melissa Reichert gave a short presentation on the Heart of Wisconsin events and programs including; Techno Tour, Nekoosa Easter event, Cranberry Blossom Fest Craft Show, Heavy Metal Bus Tour, Lunch by the River, Rendezvous by the River, Gather by the Gazebo, Wisconsin Revolving Loan Fund and Small Business Saturday Promotions. For videos and more information go to www.wisconsinrapidschamber.com
- b. Update from Marshfield area Chamber of Commerce Scott Larsen gave an update on business and community related happenings in northern Wood County and covered programs, networking and school to career opportunities being offered. For videos and more information go to www.marshfieldchamber.com
- c. Review and discuss former Wood County Transportation & Economic Development Mission. Jason Grueneberg encouraged CEED members to review the Economic Development Mission included in the CEED packet (page 29) and focus on what Wood County's role should be in regards to Economic Development. Further discussion will take place at a future meeting.
- d. Discuss Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. Jason Grueneberg gave a quick summary of the PACE program. PACE programs stimulate local economies by funding the upfront costs of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water conservation upgrades for commercial & industrial building. Currently eleven counties in Wisconsin participate in the program. No risk to the County to be part of the program; need a County Board passed resolution to participate.

11. Land Records

- a. Consider appointment of Brian Spranger to the Wood County Land Information Council.
Brief discussion on this appointment took place.

Motion by Robert Ashbeck to appoint Brian Spranger to the Wood County Land Information Council and request County Board to confirm the appointment. Second by Kenneth Curry. Motion carried unanimously.

12. UW Extension

- a. Farm Technology Days update. Matt Lippert gave an update on the Wood County host farms, planning progress, and some tour and commemorative toy changes being considered for the 2018 Farm Technology Days.

2019 Farm Technology Days will be hosted by Jefferson County.

13. Schedule Next Meeting.

The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 1, 2017 – 9:00 a.m. - Room 115 of the Wood County Courthouse.

14. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary.

- a. The committee discussed the proper procedure for future CEED agendas. Chairperson Henkel encouraged any member of the CEED who cannot attend a meeting to read the packet material and submit comments to be considered under correspondence.
- b. Future agenda items:
- i. February 21, 2017 special CEED meeting, Room 317A, 9:00 a.m.
 - Consider resolution encouraging state legislature to make additional resources available to all counties for groundwater programming.
 - ii. March 1, 2017 CEED meeting, Room 115, 9:00 a.m.
 - Economic Development Mission
 - Update from REGI
 - Update from Marshfield Economic Development Board
 - Information on possible Central Sands high-capacity wells presentation.
 - Resolution adding wild parsnip to the Wood County noxious weed list.

15. Adjourn.

Motion by Kenneth Curry to adjourn at 1:42 p.m. Second by Bill Leichnam. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth Curry, Secretary
Minutes by Lori Ruess, Land & Water Conservation Department
Review for submittal to County Board by Kenneth Curry (approved on February 7, 2017)