

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #114, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Kenneth Curry, Robert Ashbeck, Jake Hahn, Dave LaFontaine, Bill Leichtnam and Carmen Good.

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn and Kim Keech.

Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpennig and Lori Ruess.

UW Extension Staff: Jason Hausler, Nancy Turyk and Rachel Whitehair.

Others Present (for part or all of the meeting): Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendening, Dist. #16 Supervisor Lance Pliml, Josh Miller (City of Marshfield), Angel Whitehead (Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce), and Jeremy Sickler (South Wood County Airport).

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Curry called the CEED Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Declaration of Quorum.** Chairperson Curry declared a quorum.
3. **Public Comment.** None
4. **Review Correspondence.** Chairperson Curry shared that the Operations Committee met on October 6th. There is a hiring freeze effectively immediately. There is a resolution being drafted for Wood County Board to have a hiring freeze through December 2020. There is a \$6.3 million shortfall for the 2021 budget. The budget needs to be approved at the Wood County Board meeting in November.
5. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the September 2, 2020 and September 14, 2020 CEED meetings, 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension and 3) staff activity reports from Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, Paul Bernard, Jeff Brewbaker, Kim Keech, Victoria Wilson, Shane Wucherpennig, Adam Groshek, Caleb Armstrong, Emily Salvinski, Rod Mayer, Lori Ruess, Matt Lippert, Nancy Turyk, Allison Jonjak, Jackie Carattini, Hannah Wendels, Kelly Hammond, Rachel Whitehair and Laura Huber.
 - A. Minutes of September 2, 2020. No additions or corrections needed.
 - B. Minutes of September 14, 2020. No additions or corrections needed
 - C. Department Bills. No additions or corrections needed.
 - D. Staff Activity Reports. No additions or corrections needed

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve and accept the September 2, 2020 and September 14, 2020 CEED minutes, bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension, and staff activity reports as presented. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Review items, if any, pulled from Consent Agenda.** None.
7. **Risk and Injury Report.** None.
8. **Department head reports – Wage Study effect**
 - Jason Grueneberg shared that the process has been fair and reasonable. Human Resources has asked to verify a few things.

- Shane Wucherpfennig commented that the process was straightforward. The wage study did impact two positions in his office. Both positions were lowered a grade. Salaries are expected to be reduced by \$1,300 if the Wage Study is approved.
- Jason Hausler expressed that the Wage Study has been similar to other counties. There is no impact to staff.

Lance Pliml shared that no one will get a pay cut. The Wage Study will be a decrease in the amount of the pay increase.

9. Land & Water Conservation Department.

- A. Discuss Joint Solicitation Grant. Shane Wucherpfennig shared that the Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative Committee has been working on a Joint Solicitation Grant which has been going well. The deadline date for completion is October 30th. This is a revised plan to the grant that was submitted last fall. This grant request is in the amount of \$60,000. The grant request is to compile information and mileage. Phase 1 – GAP Analysis (outreach plan). Phase 2 – Implementation (“boots on the ground”). Nancy Turyk has been discussing with the DNR the needs and priorities on the grant. Nancy added in general the grant request is not a perfect fit.
- B. Update committee on process for Area and State Association resolutions.
Shane Wucherpfennig expressed that there has been considerable discussion at the state association regarding the resolution process. Resolutions are reviewed at the state annual conference in March. The state association would like the Board of Directors to review resolutions at meetings ahead of time. The goal is to have better results at the state annual conference. If the resolutions are reviewed ahead of time, there may be better results at the annual state conference.
- i. Citizens Groundwater Group
Bill Leichtnam shared that Lance Pliml was very complimentary of the Citizens Groundwater Group.

Highlights of Wisconsin Counties Association presentation by Kyle Christianson, Director of Government Affairs:

- State legislators are not working together and that there is a bipartisan divide.
- 75%-80% of the water bills are bipartisan and are expected to pass the Wisconsin Senate.
- COVID-19 pandemic has created panic and uncertainty. Wisconsin legislators probably don't want to spend any money.
- There should be more clarity after the November election and when the Governor's budget is released after January 2021.

Groundwater Council was formed in 1984. Wisconsin Groundwater Coordinating Council's annual report to the legislature recommends establishing groundwater enforcement standards and continue to identify sources of the largely indestructible compounds, which have been linked to cancer and other illnesses. Private Wells and municipal wells are contaminated. 17% of private wells are contaminated with coliform bacteria.

The November speaker will be Rachel Whitehair of UW Extension.

Committee meetings are the third Monday of the month at 2:00 p.m. and are currently held virtually through WebEx.

- ii. Health Committee report Nothing to report.
- iii. Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative (CSGWCC) committee report. Bill Leichtnam mentioned that there is \$90,000 available in state grants. The Joint Solicitation

Grant is for \$60,000. What happens if the outcome is less than what they are requesting? Do we still want to fund? How do we do it?

- iv. Golden Sands RC&D report. Bill Leichtnam shared that the 18 month Hernandez pending citation in Waushara County has been concluded. The judge ordered that the cattle be removed and sold. The case concluded about 10 years of manure runoff into Waushara County roads and waters of the state.
10. **Private Sewage.** Jason Grueneberg plans to proceed with filling the Code Technician position. This is a position that comes from a non-levied budget which is funded primarily by sanitary permit fees.
11. **Land Records.** Wood County Land Records Council meets annually every year. A virtual meeting is being planned for November
12. **County Surveyor.** Kevin Boyer who is the county Surveyor will be giving his annual report in December.
13. **Planning.** Jason Grueneberg is seeking assistance from the Regional Plan Commission and Nancy Turyk to secure a grant to pursue broadband funding. There are still quite a few people still working from home due to the pandemic. Some schools are learning virtually.

14. Economic Development

- A. Update from the Alexander Field, Wisconsin Rapids and consider release of 2020 economic development grant funds. Jeremy Sickler gave an update on the new hangar. Construction of the new hangar started in February 2020 and has been completed. Bill Leichtnam mentioned that the new airport hangar would be a possible tour site for the CEED Tour.

Other projects and developments:

- Taxiway A Completion
- Obstruction Removal
- Fuel System Replacement
- Airport Acquisition
- Fuel Sales/Revenues
- Airport activity – An estimated 400-500 large transient aircraft visited the airport.

Motion by Kenneth Curry to release the \$10,000 in grant funds to the South Wood County Airport Commission. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Update from the Marshfield Economic Development Board and consider release of 2020 economic development grant funds. Josh Miller presented the City of Marshfield Central Avenue Redevelopment Plan. There are six areas that are identified in the Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Plan and Housing Master Plan. The areas identified detract from the surrounding neighborhoods and can tend to give a negative impression to those passing through the City of Marshfield. All of these areas are along Central Avenue or within two blocks of Central Avenue. Projects will be prioritized by the Economic Development Board.

Josh Miller shared that Marshfield is in short supply of larger industrial land for future development. Largest lot currently in the industrial park is about 15 acres. Staff is working on getting approval to start the Industrial TIF District creation process with the appraisal completion by the end of 2020 and acquired in early 2021. Funding for the project covers the cost of the appraisal.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to release the \$15,000 Central Avenue Redevelopment Plan and \$2,000 Appraisal for Industrial Land Development grant funds to the Marshfield Economic Development Board. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Update on the Rural Economic Development Innovation Initiative. Nancy Turyk shared that the draft goals and objectives have been completed. Initiatives should be completed within a month. Implementation of the REDI Plan is on track.
- D. General Economic Development update and discussion of 2020 and 2021 economic development project funding. Jason Grueneberg discussed the Economic Development budget and Wood County budget shortfall for 2021. How do we handle the 2020 unexpended grant funds? Do we return it to the general fund? Do we respect the Wood County budget shortfall? How do we handle the 2021 budget? Do we reduce the grant funds by \$20,000? How should we proceed?

Jason Grueneberg shared that the Wood County Health Department asked for clarification on their grant request and release of grant funds. Grant funds are to assist in the purchase of the bike share program.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to advance the release of \$3,000 to the Wood County Health Department for the bike share and reduce the 2021 grant request from \$9,000 to \$6,000. Second by Jake Hahn Motion carried 3-2. Robert Ashbeck asked why the grant request isn't going before the Operations Committee before disbursing the money.

- E. North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission update. Jason Grueneberg plans to have the Executive Director Dennis Lawrence give an update at an upcoming CEED Committee meeting. NCRWPC has been assisting in the Broadband strategy, Bicycle Pedestrian Plan, ATV Study, Wood County land use and VERSO closure. Dave LaFontaine will request a 2021 project list.

15. UW Extension.

A. General Office Update

Jason Hausler shared the following office updates:

- Attended Finance Budget meeting – Finance Director has asked for budget cuts by Friday, October 9th.
- Horticulture Educator Janell Wehr will be back on October 1st in a shared position with Marathon County.
- National 4-H Week is October 4th-10th
- Karli Tomsyck started maternity leave on September 8th. Wendy Young has been assisting in her absence.
- Public Health – Extension programming policy for programming outlines no more than 10 people indoors with no more than 50 people outdoors. Staff are working hard to ensure we are aligning state policy with local policy.

- B. 2021 Draft Contract Jason Hausler explained that the draft contract has been reviewed by Peter Kastenholz. The contract is a net decrease. The 2021 Draft Contract action by Wood County Board will be after the budget has passed.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve the 2021 UW Extension Contract. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Educator Presentation – Rachael Whitehair Rachael Whitehair gave a presentation on ongoing work groups to support Producer-led groups. The goal for Wood County and Central Wisconsin is to improve water quality in Wisconsin.

Producer-led State-Wide Evaluation – Short term goals: Development of ongoing work group within Extension to support Producer-led groups. Increase collaboration among Extension, DNR,

DATCP and other partners in support of Producer-led groups. Increase capacity building opportunities provided by Extension and partners. Medium term goals: Increase capacity of producer-led groups and success of programming. Increase adoption of Best Management Practices. Development of new Producer-led watershed groups. Long term goals: Improve farm economy. Improve water, soil and habitat quality. Improve community relations between farm and non-farm groups.

Farmer to farmer education model is working. Producer-led groups are here to stay. There are currently 33 Producer-led groups. The goal is to increase Producer-led groups.

Central WI Farm Profitability Expo (Increase Resiliency, Decrease Inputs) – The virtual meeting will be held in early 2021. Bringing statewide expertise to the local level. The meeting was rebranded to a Profitability workshop versus the Healthy Water Health Soils workshops that used to be held.

- 16. Requests for per diem for meeting attendants.** Any per diem meeting requests need to be approved by the Wood County Board Chair or CEED Committee.
- 17. Schedule Next Regular Committee Meeting.** The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at Wood County Courthouse in Conference Room #114.
- 18. Agenda items for next meeting.** Agenda items are due by Wednesday, October 28th.
- 19. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary.** A special CEED meeting will be held immediately following Wood County Board on Tuesday, October 20th.
- 20. Adjourn.** Chairman Curry declared the meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

Minutes by Kim Keech, Planning & Zoning Office