

MINUTES  
 CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 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, Justin Conner  
UW-Extension: Peter Manley, Kyli Brown, Katie Tomsyck  
**Others Present:** George Kraft, Rick Bakovka, Bruce Thorson, Nancy Eggleston, Lance Pliml

1. **Call CEED Committee Meeting to Order.** Chairperson Hilde Henkel called the CEED meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Public Comment**
  - A. Robert Ashbeck commented that his nephew is an assemblyman from Milton. He stated that he knows there are problems with the groundwater, now they need to focus on solutions to the problems to bring it to the next level.
3. **Review Correspondence**
  - A. Peter Manley announced that Allison Henke, the 4-H Support Staff has filed her resignation, effective April 14th. He is currently updating the position description.
4. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the March 1, 2017 and March 21, 2017 CEED meetings, 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension and 3) 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, and Kyli Brown.

*Motion by Adam Fischer to approve and accept the March 1, 2017 CEED minutes, March 21, 2017 CEED minutes, bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension, and staff activity reports as presented. Second by Harvey Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.*

5. **Risk and Injury Report.** None.

6. **Water Issues**

- A. Update on the March 28<sup>th</sup> SE Wood County Groundwater Group meeting. Peter Manley gave an overview of the meeting. The group is developing a mission statement. Kevin Masarik gave a presentation to the group with a summary of groundwater data for Port Edwards, Saratoga and the central sands area and started a discussion on setting up a groundwater quality study. Twenty people attended the meeting.
- B. High Capacity Wells in Central Wisconsin. George Kraft, a professor of water resources for UW-Extension, gave a presentation about groundwater quantity in the central sands region. He gave a summary of the SB76 legislation and an overview of how groundwater flows. He showed data indicating that pumping affects groundwater quantity and showed examples of lakes and streams in the region that have dried up in areas with large numbers high capacity wells. We currently have over 2200 high capacity wells in the region. He shared that there are tools available for management to help decide how many more wells can go in, and what the future impacts will be. There is science-based evidence that shows that in the areas without a lot of pumping, water levels are pretty healthy, and that there is water stress in the pumping areas. Going forward, the question should be how Wisconsin can best manage its water resources. Shane Wucherpfennig asked about SB 76 and if a presentation like this ever been presented down in Madison. George Kraft responded that some legislators as very involved in this, but the current bill has no scientists involved. Hilde Henkel asked if the academics have

a recommendation. George Kraft responded that the power groups don't want to talk about water management yet and that the industry is in denial. Shane Wucherpennig shared that his department has been conducting flow monitoring in the central sands region to collect base flow data to determine impact over time. Bill Leichtnam would like the committee to also consider groundwater quality, and that we should have Kevin Masarik present to the committee on that topic. Lance Pliml commented that the legislature in Madison is not adept at crafting meaningful ways to solve the problem and that they need to be spoon-fed the solution by the academic community. George Kraft responded that the academic community currently doesn't have an open door to work the legislature.

- C. Discussion/action on Groundwater Protection resolution- Bill Leichtnam believes passing the resolution will support the momentum in Madison. Hilde Henkel asked if the committee needs to take further action, as it seems repetitive. Shane suggested that the SE Wood County Groundwater Group should be looking at the entire central sands region instead of just SE Wood County, but there was confusion about the intent of this committee. Adam Fischer responded that if this group believes they should be focusing on the region, he would encourage them to do so. Hilde Henkel commented that in the future the committee should be looking at other bills or proposals that would be more effective than the same resolutions.

*Motion by Bill Leichtnam to accept the Groundwater Protection resolution. Second by Ken Curry.*

*Voting Ayes: Ken Curry and Bill Leichtnam.*

*Voting Nays: Hilde Henkel, Adam Fisher and Harvey Peterson-opposed due to the repetitive nature of the resolution*

*Robert Ashbeck- believes we need to look at other solutions instead*

*Motion fails 4-2*

*Motion by Bill Leichtnam to examine recommendations for groundwater legislative actions at future meetings.*

*Second by Adam Fischer. Motion carried unanimously.*

## 7. Land & Water Conservation Department

- A. Discussion/approval of 5-year Capital Improvement Plan. Shane Wucherpennig explained that he would like to move the replacement of a second vehicle to the 2019 budget. Shane mentioned that in the future they would like to sell their three tree planters and look at purchasing a no-till drill to rent to farmers. Hilde commented that this would not be included in a capital improvement plan.

*Motion by Adam Fischer to accept the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan. Second by Ken Curry. Motion carried unanimously.*

- B. Discuss move to River Block and moving expenses. The move will happen on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The estimated total cost of the move is \$4,200, and \$2,100 of this will be taken from the department budget. They expect to have 1.5 days of down time.

## 8. UW Extension

- A. nEXT Generation Reorganization Update. Peter Manley passed out a document outlining the positions that will be available. There will be a memorandum of understanding between the county and UW-Extension to figure out which program areas Wood County will want. Office space and support staff will also be a consideration. It would be advantageous to host area specialists, who would be fully-funded by the state. The County Educator positions are most similar to Peter Manley, Sarah Sigel, Matt Lippert and Chris Viau's current roles. The Program Educator positions are most similar to Kyli Brown and Jeremy Erickson's current roles. Wood County will pay a flat fee for a position and program area, but will not get to decide who is in that position. Salaries are not changing for tenured people. An Area Extension Director, who will be hired in the next 2-3 months, will negotiate with Wood County on the new positions. Hilde Henkel commented that this is still not clear enough to present to the County Board, as there are still no dollar figures for the cost of these positions. Prior to meeting with the Area Extension Director, the CEED committee will need to think about what programs or positions we want

here. She mentioned that Wood County currently has a very strong Extension Department and that we would like to keep that intact. Bill Leichtnam suggested to aggressively offer to host the area specialists.

- B. Creative Arts Day and Volunteers- Kyli Brown gave a presentation on 4-H Creative Arts Day which occurred on April 1<sup>st</sup>. She also highlighted many 4-H volunteers who have been volunteering for 10-50 years.

## 9. Economic Development

- A. Develop a mission and vision statement for Wood County Economic Development efforts. Jason Grueneberg and Peter Manley led the discussion on what should be included in the mission statement. Robert Ashbeck believes we should be considering tax incentives for new businesses. Rick Bakovka from REGI commented that there has been a shift from historical perspectives on economic development. Now, quality of life and fitting within the community rank higher than government incentives. Economic Development should focus on retention and expansion. He suggested that including quality of life in the mission statement will help to sell the area to new businesses. He also suggested that Wood County, REGI, and all the players in the area need to be working together on the same page. Adam Fischer believes that Wood County should facilitate the collaboration and be a resource. Rick Bakovka invited the committee to a REGI municipal forum for all of Wood and Adams County. He also offered to give a 10 minute presentation on what the region has to offer in a future CEED Meeting. Peter and Jason will work on forming a mission statement from the discussion.

## 10. Surveyor

- A. Select Contractor to complete 2017 Public Land Survey System (PLSS) maintenance from submitted RFPs. Justin Conner gave an overview of the seven bids that came in. Quest from Wisconsin Rapids had the lowest bid. He has worked with them in the past, and recommends approving their bid.

*Motion by Ken Curry to accept the low bid. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Bill second. Motion passed unanimously.*

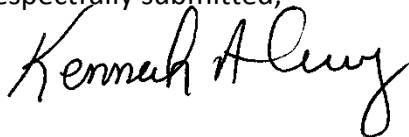
**11.** Schedule next regular committee meeting – 9:00 am Wednesday, May 3, 2017.

**12.** Items to include on the next agenda:

- A. Update from Enbridge representatives (Denise Sonnemann and Scott Suder)
- B. Update on nEXT Generation.
- C. PACE- Jon Hochhammer, WCA
- D. Bill Leichtnam will be monitoring groundwater legislation to see if there is something that we need to take action on.

*Motion to adjourn at 11:40 am by Harvey Peterson. Second by Adam Fischer. Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth A Curry, Secretary

Minutes by Katie Tomsyck, UW-Extension

Review for submittal to County Board by Ken Curry (approved on April 10, 2017)