

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #114, WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI

Members Present: Kenneth Curry, Bill Leichtnam, Mark Holbrook, Robert Ashbeck, Dave LaFontaine, Harvey Petersen

Staff Present: Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpfennig, Adam Groshek
Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg, Jeff Brewbaker
UW Extension Staff: Karli Tomsyck, Laura Huber, Nancy Turyk

Others Present: Wood County Board Chairman Doug Machon, Dist. Supervisor Bill Clendenning, Dist. Supervisor Dennis Polach, Nancy Eggleston (Wood County Health Department), Peter Kastenzholz (Corporate Counsel), Angel Whitehead (Heart of Wisconsin) and Heather McKellips (Encourage)

1. **Call meeting to order.** Chairperson Curry called the CEED meeting to order at 9:00am.
2. **Declaration of Quorum.** Chairperson Curry declared a quorum.
3. **CEED Committee picture for LWCD Annual Report.**
4. **Public Comments**
Chair Curry asked if there was any public comment. Bob Ashbeck shared there will be a District 4 meeting in Marshfield next Wednesday, April 10 from 9:30am-3:00pm. The cost for lunch is \$15.00. Fairs from around the area join and it will be held at the Junior Fair Grounds. To register, contact the fair office by Friday, April 5th.
5. **Review Correspondence.** Nothing to report.
6. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following items: 1) minutes of the February 19, March 6 and March 19 CEED meetings, 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW-Extension and 3) staff activity reports from Shane Wucherpfennig, Tracy Arnold, Adam Groshek, Emily Salvinski, Lori Ruess, Adam DeKleyn, Justin Conner, Jeff Brewbaker, Stevana Skinner, Kim Keech, Victoria Wilson, Matt Lippert, Laura Huber, Nancy Turyk, Janell Wehr, Kelly Hammond and Jackie Carattini.
 - a. **Approve minutes of previous meeting.** No additions or corrections needed.
 - b. **Approve bills.** No additions or corrections needed.
 - c. **Receive staff activity reports.** No additions or corrections needed.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve and accept the February 19, March 6 and March 19 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.

Bill Leichtnam mentioned an upcoming Extension meeting on May 7th and asked if any CEED committee member(s) planned to attend. This will be discussed during the May 1st CEED meeting to confirm if Chair Curry will attend.

7. **Risk and Injury Report.** None
8. **Land & Water Conservation Department**
 - a. Discuss Port Edwards Groundwater Resolution and recommendations from Corporation Counsel. Shane Wucherpfennig shared a handout with supervisors of an email he sent to Peter Kastenzholz with a list of what Wood County is doing to address the Port Edwards Groundwater Resolution.

Corporation Counsel, Peter Kastenzholz, expressed it would be inappropriate for the Wood County Board to pass a resolution unless all issues included in the resolution are addressed. Peter suggested the

resolution could be broken down and communicating what action can be taken is fine but that is different than approving the resolution as a whole.

Bill Leichtnam asked in what format the CEED committee should respond. Ken Curry stated the topic being on the last 2-3 meeting agendas is a response. Ken also suggested radio as a forum to communicate information. Discussion followed.

Shane Wucherpennig shared the email list previously passed out lists all things Wood County is currently doing to address the resolution. This email was sent to the individuals from Port Edwards who have given public comment at past 2-3 CEED meetings. Discussion followed.

Bill Leichtnam stated Port Edwards residents know what the Health Department is doing to help and a similar statement from Land and Water Conservation could be beneficial. Doug Machon agreed and suggested an official letter to the Port Edwards Town Board to be read at Town Board meetings would be sufficient. If a draft of highlights on what is currently being done in regard to water is put together, Doug stated he would be happy to talk about it on the radio talk show if the committee wants.

Dave LaFontaine stated an official response is needed from the committee. Mark Holbrook agreed and suggested that it be sent to every township in Wood County.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to officially accept and continue to review resolution items. Shane Wucherpennig and Peter Kastenholz will put together an official letter to be distributed to all of the townships in Wood County, pending CEED Committee approval. Second by Ken Curry. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Update on Multi Discharger Variance (MDV) funds. Shane Wucherpennig explained the DNR runs a program which mandates point sources to meet a new set of criteria for phosphorous reductions. The point sources are legally mandated through a permit timeframe to meet reductions. MDV is designed to give point sources more time during the permit process to determine how new standards will be met.

In exchange for more time, point sources pay 53 dollars per pound of phosphorous to the county. Land and Water has been applying for funds for two years and as of two months ago, checks starting coming in. To date \$10,967.53 has been received. Of that, \$3,800 can be used for support staff and \$7,000 or full amount can go toward phosphorous practices. The money has been deposited into a LWC revenue account but an expense account will need to be amended in the future for unanticipated revenues. Discussion followed.

- c. Update on no-till drill. Shane Wucherpennig gave an update on the no-till drill purchase. A unit was located in Iowa for \$17,500. \$1,000 was put down to hold it and shipping cost \$600. The purchase fit the budget of \$18,500 and left a surplus in the drill account.

Shane shared photos of the no-till drill and noted they are also available on the LWC webpage. The webpage has a tab for wells and another for no-till drill. The well tab has brochures, information on how to get wells tested, why you should get your well tested, etc. The no-till drill tab has videos, brochures, photos and an application form to print out. Shane shared there is a lot of interest in the drill already. At least six people have already inquired. Lori Ruess set up an Outlook calendar so all LWC employees can add reservations.

Shane stated there is a surplus of about \$400 from the purchase. Ken Curry asked if that money would be segregated and used for maintenance. Shane confirmed it would be. There is a \$60 flat rate fee for reservation plus \$6 per anchor. Mark Holbrook commented the fee should supplement a maintenance fund. Shane stated farmers will have a checklist to complete before use to avoid damage. Discussion followed.

Bill Leichtnam speculated there would be 2 peak periods, spring planning and fall cover crops and that it should be publicized for these uses. Shane stated the City of Marshfield is interested in renting the equipment. Ken stated this is a perfect example of communication and its success should be shared with County Board.

- d. Discuss Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Grants to County in 2020. Shane shared an update on the AIS grant. The AIS grant will not exist after 2019 and Wood County is covered through fall with the current grant. The new grant program will be unveiled in 2020. Counties will have the option to enter into a direct contract with the DNR in 2020 and funds are then appropriated directly to the County. Funds can support current AIS activities or be used for wish list activities. LWC will then report progress back to DNR on how money was spent. In 2020, Shane will bring a list of activities to the CEED committee to determine priorities and where money should be spent.

- e. Update on March 22nd groundwater meeting held in Friendship. Shane Wucherpfennig stated 5 or 6 counties were represented at the first meeting. Shane would like to see a 3D model study done in Wood County of groundwater to provide tools to make scientific decisions to improve water quality. Comprehensive studies have been done in Kewaunee County and are currently being done in LaFayette, Grant and Iowa Counties. These two areas are dolomite fractured bedrock. Shane would like the study to focus on central sands region. Discussion followed.

Nancy Eggleston shared it was a good meeting with a lot of good discussion. The group decided they would like Mark Borchardt to come to the next meeting to discuss a study and determine what the study question is. Nancy mentioned counties that attended include Portage, Wood, Adams, Juneau, Waushara, Marquette, Sauk and Richland. The next meeting will be held at the end of April.

Bill Leichtnam mentioned the financial aspect of the study needs to be considered. Shane responded that most counties represented at the meeting are on board with a regional study. Mark Borchardt will be able to give an estimate at the next meeting for what the regional study will cost and then what each county's portion will be. Shane will bring that information to the CEED Committee with request for funding.

Mark Holbrook expressed concern that the studies, best practices, education of public and farm community do not address enforcement. Nancy suggested looking at all the counties with a common problem and their representatives and senators to represent the area and make an impact on what's happening at the state level with policy and law. Discussion followed.

f. Committee Reports

- i. **Update on Citizen's Groundwater Committee meeting.** Bill Leichtnam shared a brief update from the March 18th meeting. Scott Krug was present and questioned by attendees. A 12-city road tour will begin with Speaker Voss' Task Force. Stevens Point will be one of the stops and Bill suggested it would be beneficial for CEED committee members to attend. The Citizens Groundwater Committee will meet next on April 15th at 2:00pm at the River Block building, room 206.
- ii. **Health Committee report.** Nancy Eggleston shared water bottle distribution began Monday, March 26th. Bottles will be available through the end of testing, April 12th. On Saturday, March 30th, 40 samples came in at Whitetail Crossing drop-off location. On Tuesday, April 2nd, 40 more samples came in. Nancy stated the first 40 samples were tested. 30% of them were unsafe. For samples considered unsafe, calls are made immediately to the resident. April 4th, 9th and 11th will be collection days. Bottles will be available for seasonal residents until end of April.
- iii. **Report on WI Land + Water Conservation Conference – Leichtnam.** Bill Leichtnam, Nancy Eggleston, Tracy Arnold and Adam Groshek attended the conference in Lake Geneva. Nancy presented on behalf of Wood County. Bill shared that Rock County talked about their perfect storm of sandy soils

and heavy agriculture which led them to create a 12-person nitrate work group. The group is made up of 4 committee chairs, Planning & Zoning, Land & Water and Extension. Discussion followed.

Motion by Bill Leichtnam for CEED Committee look into creation of a nitrate workgroup in Wood County. Second by Mark Holbrook.

*Ayes – Kenneth Curry, Dave LaFontaine, Bill Leichtnam, Harvey Peterson
Nay – Robert Ashbeck*

Robert Ashbeck expressed concern that groundwater discussion takes up the majority of monthly CEED meetings and Planning & Zoning and UW-Extension do not have enough time.

Motion carried.

Meeting recessed at 10:59am. Meeting adjourned at 11:07am.

- iv. **Request for CEED member to attend WCA seminar “Environment & Land Use.”** Bill Leichtnam shared the seminar is on April 22nd in Stevens Point from 10am-3pm. There is no seminar fee. It would cost mileage and \$50 per diem for Bill to attend.

*Motion by Mark Holbrook to approve CEED Committee member to attend WCA seminar “Environment & Land Use”.
Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.*

- g. Discuss AB21 Resolution. The resolution was done by Portage County and will be taken to Wisconsin Land and Water board members with a few slight revisions to be passed. The resolution was originally LRB1197. Katrina Shankland sent Shane a list of all assembly members in support.

*Motion by Bill Leichtnam to approve AB21 Resolution as Wood County and include a copy in County Board packet.
Second by Mark Holbrook. Motion carried unanimously.*

- h. Discuss A2809 Resolution – N-Reduction. Shane Wucherpfennig shared a resolution handout and gave a brief update on A2809 Resolution. Shane proposed the resolution be from an 8-county consortium, instead of just Wood County to look at the resolution from a groundwater perspective.

Motion by Bill Leichtnam to propose endorsement of A2809 and revision of the Resolution to be Wood County specific. Second by Ken Curry. Motion carried unanimously.

- i. Update on LWCD webpage.
Shane Wucherpfennig gave a webpage update under item c.

9. Private Sewage. Nothing to report.

10. Land records. Nothing to report.

11. County Surveyor. Nothing to report.

12. Planning and Zoning

- a. Update on FEMA National Flood Insurance Program Audit. Jason Grueneberg noted this agenda item relates to page 37 in the CEED committee packet. Federal government audits how the plain zoning program is administered. Jeff Brewbaker shared handouts regarding the Community Assistance Visit (CAV) report and timeline and provided an update on the audit. There are 9 properties remaining with potential

structure related violations. These property owners have been notified and addressed through correspondence. Jason hopes that some will self-correct overtime. The DNR and FEMA are less concerned about Wood County as they are aware the audit has been taken seriously and work continues on the remaining sites. Wood County has marvelous wetlands and flood plain storage, which is protected through the shore land zoning and flood plain zoning administration, to aid when flooding occurs. Jeff shared a 2011 statistic that 64 flood insurance policies were taken out from FEMA with coverage of just over 7 million dollars. \$27103 has been paid out of Wood County's insurance fund since 1978. The FEMA National Flood Insurance Program audit is conducted so Wood County remains eligible for federal flood insurance program and federal disaster relief assistance. Jeff's goal was to provide solutions to the property owners. Jason stated there is no immediate safety or health risk with the remaining properties in violation.

- b. Update on Rural Economic Development Innovation Grant Jason Grueneberg and Nancy Turyk provided a brief update on the grant. The application is almost complete and will be finalized this week and submitted on Friday, April 5th. Wood County will be notified of the grant decision within a month. Nancy handed out a working draft for revisions or suggestions from CEED committee members.

Nancy also shared a small Communities Forum save the date flier with committee members. Nekoosa was selected as one of four sites around the state to highlight and hold a forum. Promotion of the event will be discussed at a later date but Nancy wanted to begin generating awareness. The event will be held on September 11, 2019 at the Nekoosa Community Center.

13. UW Extension

- a. 4-H Programming Update – Laura Huber. UW Extension emphasizes reaching diverse audiences and inclusivity. There has been a focus on the county's white population so Laura Huber has recently been working with 4-H Leaders on training about what diversity exists in Wood County. Laura invited CEED committee members to participate in an activity by drawing something on their nametag to share their background, diversity, etc. This is an activity she has completed with the 4-H Leaders Association. The goal of the lesson is to show that everyone has pride in where they come from, no matter where that is. These activities encourage volunteers and members to be inclusive, inviting and welcoming.

Laura is currently working to develop a new 4-H club based out of Chahk Ha Chee in Nekoosa and expects the club to be active in early 2020 with a focus on cultural immersion. The goal is to bring culture back to the community's youth under the umbrella of positive youth development.

Upcoming 4-H trips include American Spirit (to Philadelphia, Boston, New York City and Niagara Falls – participant cost of \$1400), Washington DC (participant cost of \$1150) and Space Camp (participant cost of \$650). For the first time, the teen leadership group started a fundraiser to assist youth financially to attend these trips. They are selling Kwik Trip car wash cards and for every card a youth sells, they receive \$15 toward their individual trip. To date, 4-H members have raised almost \$2200. Youth who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford these experiences now have the opportunity.

Laura shared Creative Arts Day is Saturday, April 6th at Pittsville Elementary School. The program showcases 4-H's emphasis on the arts, performance and public speaking. Community donations for Creative Arts Day currently total over \$4000.

14. Schedule next regular committee meeting.

- a. The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1st, 2019 at 9:00am at Wood County Courthouse in Conference Room #115.

15. Agenda items for next meeting

- a. Discuss allocation of Community Resource Development position time for natural resources

16. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary.

- a. A special CEED meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16th at 1:00pm on Economic Development.

17. Adjourn. Chair Curry declared the meeting adjourned at 12:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark L. Holbrook, Secretary

Minutes by Karli Tomsyck, UW-Extension Wood County

Review for submittal to County Board by Mark L. Holbrook (approved on Tuesday, April 9th, 2019)