

MINUTES  
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 2019  
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #115, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

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

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, Stevana Skinner and Kim Keech.  
Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpennig and Adam Groshek.  
UW Extension Staff: Jason Hausler, Matt Lippert and Nancy Turyk.

Others Present: Dist. #12 Supervisor Douglas Machon, Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendening and Nancy Eggleston (Wood County Health Department).

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.**
  - A. Shane Wucherpennig shared that Portage County recently passed a resolution in support of controlling CAFO livestock siting. Bill Leichtnam commented that Trempealeau County is on the verge adopting a resolution similar to Portage County.
  - B. Shane Wucherpennig shared that the 14-Mile Watershed Joint Committee meeting is on July 8<sup>th</sup> in Town of Rome and Adams County Lake Alliance meeting is on July 13<sup>th</sup> at Wallendal Farms in Grand Marsh.
  - C. Jason Grueneberg commented that the Regional Economic Growth Initiative might be closing. The status will be known July 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - D. Kenneth Curry encourages everyone to get their well tested yearly.
  - E. Kenneth Curry briefed the committee on the State Budget.
5. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the June 5, 2019 CEED meetings, 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension and 3) staff activity reports from Adam DeKleyn, Jeff Brewbaker, Stevana Skinner, Kim Keech, Victoria Wilson, Shane Wucherpennig, Adam Groshek, Emily Salvinski, Lori Ruess, Matt Lippert, Nancy Turyk, Jackie Carattini, Janell Wehr, Laura Huber and Kelly Hammond.
  - A. Minutes of June 5, 2019. Bill Leichtnam pulled agenda item 7e from the minutes regarding Ken's comment that it might not be best for supervisors to participate in a Nitrate Workgroup as validity could be questioned. Kenneth Curry explained that any action on policy be based on scientific evidence.
  - B. Department Bills. No additions or corrections needed.
  - C. Staff Activity Reports. No additions or corrections needed

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve and accept the June 5, 2019 CEED minutes, bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension, and staff activity reports as presented. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.*

6. **Risk and Injury Report.** None.

## 7. Land & Water Conservation Department.

- A. Open and approve low bid for Todd Bores's grassed waterway and rock crossing project. Adam Groshek designed a grassed waterway and rock crossing for Todd Bores. 5 bids were mailed to contractors with 1 bid returned. This is a voluntary program utilizing DATCP funds. Esser Trucking & Excavating sealed bid was \$7,250. Bulk of the project is to protect the soil until the seed grows. Adam Groshek estimated the cost of the grassed waterway project at \$5,260.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to defer action at this time until Land & Water Conservation Department staff confers with contractor if project can be done at a lower price. Second by Mark Holbrook. Motion carried 4-2. Robert Ashbeck feels that if there is extreme damage that it should be fixed now. Harvey Petersen feels if the money is in the budget that the project should be completed.*

Kenneth Curry would like staff to contact the contractor to discuss concerns and put on the agenda for the Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> Special CEED Economic Development meeting.

- B. Approval for Bob Ashbeck to attend County Conservationist meeting in Stevens Point on July 18th and 19th Reimbursement for Bob Ashbeck for per diem and mileage to attend County Conservationist meeting in Stevens Point.

*Motion by Bill Leichtnam to approve request per diem for Robert Ashbeck to attend County Conservationist meeting in Stevens Point on July 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Second by Mark Holbrook. Motion carried unanimously.*

- C. Staff update; future staff needs Shane Wucherpfennig shared that there was 23 applicants interviewing 4 finalists. The Conservation Program Coordinator is Rodney Mayer with a start date of July 8th. A summer intern lined up 1-1/2 months ago but declined the summer intern position after accepting a full-time job. Shane Wucherpfennig interviewed 2 summer interns. Maria Lewandoski who is a junior at UWSP has accepted the summer intern position. Mill Creek 9-Key element Plan & TRM Grant position is dependent on grant funding. Shane Wucherpfennig is unsure if the position will be a limited term employee position without benefits or a full-time position with benefits. Grant position will require CEED Committee approval and is dependent on grant funding.
- D. Mill Creek 9-Key element Plan & TRM Grant Shane Wucherpfennig wrote the Mill Creek 9-Key element Plan submitted in December 2018 & TRM Grant submitted in April 2019. TRM Grant is a long-term 3-year grant to kick off the watershed grant with an option to be extended every 3 years up to 10-15 years. Watershed plans consistent with EPA's nine key elements provide a framework for improving water quality within a geographic watershed. The nine elements help assess the contributing causes and sources of nonpoint source pollution, involve key stakeholder prioritizing restoration and protection strategies addressing water quality problems.
- E. Central Sands Groundwater Study, future funding Shane Wucherpfennig shared that Adams County, Juneau County and Wood County are the primary counties involved in the Central Sands Groundwater study. There are 7 counties interested in a Groundwater Study. Regional approach would be more beneficial especially going to legislature for state support. There has not been a proposal submitted from Mark Borchardt as to a total cost for the study. Nancy Eggeston shared that when the technical group drafts research questions Mark Borchardt can give a proposal.
- F. Request per diem from Bill Leichtnam for 7-County Supervisors Water Committee Reimbursement for Bill Leichtnam for per diem and mileage to attend 7-County Supervisors Water Committee meeting. Bill Leichtnam is the Chairman/Facilitator of the committee.

*Motion by Mark Holbrook to approve requested per diem for Bill Leichtnam to attend the 7-County Supervisors Water Committee. Second by Dave LaFontaine.*

Kenneth Curry asked what would be gained by having the county supervisors attend the 7-County Water Committee. Bill Leichtnam commented there is a lot to gain and explain to county supervisors. Shane Wucherpfennig shared that supervisor involvement is crucial. Discussion followed.

*Motion by Kenneth Curry to amend the requested per diem to be paid from June 24, 2019 through April 2020 for Bill Leichtnam to attend the 7-County Supervisors Water Committee. Second by Mark Holbrook. Motion carried unanimously.*

Discussion on the original motion with the amendment.

*Motion by Mark Holbrook to approve requested per diem for Bill Leichtnam to attend the 7-County Supervisors Water Committee. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.*

### G. Committee Reports

- i. Citizens Groundwater Group meeting Bill Leichtnam commented that the Citizen's Groundwater Committee meeting was held on Monday, June 17th with over 20 people in attendance.

Key items that came from the meeting:

- Governor's Budget and Joint Finance Committee removal from the budget.
- Speaker Robin Vos Water Quality Task Force meeting will be July 24<sup>th</sup> at the UWSP Science Building with a tour of the science lab and public comment approximately at 2:00 p.m.
- Jason Fuller "Manure Composting" – Salesman selling a product. Need to look at other approaches to control agriculture waste.
- "Steps needed to Protect Wisconsin Waters" (36 ideas) prioritized to share with state legislators.
- Bill Leichtnam was elected Chair and Bruce Dimick elected Vice-Chair
- By-Law discussion at July meeting
- Green Fire by Nancy Turyk
- Future Farmer Speaker
- Rep Katrina Shankland shared state budget concerns.

All committee meetings are the third Monday of the month at 2:00 p.m. at the Wood County Riverblock Building, Room #206.

- ii. Health Committee report Nancy Egelston shared that she spoke at Speaker Robin Vos Water Quality Task Force meeting in Mauston. A YouTube link of the testimony at the Mauston hearing is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DGKOvoznhw&list=PLAjg6KX05NEZ5u6hwN0hc7LBAM7VMM1ze&index=4>.

Nancy Egelston commented that the next MOU monthly conference call is Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. Of the self-samplers, there was confirmatory sampling of 33 that were high in nitrates of which 3 declined the confirmatory sampling. There are an additional 480 residents in Port Edwards and Armenia area that have not tested yet. Limited term employee from the Health Department has been following up on the well reports.

Harvey Petersen asked for an update on wild parsnip. Shane Wucherpfennig shared that Wild Parsnip is about 3-1/2 weeks behind due to the wet spring weather. Wood County Highway Department has been spraying. Townships are mowing but only getting that first pass and still seeing some plants where they stopped mowing but are getting the majority of wild parsnip.

Harvey Petersen excused at 10:35 a.m.

8. **Private Sewage.** Staff report in the packet.

9. **Land Records.**

- A. Update on filling Land Records Coordinator/GIS Specialist position Jason Grueneberg shared that the Land Records Coordinator/GIS Specialist job posting has been extended until July 14<sup>th</sup>.

10. **County Surveyor.** None

11. **Planning.**

- A. Discussion/Action on resolution approving amendments to the Town of Grant Rapids Zoning Ordinance Adam DeKleyn explained the request for the Zoning Ordinance Amendment approval for the Town of Grand Rapids. The Planning & Zoning Department received a request to approve an amendment to the Town of Grand Rapids Zoning Ordinance replacing the term "Land Use Permit" with "Zoning Permit". The Town of Grand Rapids adopted and administers their own town zoning ordinance. Wood County adopted the Wood County Zoning Ordinance #700 many years ago. In counties having a county zoning ordinance, no town zoning ordinance or amendment or a zoning ordinance may be adopted unless approved by the County Board of Supervisors, which also includes town zoning ordinance amendments. Planning & Zoning staff has reviewed the request and recommends forwarding the resolution to the County Board of Supervisors approving the zoning ordinance amendment to the Town of Grand Rapids.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve the resolution approving a zoning ordinance amendment to the Town of Grand Rapids. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.*

- B. Discussion/action on Planning & Zoning Department Fee Schedule Jason Grueneberg commented that at last month's CEED Committee meeting that the committee wanted clarification of a few situations before taking action approving the Planning & Zoning Department Fee Schedule.

Changes made to the fee schedule:

- #703 Floodplain Ordinance: 3c Board of Adjustment - \$700 originally proposed, changed to \$500 proposed (state average \$500)
- #704 Shoreland Zoning Ordinance: 4c Board of Adjustment - \$700 originally proposed, proposed to \$500 proposed (state average \$500)
- #701 Land Subdivision Ordinance: 1e Variance Fee - \$125 added to fee schedule (was not in PowerPoint presentation presented at the June CEED Meeting)

The next step is to draft a resolution to accompany the fee schedule and in that resolution to identify the rationale considered by the committee putting the fee schedule together. Fees structured to be in place 8-10 years versus changed every year. Fees have not been adjusted in many cases for at least 10 years.

Fee schedule increase will not be popular with the county board. Jason Grueneberg asked if you want a shift on the tax levy or the people who use the services. Fee schedule was kept simple. Fees proposing do not cover full staff costs. Triennial POWTS Program Fee is billed to the people who use the services to cover the cost versus all taxpayers. Need committee action and support on proposed fee changes. Discussion followed.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to defer CEED Committee action and resolution to the August CEED Committee meeting. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.*

- C. Proposal for well delegation program to be administered by Planning & Zoning Stevana Skinner explained that the Wisconsin DNR currently administers the NR812 Private Well Code. The

Wisconsin DNR currently requires a well construction notification number and fee prior to construction. Wisconsin DNR offers to all counties can apply and administer the program. Stevana Skinner is proposing that the county apply with the DNR for delegation to administer well location permits (level 1) and well and drillhole abandonment (level 5) of Private Well Code (NR812).

Well Delegation levels are:

- Level 1 – Issue well permits authorizing the location for new and replacement private wells, including driller, driven point, dug, bored or jetted wells or the reconstruction of existing private wells.
- Level 2 – Issue permits for the installation of a pump on new, replaced or reconstructed private water systems.
- Level 3 – Follow-up on all initial unsafe well sample results in the county.
- Level 4 – Inspect new wells during the actual construction phase to ensure compliance with NR812.
- Level 5 – Abandonment of wells and drillholes.

Permit fees proposed include the Location Site Permit fee for \$125.00 and Location Transfer Fee for \$35.00. Jason Grueneberg added that he is hoping to rollout the Well Delegation Program January 1, 2020.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to accept the Well Location and Abandonment Program and draft an ordinance. Second by Mark Holbrook. Motion carried unanimously.*

A break was taken at 11:45 a.m. Meeting reconvened at 11:55 a.m.

## 12. UW Extension.

### A. General Office Update

Jason Hausler shared the following office updates:

- July 1<sup>st</sup> - UW-Extension transferred to Madison as an administrative function. New staff name tags, apparel, signage and business cards will be ordered.
- Staff may not be in the office during the summer months because they are involved in field demonstrations, horticulture activities, summer camps, fairs and conferences. Heavy programming season.
- Office/Contractual Budget - Office will be discussing the county budget. State budget will draft contract for services that needs signing before the end of the year. There will be a flat fee for service approach versus a tiered fee for educator positions. Goal is to be budget neutral for 2020. Adjustment for cost of living projected to be included in the contract for services of approximately 2-3% in 2021.
- Jason Hausler and Matt Lippert will present the annual report at a Wood County Board meeting.
- Civil Rights Review process completed.
- Office Space - Contacted to host a 4-H Regional Educator Specialist in Wood County for office space. 4-H Educator Specialist would serve around 16-20 counties. May convert ETN conference room to an office.
- Stevens Point/Marshfield Economic Impact Meeting - Jason Hausler attended the Stevens Point meeting. Economic impact to Stevens Point/Marshfield campus was \$35.9 million that accounts for 327 jobs and brings in \$1.7 million from state and local tax revenue. \$1 state dollar generates \$21 in the community.

- ### B. Natural Resource Educator Update
- Jason Hausler explained the draft position description of the Natural Resources Educator position. Partnership will be a half time county funded position with a half time external partner. The external partner is the Wisconsin DNR Central Wisconsin Basin program.

The position programming focus will include:

- supporting ongoing water quality improvement efforts by engaging stakeholders to create and implement an information and outreach strategy
- supporting farmer-led initiatives focused on soil health, water quality and related subjects, including organizational and content support
- working as the Regional Natural Resource Educator colleagues to fulfill funding partners' requirements around non-point source agricultural pollution

C. UW-Madison research Update-Nitrates above 30 ppm Jason Hausler shared that he had a conversation with Kevin Masarik, UW-Extension Groundwater Education Specialist regarding nitrates above 30 ppm. The question asked of Kevin Masarik was what scale (small or large) are you trying to change or remedy? There are no case studies on how to fix this because no one wants to tackle the problem and stick it. How do we engage in agricultural practices not make the problem worse? Retiring land from production and putting land back into wetlands. There are many variables. Benchmark to see what works. Jason Hausler will follow-up with Kevin Masarik to find out best agricultural practices and mechanical methods in controlling nitrates above 30 ppm.

D. Junior Fair Funding Discussion Robert Ashbeck expressed that Wood County helps fund the Central Wisconsin State Junior Fair \$32,000 each year for the last 18 years. Robert Ashbeck asked the committee if Wood County would be willing to increase Junior Fair funding by \$3,000-\$4,000. Costs increase each year to run the fair with an increase in premiums and less state aid. Kenneth Curry shared that the \$32,000 is tax-levied money from Wood County. Dave LaFontaine shared that the Central Wisconsin State Fair is an economic development area and brings in people from outside the county. Exhibitor participation and attendance has declined over the years. The county has to give youth in your county access to exhibit at a state sponsored fair. Consensus of the committee is to have Dale Christiansen give a presentation on the Central Wisconsin State Fair with documentation on revenue and expenses of the fair.

Robert Ashbeck excused at 12:57 p.m.

E. Educational Agriculture Presentation-Matt Lippert Matt Lippert gave a presentation on Wood County Farm Technology Days that was in July 2018. Key benefactors and sponsors will receive a plaque. A presentation of a plaque to Wood County presented at the July county board meeting. Committee leaders have awarded over \$300,000 to non-profit, public and community organizations in Wood and surrounding counties to increase agricultural-related educational opportunities or enhance rural communities and agriculture awareness. There was 50 organizations applying for over \$400,000 in grant requests. Donations over \$113,000 to 32 local charities and organizations that volunteered during the show. Funds awarded based on grant applications and designated by the Wood County Farm Technology Executive Committee.

**13. Schedule Next Regular Committee Meeting.** The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at Wood County Courthouse in Conference Room #115.

**14. Agenda items for next meeting.**

- A. Junior Fair Funding – Dale Christiansen, Central Wisconsin State Fair Executive Director/Manager
- B. Planning & Zoning Department Fee Program Resolution
- C. Well Location Program

**15. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary.** A special CEED meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 16, 2019 @ 1:00 p.m. on Economic Development at Wood County Courthouse in Conference Room #114.

**16. Adjourn.** Chairman Curry declared the meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth A. Curry".

Kenneth A. Curry, Chair  
Minutes by Kim Keech, Planning & Zoning Office  
Review for submittal to County Board by Kenneth A Curry (approved on July 10, 2019 @ 8:07 a.m.)