

MINUTES  
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2019  
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #114, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

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

Members Excused: None

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg and Kim Keech.

UW Extension Staff: Nancy Turyk.

Others Present: Dist.#8 Supervisor Jake Hahn, Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendening, Rick Bakovka (Regional Economic Growth Initiative), Angel Whitehead (Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce), Scott Larson (Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce) and Josh Miller (City of Marshfield).

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Curry called the CEED Meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
2. **Declaration of Quorum.** Chairperson Curry declared a quorum.
3. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the Tuesday, May 21, 2019 and 2) monthly letter of comment from Jason Grueneberg.
  - a. Review/approve minutes: Minutes of May 21, 2019. No additions or corrections needed.
  - b. Review monthly letter of comment: No additions or corrections needed.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve and accept the May 21, 2019 CEED minutes and monthly letter of comment as presented. Second by Mark Holbrook. Motion carried unanimously.*

4. **Public Comment.** Jason Grueneberg shared that Justin Conner, Land Records Coordinator for Wood County has resigned and his last day of employment is Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup>.
5. **Budget discussion including membership in North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.** Joining the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission was discussed. Jason Grueneberg expressed that the North Central Regional Planning Commission should be a long-term commitment.

Jason Grueneberg shared that the 2019 Economic Development Budget is in the packet. Economic Development does not have any revenue. Economic Development total expenses for the 2019 budget is \$158,575.

Economic Development Expenses:

Professional Services (county promotion)	\$ 5,000
Contractual Services (WEDA dues & mileage/WEDA conference)	\$ 2,325
Grants	\$151,250

Jason Grueneberg asked the committee if Wood County should play some role in project grants such as bicycle trails. Jason Grueneberg asked to consider how the release of grant funds be disbursed. Should grant funds be competitive among partners or maintain same level, increase or decrease in grant funding? Grant Applications have not been sent to Economic Development partners for the 2020 budget year. 2020 is a transition year.

Consensus among committee members feel that Wood County should play some role in Economic Development but the question is how much. 2020-budget directive has not been released. Jason Grueneberg shared that the budget directive is not held the same across the board with other committees and departments.

Discussion followed.

*Motion by Robert Ashbeck to have Kenneth Curry share with the Wood County Executive Committee that the CEED Committee would like to ask for \$300,000 in funding in the 2020 Economic Development Budget and would like their feedback. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.*

6. **REDI Grant update and discussion.** Jason Grueneberg shared that Wood County was notified on June 6<sup>th</sup> that the REDI Grant has been approved. The REDI Grant approved 47 projects. Wood County was the only municipality approved. Purdue University and University of Kentucky will contact Wood County to discuss economic development strategy. There should be a clearer picture over the next several months. The purpose of the grant is to provide rural communities and regions technical assistance to implement economic development planning projects.
7. **Report and consideration of 2019 fund release for HOW.**  
Angel Whitehead gave a presentation on Heart of Wisconsin.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve the 2019 grant funding release to Heart of Wisconsin in the amount of \$19,500. Second by Mark Holbrook. Motion carried unanimously.*

8. **Report and consideration of 2019 fund release for Alexander Field.**  
Agenda item moved to the July CEED meeting on Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>.
9. **Report and consideration of 2019 fund release for Roy Shwery Field.**  
Jeff Gaier gave a presentation on Roy Shwery Field airport.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve the 2019 grant funding release to Roy Shwery Field in the amount of \$7,500. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.*

The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 3, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Wood County Courthouse in Conference Room #114.

A special CEED meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 16, 2019 @ 1:00 p.m. on Economic Development at the Wood County Courthouse in Conference Room #114.

10. **Adjourn.** Kenneth Curry declared the meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Holbrook, CEED Committee Secretary  
Minutes by Kim Keech, Planning & Zoning Office  
Review for submittal to County Board by Mark Holbrook (approved on Wednesday, July 3, 2019 @ 9:48 a.m.)