

CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Wood County Courthouse, Room 115

Members Present: Hilde Henkel, Gerald Nelson, Bill Leichtnam, Ken Curry, Robert Ashbeck, Harvey Petersen

Staff Present: Land Conservation: Shane Wucherpennig, Tracy Arnold, and Adam Groshek

UW-Extension: Peter Manley, Kyli Brown, Amanda Darr

Planning & Zoning: Jason Grueneberg

Land Records: Justin Connor

Others Present: Warren Kraft – Human Resources

Scott Larson – MACCI

Joe Zurfluh – WCB Dist. 17

Bill Clendenning - WCB Dist. 15

Chairperson Hilde Henkel called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Public Comments

- There was no public comment.

Review Correspondence

- Peter Manley from UW-Extension brought up the WACEC meeting on January 8th, 2016 in Minocqua, WI and asked the Committee if any would be interested in attending. Committee Member Robert Ashbeck will represent the Committee.

Consent Agenda

- The Consent Agenda included the following items: 1.) Minutes of the November 4th and November 5th, 2015 CEED Meeting, bills from Land Conservation, UW-Extension, and Planning & Zoning, and 3.) Staff Activity Reports
- Minutes of the November 4th Meeting – no additions or corrections needed
- Department Bills – No additions or corrections needed.
- Staff Activity Reports – No questions or comments.

Committee Member Gerald Nelson motioned to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, bills, and staff activity reports. Robert Ashbeck seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Risk and Injury Report

- There was nothing to report on for this month.

Land Records – Agenda item needed to be moved up due to Justin Conner's schedule.

- Update on 2015 Aerial Photography and LiDAR.
 - Justin Conner from the Land Records Department gave the Committee a presentation on the 2015 LiDAR & Aerial Photography results.
 - Justin emphasized how the clarity of the maps was really impressive and helped aid in the data that was being collected.
 - Since LiDAR is very expensive (~\$250,000.00) Justin estimates that the next time this could be done would be around 10 years.
 - It will have a lot of beneficial uses once Justin can get it distributed. The data will be very useful to multiple departments throughout the County.
 - Air photos are on the County GIS website under 2015 imagery.
 - This project was funded by the County, the Utilities Departments, the City of Wisconsin Rapids, and the City of Marshfield.

- Justin is hoping to have more information accessible and ready for other departments.

Economic Development – Agenda item needed to be moved up due to Scott Larson's schedule.

- Update from Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Scott Larson.
 - Scott Larson from the Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry gave the Committee a presentation regarding vocational opportunities within the County, and how the county needs to focus on workforce replacement opportunities.
 - It is a County-wide program to encourage students about job opportunities and opportunities within Wood County.
 - He began the presentation addressing the Youth Apprenticeship Program that he is working on implementing.
 - This group works with college students – juniors and seniors at UWSP in business, biology, and agriculture departments.
 - They transported the students to Marshfield and took them on a tour of the city and pointed out resources for internships and job opportunities.
 - The goals of this program are to increase awareness among students getting ready to graduate about the opportunities available in central Wisconsin.
 - Scott passed out a handout highlighting the Wisconsin Labor Force by Dennis Winters
 - Projected population changes (2015-2025)
 - Wood County showed a negative in population growth
 - Although there is some growth, there was no projected growth for people in the workforce age range.
 - Most of the growth was 65 years old and above.
 - Wood County is attracting an older population due to the medical resources that are available within the county.
 - Millennials are choosing where to live based on recreational opportunities over job opportunities.
 - There is a need for a workforce replacement; as people are leaving the workforce (retirement) it is important to look at how those jobs can be carried on by someone within the workforce age range.
 - Scott also gave the Committee a brochure that was created for the City of Marshfield to showcase the opportunities and resources available
 - In closing, Scott thanked the Committee for their support and offered to come back again to give the Committee additional updates on resources and programs being used within the County to increase awareness.
- Consider resolution amending the 2015 Community Development Block Grant budget.
 - Currently the Community Development Block Grant budget is contracted through CAP Services.

Committee Member Gerald Nelson motioned to amend the 2015 Community Development Block Grant budget and Committee Member Robert Ashbeck seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

4-H Report-Agenda item had to be moved up due to 4-H student's schedule.

- Kyli Brown from UW-Extension and two 4-H students; Greta Westegaard and Tess Wallner, presented on the 4-H Fall Forum that took place in October in Wisconsin Dells.

- The Fall Forum was held as a 3-day conference that allowed youth and adult leaders to come together to promote youth/adult partnerships.
- Friday – Youth and adults participated in workshops that were project focused and allowed students to use their creativity to create various projects relating to a variety of topics
- Saturday - Youth attended sessions put on by adult mentors. Kyli taught a session called “Growing Your 4-H Cloverbuds”. Cloverbuds are the youngest age group in 4-H.
- Saturday evening consisted of a banquet where 10 individuals were inducted into the 4-H Hall of Fame. After the banquet youth were able to socialize with adult mentors at an ice-cream social.
- Sunday- Was the final day of the conference.
- Both Greta and Tess commented on their experiences at the Fall Forum and gave the Committee some examples of the sessions and workshops they attended.

Kyli noted that Wood County had the largest representation at the conference with 36 you and adults in attendance.

Land Conservation Department

- RC&D meeting update.
 - Committee Member Bill Leichtnam and Shane Wucherpennig attended the RC&D meeting.
 - RC&D is billing out their labor and want to be more in the realm of contracted services
 - Will start charging \$35.00 per hour for services
 - They are moving away from grant writing and more towards contracted services.
 - Committee Member Bill Leichtnam brought up that there are 5 water projects scheduled through RC&D for 2016 and not much is being done to benefit Wood County.
 - County Board Supervisor Bill Clendenning brought up that Wood County is the only county within RC&D that is paying the full \$1900.00 dues for services and yet Wood County is not receiving services. He stated that he would like the Committee to reconsider the \$1900.00 due payment since services are not being given to Wood County.
 - Shane Wucherpennig agreed that the \$1900.00 due was a lot but he hopes in the future RC&D could be used more, but if the case exists that they don't have any results than he would be okay with holding due payments for the upcoming years.

Committee Member Ken Curry motioned to hold due payments to RC&D for 2016 and reconsider their services at a later date. Committee Member Gerald Nelson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- Healthy Soil & Water meeting update.
 - Shane Wucherpennig discussed a committee he is on to help start up a Healthy Soil & Water Workshop within the community.
 - The workshop would serve a diverse community of people.
 - Partnerships of a variety of groups would be formed.
 - The workshop would aid to help accomplish water quality goals.
 - Entire goal of the planning committee is to draw in as many agricultural groups as possible to sit at a table and share thoughts and success stories.

- The workshop will be held at Midstate Technical College in Wisconsin Rapids.
- The committee would like Shane to be the fiscal agent.

Committee Member Ken Curry motioned to approve Shane as the fiscal agent for the Healthy Soil & Water Committee. Committee Member Harvey Petersen seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- Report on Planning for Agriculture webinar.
 - Adam Groshek passed out a handout to the Committee that described the webinar he listened in on.
 - The webinar consisted of 3 presentations.
 - The first presentation was on “5 Problematic Farm Trends”
 - Get message across to public that food comes from farms, not grocery stores.
 - The second presentation was called “Planning from the Outside-In”
 - This presentation discussed working with zoning to form AEAs and FPPs on Township-by-Township basis but encourages participation to overlap Township/County boundaries. The benefit to Farmers is in the form of tax credits (\$5-10 per acre)
 - The third presentation was called “La Crosse County’s Approach”
 - The presentation discussed how there is a need to build the political will that farmland and the resulting food is just as important as developed areas.
- Approval of WDACP crop prices for Christmas trees and orchards.
 - Tracy Arnold passed out a handout with a list of Container tree costs and Christmas tree costs.

Committee Member Harvey Petersen motioned to approve the costs of Container and Christmas trees. Committee Member Ken Curry seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- Don Aron Memorial Fund update.
 - Committee Member Ken Curry spoke with Don Aron’s wife and asked how the money for his memorial fund should be spent.
 - She explained how she would like to see the money used for educational purposes and that she had no other requests.
 - The Committee agreed to send her a letter of gratitude after the money was spent and to also explain where the funds were allocated.
 - Tracy Arnold suggested using the money for a legacy stone outside the Courthouse to commemorate Don.
 - She also suggested that it be used to cover the work of a Land Conservation intern, as well as the Discover Wisconsin Initiative.
 - Shane Wucherpfennig suggested using some of the money to help cover registration costs for farmers for the Healthy Soil & Healthy Water workshop in February.
 - Peter Manley from UW-Extension stated that a legacy stone would be appropriate to help recognize Don for his work with the County.
 - Committee Member Ken Curry suggested the stone recognize Don was the first Conservationist within Wood County.

- Committee Chairperson Hilde Henkel allocated the money as follows:
 - Legacy Stone = \$250.00
 - Increase the scholarship to \$1,000.00
 - Healthy Soil & Water = \$500.00
 - Discover Wisconsin Initiative = the rest of the funds available

Committee Member Bill Leichtnam motioned to approve the allocations for the Don Aron Memorial Fund. Committee Member Gerald Nelson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- Consider resolution to amend the 2015 DATCP Grant budget to account for unanticipated revenues.

Committee Member Robert Ashbeck motioned to amend the 2015 DATCP Grant budget to account for unanticipated revenues. Committee Member Harvey Petersen seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- Consider resolution to change the Land Conservation Department title to Land and Water Conservation Department.
 - The Land Conservation Department would like to change their department title to encompass Land and Water.
 - The title would not change anything but encompass all the work the department does, dealing with both land and water issues.
 - A name change would not give the department any more authority.

Committee Member Bill Leichtnam motioned to change the Land Conservation Department title to Land and Water Conservation Department. Committee Member Ken Curry seconded the motion. Committee Member Robert Ashbeck did not agree to pass the motion due to not agreeing with the name change. The rest of the members agreed to pass the motion, and the motion passed.

- Review & discuss proposal to make the Land Conservation Administrative Services 4 position a full-time position.
 - Shane Wucherpfennig would like to add full-time status to Administrative Services 4 position to alleviate workload.
 - Currently at 1620 hours
 - 2015 hours = the goal
 - \$18.39 per hour
 - \$11,223.14 would be the increase in wages/benefits
 - Non-metallic mining would be able to cover 120 hours
 - Wildlife Damage could cover 60 hours
 - The goal of additional hours is something Shane doesn't think he can make happen without causing a future deficit unless a different plan can be made.
 - He shared two proposals with the Committee
 - Increase time by 180 hours which would not impact the tax levy
 - \$6,000 – ask Executive Committee for extra money as tax levy or do not accommodate these additional hours.
 - They are a low tax levy department so any changes would appear as a lot.

Committee Member Gerald Nelson motioned to approving moving hours to cover a portion of the position and use 210 hours as tax levy and ask permission of the Executive Committee. Committee Member Bill Leichtnam seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

UW Extension

A. UW Extension Reorganization Update

- Peter Manley discussed the reorganization of UW-Extension and noted that there have not been any recent updates with the process. He passed out a handout to the Committee that described his recommendations to the State for ideas about County areas. He will inform the Committee of any updates once they are announced.

B. Clean Sweep Update

- Peter Manley shared a handout with the Committee that described the Clean Sweep for 2015.
 - The 2015 Clean Sweep was carried out on October 3rd in the Town of Saratoga.
 - Household Collection – 7,502 pounds were collected.
 - Agricultural Collection – 3,375 pounds were collected. There were a couple residents who were disposing of chemicals from the estate of deceased relatives and were very thankful the Clean Sweep was available.
 - Pharmaceutical Collection – 1,337 pounds of drugs were collected at the Spring 2015 event and 1,164 pounds at the Fall 2015 event for a total of 2,501 pounds of drugs collected in 2015.
 - The chemical contractor (Veolia) costs will be \$20,458. State grants will cover \$17,415 of these costs. Peter is in the process of filing the reimbursement forms.
 - The County received excellent cooperation, and matching costs from the Town of Saratoga, police departments, Health Department, Milladore Groundwater Guardians, and Lincoln High Schools students.

Planning & Zoning

- Consider resolution to approve a town of Grand Rapids zoning ordinance amendment.
 - Jason Gruenberg discussed how a town of Grand Rapids property would like to be rezoned from residential (R2) to agricultural zoning since there are no height restrictions for accessory buildings in agriculturally zoned areas.

Committee Member Ken Curry motioned to approve a town of Grand Rapids zoning ordinance amendment. Committee Member Bill Leichtnam seconded the motion. Committee Member Gerald Nelson did not approve the motion – patchwork zoning. All other members approved the motion, and the motion passed.

County Surveyor

- Nothing to report for this month.
Committee may go into closed session pursuant to S19.85 (1)(c) Wis. Stats., for the purpose of reviewing annual goals and conducting performance evaluations of the Land Conservation, Planning & Zoning & UW Extension department heads.

At 11:35 a.m. Committee Member Bob Ashbeck made the motion to go into a closed session for the purpose of reviewing annual goals and conducting performance evaluations of the Land Conservation, Planning & Zoning, and UW-Extension department heads. Committee Member Gerald Nelson seconded the motion, all ayes to the roll call and the motion passed unanimously.

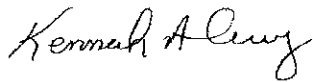
At 12:56 p.m. Committee Member Bob Ashbeck made the motion to come out of a closed session and Committee Member Gerald Nelson seconded the motion, all ayes to the roll call and the motion passed unanimously.

Schedule next regular committee meeting – 9:00 am Wednesday, January 6, 2016.

Schedule any additional meetings if necessary.

Adjourn

At 1:00 p.m. Committee Member Ken Curry made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and Committee Member Harvey Petersen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.



Recording Secretary – Amanda Darr