

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2022
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #114, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Bill Leichtnam, Dave LaFontaine, Tom Buttke, Laura Valenstein, Jake Hahn and Carmen Good

Members Excused: None

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn (via WebEx and in person) Victoria Wilson and Karoline Whitman

Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpfennig

UW Extension Staff: Jason Hausler

Others Present (for part or all of the meeting): Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendenning, Dist. #11 Supervisor Jeff Penzkover, Dist. #16 Supervisor Lance Pliml, Ray Bossert Village of Port Edwards, Sue Smith, Wood County Health Department

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Leichtnam called the CEED Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Declaration of Quorum.** Chairperson Leichtnam declared a quorum.
3. **Public Comment.** None.
4. **Review Correspondence.** None.
5. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the May 4, 2022 CEED meeting, 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension and 3) staff activity reports from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension offices.
 - a. Minutes of May 4, 2022. Chairperson Leichtnam noted a correction to the time of adjournment for the meeting as 10:59 a.m. not 11:59 a.m.
 - b. Department Bills. No additions or corrections needed.
 - c. Staff Activity Reports. No additions or corrections needed.

Motion by Tom Buttke to approve (with correction) and accept the May 4, 2022 CEED minutes, bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension, and staff activity reports as presented. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Review items, if any, pulled from Consent Agenda.** None.
7. **Risk and Injury Report.** None.
8. **Initial Discussion of ARPA Spending Priorities.**
Dave LaFontaine feels a priority for ARPA funds spending is Economic Development. Bill Leichtnam shared some of the ideas he has been hearing. Lance Pliml discussed the importance of the installation of infrastructure and further stated Wood County has a projected decrease in population partly driven by lack of housing and childcare. Discussion ensued.
9. **Land & Water Conservation Department.**

Shane shared information for the next LCC meeting to be held Friday June 3, 2022. Information for the meeting was emailed to the committee.

a. Update on Conservation Engineering Technician position

Shane stated that after another round of interviews a candidate has been selected to fill this position. The new candidate, Kyle Andreae, will start employment on June 6, 2022.

b. RC & D dues

Shane explained that in the past LWCD was paying dues he felt were adequate for the services they received. A couple of years ago RC & D came out with a minimum they would like counties to pay, which equates to approximately \$1900. Although they budgeted for the \$1900 each year, they paid about fifty percent of that. Shane recommends they pay \$1100 going forward as RC & D is providing more services to Wood County.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve budgeting of up to seventy-five percent in dues this year and up to one-hundred percent in dues next year based on an evaluation of the services provided by RC & D. Second by Laura Valenstein. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Committee Reports:

i. Citizens Groundwater Group

Bill Leichtnam gave an overview of the CGG meeting on May 16, 2022. (Notes are included in the packet for this meeting.) Next meeting is June 20, 2022.

ii. Health Committee report

Sue spoke about the Armenia Grower's Coalition MOU. They have not been able to coordinate a call with everyone as of late due to timing. Corp Counsel Kastenzholz has sent the coalition a letter (via email) thanking them for their efforts through the MOU over the last few years. He indicated the county would like to renegotiate a new MOU. He received a response which he summarized as "thanks but no thanks". The letter from Corp Counsel Kastenzholz can be found in the Health & Human Services packet from May 26, 2022.

Regarding the Avian Influenza, Sue stated that there are 432 poultry operations in Wood County. There is further information and a map in the Health & Human Services packet from May 26, 2022.

Sue shared that she reached out to John Richmond from Marshfield Utilities to discuss PFAs and the four wells that had been shut down in Wood County due to PFAs. She has not received a call back yet. The wells were to be tested yesterday. It will take a week or so for results.

iii. Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative (CSGWCC) committee report

Bill Leichtnam reported that the meeting was held at the Hancock Research Station with a brief history and short presentation from the station's superintendent, Troy Fishler. Bill shared how much of the ARPA funding is being spent on water quality issues by surrounding counties. Bill Leichtnam feels Wood County could do more. He asked Shane to come up with "next steps" in the next couple of months. Further discussion took place on water quality issues, well testing and ARPA funding in Wood County.

iv. Golden Sands RC&D report Bill Leichtnam stated that lessons are now being taught to fifth graders in Wood County on ground water and elsewhere in the Golden Sands coverage area on aquatic and invasive species.

10. **Private Sewage.** Jason Grueneberg encouraged committee members to review the staff activity reports and stop by the office or call if they have questions about what we do.

11. **Land Records.** See activity report in packet.

12. **County Surveyor.** No updates.

13. **Planning and Zoning.**

- a. Request to approve a zoning map amendment/rezone – Town of Saratoga

Adam DeKleyn gave an overview of town zoning in Wood County. Of the twenty-two towns in Wood County, twelve of the towns are under town zoning. This means these twelve towns administer their own zoning. However, because Wood County has a very old county zoning ordinance, these towns are required to submit rezones to our office for County Board approval. Adam further gave an overview of the Town of Saratoga and Town of Sigel amendments/rezones presented today. Having reviewed both amendments/rezones, Adam recommends the CEED committee forward them on to the County Board for approval.

- b. Request to approve a zoning map amendment/rezone – Town of Sigel

Motion by Jake Hahn to approve both amendments/rezones and forward them for approval to County Board. Second by Laura Valenstein. Motion carried unanimously.

14. **Economic Development.**

- a. North Central Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission update

Jason reported that NCWRPC has an RFP out for economic development services in the Town of Saratoga. There is economic development administration funding that was secured by the NCWRPC to do an economic development strategy for the Town of Saratoga as it relates to solar development there. On Friday, NCWRPC will meet with the town to conduct interviews with the consultants and then make a selection of one of them.

We continue to work with NCWRPC to have a housing assessment done in Wood County.

NCWRPC is currently working on updating Wood County's Bicycle and Pedestrian plan.

- b. Broadband grant and speed test update

There was a Public Service Commission grant cycle that closed in March. There were three applications submitted for projects in Wood County, one of which was through Frontier, one through Bug Tussell and one through Charter Spectrum. We will get results sometime near mid or late June. Jason would like to see some level of investment from ARPA funds for broadband improvements in the county.

We have received seven draft agreements regarding moving forward with bonding for Bug Tussell wireless. Jason would like to sit down with several county staff members, including county board members to review the documents and position them so they are favorable to the county.

We continue to urge people in Wood County to take the Speed Test. We would like to see people in the rural areas take the test so we can identify gaps. Speed test information can be found on the Wood County homepage as well as the Pittsville Record, City Times and other media.

- c. Discuss 2023 Economic Development Grants

Jason gave an overview of the Economic Development grants in Wood County available through the CEED committee. The committee reviewed the application and timeline for 2023. A special meeting will be held in July to review the applications we receive and decide which projects will be funded and how much funding will be provided. Dave LaFontaine suggested some of the ARPA funding be used for some of these economic development grants, and not to limit the funding as we have in previous years.

15. **Extension.**

a. General Office Update

Jason discussed an organization called (Wisconsin Extension Association) WEXA, supported by the WCA, which had a sole purpose of promoting and supporting Extension around the state. WEXA will be dissolving and a creating a sixth committee to the WCA.

Clean Sweep, with the support of Ben Jeffrey, was awarded additional funds of \$1597 for a total of just over \$13,000 for year 2021. Ben assisted UW Extension again with submitting the grant for the 2023 Clean Sweep event.

The UW Extension office is planning for Karli Tomsyck's upcoming maternity leave this fall.

There was a resignation in the Dunn, Eau Claire and Chippewa area; therefore, Jason will be filling in until a replacement is hired. His priority remains with his primary area.

b. Community Development Educator Update (Moved from c. to b.)

This position has been posted with a deadline of June 13. The Workforce Development part of the position has been removed and a \$3500 hiring bonus was added due to the difficulty in filling the position.

c. Extension 101

"As a statewide engagement arm of UW–Madison, the Division of Extension embodies the Wisconsin Idea to extend university knowledge to every corner of the state. That mission started in 1912 with Extension's first agent making farm visits and continues today along with community and business development, youth engagement, and well-being programming. Our statewide network of educators and specialists with the UW–Madison College of Agricultural & Life Sciences and on UW campuses across Wisconsin is responding every day to emerging and longstanding hurdles residents are overcoming to compete and prosper."

For more about UW Extension and its programs see the annual report included in this month's packet.

d. County Board Presentation

Each year Jason likes to get in front of the County Board to keep them up to date on what our office is doing. Please let Jason know if there is anything you would like highlighted or exemplified.

e. Continuation/Status/Responsibilities of the Renewable & Sustainable Committee

Discussion took place on where the responsibilities of this committee should fall. After extended conversation on this topic, this item will be placed on the July agenda. Other conversation included CEED committee retaining the responsibility possibly on a quarterly basis or creating a sub-committee. Overall committee members agree there is a need for this committee.

16. **Requests for per diem for meeting attendants.** None.

17. **Schedule next regular committee meeting.**

Wednesday July 6, 2022.

18. **Agenda items for next meeting.**

- a. A presentation of "Department 101" for either Planning & Zoning or Land & Water Conservation Department.
- b. Renewable & Sustainable Committee discussion.

19. **Schedule any additional meetings if necessary.**

Special meetings in July (TBD) for economic development grants.

20. **Adjourn CEED Meeting @11:29 a.m.**

Motion by Tom Buttke to adjourn the meeting. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes by Victoria Wilson, Planning & Zoning Office