

MINUTES  
 CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2018  
 WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #114, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Kenneth Curry, Robert Ashbeck, Dave LaFontaine, Bill Leichtnam, Harvey Petersen (excused at 11:02 a.m.)

Members Excused: Mark Holbrook

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn  
 Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpennig, Adam Groshek, Lori Ruess  
 UW Extension Staff: Jason Hausler, Nancy Turyk

Others Present: Dist. #12 Supervisor Douglas Machon, Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendenning, Logan Manthe, Environmental Health Assistant, Wood County Health Department.

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Kenneth Curry called the CEED meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Declaration of Quorum.** Chair Curry declared a quorum.
3. **Public Comment.** None
4. **Review Correspondence.**
  - A. Chair Curry and Supervisor Leichtnam attended the WCA Conference at the La Crosse Center, September 23rd – 25th. Chair Curry gave a report on the breakout session he attended and added all sessions were very good.
5. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the August 27, 2018, September 5, 2018 and September 7, 2018 CEED meetings, 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension and 3) staff activity reports from Shane Wucherpennig, Tracy Arnold, Adam Groshek, Lori Ruess, Emily Salvinski, Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, Jeff Brewbaker, Stevana Skinner, Kim Keech, Victoria Wilson, Matt Lippert, Jodi Friday, Chris Viau, Laura Huber, Nancy Turyk, and Jackie Carattini.
  - A. Minutes of the August 27, 2018, September 5, 2018 and September 7, 2018 CEED Meetings. Bill Leichtnam requested the August 27<sup>th</sup> minutes and September 5, 2018 be pulled for further discussion and clarification on the following items:
 

5C of the August 27<sup>th</sup> CEED minutes - Nancy Turyk's job description. Bill Leichtnam asked if Nancy could facilitate the Citizens Groundwater Committee meeting. Jason Hausler explained that Nancy was hired as the Community Development Educator and her focus is on Community Development. She may be able to help facilitate the Citizens Groundwater Committee meetings if the work remained in a facilitator role and not viewing Nancy as the expert on Groundwater issues. She could bring in experts to help as the group needs. The final decision on facilitating the group would be up to Nancy given her other job commitments.

7B of the September 5<sup>th</sup> CEED minutes – Wood County Water. Bill asked for clarification and discussion on EPA imposing Act 1431. Chair Curry and Supervisor Doug Mahon offered their opinions based on what they have heard.

7B of the September 5<sup>th</sup> CEED minutes - motion by Bill Leichtnam for the Land & Water Conservation Department and Health Department to give a groundwater presentation to the County Board. Bill asked if the presentation would be given in October to the County Board.

Shane Wucherpennig and Nancy Eggleston were not present at this time so this couldn't be addressed. However, Wucherpennig did state later in the meeting that they would be able to give the presentation at the October County Board meeting.

- B. Department Bills. No additions or corrections needed.
- C. Staff Activity Reports. No additions or corrections needed,

*Motion (Dave LaFontaine/Bill Leichtnam) to approve and accept the August 27, 2018, September 5, 2018 and September 7, 2018 minutes with the exception of any corrections that may be needed on the items that were pulled for discussion, bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension, and staff activity reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

*It should be noted there was no need to amend the August 27<sup>th</sup> or September 5, 2018 minutes. The items Bill Leichtnam requested pulled were discussed and clarified.*

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

At this time with no opposition, Chair Curry moved UW Extension agenda items A & B up on the agenda. Item C will be on a future agenda.

**7. Land & Water Conservation Department.**

- A. Open and Approve Low Bid for the Purpose of Determining Cost Share Amount for James & Joanne Coenen's Three Grassed Waterways and Rock Crossings. Adam Groshek presented to Chair Curry two bids he received for James & Joanne Coenen's grassed waterways and rock crossings. Chair Curry opened the bids. Bids were as follows: Jeff Ertl Trucking, LLC - \$16,090.51 and Dean Atlmann Trucking & Excavating - \$35,400.00.

*Motion (Dave LaFontaine/Harvey Petersen) to accept the low bid in the amount of \$16,090.51 from Jeff Ertl Trucking, LLC for the purpose of determining the cost share amount for James and JoAnne Coenen's three grassed waterways and rock crossings, following review and verification by Groshek that the bid is complete. Motion carried unanimously.*

- B. Open and Approve Low Bid for the Purpose of Determining Cost Share Amount for Otter Creek Farms Waste Storage Facility Project. Shane Wucherpennig presented to Chair Curry one bid he received for Otter Creek Farm's Waste Storage Facility project. Chair Curry opened the bid from Dennis Krause - Mid-Wisconsin Concrete. The bid amount was \$65,114.58. Wucherpennig stated that he didn't get the design from the engineering firm until recently and that the bid may be higher due to cold weather concrete. Dave LaFontaine asked if it would be advantageous to carry the project into 2019. Wucherpennig stated that is not an option as this was a 2017 carryover project.

*Motion (Harvey Petersen/Bill Leichtnam) to accept the low bid in the amount of \$65,114.58 from Dennis Krause - Mid-Wisconsin Concrete for the purpose of determining the cost share for Otter Creek Farms waste storage facility project, following review and verification by Wucherpennig that the bid is complete. Motion carried unanimously.*

- C. Report on Well Testing - Shane Wucherpennig. Shane Wucherpennig stated with the well testing protocol in Juneau County town of Armenia and southern Wood County, he feels now would be a good time to pursue a county-wide well testing program and is looking for support and approval from the Committee to move forward with the program. He has been in contact with other counties that held county-wide well testing and they have had approximately 85% participation. Shane is proposing a program that would include taking one sample in every section of each township in Wood County - a total of 828 samples. Participation would be voluntary. He reviewed several well testing package options that he researched the

approximate cost for each testing package. The Homeowner package which tests for Total Coliform Bacteria, Nitrate + Nitrogen, pH, Alkalinity, Total Hardness, Chloride, Conductivity and Corrosivity would cost approximately \$43,056.00 and Nitrate + Chloride would cost approximately \$22,356. Wood County has also been approved to get lab equipment in house from Juneau County ATC fund. This equipment can test for nitrates only and would cost approximately \$6,624. Discussion followed.

*Motion by (Bill Leichtnam) to propose that Shane Wucherpennig move forward with a county-wide well testing study. Discussion followed.*

*Bill Leichtnam amended his motion.*

*Motion by (Bill Leichtnam/Dave LaFontaine) to propose that Shane Wucherpennig partner with Health and Human Services and move forward with a county-wide well testing study. Motion carried unanimously.*

It was stated that Shane should report back to the committee on program progress and implementation plans.

- D. 3-D Groundwater Model. Shane Wucherpennig shared that he talked with a couple of counties that have done 3-D Groundwater modeling. A 3-D groundwater modeling study will show how groundwater moves and with increased demand to answers regarding waste application to land, well protection, groundwater quality and quantity, this is the type of study that can give us answers. Partners would include Land & Water Conservation Department, Planning & Zoning – Land Records, Health & Human Services, University Extension, Emergency Management, Highway Department, USGS and WGNHS. This would be a three phase study and would cost \$195,000 to \$ 200,000. Lengthy Discussion followed.

Following discussion, Dave LaFontaine stated that he would like to see a presentation as he questions what value it would be to the county to have the data other than use by Well Engineers. Shane replied he could get someone to come to a future meeting and give a presentation that would focus on the value to the county.

It was the consensus of the committee that Shane explores funding options for the 3-D groundwater modeling study and brings more information to the committee.

Nancy Turyk offered to work with Shane on groundwater grant funding possibilities.

- E. Discussion on Groundwater. Shane updated the committee on the status of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which was drafted by the Armenia Growers Coalition. The MOU has been revised three times. The latest revision came out the 1<sup>st</sup> of October and is significantly different than the first draft.

Bill Leichtnam asked that County Board be brought up to speed on this issue with monthly reports from the Health Department and Land & Water Conservation Department.

- F. Request from Citizens Groundwater Committee for Tour Bus – Discussion and Possible Action. Bill Leichtnam stated that the Citizens Groundwater Committee has been invited to tour Heartland Farms irrigated potato and vegetable farm in Hancock on Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. He added that this would be a great opportunity for the Groundwater Committee to see the site and work with the vegetable growers and asked the Committee to fund the bus. He asked if the bus could possibly be funded through the Land & Water Conservation budget, as the CEED tour was cancelled. Jason Grueneberg stated that the CEED tour bus is funded by Land & Water Conservation, Planning & Zoning and UW Extension. Following discussion, Chair Curry stated he didn't feel the request for funding the bus belonged with this committee at this time.

*Motion by (Bill Leichnetm) to request the CEED back the efforts of the Citizens Groundwater Committee by funding a bus for the tour of Heartland Farms, Inc. There was no second. The motion failed.*

- G. Discussion and Possible Action on Non-Ferrous Metallic Mining Ordinance. Shane Wucherpfennig presented the Non-Ferrous Metallic Mining Ordinance. He stated that the proposed ordinance is based off Taylor County's ordinance and is a good ordinance. Discussion followed and a few questions were asked regarding language on page 42, 73 and 74 of the ordinance. The questions were answered by Adam DeKleyn.

*Motion by (Bill Leichnetm/Harvey Petersen) that the Land & Water Conservation Department take the steps necessary to hold a Public Hearing on the Non-Ferrous Metallic Mining Ordinance #803 in November, followed by presentation to the full County Board for approval as soon as possible. Motion carried unanimously.*

- H. Discuss CEED Tour. Shane Wucherpfennig stated that the September 21<sup>st</sup> CEED tour was cancelled because he couldn't justify paying for a bus and staff time. There were 18 people registered with 15 of those being staff members and 3 being supervisors. He added that the whole idea behind the annual tour is to present and showcase the work being done in the field by each department. It is the intent of the three departments to hold the tour in the future if there is enough interest and if more supervisors attend. Bill Leichnetm shared that he has participated in four of the past tours and found the tours to be extremely helpful to him to see what is going on in the field. He added that he would also like to see "problem areas" not only the showcased projects.

A short break was called by Chair Curry at 11:02 a.m. Chair Curry reconvened the CEED Committee meeting at 11:11 a.m.

## **8. Economic Development**

- A. Wood County ATV Trail Committee Update. Jason Grueneberg updated the Committee regarding the ATV trail progress. He and Adam DeKleyn took a day and rode out southern Wood County on ATV's. He shared areas of concerns with connecting to Jackson County, although they were able to make the connection. He also shared concerns that need to be addressed with signage, amenities, and future costs of equipment and trail maintenance. Recently Vesper, Nekoosa, and Village of Biron opened up portions of their roads. A list of ATV/UTV club leaders has been established and the leaders will be invited to a future ATV Trail Committee meeting. The next ATV Trail Committee meeting will be held on October 4<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to have an ATV route presentation at the November County Board.
- B. Discussion on Wood County's Funding and Role in Economic Development. Jason handed out the Wood County Economic Development Mission Statement and reviewed it with the committee. He added that along the way there has been some disagreement as to the county's role in economic development and he would welcome feedback from the committee. He will be attending a round table discussion on October 12th with economic development partners on how to collaborate. Discussion followed. Supervisor LaFontaine stated the current guidelines on the Mission Statement are missing improving the tax base. He added that housing improvement is very important and builds tax base. Jason stated that improving tax base could be covered under enhancing quality of life. Other concerns expressed were ways to address some of the rural needs. Nancy Turyk offered to reach out to UWEX Specialists for assistance. She will work with Grueneberg on questions and any committee comments or concerns and forward them to the specialists.

Jason Grueneberg asked if there was anything the committee would like to see or learn more about from the partners or groups he works with. Dave LaFontaine stated he would like to continue to see presentations and asked "How do you measure success?" Jason Grueneberg shared it is difficult at times to quantify the return on investment, but the county does have an obligation to participate.

- C. Consider Resolution Requesting Additional Funding for Economic Development. – Jason Grueneberg stated the timing is not right to present a resolution requesting additional funding for Economic Development. This may be an agenda item in the future.

**9. Private Sewage**

**10. County Surveyor.**

**11. Planning**

**12. UW Extension**

- A. Office Update: Jason Hausler reported on UWEX office updates;

Summer intern Amanda Kyle resigned. Her last day was September 21<sup>st</sup>.

The UWEX Local Government Center will be offering a series of teleconferences November 2018 through February 2019. Topics of the webinars include Wisconsin – recruiting and retaining talent, nonferrous mining, repurposing downtowns, and farm economic trends.

Wisconsin Land + Water is offering a groundwater webinar series in October. The webinars will be held on October 5<sup>th</sup> - “Wisconsin’s Groundwater: Basic concepts and information resources; October 11<sup>th</sup> - “Human Health Effects of Nitrate in Drinking Water”, October 18<sup>th</sup> - “Public wells and accessing well data through DNR databases”, and October 25<sup>th</sup> - *Understanding groundwater quality through a private well monitoring program*”.

The Nutrition Educator Administrator position is posted. Jodi Friday assumed the role interim Nutrition Educator Administrator until the position is filled.

The second invoice for contractual services came through and is significantly less than the first one. The invoice for approximately \$32,000 is being processed and the Finance Department has been notified.

Clean Sweep was held September 29<sup>th</sup> in Marshfield. The 2019 Clean Sweep will be held at a site in southern part of the County.

- B. Horticulture Educator Update. Jason Hausler shared that he exhausted every channel with partnering with other counties for a full time Commercial Horticulture position. He stated he is looking for support from the Committee to fill the Horticulture Educator as a ½ time position (as budgeted). Discussion followed.

*Motion by (Dave LaFontaine/Robert Ashbeck) to support filling the vacant Horticulture Educator position as a part-time (50%) Horticulture Educator position. Motion carried unanimously.*

- C. Presentation – UW Extension FoodWise Coordinator – Jodi Friday. – This presentation will be on the November 2018 CEED agenda.

**13. Schedule Next Meeting.**

The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at the Wood County Courthouse in Room 114.

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

- A. Discussion and possible action on Non-Ferrous Metallic Mining Ordinance.
- B. Discussion on groundwater.
- C. Discussion on Wood County's role in Economic Development.

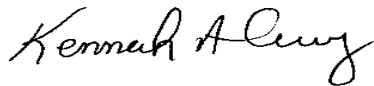
**15. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary.**

Public Hearing for Non-Ferrous Metallic Mining Ordinance - November 7, 2018.

**16. Adjourn.**

Chair Kenneth Curry declared the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth Curry, Acting Secretary  
Minutes by Lori Ruess, Land & Water Conservation Department  
Review for submittal to County Board by Kenneth Curry (approved on October 9, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.)