

CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
AGENDA

DATE: Wednesday, May 4, 2022
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
LOCATION: Wood County Courthouse – Room 114

1. Call meeting to order
 2. Declaration of Quorum
 3. Chair's Remarks
 4. Public Comments (*brief comments/statement regarding committee business*)
 5. Review Correspondence.
 6. Consent Agenda.
 - a. Approve minutes of previous meeting
 - b. Approve bills
 - c. Receive staff activity reports
 7. Review items, if any, pulled from Consent Agenda.
 8. Risk and Injury Report
 9. Land & Water Conservation Department
 - a. Update on Conservation Engineering Technician position.
 - b. Letter of support for the CSGCC proposed USGS grant for a groundwater model.
 - c. Discuss AGC MOU.
 - d. Committee Reports
 - i. Citizens Groundwater Group meeting.
 - ii. Health Committee report.
 - iii. Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative (CSGWCC) committee report.
 - iv. Golden Sands RC&D report.
 10. Private Sewage
 11. Land Records
 12. County Surveyor
 13. Planning
 - a. Staff introductions.
 14. Economic Development
 - a. North Central Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission update.
 - b. Broadband grant and speed test update.
 - c. Consideration of Initial Resolution Approving Revenue Bond Financing for Bug Tussel 1, LLC. Information with respect to the job impact of the project will be available at the time of consideration of the Resolution.
 15. Extension
 - a. General Office Update
 - d. Introduction - Jasmine Carbajal, 4-H Associate Educator
 - e. Staffing Update - Community Development Educator
 - f. Educator Presentation - Allison Jonjak, Cranberry Outreach Specialist
 16. Requests for per diem for meeting attendants
 17. Schedule next regular committee meeting
 18. Agenda items for next meeting
 19. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary
 20. Adjourn
-

Join by phone

+1-408-418-9388 United States Toll
Meeting number (access code): 2487 968 5961

Join by WebEx App or Web

<https://woodcountywi.webex.com/woodcountywi/j.php?MTID=m8d64bc0490894c4a965ea71572424806>

Meeting number (access code): 2487 968 5961
Meeting password: 05042022

MINUTES
 CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022
 WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #114, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Kenneth Curry, Robert Ashbeck, Jake Hahn, Dave LaFontaine, Bill Leichtnam, Carmen Good

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn - (WebEx), Paul Bernard.
 Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpennig, Lori Ruess.
 UW Extension Staff: Jason Hausler, Rachael Whitehair.

Others Present: Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendenning, Dist. #16 Supervisor Lance Pliml - (WebEx), Susan Smith, Health Department Director - (WebEx), Ben Jeffrey, Environmental Health Supervisor - (WebEx), Scott Larson, Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce.

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Curry called the CEED meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Declaration of Quorum.** Chair Curry declared a quorum.
3. **Public Comment.** Carmen Good mentioned Jake Bourget, FSA County Executive Director (CED) retired in January and Laurie Konkol-Glodowski has been hired as the new FSA CED. She will cover Wood, Portage and Waupaca Counties. Chairperson Curry suggested that Laurie be invited to attend a future CEED meeting.
4. **Review Correspondence.**
 - A. On behalf of Extension, Planning and Zoning and Land & Water Conservation Departments, Jason Hausler and Jason Grueneberg thanked Chairperson Curry for his years of service to Wood County and great leadership. They also thanked Bob Ashbeck for his service. Ken served on County Board for 10 years and Bob Ashbeck for 18 years.
5. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the March 2, 2022 and March 15, 2022 CEED meetings, 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and Extension and 3) staff activity reports from Laura Huber, Matt Lippert, Allison Jonjak, Hannah Wendels, Janell Wehr, Jackie Carattini, Rachael Whitehair, Shane Wucherpennig, Caleb Armstrong, Emily Salvinski, Lori Ruess, Rodney Mayer, Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, Paul Bernard, Jeff Brewbaker, Scott Custer, and Victoria Wilson.
 - A. Minutes of March 2, 2022 and March 15, 2022. No additions or corrections needed.
 - 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 March 2, 2022 and March 15, 2022 CEED minutes, bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and Extension, and staff activity reports as presented. Second by Jake Hahn. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Review items, if any, pulled from Consent Agenda.** None.
7. **Risk and Injury Report.** None.
8. **Land & Water Conservation Department.**
 - A. Update on Conservation Engineering Technician position. Shane Wucherpennig gave a brief update on the vacant Conservation Engineering Technician position. The position has been posted for over a month and only received six applications. Two out of the six applicants have

the AutoCad and GIS requirements. The application deadline will be extended; interviews will take place after April 21.

- B. Discuss potential Central Sands Groundwater Model and County involvement. Shane Wucherpfennig shared in speaking with Dr. Carla Romano it was brought to his attention that there is potential funding available through a USGS grant for a Central Sands Groundwater Model. The proposal would be to repurpose an existing Central Sands groundwater model to predict water levels and nitrate concentration according to future possible variations in groundwater recharge, nitrate load and water pumping rates. The grant does require match funds and there is a short timeline to act, as the proposal due date is April 26. Discussion followed.

Ken Curry commented that he was reluctant to make a motion to approve without more information; there are too many unknowns.

Bill Clendenning mentioned Judicial and Legislative Committee could put something together for the upcoming meeting. Bill also mentioned that maybe ARPA money could be used towards the matching funds requirement.

Shane Wucherpfennig will get more details on the grant following the meeting and forward to the CEED and Lance Pliml.

- C. Discuss Mill Creek 9-Key Element Plan implementation. Shane Wucherpfennig shared with the CEED, information on the progress of the Mill Creek 9-Key Element Plan implementation. In December of 2019, Wood County received a Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Grant in the amount of \$600,600 of which 10 percent of the local assistance portion of the grant could be used for staffing. In early 2020, DNR sent out notification that revisions were made to large-scale TRM Grants, which included increasing the local assistance grant cap from 10% of the BMP grant award to 40% of the BMP grant award. Wood County LWCD was under the assumption that this increase applied to their existing grant, however after submitting their 2021 reimbursement request, they found out that the increase did not apply to existing grants. Wucherpfennig submitted a variance letter and budget amendment request. The variance was denied, but the budget amendment was approved. Wucherpfennig recently submitted a revised proposal and is awaiting approval from DNR. Shane added he wanted to share this information with the CEED and expressed his frustration with DNR for their lack of explaining the increase did not apply to existing grants.

D. Committee Reports

- i. Citizens Groundwater Group meeting. Bill Leichtnam gave a brief update on the March 21 Citizens Groundwater Group meeting.
- Lisa Anderson, Portage County resident was the speaker. She spoke on "The Nelsonville Story". Nelsonville, a village of 150 residents, has a 2300 animal unit Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO). In 2018, Portage County received a grant to study the water quality in their 880-acre recharge zone. Results showed nitrates were widespread throughout the village. An environmental engineering firm was hired by the Village to analyze data. The results indicated agriculture as the predominant source of nitrate contamination. The Village has formed a Groundwater Protection Committee to help raise awareness of this problem.
 - Bill shared information from a Town of Armenia Supervisor who has lived in the same house in the Town of Armenia for 60 years and the past 30 to 35 years has experienced high nitrates. Per DATCP's request, he had his well tested for imidacloprid insecticide and following testing found out his water is not suitable for drinking.
 - In 2021, Juneau County tested wells in Armenia and Port Edwards and found Imidacloprid in 66 private wells.

Ben Jeffrey, Wood County Health Department stated he is aware of this issue.

ii. Health Committee report. Ben Jeffrey reported the March AGC meeting was cancelled. He will keep the CEED posted.

iii. Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative (CSGWCC) committee report. Bill Leichtnam reported, when the Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative began, there were four partners; that has now expanded to seven partners (DNR, DATCP, US Geological Society, Wisconsin Geologic and Natural History Survey, UW Madison School of Soils, UW Stevens Point Water Analysis Lab and UW Madison Water Research Institute).

- All six counties give a report each month.
 - Juneau County tested 2,700 well
 - Portage County tested between 2,500 – 3,000
 - Bill Leichtnam expressed concern with only having enough money remaining in Wood County to fund testing of approximately 110 wells. Discussion followed.

Bill Clendenning mentioned that 22 people in the Town of Grand Rapids wanted to have their wells tested for nitrates and were turned down. Shane Wucherpennig explained the Land & Water Conservation Department has been offering sample bottles for testing of nitrates for four years and have never turned down anyone who asked for a well testing kit. He added that if those 22 people are still interested please refer them to the Land & Water Conservation Department for the free nitrate testing.

iv. Golden Sands RC&D report. Bill Leichtnam reported briefly on the March 17th Golden Sands RC&D meeting he attended.

- Hiring watercraft inspectors to teach the public about boat inspection habits that protect lakes.
- Expanded groundwater lessons to 5th grade classes to include Wood County schools.
- Golden Sands RC&D will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary in September.
- Voluntary dues to RC&D - \$1,900/county. Wood County has paid \$800 in dues the past several years. Bill Leichtnam mentioned he would like to see Wood County pay the full \$1,900 in dues. Discussion followed.

Motion by Bill Leichtnam to put on the May CEED agenda, discuss/consider increasing the amount of voluntary annual dues Wood County pays to Golden Sands RC&D. Second by Ken Curry. Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Private Sewage.** None.

10. **Land Records.**

a. Land Records CIP request for 2022 Lidar. Paul Bernard explained what Lidar is (light detection and ranging) and handed out a copy of the 2023 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) request to acquire high quality elevation data, which meets FEMA map accuracy standards. He explained that the base project has already been funded by cost-sharing from Wood County Land Records, Wood County Land & Water Conservation, Wood County Highway Department, the City of Marshfield and the City of Wisconsin Rapids. This request is for moving beyond the base project and acquiring additional deliverables including hydrography polygons, 1-foot elevation lines or contours, classification of buildings versus vegetation, bare earth dataset, digital surface model, intensity imagery, full county-wide culvert inventory and online 3D web mapping. These additions would greatly enhance the usefulness of elevation data. The CIP request is for \$70,000; Land Records will cover \$8,250 if the CIP is approved.

Motion by Ken Curry to approve the \$70,000 CIP Request for the advanced Lidar program. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

11. **County Surveyor.** None.

12. **Planning.** None.

13. **Economic Development.**

- a. North Central Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission update. Jason Grueneberg gave a brief update on the bicycle pedestrian plan. The second meeting will be held this month.

Jason also gave a brief update on the broadband speed testing. Hope to have 10 percent of the population in rural areas complete the test. Marketing to inform residents of the speed testing availability could include radio, website, school districts, and towns. People who live in rural areas and don't have broadband in their area can call the Planning and Zoning office.

Dave Lafontaine expressed a concern with the broadband speed testing. He tried to complete the testing twice, but never received confirmation of the test being submitted. Jason will follow-up on this to see if a submission verification notice can be sent following completion of the speed testing.

- b. Update from Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry and consider release of 2022 Economic Development Grant Funds. Scott Larson, MACCI Executive Director, thanked the CEED for letting him present. He presented the Wood County Economic Development 2021-2022 Annual Report, which covered County Data, Workforce and Talent Development, Marketing/Promotion, Business Support and Region/County Development. Brief discussion and questions followed his presentation.

Jake Hahn commended both Chambers for doing a phenomenal job in promoting Wood County.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to release \$19,500 in Economic Development Grant Funds to the Marshfield Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Second by Jake Hahn. Motion carried unanimously.

14. **Extension.**

- a. General Office Update. Jason Hausler provided the following updates:
- The Extension office has finally received the 2021 revenue dollars for the Clean Sweep reimbursement. The 2022 Clean Sweep will be held in Marshfield.
 - The Judge agreed with the transition of the Meadowbrook 4-H club and Extension has the deed. Will continue to work with Peter Kastenholz.
 - Last week, staff attended the area meeting which was held at the NEPCO shelter house. It was a great team building opportunity.
 - The Extension staff will be participating in "Career Day" on Friday, April 29.
- b. Staffing Update. Jason Hausler provided the following staffing updates:
- The Community Development position application deadline was extended to March 18. Minimal pool of qualified applicants. Will hold interviews April 18 for two of the candidates; one at 9:30 a.m. and one at 11:00 a.m.
 - The FoodWise program is being realigned and Kelly Hammond, FoodWise Coordinator, will now serve Wood, Portage, Marathon and Clark Counties.
 - Jasmine Carbajal has been hired as the Associate 4-H Coordinator. This is a full time position split between Wood and Marathon Counties.
 - A newly created Water Quality Position will work with Ag producers in Central Sands area (Wood, Portage, Adams, Juneau and Waushara counties). This position will be

based out of Portage County and is supported by Waushara and Portage Counties and State dollars.

- c. Educator Presentation – Rachael Whitehair, Natural Resource Educator. Rachael Whitehair shared a PowerPoint presentation on Extension’s Role in South Wood County Cultural Coalition. Her presentation covered:
- The Purpose, Statement and Pledge of the Cultural Coalition.
 - Extension’s role in Cultural Coalition.
 - Upcoming Focus Groups
 - April 20th – in person at McMillan Library – Multi-Use Room 5-7 p.m.
 - April 21st – Virtual – 2 p.m.
 - Data Sources
 - Focus Group Protocol
 - Community Connections & Outreach
 - Civic Engagement & Leadership Development
 - Public Education and Youth Development
 - Brief Actions and Outcomes
 - Actions – Maintaining monthly meetings & social media updates.

Following the presentation, Dave LaFontaine asked why the group is limited to South Wood County. Rachael noted it came down to capacity; however, there are efforts to expand throughout Wood County.

15. Requests for per diem for meeting attendants.

Bill Leichtnam requested per diem for attending the April 5, ARPA Funding Adhoc Committee meeting.

Motion by Jake Hahn to approve Bill Leichtnam’s per diem request for attending the ARPA Adhoc Committee meeting. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

16. Schedule Next Meeting. The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 9:00 a.m., at the Wood County Courthouse Room #114.

17. Agenda items for next meeting. *Agenda items are due Wednesday, April 27.*

A. Discuss Golden Sands RC&D voluntary annual dues.

18. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary.

Judicial & Legislative Organizational Meeting – April 25 at 8:15 a.m., Room 114
CEED Organizational Meeting – Monday, April 25 at 8:30 a.m., Room 114

19. Adjourn. Chair Curry declared the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Minutes by Lori Ruess, Land & Water Conservation Department

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, April 25, 2022
TIME: 8:30 AM
LOCATION: Wood County Courthouse – Room 114

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

Others present: Trent Miner, County Clerk, Al Breu, William Voight, Lee Thao, Dennis Polach, Bill Clendenning, Brad Hamilton, Jason Grueneberg.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM by County Clerk Miner.

There was no public comment.

The floor was opened for nominations for Chair of the CEED Committee. Valenstein nominated Leichtnam. There being no other nominations, the Chair declared that Supervisor Leichtnam was duly elected chair.

The floor was opened for nominations for Vice Chair of the CEED Committee. Buttke nominated LaFontaine. There being no other nominations, the chair declared that Supervisor LaFontaine was duly elected vice chair.

The meeting time will remain on the first Wednesday of the month at 9:00 AM.

There being no other business, Miner declared the meeting adjourned at 8:31 AM.

Minutes taken by Trent Miner, County Clerk, and are in draft form until approved at next meeting.

Committee Report

County of Wood

Report of claims for: Extension

For the period of: April 2022

For the range of vouchers: 30220034 - 30220043

Voucher	Vendor Name	Nature of Claim	Doc Date	Amount	Paid
30220034	4-H LEADERS ASSOCIATION	Platbook Payment Reimbursement	04/05/2022	\$600.00	P
30220035	GOLDEN SANDS RC D	Groundwater Lessons	04/05/2022	\$1,500.00	P
30220036	HAUSLER JASON	Area Meeting Expense Reimburse	04/05/2022	\$162.40	P
30220037	LIPPERT MATTHEW	Ag Program Reimbursement	04/12/2022	\$379.55	P
30220038	POSTMASTER - WISCONSIN RAPIDS	Postage - Ag ECN Mailing	04/12/2022	\$101.44	P
30220039	US BANK	April Statement	04/26/2022	\$1,025.22	
30220040	JONJAK ALLISON	April Expenses	04/26/2022	\$103.43	
30220041	LIPPERT MATTHEW	April Expenses	04/26/2022	\$69.50	
30220042	WHITEHAIR RACHAEL	April Expenses	04/26/2022	\$320.00	
30220043	YOUNG WENDY	April Expenses	04/26/2022	\$48.92	
Grand Total:				\$4,310.46	

Signatures

Committee Chair: _____

Committee Member: _____

Committee Member: _____

Committee Member: _____

Committee Member: _____

Committee Member: _____

Committee Member: _____

Committee Member: _____

Committee Member: _____

Committee Report

County of Wood

Report of claims for: LAND & WATER CONSERVATION DEPT

For the period of: APRIL 2022

For the range of vouchers: 18220015 - 18220024

Voucher	Vendor Name	Nature of Claim	Doc Date	Amount	Paid
18220015	DOORWORKS INC	LWC - GARAGE DOOR SPRING ADJ	04/06/2022	\$133.00	P
18220016	TRACTOR SUPPLY CREDIT PLAN	WLD - 4 SOLAR ENERGIZERS/KAUTH	03/23/2022	\$559.96	P
18220017	HRAMOR NURSERY	LWC - SPRUCE, PINE, MAPLE, POP	04/03/2022	\$8,467.50	P
18220018	LAURA'S LANE NURSERY	LWC - ELDERBERRY, SERVICEBERRY	03/21/2022	\$3,242.50	P
18220019	STAPLES ADVANTAGE	LWC - OFFICE & TREE SALE SUPPL	04/14/2022	\$78.85	P
18220020	WISCONSIN MEDIA	NMM - WOLOSEK PUBLIC NOTICE	03/31/2022	\$41.44	P
18220021	QUEST CIVIL ENGINEERS LLC	SRG - COST SHARE PERMITTING SE	03/30/2022	\$350.00	
18220022	STAPLES ADVANTAGE	LWC - OFFICE SUPPLIES	04/23/2022	\$22.36	
18220023	COMFORT DESIGN AND FAB LLC	LWC - CRIMPER ROLLER MODIFICAT	04/07/2022	\$2,200.00	
18220024	KNUTH TRUCKING & EXCAVATING LLC	SRG - 70% COST SHARE ROCK PLAC	04/26/2022	\$7,308.00	
Grand Total:				\$22,403.61	

Signatures

Committee Chair: _____

Committee Member: _____

Committee Member: _____

Committee Member: _____

Committee Member: _____

Committee Member: _____

Committee Member: _____

Committee Member: _____

Committee Member: _____

Committee Report

County of Wood

Report of claims for: Planning & Zoning

For the period of: April 2022

For the range of vouchers: 38220006 - 38220007 22220031 - 22220036

Voucher	Vendor Name	Nature of Claim	Doc Date	Amount	Paid
22220031	BOYER KEVIN	SU-Services Per Contract-April	04/01/2022	\$833.00	P
22220032	INDUSTRY SERVICES DIVISION	PS-State Sanitary Permits-Mar	04/01/2022	\$700.00	P
22220033	WOOD COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS	PS-Small Claims Filing Fees	04/04/2022	\$17.50	P
22220034	POSTMASTER - WISCONSIN RAPIDS	Private Sewage Postage	04/19/2022	\$803.21	P
22220035	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	PS-Office Supplies	04/12/2022	\$11.99	
22220036	US BANK	US Bank April	04/19/2022	\$130.44	
38220006	MARYANN LIPPERT CONSULTANT LLC	ED-REDI Grant (BB)	04/01/2022	\$1,328.60	P
38220007	MARSHFIELD AREA CHAMBER FOUNDATION	ED-2022 ED Grant-MACCI	04/06/2022	\$19,500.00	P
Grand Total:				\$23,324.74	

Signatures

Committee Chair:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:



We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities.

4-H – Positive Youth Development

Laura Huber, 4-H Program Educator

- It's summer camp planning time. "Learning from the Outside In" is the theme for summer camp 2022. This year Wood County staff are helping to plan the camp with 7 other counties (Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Price, Taylor, and Wood.) Camp will be held in June at the Northern Lakes Impact Center in Rhinelander.)
- Camp Counselor and Camp Volunteer training for the summer North Central Regional 4-H Camp in June. Counselors and volunteers are learning how to work with young people, how to be role models, how to have a positive impact on campers, how to lead camp programs, and how to continue camp traditions.
- Met with the Wisconsin 4-H Leadership Council, the WI 4-H Art Team and the WI 4-H Drama Company for Spring Planning Weekend. I facilitated Real Colors training to help build teamwork, communication, and leadership skills for this year's teen and adult State Team members.



Agriculture

Matt Lippert, Agriculture Educator

- A farm field day where dairy producers viewed a robotic milking system and interacted with the owner to learn more about this innovative system, the data the robots generate, and how the data can be used to manage the dairy herd more profitably
- Planning for the Agriculture Education area at 2022 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, an outdoor trade show for farmers and rural communities to increase knowledge of Extension Agriculture programs in crops and soils, dairy, farm management, livestock and horticulture.
- A live, on-line meeting series where participants learned how feeding cocktail forages can affect the animal (cow) response. As a result of this meeting, growers and producers can better reach their business goals

Cranberry Outreach

Allison Jonjak, Cranberry Outreach Specialist

- A collaboration was pursued between the 14-Mile Watershed Producer Led Watershed Group and the cranberry growers in the region, to improve education about the benefits of cranberry management in absorbing nutrients, and for community development.



- A radio program (WDLB Extension Insight Tuesdays) for the local community that discussed cranberries in the local economy, as well as upcoming and ongoing research with UW and outreach with Extension. Through the program, the local community better understands and feels connected to cranberry production.
- Four short videos for participants in a "cranberry short course" where they learned about winter damage, development of dormancy, winter flooding, and sanding. The goal of this effort is to familiarize new hires in the cranberry industry with how to care and manage cranberries.
- A virtual seminar for cranberry growers where they learned about agricultural supply chain trends, including trends for cranberry-necessary inputs, to empower cranberry growers to plan to acquire needed supplies despite shortages.

FoodWise

Hannah Wendels, FoodWise Nutrition Educator

Kelly Hammond, FoodWise Coordinator (Wood and Portage Counties)

- A virtual and in-person weekly educational series (Extension Wellness) for Central WI residents where participants learn a variety of topics to improve overall well-being and health. The purpose of this series is to increase overall well-being and health of residents through programs on financial, nutrition, horticulture, and behavioral health education.
- A ten-week series of strength training sessions (StrongBodies) in Wood County, where older adults learn best practices and learn nutrition and health education. Participants engage in regular strength training exercises to improve strength, balance, and flexibility so they can stay healthy and socially connected.
- A 5-week nutrition education series for kindergarten classrooms at Howe Elementary School, where students will learn about MyPlate, the five food groups, and try new fruits and vegetables. The goal of the series is for students to learn about being physically active and help them to be healthier in school and at home.
- Interactive Grocery Store Tours offered twice monthly at Walmart in Plover and Wisconsin Rapids to low-income families. The goal of this educational program is for participants learn about shopping healthy on a budget, increase fruit and vegetable consumption and improve overall health.
- Planning for the expansion of the Stockbox Commodity Food Program for low-income seniors in collaboration with ARDC of Central Wisconsin and Hunger Task Force. The goal of this effort is to begin offering program to residences in Marshfield, to improve food security in Central Wisconsin.

Horticulture

Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator

- An interactive web based class for novice gardeners with limited resources, where participants learned about soil texture, pH and nutrient availability, benefits of adding compost to garden beds and how plant primary nutrients support plant growth. This effort is designed to increase awareness and knowledge of resources to address environmental contamination and pollution (due to overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments).
- An interview for the WFHR radio audience where listeners learned techniques for extending the gardening season. This effort is designed to increase awareness and knowledge of resources to address environmental contamination and pollution (due to overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and



suburban environments.

- An interview for the WFHR where listeners learned best practices for matching site conditions with landscape plants. This effort is designed to increase awareness and knowledge of resources to address environmental contamination and pollution (due to overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments).
- An interactive web based class for novice gardeners with limited resources, where participants learned to distinguish vegetable classification by plant family, define crop rotation as it applies to IPM, and apply crop rotation to planting maps. This effort is designed to increase awareness and knowledge of resources to address environmental contamination and pollution (due to overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments).
- An interview for WAOW's television audience where viewers learned dormant pruning techniques. This effort is designed to increase awareness and knowledge of resources to address environmental contamination and pollution (due to overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments).
- A virtual and in-person weekly educational series (Extension Wellness) for Central WI residents where participants learn a variety of topics to improve overall well-being and health. The purpose of this series is to increase overall well-being and health of residents through programs on financial, nutrition, horticulture, and behavioral health education.
- A social media outreach campaign for consumer gardeners in Wisconsin, where Facebook and Instagram users engaged with Extension resources, including the UW-Madison Extension Horticulture Topic Hub publications and YouTube videos. This effort is designed to increase awareness and knowledge of resources to address environmental contamination and pollution (due to overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments).
- Planning for a multi-county educational program series for community gardeners. The goal of this effort is to increase gardeners' knowledge, promote best gardening practices and provide university based resources to community gardeners, which improves the health and productivity of their garden plots.

Human Development and Relationships

Jackie Carattini, Human Development and Relationships Educator

- A program for families and individuals, where participants learn to address their current financial situation by creating individual financial goals. The goal of this program is to enable participants to prepare for and take charge of household financial situations that occur due to changes in income or unforeseen hardships.
- An online program (Money Matters) for participants who want to improve their financial knowledge, where they complete 1-12 modules on different financial topics. The goal of the Money Matters modules is to increase participants' knowledge on topics such as credit scores and reports, making a spending plan, what to do when you can't pay your bills, and identifying financial strengths so that participants can apply these skills in the future.
- A series of sessions for social workers, home visitors and community agency staff where they learn about financial competency skills. The goal of this effort is to build their knowledge and confidence when engaging clients in financial conversations.
- A series of meetings with local financial coalition partners to learn about current community needs that will lead to the development of future financial programs in the Wisconsin Rapids area.



- Planning for programs for renters, in collaboration with the Central Wisconsin Partnership for Recovery Safe and Sober Housing initiative, where they will learn about tenants' rights and responsibilities, effective communication methods with landlords, and the rental application process. The goal of this effort is to meet local housing needs and the pre-rental educational component for this partner's program.
- A 6-session wellness series (WeCOPE) for adults where participants learned different strategies that support awareness of mind-body connection. The goal of this effort is to offer skills to decrease stress and increase positive emotions of participants.
- In person workshop, ("Rent Smart") for renters where participants gain knowledge and skills essential for a successful renting experience. This effort is designed to encourage housing stability and financial security
- A virtual and in-person weekly educational series (Extension Wellness) for Central WI residents where participants learn a variety of topics to improve overall well-being and health. The purpose of this series is to increase overall well-being and health of residents through programs on financial, nutrition, horticulture, and behavioral health education.

Natural Resources

Rachael Whitehair, Regional Natural Resource Educator

- A groundwater presentation for Marshfield 4-H Clover buds, where students learned about the potential side effects of land use, how surface and groundwater is connected, and the importance of good water quality. This effort is designed to bring water quality awareness to youth at an early age.
- A community event (Prairie Chicken Festival) where participants learned about the Greater Prairie Chicken through prairie chicken and wildlife observation, a breakfast, community discussions, and presentations. This effort is designed to bring awareness to the conservation need for this species and the need for balance among agricultural landscapes between production and habitat preservation.
- A booth at a high school career fair where students could participate in a picture booth activity and observe the groundwater quality model demonstration. This effort is designed to educate students about the role of Extension in communities and encourage our organization as a possible career path.
- Planning for an environmental/agriculture-focused youth camp for Wood County youth in collaboration with Memory Lane Farms. The goal of this effort is to provide young people with hands-on learning opportunities, so that youth gain knowledge about agricultural production, and natural resources.





Upcoming Programs

- [Extension Wellness Series | May 2022](#)
- [Romaine Calm and Garden On | 12-session Gardening Series – March-September](#)
- [Mental Health First Aid | Wednesday, May 11th](#)
- [Rent Smart | Virtual Zoom Sessions | May - June](#)
- [Encouraging Financial Conversations | Tuesdays & Thursdays April 14th – May 3rd](#)
- [Planning AHEAD | Mondays & Thursdays – May 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26 & June 2](#)
- [FoodWise Grocery Store Tours | Walmart \(Wisconsin Rapids & Plover\)](#)

Staff Report for April

Caleb Armstrong

- Pesticide Management Training along with Certification Exam
 - Passed certification exam
 - Qualified Pesticide Applicator
- “How to Review a Nutrient Management Plan” training put on by UW Extension and DATCP.
- Designing and Mapping buffer systems for farmers that are taking crop land out of production and restoring into a vegetative but also harvestable buffers that will remain covered at all times of the year.
 - These are hard practices that are going to help with P reduction along as erosion control.
- Check out fall cover crops that are establishing themselves in early spring.
 - Lot of the no-till drill fields are looking better than the broadcast fields.
 - Winter Rye is really greening up as it can grow in lower soil temps
- Preparing for our tree Sale
 - Cleaning Forestry Garage
 - Picking up trees from different nurseries
 - Meeting with customers who are buying shelters and gel before tree arrives
- Gave our No-till and roller crimper an inspection before spring planting season arrives.
- Delivered No-till drill to Peter Feltz
 - Will be interseeding into his pastures
 - Weather permitting due to cold and wet temps
- Did some site visits on possible complaint checks with waste products being applied to fields.
- Worked on Nutrient Management Checklists and plan completions.
 - Mailing out W-9 forms for all who attended our Wisconsin Rapids class.
- Working on Areas to target for invasive species removal.
 - Wild Parsnip
 - Phragmites
- Proceeded with our monthly Streamflow monitoring of the 6 creeks in southern Wood County.

Activities Report for Emily Salvinski

-April 2022-

- **Friday, April 1.** Worked on mapping 2022 NMPs. Entered streamflow data into SWIMS and spreadsheets.
- **Monday, April 4.** Worked on mapping 2022 nutrient management plans.
- **Tuesday, April 5.** Processed checklists from ProVision.
- **Tuesday, April 12.** Made a new shapefile for future water testing mailing with past testers with high nitrates and new testers. Prepped for a meeting with a farmer.
- **Wednesday, April 13.** Sat down with a farmer to help them update their nutrient management plan. Attended WI Crop Connect.
- **Thursday, April 14.** Worked on “to do” packet for NMFE (Nutrient Management Farmer Education) grant that we will be in charge of for 2023.
- **Wednesday, April 20.** Worked on mapping 2022 nutrient management plans.
- **Thursday, April 21.** Contacted agronomists, farmers to turn in NMP, updated NMP spreadsheet. Updated NMP maps. Planning for phosphorus sampling (got landowner permission, ordered preservative).
- **Tuesday, April 26.** Took stream flow measurements in SE Wood Co. Assist with tree sale organization.
- **Wednesday, April 27.** Assist with tree sale organization.

***Activities Report for Lori Ruess
April 2022***

- Answered phones and replied to emails.
- Reviewed payroll reports and payroll registers.
- Completed March sales tax report and forwarded to Finance.
- Attended April 6th CEED meeting and completed minutes.
- Completed LWCD payroll percentages and forwarded to Finance prior to the April 7 and April 21 Payrolls.
- Reviewed and approved April 21 timecards (Department Head on vacation).
- Emailed LWCD Annual Report to CEED.
- Worked with DNR Nonpoint Source Regional Manager regarding questions he had on the Mill Creek Grant reimbursement request and the Serenity River Grant reimbursement request.
- Answered various emails and calls regarding tree distribution.
- Prepared and mailed tree and shrub distribution letters to 184 customers.
- Assisted in cleaning the forestry garage for tree distribution.
- Assisted with sorting, labeling, bagging and distribution of trees, shrubs and wildflower seeds.
- Attended April 14 staff meeting.
- Electronically submitted staff reports and packet materials to the County Clerk's office for CEED packet.
- Organized County Board packet and electronically submitted to the County Clerk's office.

Activities Report for Rod Mayer – April 2022

- Correspondence for Bridgewater subdivision site acting as non-metallic mine site due to received complaint of material leaving site. DNR Non-metallic mining, DNR storm water, DNR CH. 30 – navigable waterways, DNR wetlands, DNR legal council etc. Found the jurisdiction to fall to the County – issued notice of Violation and posted property to stop activity until properly permitted as mine site with fees (doubled for after fact), financial assurance, approved plan, public notice period, etc.
- Pond build exemption information sent to 3 landowners.
- Review attorney letter for CIM/weiler non-metallic site. Meeting with Peter (Corp Counsel) and Shane to review. Reviewed letter written by Peter to send to the other attorney – sent changes to Peter.
- Put together deer harvest numbers from WDACP program for Wood County Deer Committee.
- Additional paperwork for crop damage enrollments
- Picked up bear abatement materials for apiary bee keeper – completed enrollment, paperwork, spreadsheet update, and got materials to bee keeper.
- Completed KnowBe4 training.
- Reviewed Laidlaw financial assurance for non-metallic mine site. Talked with owner, updated spreadsheet, software, and file.
- Worked with Wolosek Landscaping for changes to approved non-metallic reclamation plan – to include slower start and phasing documented in plan. Reviewed addendum and approved.
- Email to DNR for contact info for cranberry growers along hwy 54 – drainage for hwy build.
- Worked with landowner for questions on selling property with wildlife fence contract still intact on the property.
- Reviewed Ladick financial assurance for non-metallic site. Updated spreadsheet, software, and file.
- Worked on fence move on Twin Lakes Cranberry. Fence under contract, approval for their move of the fence and design, drafted design changes on GIS, DOT row contact, field visit with contractor, drafted affidavit amendment to current contract, set deadline for violation of removing fence prior to approval or construction process – leaving fence open while under contract. Drafted approval letter to landowner.
- Worked with buyer and attorney to answer questions on sale of land that has a permitted non-metallic mine site on it. Records request filled for reclamation plan to the buyer.
- Worked with Tetra Tech in regards to a borrow pit expansion on Cranberry Creek Veolia landfill. Sent correspondence on what we need to issue an exemption on the site to NMM mining.
- Talks with three landowners about future wildlife fences around cranberry crops.
- Emails to Milestone and Tork trucking about boundary issue on mine site.
- Prepared for tree sale: set date, letters, contact nurseries, clean shed, contact to borrow trailer, contact hwy dept for unloading, cones from emergency manag., spreadsheets for order numbers, contact with Marquette County for trucking shipment, etc.
- Worked with landowner on cranberry marsh with wildlife fence for Spring Goose harvest permits enrollment – and abatement methods with bird banger. Completed enrollment, site maps, rules, etc. and submitted to DNR.
- Completed webinar for Non-metallic mine site inspecting.



Activities Report for Shane Wucherpfennig – April, 2022

- **April 1** – Review of Engineering Tech position resumes and applicants, Field visits.
- **April 4** – Streambank erosion site visit, Spreading complaint follow up, Project updates with upcoming projects.
- **April 5** - Tracking and Database management.
- **April 6** – CEED Meeting, NM Training Webinar, Serenity River meeting.
- **April 7-20** – Vacation.
- **April 21** – Review of Engineering Tech position resumes, email and phone calls, Staff meeting.
- **April 22** – PACRS Meeting, Review of Engineering Tech position resumes and applicants.
- **April 25** – Tracking and Database management, Tracking Spreadsheet meeting with DNR, CSGCC meeting.
- **April 26** – Serenity River meeting, Project updates.
- **April 27** – Contracts, Tracking and Reimbursement packets.
- **April 28** – Meeting with DNR, Setting up position interviews.
- **April 28** – Engineering and projects.

ACRONYMS USED IN THE LAND & WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

AB	Assembly Bill
AGC	Armenia Growers Coalition
AIS	Aquatic Invasive Species
AMO	Adaptive management Option
APHIS	Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service
ATCP	WI Administrative Code: Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
AWO	Animal Waste Ordinance
BMPs	Best Management Practices
BOD	Board of Directors
CAFO	Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations
CEED	Conservation, Education and Economic Development Committee
CEU	Continuing Education Units
CGG	Citizens (Wood County) Groundwater Group
COC	Certificate of Compliance
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program
CREP	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
CSA	Cost-Share Agreement
CSGCC	Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative
CSP	Conservation Stewardship Program (formerly Conservation Security Program)
CWFPE	Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo
DATCP	Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
DBA	Dairy Business Association
DC	District Conservationist
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
DOJ	Department of Justice
DPI	Department of Public Instruction
DSPs	Department of Safety and Professional Services (former Dept. of Commerce)
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
FOTG	NRCS' Field Office Technical Guide
FPP	Wisconsin Farmland <u>Preservation</u> Program
FSA	Farm Service Agency
FWS	USDA Fish and Wildlife Service
GIS/GPS	Geographic Information System/Geographic Positioning System
HEL	Highly Erodible Land
IRG	Intensive Rotational Grazing
LWCB	Land and Water Conservation Board
L(W)CC	Land (and Water) Conservation Committee
L(W)CD	Land (and Water) Conservation Department
LWEC	Land and Water Education Committee
LDP	Loan Deficiency Program
LWRM(P)	Land and Water Resource Management Plan
MDV	Multi Discharger Variance
MEA	Midwest Environmental Advocates
MFL	Managed Forest Law
MOA/MOU	Memorandum of Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding
MIRBI	Mississippi River Basin Initiative

NACD	National Association of Conservation Districts
NALMS	North American Lake Management Society
NCLCA	North Central Land +Water Conservation Association
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NHEL	Non-highly Erodible Land
NMM	Non-Metallic Mining
NMFE	Nutrient Management Farmer Education
NM(P)	Nutrient Management Plan
NOD	Notice of Discharge
NON	Notice of Noncompliance
NOV	Notice of Violation
NPS	Non-Point Source
NR	WI Administrative Code: Natural Resources
NRC	Natural Resources Committee
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NWIS	National Water Information System
PACE	Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (program)
PACRS	Petenwell & Castle Rock Stewards
PDHs	(Engineering) Professional Development Hours
PDR	Purchase of Development Rights
PIC	WI Land +Water's Professional Improvement Committee
P&Z	County Planning and Zoning Department
RC&D	Resource Conservation and Development
RCPP	Regional Conservation Partnership Program
RECD	Rural Economic & Community Development
RUSLE2	Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation, Version 2
SB	Senate Bill
SECC	State Employees Combined Campaign
SEG	Segregated funding or appropriation
SITCOM	State Interagency Training Committee
SOC	Standards Oversight Council
SWCS	Soil and Water Conservation Society
SWIMS	Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System
SWQMA	Surface Water Quality Management Area
SWRM	Soil and Water Resource Management
"T"	Tolerable Soil Loss
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Limit
TRM	Targeted Runoff Management
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USFS	United States Forest Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey (the Nation's largest water, earth and biological science and civilian mapping agency)
USLE	Universal Soil Loss Equation
UWEX	University of Wisconsin-Extension
VTa	Vegetated Treatment Area
WAEE	Wisconsin Association of Environmental Educators
WBI	Wisconsin Buffer Initiative
WCA	Wisconsin Counties Association
WCEE	Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education
WEEB	Wisconsin Environmental Education Board
WEEF	Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation
WDA(C)P	Wildlife Damage Abatement (& Claims) Program

WLWCA	Wisconsin Land + Water Conservation Association
WFLGP	Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program
WGNHS	Wisconsin Geological & Natural History Survey
WHIP	Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
WICCI	Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts
WLCV	Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters
WLI	Working Lands Initiative
(W)LWCB	(Wisconsin) Land and Water Conservation Board
WPDES	Wastewater (Wisconsin) Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (Permit Program)
WQT	Water Quality Trading
WRP	Wetland Reserve Program
WRS	Wisconsin Retirement System
WSTC	Wisconsin State Technical Committee
WTCAC	Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
WWOA	Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association
Y&E	Youth and Education



Wood County WISCONSIN

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ZONING

TO: Conservation, Education & Economic Development Committee

FR: Jason Grueneberg, Planning & Zoning Director
Adam DeKleyn, County Planner
Paul Bernard, Land Records Coordinator
Jeff Brewbaker, Code Administrator
Scott Custer, Code Technician
Victoria Wilson, Program Assistant
Vacant, Program Assistant

RE: Staff Report for May 4, 2022

1. Economic Development (Jason Grueneberg)

Broadband Speed Testing - Wood County broadband speed testing has been enabled. The link to take the test can be found on the Wood County web home page www.co.wood.wi.us. All residents and businesses in Wood County are encouraged to take the test so that future grant requests can be focused on areas of the County that need broadband infrastructure investments. Anyone unable to take the speed test due to no broadband access is encouraged to call the Planning & Zoning Office at 715-421-8466 and staff will register the address as not having broadband access. A marketing strategy and materials are being developed and will be rolled out over the next couple of months to encourage participation in the test.

Bug Tussel Wireless Bonding – I am working with Bug Tussel Wireless on structuring bonding for broadband infrastructure improvements in rural Wood County. The improvements include tower and fixed base wireless, mid-mile fiber, and fiber to the home.

North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) – On April 28th I attended quarterly NCWRPC meeting. Agenda items included election of officers, presentation of 2021 audit, 2021 Annual Report review and adoption, an update on the Main Street Bounceback Program, and a presentation on the Green Tier Legacy Program. Next meeting will be July 27th.

2. Planning & Zoning (Adam DeKleyn)

Welcome new CEED Committee members! I want you to know that my door is always open. Come chat with me anytime to learn more about our county planning and zoning programs and functions. I also look forward to continuing to work with existing CEED members.

April 2022 was another productive month for planning and zoning. [County Plat Review](#) is steadily increasing again this spring, with CSM reviews in the double digits - many in the Town of Saratoga. I provided land use planning and zoning assistance to several municipalities and community officials. Some highlights include: Updating a draft official [Zoning Map for the Town of Auburndale](#); coordinating a community survey with the Town of Cameron; and progress on drafting an updated zoning map for the Town of Saratoga. I will have several Town rezones prepared for CEED action over the next couple of months. Our [Well-Water Systems Program](#) is

doing well...no pun intended. Another county planning project in progress is the update of the [Wood the County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan](#). The planning advisory committee met in April. The Center for Land Use Education is offering a [Spring webinar series](#) for new and continuing local officials to learn about their roles and responsibilities related to planning and zoning. Check it out! Reach out with any questions, or to discuss the above mentioned further.

3. Land Records (Paul Bernard)

- a. Parcel Mapping – Very busy time of year for this
- b. Working on standardized address maps for all municipalities except for the two larger cities
- c. Address updates
- d. Coordinating the DATAMARK VEP project that will help dispatch and land records clean up address and road centerline data
- e. Working with Highway Department to create a “Common Operating Picture” web application that ties in all of their GIS layers in a concise and clean web map.
- f. Working with Emergency Management to create a “Common Operating Picture” web application that ties in all of their GIS layers in a concise and clean web map.

4. Code Administrator (Jeff Brewbaker)

04-04-2022 – Reviewed and issued floodplain permit for replacement snowmobile bridge TN: 01

04-05-2022 – Soils evaluation & Plan review issued permit replacement mound <24 inch suitability TN: 09

04-06-2022 – Entered credits for POWTS training

04-07-2022– Spring flooding webinar with DNR

04-08-22 – Out of Office

04-10-2022– Review of cranberry reservoir plan & Issued ford floodplain permit TN : 13

04-11-2022 – Follow up on over full holding tank backing up into tub TN:21, met with Town of Saratoga regarding public access at NEPCO

04-12-2022 – Meeting with DNR and Army Corps regarding ditch maintenance

04-13-2022 – Holding tank plan review issued TN:15

04-14-2022 –Reviewed shoreland complaints

04-15-2022- Out of office

04-18-2022 – Meeting with cranberry grower regarding ditch maintenance, Saratoga SPARKS Committee meeting

04-19-2022 – WCCA Central District Meeting

04-20-2022 – Researched violations

04-21-2022 – Numerous reported violation on-sites

04-22-2022 – Soils Evaluation, Plan review, replacement mound < 24 inches suitable TN: 16

04-25-2022 – Out of office

04-26-2022- Reviewed mound plan and issued permit for new A+0 TN:15, reviewed soils evaluation for replacement mound <24 inches suitable TN:06

5. Code Technician (Scott Custer)

3-31-2022– Well permit review and approval TN-07. Assisted land owner with site plan for well permit.

4-1-2022 – Conventional permit review and approval TN-07. Property research TN-07 for septic history. Soil series review.

4-4-2022 – Inspection report X 1. Revision to conventional permit application TN-07. Renewal permit approval TN-18. Conventional permit approval and review X 4 TN-18.

4-5-2022 – Reconnect inspection TN-22. Reviewed soil reports X 2.

4-6-2022 – Well permit review and approval TN-07. Court case follow up. Reviewed pumpers failing systems reports.

4-7-2022 – Conventional inspection TN-18 X 2. Issued shoreland zoning permit TN-17. Permit revision V-27. Shoreland site inspection TN-18. Cell tower expansion proposal in shoreland review. Reviewed and approved new well permit TN-18.

4-8-2022 –Inspection report X 2. Conventional inspections X 2 TN-18.

4-11-2022 – Created maps for land Owner TN-02. Reviewed pumpers failing systems reports and old order letters. Violation investigation TN-21*. Reviewed soil reports X 2.

4-12-2022 – Ditch cleaning meeting with DNR*. Shoreland permit review and approval TN-15.

4-13-2022 – NEPCO Lake project research for SPARK meeting. Ditch cleaning discussion TN-05.

4-14-2022 – Conventional inspection TN-07. Inspection report X 1. Issued shoreland permit TN-08. Floodplain project proposal review TN-18. Mound review and approval TN-06. Conventional permit review and approval TN-07.

4-15-2022 – Good Friday - Off

4-18-2022 – Prepared presentation and map for SPARK meeting. SPARK meeting TN-18. Ditch clearing meeting TN-05.* Prepared maps for land owner TN-02. Meeting with attorney in regards to closing a 2019 court case.

4-19-2022 – Central District WCCA meeting in Adams-Friendship. Floodplain reulation meeting with Village of Biron Building Inspector.

4-20-2022 – Mound plan approval TN-16. Conventional application approval TN-07. Soil report review and approval X 2 TN-16 and TN-07. Floodplain discussion with land owner. TN-03. Town of Saratoga public access engineer contact research and report to SPARK committee.

4-21-2022 – Field visits. Shoreland violation complaint TN-17. Soil onsite TN-11. Sanitary violation investigations, Northern half of County.

4-22-2022 – Privy permit review TN-16. Well permit review and approval TN-10. Issued holding tank permit TN-10. Reviewed and organized information for inspections from yesterday. Phone meeting with well driller to review well permit application process.

4-25-2022 – Reviewed reconnect permit TN-17. Contacted Board of Adjust members about DNR request and continuing terms.

4-26-2022 – Septic maintenance card calls. BOA housekeeping and updates. Shoreland inspection TN-07.

4-27-2022 – Non-domestic wastewater research/question. Issued shoreland permit TN-07.

6. Office Activity (Victoria Wilson & Karoline Whitman)

- a. Monthly Sanitary and Well Permit Activity – There were twenty-one sanitary permits and three well permits issued in April 2022.
- b. 2022 Tax Refund Intercept Program (TRIP) – As of April 27, 2022, Wood County received an additional payment of \$831.00 on two outstanding court cases.
- c. 2022 Septic Maintenance Notices – 3011 notices were sent to Wood County residents to advise them that their septic system is due for service. The due date this year is Friday August 12, 2022. The notices include all system types as well as holding tanks and farmer exempt properties.
- d. ArcGIS Pro Software Project – Victoria continues to work on projects from Land Records Officer. Currently adding Point of Interest points to GIS.

- e. Court Case Activity – All court cases for 2021 have been settled.
- f. Staff - Karoline Whitman joined our office as a Program Assistant on Monday April 11, 2022. Office staff is working on training our new team member.
- g. Attended the following meetings/trainings & activities:
 - i. Citizens Groundwater Group April 18, 2022

CITIZENS (WOOD COUNTY) GROUNDWATER GROUP MEETING

DATE: Monday, April 18, 2022
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Conference Room 114-Wood County Courthouse & Teleconference via WebEx

Present: Bill Clendenning, Gordon Gottbeheut, Ben Jeffrey, Bill Leichtnam, Cecile Stelzer-Johnson, Rhonda Carrell, Scott Bordeaux, Lisa Anderson, Robert Sorenson, Joseph Zurfluh, Dave Joosten, Ray Bossert, John Endrizzi, Ken Winters, Kari Whitman, Adam Voskuil, Andrea Gelatt

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Bill Leichtnam called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
2. **Public Comment:** None.
3. **Speakers – Adam Voskuil & Andrea Gelatt (Staff Attorney & Senior Staff attorney at Midwest Environmental Advocates: MEA): “New Report Finds Water Pollution Would Likely Worsen...” from Feb. 14 Press Release:**

Bill Leichtnam read part of the press release: “MADISON, WI— A new report by the Environmental Working Group (EWG) and Midwest Environmental Advocates (MEA) finds that in some areas of the state, including Kewaunee County and portions of the Central Sands, there is not enough agricultural land to safely dispose of the manure generated by animal feeding operations. The report raises concerns about the potential expansion of industrial-scale livestock operations in areas that are already grappling with drinking water pollution. Using aerial imagery and publicly available data, EWG and MEA modeled current rates of application for commercial fertilizer and animal manure in nine Wisconsin counties. The analysis, which is the first of its kind in Wisconsin, shows that fertilizer and manure are being applied to farmland at rates that far exceed what is needed by crops growing in the surrounding area.”

- Adam and Andrea, as employees of MEA, a non-profit law center based in Madison, WI that works throughout Wisconsin to combine the power of the law with the result of communities facing environmental injustice to secure and protect the rights of all people to healthy water, land and air. Specifically MEA has a long history of working on issues of concentrated animal feeding operations, commonly referred to as CAFOs.
 - Over the last few decades, we have seen a significant shift in the state towards consolidation and having smaller farms and more CAFOs. At this time there are 328 permitted CAFOs in the state.
 - Permitted CAFOs must have a nutrient management plan. The plan only minimizes the transport of nutrients or contaminants to groundwater. The CAFOs are much more focused on maximizing yield and as a result, we are seeing consistent water contamination resulting from these agricultural sources.
 - Adam went on to explain statewide efforts have been made at regulating the spread of manure to the ground surface in an attempt to alleviate groundwater contamination. Some of the efforts have recently failed. As a result, we are seeing an accumulation of ground water pollution across the state.
 - Adam and Andrea further shared a power point outlining MEA's efforts to minimize ground water pollution from CAFOs in Wisconsin.
 - For more information on MEA please see the website: midwestadvocates.org
4. **Correspondence/Updates/Handouts/Reports on Meetings Attended:**
 - a. Lisa Anderson share a link for an upcoming public hearing:
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/calendar/hearing/55881>

- b. Bill shared an email he received from Water Keepers Alliance. Water Keepers Alliance is a global movement that spans continents and hemispheres. They are demanding drinkable, fishable and swimmable waters. They are making progress.
 - c. Bill shared a news report from WAOW: https://www.waow.com/news/portage-county-farm-accused-of-water-pollution/article_801a7cce-bb7a-11ec-9576-0b6da25bbc96.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share
 - d. Cecile attended the 2022 Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers convention in Stevens Point.
5. **“Action Items” proposed to CEED Committee by Wood County CGG:** None
6. **Roundtable**
No roundtable discussion
7. **Announcements by members / visitors (upcoming related events / meetings)**
None
8. **Future Speakers:** Please contact Bill Leichtnam or Bruce Dimick with any suggestions for future speakers.
May-Ben Jeffrey, Wood Co. Health Dept., Environmental Health Officer
June-Ray Bossert, Village Administrator-Port Edwards
9. **Agenda Items for next meeting:**
Agenda items should be submitted to Bill Leichtnam by the second Monday of the month.
10. **Next Meeting:** Meetings will be the third Monday of each month @ 2:00 p.m.

The next regular Citizens (Wood County) Groundwater Group meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 16th at 2:00 p.m. This will be an in person and virtual WebEx meeting.
11. **Adjourn Groundwater Group Meeting:**

Bill Leichtnam declared the meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.
--

Notes by Victoria Wilson, Planning & Zoning Office



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
WOOD COUNTY



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Table of Contents

Extension	3
Agriculture	4
Cranberries	6
Horticulture.....	8
Community Development	10
Health & Well-Being	12
Human Development & Relationships	14
Natural Resources	16
Wisconsin 4-H	18

University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension Wood County

400 Market Street | Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

715.421.8440 | wood.extension.wisc.edu

UW-MADISON EXTENSION

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES *with* THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Agriculture & Horticulture »

Our network of researchers, outreach specialists, and local educators are on the leading edge of creating practical solutions for livestock and crop production in addition to farm and labor management. We provide customized guidance, business planning assistance, and industry knowledge for what today's agricultural operators are facing.

Community & Economic Development »

Businesses, governments, and organizations succeed through development from Extension educators and specialists. We provide education for elected officials to understand their roles and responsibilities in helping communities thrive. We offer businesses the direct technical assistance and connection to support structures they need to help them succeed. Our rural entrepreneurship program identifies ways for businesses to overcome challenges and take advantage of unique opportunities.

Health & Well-Being »

We're supporting positive change for families through physical and mental health programs in addition to structural improvements needed to make the healthy choice the easy choice. Our physical fitness classes and mental health training equips people with the tools they need to lead healthy, active lives. We provide public health resources and tools for community action. We provide guidance on systems changes for food security and food access.

Families & Finances »

Reinforcing family connections, financial knowledge, and strong relationships is at the heart of Extension's programming. We support learning and emotional bonding by building literacy skills in justice-involved families. We guide community and individual development across lifespans. We teach financial security through rent planning and budget management.

Natural Resources & Conservation »

We work at the crossroads of communities, natural resources, and agriculture to protect our environmental assets and guide resource management. We support individual and regional water-well testing along with education to address safe drinking water. We educate farmers, businesses, and communities on safe practices to ensure access to plentiful, sustainably managed sources of food, water, and energy.

Positive Youth Development & 4-H »

Community-led 4-H programs deliver quality activities and leadership opportunities that are leading to engaged, energized, and informed young people across the state. 4-H is a movement — in Wisconsin, 98% of our 4-H members are inspired to make positive changes in their communities. They're developing leadership skills, building connections, and finding what topics spark their interest.



Agriculture

Matt Lippert, Agriculture Educator

Forage Production Important for Wood County Farm Profitability

In 2021, due to low production margins, agriculture programming focused on efficient forage production, feed management and alternative forage crops. For the first half of the year programming was virtual and in collaboration with other Extension educators statewide. During the fall and winter, programming continued virtually with the addition of some outdoor activities.

During the year, Matt focused on alternative forages (eg., winter annuals such as rye and triticale or a variety of summer annuals, cocktail mixes of legumes, warm and cool season grasses) as well as improving production from traditional forages such as corn silage.

Data was collected locally as part of a state-wide collaboration to establish potential yields, quality and cow performance on winter forage and summer cocktails. Zoom webinars on these topics were presented, articles in state magazines, and fact sheets on the Extension Topic Hub are still being completed as this effort is ongoing.

A pasture walk was held and focused on improved forage quality in pastures utilizing interseeded annuals and legumes to improve established pastures. Not only do these methods improve pasture quality and yield but there are conservation benefits of an improved, denser pasture sward. We collaborated with Land and Water Conservation department to promote the availability of a quality no-till drill available through their office.

In addition to the forage quality emphasis there were other activities related to agricultural production. An online training for Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) workers was held with 96 attendees. The training helped workers understand the terminology and life experience of dairy farmers so that they may better develop assistance for disabled dairy farmers.

In July 2021, a webinar series, “Heart of the Farm Coffee Chats”, for women in agriculture was held. Members learned about a successful farm business that offers a full range of dairy products, from pasteurized milks and creams, to kefir (liquid yogurt), ground beef, ice cream, local butter, and an extensive line of cheese. This program was designed to help mitigate social isolation due to COVID-19 through connecting with other participants.





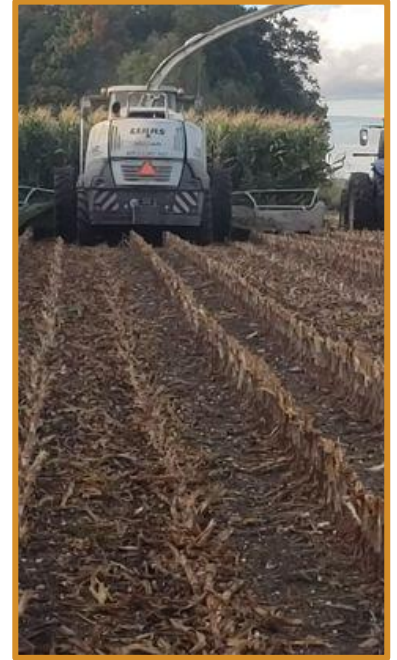
Agriculture

Youth Dairy and Livestock Programs are Back

A recognition/scholarship program was organized to recognize local high school seniors for their leadership and skills development in agriculture. The Outstanding Senior program is intended to encourage youth to consider a career in agriculture and complete education/training in the field. This program was held with Marshfield Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

A program for youth involved with dairy projects (quiz bowl) was held where they learn about dairy cattle and their management and prepare them for a possible future career involving dairy production.

Matt Lippert also worked with local farmers to provide cattle for a dairy judging event, Area Animal Science Day, to be held in Marathon County for 4-H youth across the state. Youth learn about dairy animals and gain practice in decision making and evaluation. This was a special effort as the pandemic had shut this program down for two years.



Corn silage harvest.

Partnerships, Webinars and Articles Extend Our Reach

Matt Lippert participated in a group that offered a webinar for farm owners/operators, herd managers, calf managers and feeders, employees, and agri-business professionals where they learned the latest research in calf and heifer growth development to increase their awareness of the importance of pre-weaned calf rumen development and heifer maturity post-weaning and the impact it has on overall heifer health and productivity.

Milk quality was stressed at a discussion at the virtual Mid State Technical College spring farm tour where participants learned about successful mastitis management and specifics of how these factors are applied at the Marshfield Agricultural Research Station. Mastitis is one of the largest health management issues for dairy farmers and affects milk quality payments for their milk, longevity of cows in the herd, humane treatment of cattle, overall milk production, drug use, hygiene, and worker environment.

Matt also wrote an article for farmers reading the local Extension agriculture newsletter and a statewide agricultural newspaper about the value for dairy producers of participating in the Dairy Margin Coverage Program from USDA-Farm Service Agency. The goal is to encourage producers to participate in this risk management program by helping them see the value for them in participation.

Moving away from livestock and dairy production, a soil health demonstration for farmers was used to show how management affects the microbial activity in decomposing organic matter and overall soil sustainability. The goal of the demonstration was to help farmers visualize the differences in soil activity and for them to understand the importance of soil health. This program involved area county Farm Bureau organizations.

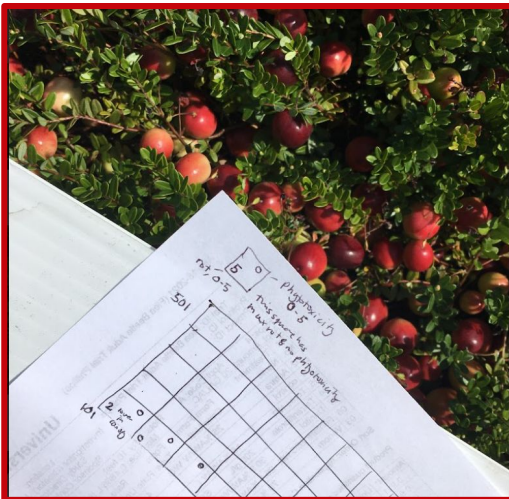


Cranberries

Allison Jonjak, Cranberry Outreach Specialist

Cranberry Outreach Specialist Programs Grow in 2nd year

Wood County is the top cranberry-producing county in North America, so it is a natural fit to have Cranberry Outreach Specialist Allison Jonjak locally based. In her second year with Extension, her role is to keep a tight feedback loop between cranberry growers in all 18 counties, and cranberry researchers at UW-Madison. Her efforts combine education, outreach, and field trials to keep Wisconsin's cranberry best-in-the-world.



Phytotoxicity evaluations during a fungicide screening trial in August 2021.



Soil Health pilot sampling at a cranberry marsh in City Point.

SUPPORTING WISCONSIN CRANBERRY GROWERS

502

Copies of the Cranberry Crop Management Journal were distributed bi-weekly April through September

578

Attended Virtual Cranberry Educational Events

1060+

Viewed Virtual Cranberry Video Interviews



Cranberries

Virtual and In Person Outreach

After an entirely virtual 2020, growers requested to keep up the frequency of meetings that was able to be established thanks to Zoom, while returning to having larger cornerstone meetings (such as the Summer Field Day) in person to maintain networking. This “best of both worlds” allows timely programming that growers don’t need to travel to learn from, while still keeping face to face relationships flourishing.

Virtual programming has included monthly Virtual Brown Bags, Virtual Spring Mini-Clinic, and several Wisconsin Cranberry Research and Education Foundation meetings. The Cranberry Crop Management Journal continues in its regular emailed delivery. In-person programming has included the 2021 Summer Field Day, the Research Round Table, as well as several site visits, nutrient management planning trainings and pesticide applicator trainings, and field trials.

A highlight of the 2021 outreach year was the Research Round Table. While this meeting generally gives growers a forum to discuss their biggest tactical issues so that researchers can plan projects that address the most pressing concerns, this year the scope expanded. The morning served the classic purpose of acute questions and tactical process clarification, and the afternoon was spent in groups of 8, discussing the most important unmet needs for the cranberry industry in the coming 20 years. These strategic needs were compiled and will be used to guide future hiring (on behalf of WSCGA as well as UW-Madison and USDA), along with program development.

Despite the 2021 crop producing a below-average number of barrels, the cranberry industry remains strong, and grateful in their partnership with Wood County and UW-Madison Division of Extension for the community-building, agronomic information supplying, and boots-on-the-ground field research that the Cranberry Outreach Specialist program provides.



Cranberry Summer Field Day Mini-Clinics on a cranberry marsh in Cranmoor.



Pesticide Applicator Training at Wood County River Block, attended by 56 cranberry growers.



Community Development

Nancy Turyk, Community Development Educator

Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition Initiates Project to Inform Groundwater Management

In recent years, Nancy Turyk has provided support for the six-county Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition (CSGCC).

Through unanimous support by all of the county boards, these counties came together to develop a common approach for the improvement and protection of groundwater/drinking water for the health of residents, visitors, and local aquatic ecosystems.

During this time, Turyk helped the group develop a list of actions and resources needed to implement better groundwater/drinking water management and sampling strategies. The CSGCC recognized that decades of water quality and other data have been collected, many studies have been conducted, and groundwater models have been developed, yet the information had never been packaged together in a meaningful way for use by county staff.

To obtain the time of a qualified professional hydrogeologist to help with this effort, Turyk worked with others in the CSGCC to develop a proposal which was successfully funded by Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP). Using these funds, Dr. Carla Romano, a post-doctoral research assistant was hired to assist with the compilation, assessment and interpretation of existing nitrate and neonicotinoids (a type of pesticide) well water data in the Central Sands region of the state. Dr. Romano began working on the project in early September 2021. Over the next 14 months, Dr. Romano will meet with county, state, and federal staff to compile the existing information. Periodically, public outreach will occur to obtain input and share information.

In the CSGCC, Wood County is represented by Bill Leichtnam (County Board Supervisor), Sue Smith (Health Department Director), Rachael Whitehair (Extension Natural Resource Educator and Shane Wucherpennig (County Conservationist).

CLEAN SWEEP HIGHLIGHTS

9,777

Pounds of household materials collected

882

Pounds of agricultural materials collected

200

Vehicles participated in the event

Clean Sweep is an annual event for Wood County residents to safely dispose of hazardous waste. The purpose of this effort is to keep items out of local water sources in order to ensure a healthier community.



Community Development

Wood County Rural Economic Development Plan

Over the last year and a half, Community Development Educator, Nancy Turyk, worked with Wood County staff and supervisors along with numerous county organizations and individuals to develop Wood County's first-ever Economic Development Plan. After unanimous approval by the Wood County Board in early April, the Economic Development Plan will now act as a guiding document for the county with clear economic development priorities to be executed over the next five years. The collaborative process used during the development of the plan has facilitated connections and coordination among key individuals and organizations within the county. These connections will undoubtedly help efforts to grow the regional economy and strengthen the quality of place in Central Wisconsin.

The plan focuses on initiatives for bettering the quality of life and economic development. They include:

Establishing Wood County as a vibrant and diverse community to live, grow, work, and play by:

- Ensuring robust technology infrastructure exists throughout the county for residents and businesses. Includes broadband, internet, and cell coverage.
- Developing a plan to address the housing needs throughout Wood County.
- Developing a branding strategy to let others know that Wood County is a vibrant and diverse community to live, grow, work, and play.
- Supporting Central Place initiatives to provide one site that promotes arts, cultural assets, and entertainment in Wood County.
- Developing a combined countywide outdoor recreational trail/boat access/beach map to increase use and attract tourists and new residents.

Developing a diverse and sustainable economy in Wood County by:

- Establishing an entrepreneurial "ecosystem" in Wood County.
- Transforming the economic development network to a collaboration economic development group.

Complementary Initiatives

- Implementation of the following initiatives were identified to be critical to successful economic development in Wood County but will be led by the County independent of the REDI planning team.
- Update the Wood County Comprehensive Plan.
- Improve health outcomes by complimenting the Wood County Health Improvement Plan.
- Improve health, equity, and resilience and reduce expenses by implementing the Wood County Energy Plan

This effort was funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development and supported by Purdue University's Center for Regional Development & Extension Community Development and economic development specialists at the UW-Madison Division of Extension.



Horticulture

Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator

Wisconsin is facing many environmental challenges due to over use of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments (USFWS, 2000, Meftaul et al. 2020, DATCP, n.d.(b)). Proper pest management techniques can lead to less fertilizer and pesticide use (UW-Madison, n.d.) leading to reduced likelihood for environmental contamination and pollution (UGA, 2020). As Wisconsinites' become more aware and knowledgeable of how to reduce overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments, it is likely that some people will adopt practices that reduce pollution. Overtime, sustained reductions of environmental contamination and pollution will improve aquatic and terrestrial ecological functioning in the environment.

Foundations in Horticulture

Horticulture educator, Janell Wehr, with a team of Extension educators, implemented the online Foundations in Horticulture (FIH) course during the fall of 2021. This was the second year FIH was offered. Statewide, 385 participants learned fundamental knowledge of Wisconsin horticulture with an emphasis in Integrated Pest Management (IPM). At the end of the course, nearly 99% of respondents self-reported that they will change how they garden in the coming year from previous years because of something learned in FIH.

In September of 2021, a follow-up survey was sent to the course participants from 2020 to assess the impact of FIH. 88% of respondents stated they had changed how they gardened because of what they learned in FIH. In particular, students indicated changes in their decision-making in the areas of plant selection, soil fertility, and pest (insect, disease, and weed) management.

Survey respondents also indicated changes to where they find gardening information, increasing use of University/Extension sources by nearly 87%. Respondents' comments included that they would plant more pollinator-friendly plants, will use IPM strategies to manage insects and diseases, and will use fertilizers differently to meet the needs of specific plants.

HORTICULTURE OUTREACH BY THE NUMBERS

22

Virtual Outreach Programs

416

Total Participants

81%

of participants in Managing Weeds in the Garden stated they would change at least one gardening technique

90%

of participants in Growing Veggies in Small Spaces understood key factors when choosing cultivars



Horticulture

Adult Outreach Programs

To meet the educational needs of local communities, Horticulture Educator Janell Wehr developed free, virtual outreach programs designed to reach novice and experienced gardeners alike. The following are examples of the 22 virtual programs delivered.

In **Planting the Vegetable Garden**, participants learned sound planting techniques for seeds and transplants. *Participants stated as a result of the program, they were more confident in their ability to direct sow seeds in their gardens.* 28 participants/ 2 programs

In **Managing Weeds in the Garden**, 74% of participants reported as a result of the program, they understood how to use cultural and mechanical weed management techniques. *81% of the participants reported that they would change at least one gardening technique going forward and 78% of participants stated they understood appropriate methods to manage annual and perennial weeds as a result of the program.* 42 participants /2 programs

In **Growing Veggies in Small Spaces**, participants learned how to choose cultivars for gardening in small spaces, general intensive gardening techniques, and were introduced to basic concepts of square foot, straw bale, and vertical gardening. As a result of the program, *90% of participants reported they understood key factors to keep in mind when choosing cultivars, and 100% reported they now understood how to appropriately water container plants. 100% of participants also reported they would change at least one aspect of their gardening techniques going forward.* 13 participants/2 programs



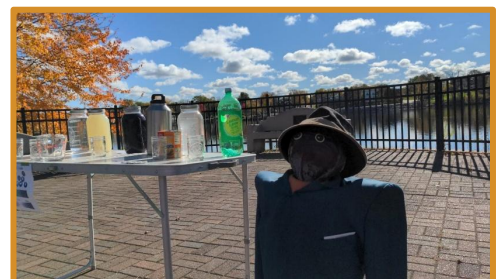
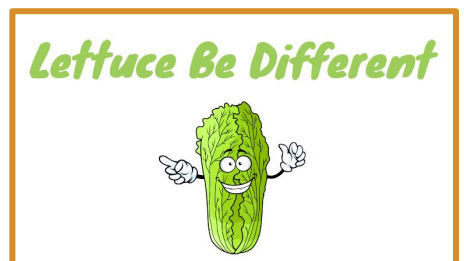
Youth Outreach Programs

- **Lettuce Be Different**

Wood County 4-H Youth learned the importance of variation within plant species and compared different types of lettuce plants.

- **Inspector Cabbage and the Big Reveal at Science by the River Festival**

A demonstration booth was available for the general public and families. Janell worked to cultivate curiosity and science literacy by demonstrating cabbage juice as a pH indicator.





Health & Well-Being

Kelly Hammond, Program Coordinator; Hannah Wendels, Nutrition Educator

StrongBodies Successfully Brought Back to Wood County

To kick off the fall education season, FoodWise partnered with the South Wood County YMCA to bring the StrongBodies program back to Wood County.

StrongBodies is a series of classes that include regular strength training exercises to improve strength, balance, and flexibility so participants can stay healthy and socially connected.

A few years ago, StrongBodies had a major presence in the community when classes were held in Wisconsin Rapids.

After years of success the program took a break. Upon my hire in 2019, it was a goal to build relationships and find a space to hold these classes again. After many community conversations, we were able to plan a StrongBodies class, held from September through November. We had a wonderful turnout where participants reported having improved strength and balance and learned about their nutrition and healthy eating habits. We already have a series planned for spring 2022 due to the high demand of wanting to continue the program!



Wendels with StrongBodies class participants

First Ever Stockbox Program in Wood County

Wood County held its first successful Stockbox program in November 2021, with additional monthly distributions scheduled for the entire 2022 year!

Stockbox, also known as the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, provides a free 30 pound. box of supplementary healthy and nutritious food to low-income seniors every month. In early fall of 2021, Extension/FoodWise, the Wood County Hunger Coalition, South Wood Emerging Pantry Shelf (SWEPS), and the ADRC of Central Wisconsin met with the Hunger Task Force, who provides the stockboxes, to share what the program is all about. After discussing the logistics as a team of local partners, we decided this was a great fit for our community and the need to provide healthy and nutritious food to low-income seniors is here. We wanted to take action and pilot this program in Wood County - one of the first northern counties in Wisconsin - to lead the way for our surrounding counties to do the same.



Health & Well-Being

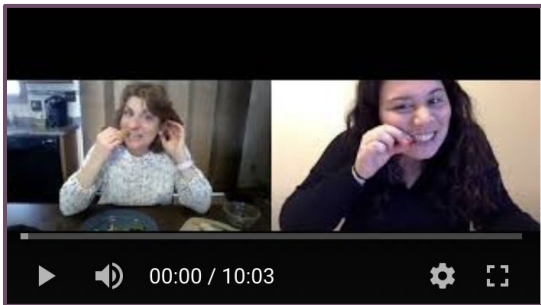
At our first distribution in November, we had 70 people receive a box of food, free of charge, to take home with them to supplement their own groceries or make healthy meals with the items provided in the box.

Bringing programs like Stockbox to Wood County is so important. By providing healthy, shelf-stable foods to low-income seniors, we can all work to improve the health status of these individuals in Wood County.



An example of items included in a Stockbox

Return of In-Person Nutrition Education in the Classroom



Wendels and Penny Schmitt, Portage County FoodWise Educator, providing a virtual nutrition lesson

In-person nutrition education in the classroom was brought back during the summer and fall of 2021! FoodWise Nutrition Educator Hannah Wendels provided 2 5-week series of nutrition education in-person in the 5th grade classrooms at Grove and Howe elementary schools. Wendels also provided a 5-week virtual series to our other school partner, Mead Elementary. She had conversations with each building's principal and 5th grade teacher to determine how FoodWise and Extension could support

them this academic year. Our FoodWise team took the time over the entire course of this pandemic to provide multiple options to the schools based on their needs and what their situation was like at any given point in time. FoodWise provided in-person lessons, virtual interactive lessons, and prepared virtual indirect education lessons to be available at the ready for whatever they decided.

Throughout all of 2021, FoodWise reached students in the classroom from preschool to fifth grade and reached additional youth and teens through cooking classes with the after-school program at the Wisconsin Rapids Area Boys and Girls Club.



UW-MADISON EXTENSION
WOOD COUNTY



Human Development & Relationships

Jackie Carattini, Human Development & Relationships Educator

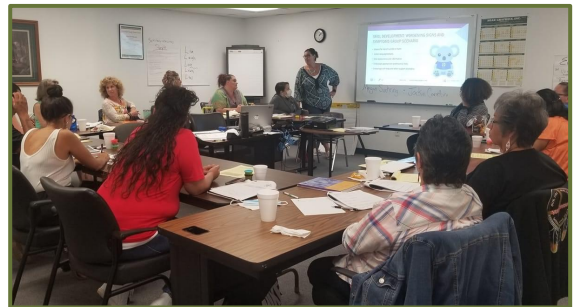
Boosting Skills for Service Providers

Extension supports Wood County and Central Wisconsin community service providers in helping their clients set and achieve financial goals, build emergency funds, effectively manage credit, pay down debt and maximize income.

Financial Training

One in three Wisconsinites is struggling to afford necessities such as housing, food, clothing and transportation. Across our state close to 600,000 people live below the federal poverty level and an additional 1.3 million Wisconsinites live in a household that struggles to cover basic household expenses. Locally, 32% of Wood County households are considered ALICE households. ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed. The ALICE Report is a means to define and understand the individuals and families working hard but not earning enough to afford basic living needs. Many individuals and families turn to social service agencies for public assistance and other forms of support. This puts social workers, case managers and other helping professionals on the frontlines of supporting Wisconsin's most vulnerable populations. When they meet with clients, they often have teachable moments during which they can add discussions on critical financial topics. However, these professionals don't typically receive training on financial coaching or education.

In response, Extension developed and delivered a variety of training programs for professionals who address poverty in their work. The recently created Encouraging Financial Conversations (EFC) program is a six-session course providing those in helping professions with tools and resources to coach their clients on financial problem solving, goal setting, spending plans, saving, building credit and managing debt, maximizing income and protecting themselves from scams, fraud, and identity theft.



Participants in Carattini's EFC program

Through the EFC course, participants showed statistically significant improvements across several outcome areas. They felt more comfortable working with clients on financial matters: they were more prepared to bring up a financial topic with their clients, and they understood the role they can take in working with clients on financial concerns. About one third of the participants reported that they spend more time working with clients on financial topics than they did before the course.



Human Development & Relationships

Many EFC participants also took Extension's Rent Smart train-the-trainer courses. Rent Smart is a six-module course that helps those with blemished rental histories find and keep safe and affordable housing. Train-the-trainer curricula provided case managers with skills and resources to help their clients secure housing. Helping professionals who work with children and their parents also participated in Money as You Grow, another train-the-trainer course in which they learned how to use guides that accompany 29 money-themed children's books highlighting sound money management skills.

Positive Coping Strategies to Reduce Stress

Stress is a part of daily life, but when we face continuous challenges without relief or relaxation between those stressors, stress can become chronic and toxic. The effects of stress can lead to physical and emotional diseases, causing a burden on our health care system as well as personal problems that can otherwise be avoided if we can learn better stress management. While the pandemic had a substantial IMPACT ON ALL Americans, for some the impact has been more negative than others.

In response, Extension taught a variety of stress management techniques and mindfulness to adults, adolescents, and those in helping professions. In Wood County our courses "WeCOPE", "Highlights of Taking Care of You", and "Learning to Breathe" taught skills that increase positive emotion, helped participants recognize emotions and helped them develop healthy coping skills for dealing with stress. All three curricula were aimed at making participants more aware of the mind-body connection and helped them better regulate their emotions as a means of better managing and reducing stress and promoting well-being. The Wood County Human Development and Relationships educator provided those in helping professions with the tools they need to create positive coping strategies.

Participants responded that we helped them learn more about how stress affects their body, thoughts, and emotions, and how using different coping strategies can help them cope with stress. They also reported that by using the various coping strategies and skills they learned through these programs they were better able to cope with stress. Participants in the WeCOPE program reported practicing a variety of skills more frequently; 89% of participants reported that the skills they learned during the program helped them cope with stress.



Natural Resources

Rachael Whitehair, Regional Natural Resource Educator

Supporting Central Wisconsin Communities with A Watershed Approach

Central Wisconsin communities continue to face surface and groundwater quality challenges due to a combination of current land use practices and geologic characteristics of the landscape. An effective method to addressing soil, water, and habitat concerns is the use of a watershed approach. The watershed approach is a framework for managing natural resources that focuses on building capacity among public and private stakeholder efforts to address the specific resource concerns affecting communities.

The outcomes highlighted to the right are the result of Extension's support of watershed group efforts that took place in 2021 throughout the Central Basin of the Wisconsin River. These watershed groups are both community and farmer-led by nature. They consist of a volunteer-based membership and a group-appointed advisory structure. Extension's role is to support these groups in the development of their vision and mission and facilitate progress toward soil and water quality goals.

Science By The River: A Wisconsin Rapids Science Festival

New to Wood County, Science By The River was an interactive, STEM-focused experience for the community of Wisconsin Rapids and surrounding areas. This single day event featured an educational walking trail along the River Walk with 6 interactive STEM-focused stations and 4 water-focused tap talks throughout the day at B's Taphouse.

23

watershed events throughout the Central Sands Region - focusing on soil and water quality and education regarding conservation-based agricultural practices - with planning and facilitation assistance from Extension

19

Natural Resource-focused presentations given throughout the year

4

Ongoing farmer led or watershed group partnerships

12

Ongoing partnerships/projects actively supported in the Central Sands Region

235

Youth and adults reached through Natural Resource presentations



Natural Resources

Designed to increase interest in science-based education and discovery learning amongst families and youth, there were over 100 participants at this year's event. This event was facilitated by Extension in partnership with the Wisconsin Rapids Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, McMillan Library, Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools, George Mead and Sandhill Wildlife Areas, Wisconsin DNR, B's Taphouse, and the South Wood County Historical Museum.

Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative

The CSGCC is a six-county collaborative including Adams, Juneau, Marquette, Portage, Waushara, and Wood. The CSGCC is working to address the current and emerging human and environmental health challenges of groundwater management in this region. Beginning in 2020, the CSGCC received funding from DATCP to conduct a groundwater quality gap analysis. Project objectives are to: understand current groundwater conditions by evaluating existing data and reports; identify areas where data exists and is missing; develop a sampling strategy to collect water quality information across the counties in the Central Sands region; and develop strategies to inform residents using private well water about the need for routine drinking water testing and what to do if water test results are unsafe for consumption. Extension led development of the outreach plan and serves as a key member of the communications committee to ensure stakeholders are well informed of project reports and outcomes.



Visit the [WGNHS Projects Website](#) or the [CSGCC Landing Page](#) to learn more about the project.

Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo

The Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo is a revival of the 'Healthy Soil, Healthy Water' workshops held in 2016 through 2018. The planning committee is made up of farmers, university staff, watershed group representatives, agency staff and agricultural and natural resource specialists. This ongoing event helps to address specific barriers Central Wisconsin farmers are experiencing when it comes to achieving financial stability and weather resiliency through the adoption of Best Management Practices. Extension heads this effort as facilitator, speaker coordinator, and event host. The 2021 event featured a virtual winter learning series of seven presentations given by local agriculture and natural resource specialists with 506 registrants.

To access recorded learning series sessions, visit the YouTube channel at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvn_JGp2Myt1HZ_i8J-OQ



Wisconsin 4-H

Laura Huber, 4-H Program Educator

4-H and the Seven Seas Summer Camp

Summer camp is an experience during which youth make new friends, explore their world, and try new experiences in a safe and supportive place. For older youth, summer camp



One group of campers

is an experience that allows them to build their leadership and work readiness skills as camp counselors. Wood County 4-H was determined to make a safe and meaningful camp option available in 2021.

Wood County 4-H joined Clark and Marathon 4-H'ers to offer a series of day camps at North Wood County Park in July 2021. Campers enjoyed traditional camp activities like arts & crafts, canoeing, water exploration, and teambuilding group games.

Here's what some campers said was the most important thing they learned at camp:

- "That I can make new friends"
- "Be yourself"
- "To appreciate the environment more and to just let go and have fun."
- "Not to panic in rain"

Counselors said these are the most important lessons they learned:

- "Stay positive no matter what."
- "How to be a good counselor. I know how to lead groups, stay on task, and be fun but safe."
- "How to be a good leader and role model."

Summer camp 2021 was an AWESOME experience enjoyed by 97 campers, 15 counselors, 5 adult volunteers, and 3 Extension staff!

521

youth members in grades K-13

112

adult volunteers

15

4-H clubs

3

project-based 4-H groups

8042.5

Hours of volunteer service

\$229,532.95

Value of volunteer time*



UW-MADISON EXTENSION
WOOD COUNTY

*https://independentsector.org/resource/vovt_state_2021/



Youth-Adult Partnership Training and Development

Laura Huber, Wood County 4-H Program Educator, focused on the importance of strong Youth-Adult Partnership in 2021.

4-H takes a learn-by-doing approach. What does that mean? You might call it hands-on learning or experiential learning. Experiential learning focuses on the learning *process*, not on getting the “right” answer. It includes **doing** the thing, **reflecting** on what was done, and **applying** the lessons learned in broader context.

Caring adult volunteers are a critically important part of experiential learning. They support and encourage young people throughout the learning process. Adults identify the strengths of young people and challenge youth to step out of their comfort zones. As youth build experience, they are encouraged to take on more responsibility and greater leadership. Youth and adults form a team to help youth become the best they can be. This teamwork is called Youth-Adult Partnership.

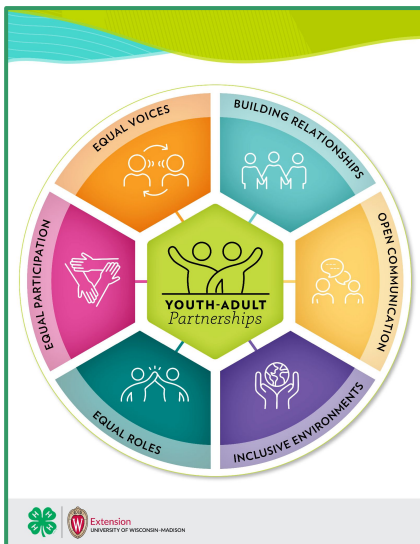


Participants in 4-H Leadership Day

Youth-Adult Partnership can be hard to achieve. On December 4, Huber hosted 4-H Leadership Day.

Youth and adults joined forces to learn how to make their 4-H clubs the best that they can be. Lessons included putting the FUN in 4-H, using curriculum for education, and training leaders their responsibilities. Youth led several activities and did a great job demonstrating how capable young people are!

Huber also helped plan and lead a statewide training called Learn Together: Lead Together Youth-Adult Partnership. This training was held virtually in November with over 300 attendees. These attendees learned how to develop trusting relationships, how to overcome barriers, and how to make small changes to have big impacts on local 4-H experiences.



Youth-Adult Partnership Model

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

www.extension.wisc.edu | info@extension.wisc.edu