

AGENDA
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, April 3, 2024

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Wood County Courthouse – Room 114

1. Call meeting to order
2. Declaration of Quorum
3. Public Comments (*brief comments/statement regarding committee business*)
4. Review Correspondence.
5. Consent Agenda.
 - a. Approve minutes of previous meetings
 - b. Approve bills
 - c. Receive staff activity reports
 - d. Receive committee reports
6. Review items, if any, pulled from Consent Agenda.
7. Risk and Injury Report
8. Extension
 - a. General Office Update
9. Land & Water Conservation Department
 - a. Land & Water 2023 Annual Report
 - b. Review and approve Bauer waste transfer system project (bids)
 - c. Review and approve Slattery waste facility closure project (bids)
 - d. Discuss Land & Water Resource Management Plan re-write 2024
 - e. Discuss Farmland Preservation Plan re-write 2025 and Planning Grant
 - f. Summer internship for 2025 Budget
10. Private Sewage
11. Land Records
12. County Surveyor
13. Planning & Zoning
14. Economic Development
 - a. Update from Wood County Health Department for release of 2024 Economic Development Grant for the Bike Share Program.
 - b. Consider release of REDI implementation funds for UW-Extension “Homegrown: Entrepreneurship in Your Community” training.
 - c. Review Economic Development Grant application
15. Requests for per diem for meeting attendants
16. Schedule next regular committee meeting
17. Agenda items for next meeting
18. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary
19. Adjourn

Join by phone

+1-408-418-9388 United States Toll
Meeting number (access code): 2488 051 5162

Join by WebEx App or Web

<https://woodcountywi.webex.com/woodcountywi/j.php?MTID=mef6512059cee2ab243f06add5c8e721e>

Meeting number (access code): 2488 051 5162
Meeting password: 040324

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 6, 2024

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: Courthouse – Room 114

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Leichtnam, Dave LaFontaine, Jake Hahn (WebEx), Tom Buttke

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Laura Valenstein, Joe Behlen

OTHERS PRESENT: Katie DeKleyn, Deputy County Clerk/Program Assistant; See attached sign-in list

1. Chairman Leichtnam called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM and declared a quorum present.
2. There was no public comment.
3. The minutes of the previous February 7th, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Motion by LaFontaine/Buttke to approve them as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Motion by LaFontaine/Buttke to approve the vouchers, monthly department reports and committee reports. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Jeffrey Gaier, from the Marshfield Municipal Airport provided an update. Motion by LaFontaine/Buttke to release \$15,000 of funds from the 2024 Economic Development Grant to the Marshfield Municipal Airport. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Grueneberg discussed the resolution to authorize staff to apply for Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Idle Sites Redevelopment grant funding for the former Vesper Elementary School. Sherry Stompa answered questions pertaining to the project. Motion by Buttke/LaFontaine to authorize staff to apply for Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Idle Sites Redevelopment grant funding, for the former Vesper Elementary School, as well as development agreement. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Grueneberg discussed an expected audit fee for the former Vesper Elementary School project. Motion by LaFontaine/Buttke to cover the audit fees from the REDI Implementation Funds. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Solin provided an Extension office update:
 - a. The Bilingual Community Health Educator position has been filled with an expected start date of April 1st, 2024.
 - b. Office space updates were reviewed.
 - c. The 2023 Annual Report was reviewed.

9. Wucherpennig provided an update, through Chairman Leichtnam, due to his absence from the meeting and will be discussed at a future meeting: A re-write of the Land and Water Plan is coming due this year. This re-write is due every ten years. A re-write of the Farmland Preservation Plan will also be coming due in 2025. A \$28,000 grant will be requested for this.
10. Grueneberg provided a staffing update: Bradley Cook, the former Code Technician, is now the Code Administrator.
11. Grueneberg reviewed the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, and encouraged those in attendance to view the goals and objectives, as they align well with the REDI Implementation Plan.
12. The committee, along with Grueneberg and Rombalski, reviewed the application for economic development grants for 2025. Suggestions were made to staff for improvements to the application form. They will be incorporated into a final document and will be presented at the next meeting.
13. Discussion was held for a per diem request for CEED Committee Supervisors to attend the Future of Clean Drinking Water on March 18th, at McMillan Library. Motion by LaFontaine/Buttke to approve the per diem and attendance. Motion carried unanimously.
14. Motion by LaFontaine/Buttke to approve per diem requests for CEED Committee Supervisors to attend the Wood County Housing Summit at Mid-State Technical College on March 7th. Motion carried unanimously.
15. Future agenda items:
 - a. Final vote on the application for the Economic Development Grants.
16. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 3rd, 2024 at 9:00 AM.
17. Chairman Leichtnam declared the meeting adjourned at 10:27 AM.

Minutes taken by Katie DeKleyn, Deputy County Clerk/Program Assistant, and are in draft form until approved at the next meeting.

Conservation, Education, & Economic Development Committee

March 6, 2024

[illegible]

Committee Report
County of Wood

Report of claims for: Extension Wood County

For the period of: March 2024

For the range of vouchers: 30240034 - 30240045

| Voucher | Vendor Name | Nature of Claim | Doc Date | Amount | Paid |
|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------|
| 30240034 | AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES | HDR Publications | 03/05/2024 | \$35.95 | P |
| 30240035 | AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES | Office Supplies | 03/05/2024 | \$36.97 | P |
| 30240036 | AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES | Tools to Thrive 4H Supplies | 03/05/2024 | \$36.99 | P |
| 30240037 | STAPLES ADVANTAGE | Office Supplies | 03/05/2024 | \$35.10 | P |
| 30240038 | STAPLES ADVANTAGE | Office Supplies | 03/05/2024 | \$21.45 | P |
| 30240039 | AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES | Educational Materials | 03/12/2024 | \$35.98 | P |
| 30240040 | AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES | Office Supplies | 03/12/2024 | \$14.76 | P |
| 30240041 | CARBAJAL JASMINE | March Travel Expenses | 03/15/2024 | \$213.06 | |
| 30240042 | CARBAJAL JASMINE | March Juntos Travel Expenses | 03/15/2024 | \$136.68 | |
| 30240043 | JAMES ANNA M | March Travel Expenses | 03/15/2024 | \$61.24 | |
| 30240044 | LIPPERT MATTHEW | March Travel Expenses | 03/15/2024 | \$69.88 | |
| 30240045 | ROMBALSKI KAYLA-ROSE | January-March Travel Expenses | 03/15/2024 | \$314.23 | |
| Grand Total: | | | | \$1,012.29 | |

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: March 2024

For the range of vouchers: 18240012 - 18240025

| Voucher | Vendor Name | Nature of Claim | Doc Date | Amount | Paid |
|--------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------|
| 18240012 | KLEVENE FRANK | Cost-Share Well Decommissioned | 03/04/2024 | \$250.00 | P |
| 18240013 | TRACTOR SUPPLY CREDIT PLAN | Solar Energizers (5) | 02/28/2024 | \$799.95 | P |
| 18240014 | AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES | Office Supplies | 02/29/2024 | \$41.41 | P |
| 18240015 | PHEASANTS FOREVER | Pheasants Forever - Mix Z | 01/11/2024 | \$345.60 | P |
| 18240016 | PHEASANTS FOREVER | Pheasants Forever - Mix W | 01/16/2024 | \$24.75 | P |
| 18240017 | PHEASANTS FOREVER | Pheasants Forever FoodPlot Mix | 01/01/2024 | \$172.35 | P |
| 18240018 | PHEASANTS FOREVER | Pheasants Forever-FoodPlot Mix | 01/02/2024 | \$121.50 | P |
| 18240019 | PHEASANTS FOREVER | Pheasants Forever - Mix A | 01/01/2024 | \$99.90 | P |
| 18240020 | PHEASANTS FOREVER | Pheasants Forever-Food Plot | 01/01/2024 | \$69.75 | P |
| 18240021 | PHEASANTS FOREVER | Pheasants Forever-Mix A/Foodpl | 01/01/2024 | \$202.50 | P |
| 18240022 | PHEASANTS FOREVER | Pheasants Forever-Food Plots | 01/01/2024 | \$119.25 | P |
| 18240023 | PHEASANTS FOREVER | Pheasants Forever - Mix Z | 01/18/2024 | \$172.80 | P |
| 18240024 | US BANK | Conference/Leg Brkfst/FarmTour | 03/19/2024 | \$644.22 | P |
| 18240025 | PHEASANTS FOREVER | Pheasants Forever-foodplot mix | 03/15/2024 | \$49.50 | P |
| Grand Total: | | | | \$3,113.48 | |

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: March 2024

For the range of vouchers: 22240019 - 22240025 38240005 - 38240005

| Voucher | Vendor Name | Nature of Claim | Doc Date | Amount | Paid |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------|
| 22240019 | BOYER KEVIN | SU-Prof Serv Other | 03/06/2024 | \$833.00 | P |
| 22240020 | INDUSTRY SERVICES DIVISION | PS-Sanitary Permit Fees | 03/06/2024 | \$800.00 | P |
| 22240021 | WCCA (COUNTY CODE ADMINISTRATORS) | PS-Training/Conference/CPE-Due | 03/06/2024 | \$240.00 | P |
| 22240022 | AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES | LR-Office Supplies | 03/05/2024 | \$60.99 | P |
| 22240023 | AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES | PL-Office Supplies | 03/16/2024 | \$72.63 | P |
| 22240024 | MID-STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE | PL-Training/Conference/CPE | 03/14/2024 | \$1,791.00 | P |
| 22240025 | US BANK | PL/LR/PS Credit Card Charges | 03/19/2024 | \$468.01 | |
| 38240005 | MARYANN LIPPERT CONSULTANT LLC | ED-Grants/Contributions | 03/04/2024 | \$465.00 | P |
| Grand Total: | | | | \$4,730.63 | |

Signatures

Committee Chair:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Extension Wood County staff led, delivered, planned or collaborated on all of the following activities:

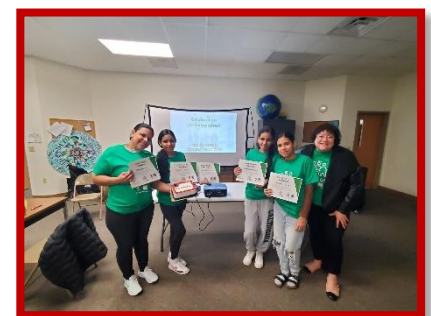
4-H POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Laura Huber, 4-H Program Educator

Jasmine Carbajal, Bilingual 4-H Associate Educator (Marathon & Wood Counties)

Malina Carattini, 4-H Americorps member

- Planning and developing a short informative video in Spanish for Spanish-speaking and Latine audiences about 4-H and Juntos 4-H in Wisconsin, highlighting the benefits, objectives, and positive impact of these programs. The goal of this video is to inform, increase awareness, participation, and outreach among local Spanish-speaking families and youth.
- A 4-week virtual series for youth (Youth on the Rise) in which they explored the world of bread baking. The series had two tracks: quick breads and yeast breads. During each session, youth learned basic skills and techniques and baked along with the instructor.
- A hands-on educational activity for Latinx youth and family where they learned about 3D printing, machinery, and cosplay. The goal of this activity was for Latinx families to learn about their local university's maker space.
- An educational activity where Wood County Teen Leaders had to work together to escape a room. The goal of this activity was for teens to work on teambuilding and cognitive thinking skills.
- A five-week educational series called Juntos (Together) where Latinx middle school students and their families learned tools and resources to help students prepare and achieve high school graduation and learn about post secondary academic options, which is the goal of the program.
- An educational session for Latinx youth and families in Wood County where the goal was to connect and plan a Juntos club in partnership with UWSP-Marshfield.
- A cultural fair for the Marshfield community where attendees learned about various cultures, tried new foods, listened to diverse performers, and created projects.
- A full day of youth discovering their sparks at Marshfield Library. Teaching youth about the dog project and how to perform speeches to the public.



AGRICULTURE

Matt Lippert, Agriculture Educator

- A meeting discussing the feeding characteristics of several forages based on the fiber digestibility and forage kinetics was held for dairy producers and consultants so that they may develop more profitable feeding programs for their farms or their customer's farms
- An FFA Career Development Event, a dairy judging contest, was held for youth to learn more about evaluating dairy cattle. From this activity youth will learn skills valuable if they become involved with the dairy industry and also as decision making skill. This activity was a partnership with Mid-State Technical College.
- Planning the April 24, 2024, Annual Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo. The goal of this event is to encourage profitable farming by building resiliency, diversifying farming operations, reducing inputs, and increasing return on investment. Farmers, Crop Consultants, and local stakeholders will learn about best-management practices they can use to take advantage of what nature has to offer and increase self-sufficiency on the farm. Topics include regenerative management, managed grazing, cover and companion crops and no-till farming. They will also explore specific barriers central Wisconsin farmers are experiencing when adopting best management practices through discussion with fellow farmers who have implemented these practices.
- A field day and class room instruction for goat producers and those interested in becoming goat producers where basic introductory kid development, doe care, biosecurity, feeding strategies and marketing were discussed. This program was developed as Clark County has a rapidly expanding dairy goat, and meat goat, family scale enterprise largely among the Amish Community. The success of this program may develop into future offerings.
- A meeting of Crops & Soils field staff and UW-Madison College of Ag & Life Sciences Specialists to develop more intentional coordination around on-farm research related to cropping systems in Wisconsin. The purpose of this effort is to carry out the Wisconsin Idea by connecting Extension staff across the state to the research being conducted by faculty and bringing those ideas to farms where they can be applied and tried in order to increase agricultural sustainability and profitability across the state.
- An event for farmers and agribusiness professionals where participants learned about latest research and best management practice updates in growing processing crops in sandy soils. The purpose of this effort is to improve sustainability and efficiency in vegetable production for a safe and sustainable food supply.
- An event for agriculture providers and health care providers, where they learned about the farming subculture, resources available to farmers on farm stress, and how to interact with farmers. This effort is designed to increase awareness of the farming subculture and help to increase the effectiveness of healthcare providers working with farmers.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Kayla Rombalski, Community Development Educator

- Basic grant proposal workshop for local government, businesses, and organization members and staff. The goal of this effort is for people to learn how to find, write and apply for grants so that they can carry out the activities of their organization, business, or government unit.

CRANBERRIES

Allison Jonjak, Cranberry Outreach Specialist

- In coordination with the UW Agribusiness Club and Cranberry Learning Inc, a case study was developed for undergrad Ag Econ students to practice solving a real-world return on investment problem. Cranberry grower judges were identified to volunteer, and cranberry industry partners (excavator, drainage experts, irrigation experts, an engineering company, banks, and plant propagation experts) were recruited to provide pricing and support to the students. This will give students opportunities to interact with a variety of professions crucial to the cranberry industry, to develop familiarity with the cranberry industry, and will encourage development of the skills needed to successfully run a small agricultural business.
- A GDD Harmonization Task Force is organized to coordinate SpargDD, CFWDD, and CranDD across researchers, growers, and temperature sensor companies so that growing degree days can be used consistently to determine progression through egg hatch of critical cranberry insect pests. This will allow growers to time applications more precisely, allowing fewer applications to get equal-or-better control of pests.
- The existing Zoom footage of all past Cranberry Virtual Brown Bags is being chunked by content, transcribed, and uploaded to Youtube for on-demand viewing by cranberry growers. This will enable useful information from UW researchers and crop scouts to be shared as new employees are hired into the industry, when growers need to refresh their memories, or when weather conditions are similar to those remarked upon in prior years.
- A Virtual Brown Bag Lunch was held for cranberry growers, drawing 57 attendees to learn about winter/spring flooding impacts on plant health, transpiration during dormancy, and Worker Protection & Safety programs. The first topic will allow growers to avoid yield losses due to prolonged flooding under high temperatures, the second will allow growers to avoid yield losses due to dry conditions when plants are dormant, and the third topic enhances a two-way street between growers and DATCP, making it easier for growers to follow regulations and keep workers safe.
- A Wisconsin Drought Task-Force group met to ensure that state agencies are responding correctly to the severity of drought across the state. The Cranberry Outreach Specialist attended the meeting to make state agencies aware of the impacts of drought upon cranberry growers.
- A Wisconsin Cranberry Research and Education Foundation meeting was held which reviewed operating budgets, cranberry bed renovations, and the construction of a new shop of the Wisconsin Cranberry Research Station, along with weather station and safety policy development. This ongoing work ensures a



productive and long-term profitable Cranberry Research Station which will enable UW researchers to do quality work to benefit growers' production practices.

- A Badger Talks presentation was given to community members and friends of three libraries in Lake Geneva, WI; sharing How Wisconsin Became Best (the global top producer) in Cranberries. This shared geology, history, sociology, and agronomy and pride in Wisconsin's cranberry industry with a wider audience within Wisconsin.
- Errors were discovered in the 2024 Cranberry Pest Management in Wisconsin guide, which were then corrected and all recipients of the guide informed. This prevents costly and unsustainable errors.

FOODWISE

Hannah Wendels-Scott, FoodWise Nutrition Educator

Mallory McGivern, FoodWise Administrator

Michelle Van Krey, Healthy Communities Coordinator

- Attended newly formed monthly IMPACT Harm Reduction Committee meeting with the Wood County Health Department to build partnerships and establish community needs.
- Multiple meetings to establish needs and goals for future programming with Adults with disabilities with new community partner agencies.
- A single session event for Hmong youth where they learned elements of healthy relationships and effective communication.
- A 10-week series of strength training sessions (StrongBodies) in Wood county (Nekoosa), where older adults learn best practices for weight lifting 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.
- Working with partners in Clark, Marathon, Portage and Wood Counties to build a new platform that directly focuses on food access mapping for those with limited incomes. The goal of this effort is to provide current, reliable food access information for all community stakeholders in Central Wisconsin and the state.
- A 5-week nutrition education series for third grade classrooms at Howe Elementary School, where they learn about the importance of eating five food groups, introduce label reading, and the importance of food and physical activity. This effort was designed to make healthy eating a positive experience which will help with making healthier food choices in the future.
- A partnership with United Way/Hunger Coalition, FOCUS Food Pantry, and the Housing Authority of Wisconsin Rapids that provides "Stockboxes for Seniors", a monthly food box service where low-income seniors can receive around 25-30 pounds of nutritious foods to stock their pantry with. The goal of this partnership is to promote the boxes with community partners with the overall goal to improve food security,



- A Healthy Living series for teens (grades 9-12) at the alternative high school (River Cities), where students learn basic life skills such as food preparation and cooking skills, budgeting and finance skills, and mindfulness activities to better prepare them for their future and living on their own.

HORTICULTURE

Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator

- “Can You Dig It?” newsletter for the general public, where subscribers can read timely articles specifically related to horticulture issues facing central Wisconsin. The goal of this effort is designed to increase awareness and knowledge of resources to decrease environmental contamination.
- A diagnostic service for the general public, where Marathon and Wood County residents’ horticultural inquiries are answered through evidence-based resources. This effort is designed to reduce pollution through horticultural product (pesticides and fertilizers) misuse.
- An interview for the WFHR listening audience, where listeners learned adaptation strategies to the current weather patterns in Central Wisconsin. The effort was designed to increase awareness and knowledge of gardening adaptation techniques to increase resilience in climate change.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONSHIPS

Jackie Carattini, Human Development and Relationships Educator

- Planning with the Central Wisconsin Partnership for Recovery Safe and Sober Housing initiative to determine which Extension curriculum to use to meet local housing needs and the pre-rental educational component for their program.
- Two online workshops ("Rent Smart" in the Wood County Jail) per month where participants learn how to find and apply for rental housing, understand their responsibilities as a renter, how to communicate effectively with their landlords, and manage housing expenses. This effort is designed to encourage safe and sober housing stability.
- 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.
- Multiple meetings to establish needs and goals for future programming with Adults with disabilities with new community partner agencies.
- Attended newly formed monthly IMPACT Harm Reduction Committee meeting with the Wood County Health Department to build partnerships and establish community needs.
- A single session event for Hmong youth where they learned elements of healthy relationships and effective communication.



NATURAL RESOURCES

Anna Mitchell, Natural Resources Educator

Jen McNelly, Natural Resources Educator

- A presentation for attendees at the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Conference, where attendees learned about a social indicator survey that was conducted to better understand producer's awareness levels, attitudes, constraints, capacity and behavior towards water quality and conservation practices. The goal of this effort was to inform conservation practitioners and educators with information for planning, implementing, and evaluating conservation practices based on the needs of agricultural producers. Another goal of this effort was to share the impact that social science efforts can have on informing and implementing conservation management projects and practices.
- A regional event for members of watershed protection groups (farming and non-farming) and conservation practitioners, where attendees got to connect, collaborate, and have candid conversations about water quality needs. The goal of this event was to strengthen relationships in the greater Wisconsin River watershed basin, increase collaboration, identify goals and initiatives for improving water quality, and assessing community needs.
- A facilitated discussion for Farmers of the Roche-A-Cri, a producer-led watershed protection group, and UW-Madison and UW-Extension Researchers where participants discussed current and future research in vegetable and potato production systems. The goal of this effort was for participants to identify current research, discuss gaps or support needed for on farm research, and collaborate on new and innovative practices to protect and improve water quality. This discussion provided an opportunity for producer-led group members to connect with researchers and identify potential projects and support for on farm research.
- A facilitated discussion for producers and conservation professionals in the Springbrook and Upper Eau Claire River watersheds where participants will learn about the Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant Program. The goal of this meeting is for producers to identify conservation related concerns, local stakeholders, and engagement/commitment in order to determine if forming a producer-led watershed protection group is in the best interest of the environment and community members.
- A presentation for Department of Natural Resources staff, where attendees learned about a social indicator survey that was conducted to better understand producer's awareness levels, attitudes, constraints, capacity and behavior towards water quality and conservation practices. The goal of this effort was to inform DNR staff with information for planning, implementing, and evaluating conservation practices based on the results of the social indicators survey. Another goal of this effort was to share the impact that social science efforts can have on relationship building.
- A presentation for attendees at the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Conference, where attendees learned about the results of a survey of agencies and organizations that support farmer-led watershed groups in Wisconsin. The goal of this effort was to inform the audience of how the survey was used to better understand how producer-led watershed groups function and the nature of support they receive from partners. Attendees also learned about the types of support that are most beneficial and most needed by producer-led groups.



Wood County, Wisconsin LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Activities Report for Barb Peeters - March 2024

- Scheduled, attended and typed minutes for March 1st LWCD staff meeting.
- Attended the Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Assoc. 71st Annual Conference March 6-8 in Green Bay which was very informative and beneficial. Attended sessions titled: Perspectives on Agriculture, Conservation & Water Quality; Coon Creek Watershed to Present Day: 90 Years of Locally Led Conservation; Safeguarding Communities: Collaborative Partnerships for Environmental Health & Clean Drinking Water; Reaching & Supporting Small-Scale Producers; Engaging Farmers & Rural Residential Landowners in Groundwater Quality; Selling Conservation to Landowners; County Policies to Protect Groundwater Quality. Also assisted all 3 days of the conference with the Silent Auction which benefits youth education programs. Governor Evers was a surprise guest at the conference luncheon on 3/7/24. He visited with attendees and gave a short speech to the conference group highlighting conservation efforts across the state of Wisconsin.
- Finalized LWCD 2023 Annual Report, placed on LWCD website and distributed to County Supervisors/CEED Committee, supporting agencies and Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation email distribution group.
- Answered phones, replied to emails and processed incoming and outgoing LWCD mail.
- Completed LWCD payroll percentages and forwarded to Finance prior to March 7 & 21 payrolls.
- Reviewed payroll reports and payroll registers.
- Processed department vouchers and deposits weekly and submitted to the Treasurer's office/Finance.
- Responded to frequent customer inquiries via phone & email regarding the tree/shrub/seed sale which ended 1/15/24. Added customers to waiting list for any extra trees after April 2024 tree distribution.
- Purged historical nonmetallic mining files and retained the last 10 years of data/files.
- Processed Multi-Discharge Variance (MDV) payments (as received).
- Notified by DNR MDV Point Source Coordinator of payment errors made by the DNR for two MDV payments which had to be returned (Village of Auburndale had discharge permit modified last year to remove the MDV and comply with effluent limits; Rockland Sanitary District in Manitowoc was included in the wrong watershed by the DNR) and payment was adjusted/decreased for Owen Wastewater. As a result, Wood County's share of MDV payments decreased from \$38,640.30 to \$38,336.66.
- Verified Joint Final Allocation Plan Cost-Share Project Extension Request amounts with DATCP prior to March 15th deadline for Bond/SEG funds (to extend 2023 grant funds to 2024 totaling \$32,611.29).
- Viewed webinar on CANVA program titled "What's New Wednesday" regarding program updates.
- Reviewed DATCP monthly report for March 2024 and brought pertinent items to attention of LWCD staff.
- Assisted with signage and phone inquiries for NMFE classes at River Block on March 12, 19 and 26.
- Attended Wellness Committee meeting on March 12 and shared updates with LWCD & Parks/Forestry staff.
- Typed and mailed letters to tree sale customers with notification of tree distribution dates/times in April.
- Verified all seed orders have been received from Pheasants Forever for April tree sale.
- Continued compiling information requested by Finance for 2023 Audit (DATCP grant/cost sharing, MDV revenue/cost sharing, Mill Creek grant/cost sharing, etc.). Submitted completed documents to Finance.
- Processed cost-share contracts for two well abandonments.
- Submitted 2025 Joint DATCP/DNR Nonpoint Source Grant Application (SWRM grant) and the 2025 Innovations grant request to DATCP. Also submitted 2024 Work Plan on behalf of County Conservationist.
- Processed two Animal Waste Ordinance (AWO) permit payments.
- Posted Central WI Farm Profitability Expo information & flyer on LWCD website.
- Electronically submitted staff reports/packet materials to the County Clerk's office for CEED packet.
- Organized County Board packet and electronically submitted to the County Clerk's office.
- Generated bid letters for a waste transfer system and a waste storage facility closure.
- Processed no-till drill payment and took calls/messages regarding requests to use no-till drill.

Activities Report for Emily Salvinski

-March 2024-

- **Friday, March 1.** Attended staff meeting. Assisted farmers with updating their nutrient management plan for 2024.
- **Monday, March 11.** Watched manure management presentations to prepare for presenting at tomorrow's NMFE class. Went over manure presentation. Took emails and phone calls regarding NMFE class. Updated one farmer's NMP map.
- **Tuesday, March 12.** Helped with the first day of the Nutrient Management Farmer Education course held in the River Block Building.
- **Wednesday, March 13.** Helped at farmer meeting to write nutrient management plan. Measured streamflow at 6 different locations in SE Wood Co.
- **Tuesday, March 19.** Helped with day 2 of the Nutrient Management Farmer Education course held in the River Block Building.
- **Wednesday, March 20.** Attended focus on forage meeting held online. Processed nutrient management plans and checklists that came thru email. Did some mapping of those plans to GIS.
- **Thursday, March 21.** –half day. Took streamflow results off meter and put them in the right place (raw data to folders, results to excel, results to SWIMS).
- **Monday, March 25.** Processed NMP checklists. Made changes to mapping records for one and added to gis. Added past photos of streamflow to SWIMS for the first time and tried connecting them to monitoring data submitted. Prepared for meeting with farmer.
- **Tuesday, March 26.** Met up with farmer to assist completing nutrient management plan.

Activities Report for Kyle Andreae – March, 2024

- March 1 – Lewis site visit, Slattery site visit
- March 4 – Slattery site investigation and design, Liquid Coin Permitting
- March 5 – Complaint investigation, Drone flight, Liquid Coin Permit Posting
- March 6 – WI Land and Water annual conference
- March 7 – WI Land and Water annual conference
- March 8 – WI Land and Water annual conference
- March 11 – Slattery Design, Ruess Site Visit
- March 12 – Ruess Site Visit, Klevene Site Visit, Slattery Design
- March 13 – Slattery Design, MSTC Farm Tour
- March 14 – Slattery Design
- March 15 – Slattery Design, Bauer Design, Ruess Design
- March 18 – Ruess Design, Mentorship Meeting
- March 19 – Bauer Site Visit, Slattery Site Visit, Red Sands Site Visit
- March 20 – Bauer Design Revisions, Red Sands Design
- March 21 – Bauer Bid Pack, Slattery Bid Pack
- March 22 – Red Sands Design, Complaint Investigation
- March 25 – Vacation
- March 26 – Slattery site visit, Red Sands Design
- March 27 – Ruess Design, Slattery site visit
- March 28 – Ruess Design
- March 29 – Holiday



Activities Report for Kendra Kunding – March 2024

- Read multiple UW-Extension publications regarding nutrient management including:
 - Management of Wisconsin's Soils (A3588)
 - Using Legumes as a Nitrogen Source (A3517)
 - Soil Fertility Guidelines for Pastures in Wisconsin (A4034)
- Participated in the March 1st staff meeting.
- Continued to learn about nutrient management plans for rotational grazers.
- Assisted multiple producers with completing their nutrient management plans.
- Took various calls regarding nutrient management questions.
- Cleaned both department trucks.
- Attended the monthly Lakes & Rivers Partnership Meeting.
 - The topic this month was aquatic invasive species and aquatic plant management.
 - Focus was on the Lake Monitoring and Protection Network funding activities.
- Reviewed Nepco Lake District's first draft of their aquatic plant management plan – completed by Sara Hatleli from Aquatic Plant and Habitat Services LLC.
 - Discussed the draft aquatic plant management plan with Shane and provided Sara with feedback.
- Completed the new Soil Health online training created by DATCP.
 - Focus was on developing common definition and understanding of soil health and demonstrate how soil health systems can be implemented on Wisconsin farms.
- Assisted with the Wisconsin Rapids Nutrient Management Farmer Education class on March 12th, 19th, and 26th.
 - Presented on soil testing and report interpretation.
 - Assisted farmers with updating their nutrient management plan.
- Attended the NR40 rule update webinars.
 - Topics included aquatic plants, invertebrates, fish & crayfish and woody plants and herbaceous ornamentals.
- Continued learning how to use the new ArcGIS Pro mapping platform.
- Processed nutrient management plans as they were received by the office.
- Attended a No-Till Workshop focused on planter setup, new research, starter fertilizer, and nitrogen products and application options for no-till.
- The no-till drill transport season is underway.
 - Received three phone calls looking to schedule the no-till drill for use.
 - Transported the drill to one location.
- Watched the Winter Water Talk "Weather in Wisconsin" hosted by Water Action Volunteers and the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network.
- Assisted Emily in mapping nutrient management fields in ArcGIS Pro.
- Responded to a call regarding non-native phragmites.
- Attended an invasive species webinar hosted by NAISMA.
- Reviewed Nepco Lake's second aquatic plant management plan draft.

Activities Report for Rod Mayer – MARCH 2024

- Completed preliminary review for Vreeland & Associates – Nikolai Day Road mine site, Mine Plan changes. Put detailed list together with all missing data, attachment showing check list items, etc. Correspondence sent to Vreeland & Associates.
- Researched DNR email informing of possible mine site in Port Edwards. Confirmed just crushing stock pile area. Correspondence with DNR.
- Attended staff meeting.
- Compared tree numbers for Michigan shipment to last year – determined will need two trailers to haul.
- Researched Fazio files for original fence plans – none found other than pencil drawing. Possible future fence build on marsh – connecting multiple fences – one under current contract and one expired in 2008 – possible replacement of that portion.
- Financial assurance reminders sent to Earth Inc. and Laidlaw.
- Drone Lidar survey with ITSM of Weiler CIM site – for accurate earthwork calcs prior to sending to bid for reclamation. (This site was bankrupt with FA seized for reclamation).
- Attended Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control Program Statewide meeting in Stevens Point. (Sessions included: Overview of program, Bear Specialist, Elk Specialist, Deer Specialist, Upland Bird Specialist, Honey Producers Association). Meeting notes available.
- Reviewed financial assurance renewal on multiple sites with expirations in March.
- Received call for possible digging in shoreland/wetland area. Referred to Zoning and WiDNR.
- Contact to Wolosek for financial assurance updates – completed software and spreadsheet updates.
- Sent complaint letter to Vision Cranberry for possible mine site on property – hauling material – non-ag related. Sent correspondence to DNR storm water.
- Sent pond info to landowner planning on digging pond.
- Discussed non-metallic reclamation permitting with Lee Schwanebeck for possible future mine site. Set additional correspondence.
- Updated Schneider financial assurance info on software and spreadsheets.
- Prepared info for wildlife fence inspections. Updated route list, spreadsheet with contact info and expiration dates, last year inspection letters for issues to correct, new maps showing fence designs, updated field binder.
- Email to Ron Bohn explaining NMM permit transfer policy.
- Met with Gruber – went over pond exemption information. Completed exemption document with landowner and made 4 maps. Referred to zoning for possible home building site in shoreland zoning.
- Updated pond spreadsheet, organized files for active ponds in file cabinet, scanned new documents, etc.
- Researched NMM complaint. Contacted operator – discussed exemption process. Met with operator – went over details and mapped site - determined likely not able to issue exemption based on size already disturbed and material that already left site. Correspondence with WiDNR stormwater. Will visit site and GPS total disturbed area as soon as possible to determine enforcement actions.



LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION
DEPARTMENT

Activities Report for Shane Wucherpfennig – March 2024

- March 1 – Staff Meeting, Webex meeting – CWFPE Planning & correspondence
- March 4 – CWFPE Planning Meeting, Virtual meeting, Field visit
- March 5 – Field visits, Lidar survey of Weiler NMM site with Nick Wayerski (Mfld Drones)
- March 6 - 8 – WI Land + Water Conference in Greenbay
- March 11 – CWFPE Logistics and Planning
- March 12 – NMFE Class at River block Auditorium
- March 13 – MSTC Farm Tour in Marshfield at Norm-E-Lane farms and Seehafer Farm in Marathon County
- March 14 – Field visits, Virtual meetings and CWFPE Planning
- March 15 – Spring Legislative Breakfast at MSTC, PACRS Meeting in Arkdale, WI
- March 18 – CWFPE meeting, Annual Work Plan, Innovations Grant, SWRM grant application
- March 19 – Virtual meetings, CWFPE planning and correspondence, Sediment survey for Parks at Red Sands Beach
- March 20 – Grant applications, Virtual meeting, CWFPE Logistics/correspondence, DNR TRM Grant
- March 21 – 31 – Vacation



Wood County WISCONSIN

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ZONING

TO: Conservation, Education & Economic Development Committee

FR: Jason Grueneberg, Planning & Zoning Director
Emily Arndt, County Planner
Paul Bernard, Land Records Coordinator
Brad Cook, Code Administrator
Vacant, Code Technician
Victoria Wilson, Program Assistant
Kayla Rautio, Program Assistant

RE: Staff Report for April 3, 2024

1. Economic Development (Jason Grueneberg)

C2 Makerspace – Kylan Hastreiter from the C2 Makerspace in Marshfield recently reached out to me to share that the FRC Team 9676 recently competed in Milwaukee in a robotics competition on March 16th and 17th. The FRC team is the first robotics team from the C2 Makerspace. They finished 29th out of 54 and were awarded the Wisconsin Regional 2024 Rookie Inspiration Award. Kylan also thanked Wood County for the support and offered to showcase the robot, banner and trophies in the Courthouse.

Vesper Elementary School Idle Sites Redevelopment (ISR) Grant – On March 25th I submitted an ISR grant application for adaptive reuse of the Vesper Elementary School. If the application is successful, the owner of the property will receive a \$200,000 grant for site redevelopment. The school will be converted to 11 senior housing units, and the gymnasium, fitness center, and event center will be available for public use.

Heart of Wisconsin Leadership Class – Economic Development – On March 14th I presented to the Heart of Wisconsin Leadership Class. The presentation included a general overview of what economic development is, the County REDI Plan, as well as how the REDI Plan is being implemented.

Wood County Housing Summit – On March 7th I participated in the Wood County Housing Summit held at Mid-State Technical College. The event was very successful and there were over 100 people that attended.

Central Wisconsin Economic Development (CWED) Fund – On March 20th I participated in the CWED Board of Directors' meeting. Agenda items included review of financials, review of the annual report, loan committee update, administrator update, and announcement of the formation of a nominating committee for elections to be held at the May annual meeting. Reference the CWED Annual Report that is included as an attachment to this report.

Staffing Update - On March 4th Bradley Cook was promoted to the Code Administrator position leaving the Code Technician position vacant. After posting the Code Technician position for a few weeks, Kayla Rautio was promoted to Code Technician starting April 1, leaving the Program Assistant position vacant. The Program Assistant position is currently posted and we are accepting applications until it is filled. A big congratulations to Brad and Kayla! Their

promotions are much deserved and they are well qualified for their new positions and will serve the residents of Wood County well.

Legislative Breakfast – On March 15th I attended the legislative breakfast at Mid-State Technical College in Wisconsin Rapids. Local legislators provided updates and the 2 candidates for Wisconsin Rapids Mayor answered questions.

REDI Implementation – This past month I participated in REDI implementation meetings. To learn more about REDI implementation activity you can go to the REDI Activity Dashboard using the following web address. <https://sites.google.com/wisc.edu/redidashboard?usp=sharing>

Marshfield Urban Area Boundary – On March 18th I participated in a meeting to discuss modifications to the Marshfield urban area boundary. Modifications are initiated by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation every 10 years and changes are based on municipal boundary changes and anticipated future development. Inclusion in the urban area qualifies transportation projects/improvements for urban transportation funding.

Wisconsin Rapids Downtown Plan – The City of Wisconsin Rapids sent out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a consultant to complete a downtown plan. There were 10 proposals that were submitted and scored by the review team with 3 finalists being selected. The 3 finalists were interviewed and 1 selected to be recommended to the Wisconsin Rapids City Council for approval.

The County has committed \$25,000 to this planning process and the overall cost is estimated to be \$75,000. I served on the selection committee that reviewed the RFPs and made a recommendation to the City Council.

2. Planning & Zoning (Emily Arndt)

1. Attended the Economic Development Day for the Heart of Wisconsin Community Leadership Program
2. Attended the County Well Delegation Training
3. Organized meetings at the Town of Rock to begin the planning process for their updated comprehensive plan
4. Continued correspondence with Town of Cameron to update their comp plan survey
5. Working through review and approval of CSMs and Condo Plats
6. Continued planning the organization of future Comprehensive Plans
7. Continued working with staff to ensure that questions are answered in a proficient routine

3. Land Records (Paul Bernard)

- NG911 data preparation
- Emergency Service Atlas creation
- Parcel Mapping
- Address Mapping

4. Code Administrator (Brad Cook)

2-29-2024- (2) Shoreland permits reviewed and issued TN: 18, 10, phone calls and questions

from citizens

3-1-2024- (1) well permit reviewed and issued TN: 18,(2) Reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for rep. mound & HT TN: 21,10, (4) soil evals TN: 03, 15, 17, (1)

3-4-2024- Phone calls and response to citizen questions

3-5-2024- (1) SL permit reviewed and issued, (1) new conv plan reviewed TN: 18

3-6-2024- DNR Well Delegation training

3-7-2024- (1) new conv insp TN: 18, (1) onsite soil eval TN:02, (1) well permit reviewed and issued TN: 18

3-8-2024- (1) new conv insp TN: 07, respond to citizens questions

3-11-2024- (1) soil eval TN: 02, (2) well permits reviewed and issued TN: 07,08, (1) SL insp TN:07

3-12-2024- (4) soils evals and plans reviewed

3-13-2024-(2) Reviewed soils, hydrograph, plan review, issued permit for rep conv & mound TN:18, 02, (1) soil eval TN: 04, (1) conv insp TN: 18

3-14-2024- WCCA Conference

3-15-2024- WCCA Conference

3-18-2024- (2) well permits reviewed and issued TN: 18, (1) reconnect permit reviewed and issued TN: 08,(3) Reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for rep HT & mounds TN: 22, 20

3-19-2024- (2) FP permits reviewed and issued TN: 17, 22

3-20-2024-(2) Reviewed soils, plan review, hydrograph, issued permit for rep mound & new conv TN: 01, 07

3-21-2024- (1) Reviewed soils, plan review, hydrograph issued permit for new conv mounds TN: 18, FP Webinar

3-22-2024- (1) Reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for rep mound TN: 14, respond to questions

3-25-2024- (1) Reviewed soils, plan review, hydrograph, issued permit for new conv TN:18, (2) well permits reviewed and issued TN: 07

3-26-2024- (1) Reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for rep mound TN:06

5. **Code Technician** (Vacant)

6. **Office Activity** (Victoria Wilson & Kayla Rautio)

- a. Monthly Sanitary and Well Permit Activity – There were _ sanitary permits, _ shoreland permits and _ well permits issued in March 2024.
- b. Septic Maintenance Notices – Our office will be mailing out approximately 3,384 septic maintenance notices on April 22nd for the property owners that are due for maintenance this year. The due date for maintenance to be completed this year is August 9th.
- c. Attended the following meetings/trainings & activities:
 - i. March 6th CEED meeting (VW)
 - ii. March 6th Well Delegation Training (KR)
 - iii. March 14th & 15th WCCA Conference (KR)
 - iv. March 21st Floodplain Webinar (KR & VW)
 - v. March 28th Floodplain Webinar (KR & VW)

YEAR - 2023



Wood County Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD)

Annual *report*

2023 Grazing Tour

A Grazing Tour was held at the Behlen Farm on September 12, 2023. Key topics included a focus on small scale/low cost beef production through managed grazing, the importance of soil health and nutrient management, and options for late fall and winter bale grazing. A huge thank you to Joe Behlen for hosting the tour and demonstrating his innovative operations. Thanks also to Paul Daigle for facilitating the event and sharing his 30 years of grazing experience. If you are interested in starting a grazing operation and opportunities for cost-sharing your grazing operation, call the LWCD office at (715) 421-8475.



2023 Accomplishments:

- Secured funding of \$175,847.00 from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) for staff salaries and support and training expenses.
- Received \$54,000 in Bond money and \$54,000 in SEG money from DATCP to implement the Wood County Land and Water Resource Management Plan. Funds were used to cost share conservation practices.
- Received \$31,821.64 from point sources for water quality improvements.
- Received \$3,301.00 from the County Board to pay area and state membership dues.
- Received \$147,857.95 from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Large Scale TRM Grant for the Mill Creek Watershed.
- The Conservation, Education and Economic Development (CEED) Committee held 12 regular meetings and 4 special meetings. All cooperating agency staff received meeting notices and minutes.
- Conducted annual transect survey to determine soil erosion rates in Wood County.
- Treated wild parsnip at 15 locations, covering 6.2 miles. Nine new spots were found. Kept wild parsnip map current by taking reports from the public and field mapping.
- As part of the 9-Key Element Plan, surface water samples were tested for total phosphorous and total suspended solids at four locations throughout the Mill Creek Watershed once per month from May to October.
- The 10-foot Great Plains No-Till Drill is in its fifth season of use and was used consistently throughout the growing season. The drill was used by 28 landowners covering 526 acres with 2023 revenue of \$5,211.20 (a flat fee of \$80.00 plus \$8.00 per acre is charged per use to offset maintenance costs).
- Hosted a Grazing Tour at the Behlen Farm – see information on the left side of page.
- Maintained the prairie/pollinator garden outside of the River Block building.

Continued on Page 2.....



Wood County Land and Water Conservation Department

111 W Jackson Street; Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

Phone: (715) 421-8475 Email: landcons@woodcountywi.gov

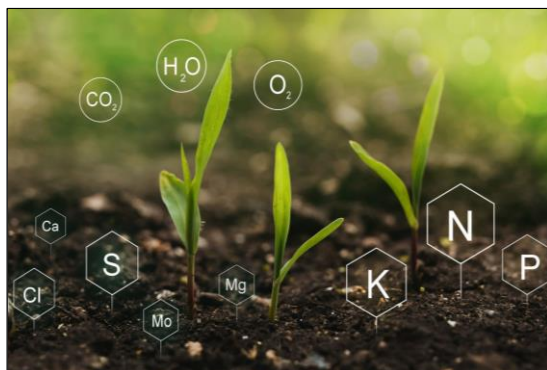
Website: <https://www.woodcountywi.gov/Departments/LandConservation/>

2023 LWCD Accomplishments Continued from Page 1.....

- 15 farmers participated in no-till and/or cover cropping in Wood County or within the Mill Creek Watershed covering 2,281 acres, with funding coming from MDV or LWRM or 9-Key funds. A total estimate of 4,870 lbs. of phosphorous and 3,497 lbs. of sediment were reduced.
- Issued five Animal Waste and Manure Management permits and processed permit fees.
- Conducted stream flow monitoring at six sites once per month for six months as part of a six county-wide monitoring project. Reported data to DNR's Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System (SWIMS) Database. SWIMS is the state's repository of monitoring data for Clean Water Act work and is the source of data sharing through the Water Quality Exchange Network.
- Assisted two new farmers with rotational grazing systems on their property. Roughly, 101 combined acres will be put into rotational grazing systems. Cost-share assistance for perimeter fencing and watering systems for both grazing operations was provided.
- Provided no-cost well water nitrate testing to 10 Wood County residents.
- Completed and cost-shared the following:
 - Two livestock fencing systems
 - One waste storage facility closure
 - One grass waterway/roof runoff control
 - Two well closures
 - One streambank/shoreland protection project
- Held the 2023 Wildlife Tree and Shrub Sale, selling 13,134 trees and shrubs to approximately 162 landowners. The total trees sold equaled 15,975 but 2,841 trees were refunded after one of the nurseries sent notification of unavailability of two tree species due to deer damage. Thirty-four refunds were processed to landowners for the unavailable bundles of trees.



2023 Tree Orders Awaiting Pickup



Nutrient Management / Farmer Education (NMFE)

- Wood County LWCD partnered with Marathon, Clark, Lincoln and Taylor counties to hold multiple courses that qualify farms to write their own nutrient management plan (called the NMFE class). 7 area farmers covering 2,264 acres and multiple farmers from surrounding counties attended the Wisconsin Rapids class. LWCD staff provided assistance to past/present attendees to keep up their plans.
- Received \$854.17 in staff support for assisting with the Nutrient Management Farmer Education (NMFE) classes.
- Worked to get maximum number of nutrient management plans turned in which came to 97. These 97 plans covered 59,047 acres of farmland.
- 4 farmers participated in creating a nutrient management plan in Wood County or within the Mill Creek Watershed covering 1,153 acres, with funding coming from LWRM.

- 7 landowners purchased prairie grass/wildflower seeds as part of the Tree & Shrub sale.
- Tree shelters and generic gel were made available for sale throughout the year.
- During the 2023 tree & shrub sale, 628 tree shelters and 6 ½ pounds of generic gel were sold (sold in 4 ounce & 1 lb. bags)
- Ordered 1,800 tree shelters to replenish supply on hand. Price increased from \$3.08 to \$4.02 per tree shelter.
- Coordinated and hosted the "Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo" in March at MidState Technical College – Wis. Rapids Campus.
- Coordinated the local Conservation Poster Contest. Judged 13 posters for the 4-6 grade category. Prizes were issued to the top three participants. The top poster advanced to the North Central Land & Water Region contest.
- Updated the "Invasive Species" page on the LWCD website to include informative fact sheets for *Aquatic Invasive Species*, *Terrestrial Invasive Species* and *Invasive vs Native Look Alike*. The fact sheets include photos, identification information, ecological impact, and other information. Link to Invasive Species website: <https://www.woodcountyiwi.gov/Departments/LandConservation/InvasiveSpecies.aspx>.
- Participated in the CEED Tour in September 2023 and coordinated a tour of the Novotny reclaimed mine site with a 15.5 acre pond as part of the annual CEED Tour.



LWCD Staff administered the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) with no new enrollments in 2023. The 1,187.04 acres enrolled in CREP in Wood County provide the following benefits:

- At least 1,956 lbs. of phosphorus loss to waterways prevented per year.
- At least 1,022 lbs. of nitrogen prevented from entering waterways per year.
- At least 1,065 tons of sediment prevented from entering waterways per year.

Meet the Land & Water Conservation Department Staff and CEED Committee



2023 LWCD Staff:

(L-R) Rod Mayer, Conservation Program Coordinator; Kyle Andreae, Engineering Technician; Shane Wucherpfennig, County Conservationist; Kendra Kunder, Conservation Specialist; Barb Peeters, Conservation Administrative Specialist; Emily Salvinski, Conservation Specialist



2023 Conservation, Education, and Economic Development Committee (CEED) Members

(L-R) Dave LaFontaine, Vice Chair, Carmen Good-Farmer Representative, Laura Valenstein, Jake Hahn, Tom Buttke, Bill Leightnam-Chair

Land and Water Resources Management Plan Implementation & Other Programs

Starting in 2000, the Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) began securing state funds from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to fund local conservation practices on an annual basis. The selected conservation practices are outlined as priorities in the Land & Water Resource Management Plan that was written for Wood County. On an annual basis, the LWCD selects landowners and practices to be funded from those that express an interest and have resource concerns.

- DATCP has provided Wood County LWCD \$1,891,713 to cost share best management practices over the last twenty-four years. Landowners county-wide are eligible for these funds. In 2023, Wood County LWCD secured \$54,000 for nutrient management/cover crops and \$54,000 to install selected practices.
- Wood County LWCD received a total of \$152,650.41 to cost-share best management practices from 2019 -2023 through the Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) Program. In 2023, Wood County received \$31,821.64 to cost-share best management practices in the Castle Rock, Lake Dubay and Black River HUC 8 watersheds.
- The DNR provided funds to cost share best management practices through the Mill Creek TMDL grant over the past four year period. In 2023, Wood County issued \$147,857.95 in cost-share received through the Mill Creek TMDL grant. (Landowners in the Mill Creek watershed are eligible for these cost-share funds.)

Practices installed in Wood County and reimbursed by DATCP, DNR & MDV in 2023 include: cover crops (1,457 acres); nutrient management (1,471 acres); residue management (842 acres); streambank & shoreland protection (1); waste storage facility closure (1); wells decommissioned (2); livestock fencing (2) and grass waterway/roof runoff (1).

The following landowners installed Best Management Practices in 2023 (listed by cost share program):



DATCP

- Rick Armagost
- Kurt & Kathryn Eastling
- Ray Fait
- Curt & Angela Fuller
- George & Jill Gilbertson
- Thomas Gotz
- Luke Keuffer
- Ron & Mary Knuth
- Stephen & Barb Pankratz
- Roger Jr. & Lynn Pascavis
- Glen Peplinski
- Barry & Gayle Richardson
- Michael & Paula Rokus
- Randy Schill
- Alan Weiler
- Craig & Melissa Vitort



MDV

- Kenneth Duerr
- Kevin Heeg
- Ronald Schiller

What is a multi-discharge variance? Link to info:
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Wastewater/MDVFactsheet.pdf>



Mill Creek TMDL

- Adam Borchert
- Glen Peplinski
- Roth Golden Acres



Non-Metallic Mining (NMM)

The CEED Committee approved increases in nonmetallic mining fees to raise fees that hadn't changed since 2015. Annual permit fees were increased 20%. Financial assurance fees were increased from \$4,500 to \$6,000 per acre to ensure that the county has sufficient funds to cover administrative costs and to clean up and restore nonmetallic mining site(s) should the site operator or owner abandon the site.

- Certified reclamation and closing of two large non-metallic mine sites.
- Approved permit modification of a mine site.
- Received \$43,450 in reclamation permit fees under the Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Program.
- Held \$3,293,400 in financial assurance for nonmetallic mine reclamation.
- Issued 15 new pond build exemptions to nonmetallic mining.



iBrandl Eisenhower Nonmetallic Site Reclaimed



Altmann Nonmetallic Site Reclaimed

- Inspected 53 nonmetallic mine sites for reclamation progress and active acres; created maps and calculations for each mine.
- Violations found on 7 mining sites with orders for reclamation plan revisions. One site shut down due to non-compliance issues.

Wildlife Abatement Program

- LWCD received \$49,899 from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WiDNR) for expenses and administration of the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program.
- Enrolled 19 landowners in the Wildlife Damage Abatement program.
- Enrolled 3 crop owners in the claims program, opening 607 acres to public hunting.
- Completed 39 crop appraisals with crop damage claims paid out totaling \$11,905 (paid through WDACP as noted below).
- Inspected 15 deer fences for compliance with Wildlife Damage Abatement Program.
- Administered the 2023 venison donation program. 145 pounds of ground venison was donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Pantry in Wood County.



The Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) is a Wisconsin DNR state program that is administered through participating counties. Currently, all Wisconsin counties participate in the program with the exception of Kenosha and Menominee counties. WDACP provides damage prevention assistance and partial compensation to farmers when wildlife damage their agricultural crops. Wildlife managers issue agricultural damage shooting permits to farmers for removal of deer that cause damage. WDACP compensation limits are \$500 deductible per claim and \$10,000 maximum per claim.

WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

The goal of the Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD), the Land and Water Resource Management Plan implementation, the Mill Creek 9-Key Element plan and Multi-Discharger Variance is to improve and protect water quality by reducing pollutants from urban and rural nonpoint sources. Nonpoint source pollution comes from a diverse number of activities in our daily lives including runoff from over-fertilized lawns and crop fields; constructing buildings and roads; and plowing our fields for crops. Nonpoint pollution is the leading cause of water quality problems in Wisconsin. LWCD staff would like to say **"thank you"** to all who have installed practices. We appreciate your efforts to protect the natural resources of Wood County and beyond.



Natural Resources Conservation Service

2023 Annual Report

by: Roy A. Diver, District Conservationist

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment. NRCS Mission: Helping People Help the Land.

In 2023 workload and landowner interest in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) remained high. The CSP obligated \$301,063 to 8 landowners in Wood County to maintain existing levels of conservation and apply new conservation practices on their land; over 20 applications were received, this covered 5,048 acres of land. The EQIP obligated \$313,505 to 14 landowners in Wood County to plan and apply new conservation practices on their land; over 40 applications were received, this covered 2,205 acres of land. The CSP and EQIP in 2023 had 77 active contracts managed that cover over 20,000 acres of Cropland, Farmstead, Associated Ag Land, and Forestland, to continue to protect existing farm resources and implement additional conservation enhancements, all CSP payments for 2023 were processed, and additional funds were paid to landowners through the EQIP and for various conservation practices applied from previous year contracts.

Wisconsin Rapids NRCS staff, Andy Richardson, Resource Conservationist, Tristyn Forget, Soil Conservationist, Russ Biebl, Soil Conservation Technician, Pat Murphy, Retired ACES, Roy A. Diver, District Conservationist (stationed in Stevens Point).

The following is a partial list of landowner accomplishments completed with NRCS assistance from October 2022 through September 2023:

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Conservation Plans Written | 7,143 acres |
| Cover Crop Applied | 999 acres |
| Brush Management Applied..... | 77 acres |
| Pasture and Hayland Planting Applied | 40 acres |
| Forest Management Plan Applied | 3 No |
| Prescribed Grazing Applied | 163 acres |
| Residue Management, No Till Applied | 590 acres |
| Livestock Pipeline (Grazing) Applied | 3,980 feet |
| Monarch Butterfly Habitat Applied | 8 acres |
| Heavy Use Area Protection Applied | 192 sq ft |
| High Tunnel System Applied..... | 4 applied |
| Irrigation Water Management Applied | 36 acres |
| Forest Stand Improvement Applied | 15 acres |
| Structures for Wildlife Bat Boxes Planned | 3 No |
| Estimated Soil Erosion Reduction | 17,858 tons |



Photo: USDA-NRCS

SWRM Grants

The Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) awards annual Soil & Water Resource Management (SWRM) grants to county conservation committees and other cooperators. These grants assist in funding county conservation staff and cost-share conservation practices installed by producers with assistance through their county. Grant recipients sign & follow a contract with their county. Grant funds must be spent in the year DATCP allocates them, although DATCP may extend cost-share funds an additional year for specific projects.

Who regulates Nonmetallic Mining in Wisconsin?...

County and local zoning bodies are responsible for all mine siting requirements and regulations. Under ch.NR 135, Wis. Adm. Code, the DNR Nonmetallic Mining Program is responsible for ensuring uniform statewide implementation of nonmetallic mining reclamation requirements. It does this by overseeing county & local reclamation programs, known as regulatory authorities (RAs).

NMM Overview.....

Nonmetallic Mining is the extraction of stone, sand, rock or similar materials from natural deposits. An estimated 2,500 mines in Wisconsin provide aggregate for construction, gravel & crushed stone (limestone & dolomite) for road construction, volcanic andesite for shingles, dimension stone for monuments, peat for horticulture and landscaping, industrial sand for export out of state for the oil industry, and a considerable variety of materials for other uses.



NRCS STAFF (left to right):

Russ Biebl, Soil Conservation Technician
Roy Diver, District Conservationist
Tristyn Forget, Soil Conservationist

Not pictured:

Andy Richardson, Resource Conservationist
Pat Murphy, Agricultural Conservation Experienced Employee

Extension-Wood County Report 2023...

Extension Wood County assists the Wood County Land & Water Conservation Department by providing educational support for county conservation programs.

Extension educators provide information relating to the development of soil, water, wildlife, livestock, crops and other related resources. Matt Lippert, Agriculture Agent, provides information related to the development of soil, livestock, crops, and other related resources. In addition to conservation, Matt educates about marketing, livestock and crop budgets, integrated pest management, grazing, land rent, farm management, family farm transfers and farmstead design.

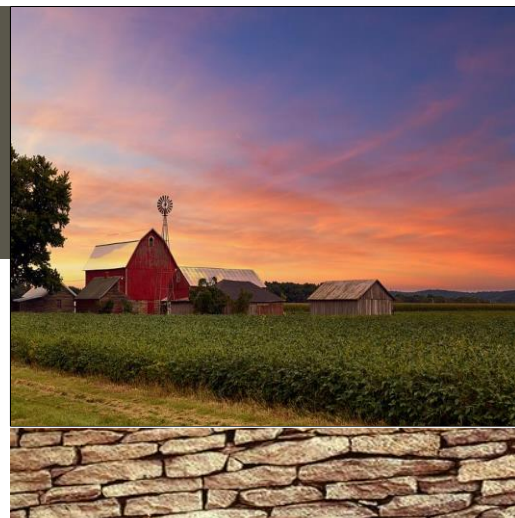
Extension also utilizes its regional and statewide network of UW-Madison specialists and area educators to assist with nutrient and pest management and assisting producers to develop their own nutrient management plans. Richard Halopka, Clark County Crops and Soils Agent, and Dan Marzu, North Central Wisconsin Nutrient & Pest Management Outreach Specialist, work closely with the Wood County Land and Water Conservation Department.

Anna James, Natural Resource Educator, provides resource support to local farmer-led watershed groups and develops educational programming on conservation land management practices. Anna has taken up planning and facilitation of the “Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo,” an annual event modeled after the “Healthy Soil, Healthy Water” program. As part of her regional responsibilities, she assists citizen led watershed and lakes groups with curriculum development and facilitation.

Wood County is the top cranberry-producing county in North America so it is a natural fit to have Cranberry Outreach Specialist, Allison Jonjak, home based with Extension Wood County. Her efforts are focused on improving grower education in cranberry production practices and aligning researcher focus with grower needs. Allison started with Extension in 2020 and has hosted virtual and in-person events focusing on nutrient use efficiency, water use and quality, profitability, and integrated pest management. The Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers’ Association has awarded Allison the Education Advocate award, and cranberry growers appreciate wetlands-specific management decision support and guidance.

Extension also provides educational programs in Horticulture, 4-H and Youth Development, Human Relationships and Development, Community Development, Natural and Environmental Resources and Nutrition Education through the FoodWise program.

Stop by the Extension Office for plat books, farm record books, soil sample information, water quality and radon test kits.



Upcoming LWCD 2024 Events >>

- **Nutrient Management Farmer Education Classes** March 12, 19 and 26, 2024 (full course & refresher course) Registration Link: <https://www.woodcountywi.gov/Departments/LandConservation/Brochures/NutrientManagementTrainingBrochure.pdf>
- **Tree Sale** in April 2024 (order deadline closed 1/15/24...contact the LWCD office to be placed on waiting list for any extra trees (sold on a first-come, first-serve basis)
- **Central Wis. Farm Profitability Expo** – 4/24/24, 10am-3pm
- **Grazing Tour** – late summer/early fall – watch website for info!



Extension Wood County Staff: (pictured on left)

Back (left to right): Jasmine Carbajal (Bilingual 4-H Associate Educator), Wendy Young (Administrative Support), Jeremy Solin (Area 7 Extension Director), Matt Lippert (Agriculture Educator), Anna James-Mitchell (Natural Resources Educator), Jen McNelly (Natural Resources Educator), Michelle Van Krey (Healthy Communities Coordinator), Mallory McGivern (Area 7 FoodWise Administrator), Karli Tomsyck (Administrative Support)

Front (left to right): Hannah Wendels-Scott (FoodWise Nutrition Educator), Janell Wehr (Horticulture Educator), Kayla Rombalski (Community Development Educator)

Staff not pictured: Jackie Carattini (Human Development and Relationships Educator), Malina Carattini (4H Americorps member), Laura Huber (4-H Program Educator) Allison Jonjak (Cranberry Outreach Specialist), and Jennifer Swensen (Wisconsin 4-H Regional Program Manager)



Jason Grueneberg

From: Kylan Hastreiter <kylanh@hastreiter.industries>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 5:12 PM
To: Jason Grueneberg
Subject: FRC Team 9676, Wood County SEED

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Jason,

I wanted to share that the FRC Team based out of C2 Makerspace competed in our first competition this last weekend in Milwaukee. We finished number 27 out of 54 and was awarded the Wisconsin Regional 2024 Rookie Inspiration Award. We'll be attending the second regional competition in April. C2's Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100084244807677> if you want to see the full post on it.



Thank you for your support.
Best Regards,

Kylan Hastreiter
Vice President
Cell: 715-600-1261 | Office: 715-227-9988
E: kylanh@hastreiter.industries

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Annual Report

Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2023

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Board Members,

The fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, was a good year for CWED. We had all 10 counties participating. Board seats were all filled, and members participated fully.

The Board met six times, including October, December, March, May, July, and September for the strategic planning meeting.

After a failed attempt at requesting proposals from accounting firms, the organization secured the services of Wausau Tax and Accounting to prepare and file its 990 to the IRS.

CWED's investment at CoVantage Credit Union was reviewed and reinvested in two short-term CDs at higher interest rates than it was earning in the previous CD.

A strategic planning event was held in September, with agreement that the organization should budget for marketing, create an annual report, get more involved in the entrepreneurial space and continue to promote the fund aggressively to all entities in the region.

The fund is in a strong position, with no struggling or delinquent borrowers. There were 42 active loans.

CWED closed three loans in fiscal year 22-23. Distillery Partners, Cheval Noir and J&B New and Used Resale, LLC.

Sincerely,

Kristen Fish-Peterson, CEcD, EDFP

Balance Sheet September 30, 2023

Central Wisconsin Economic Development Fund, Inc. Balance Sheet As of September 30, 2023

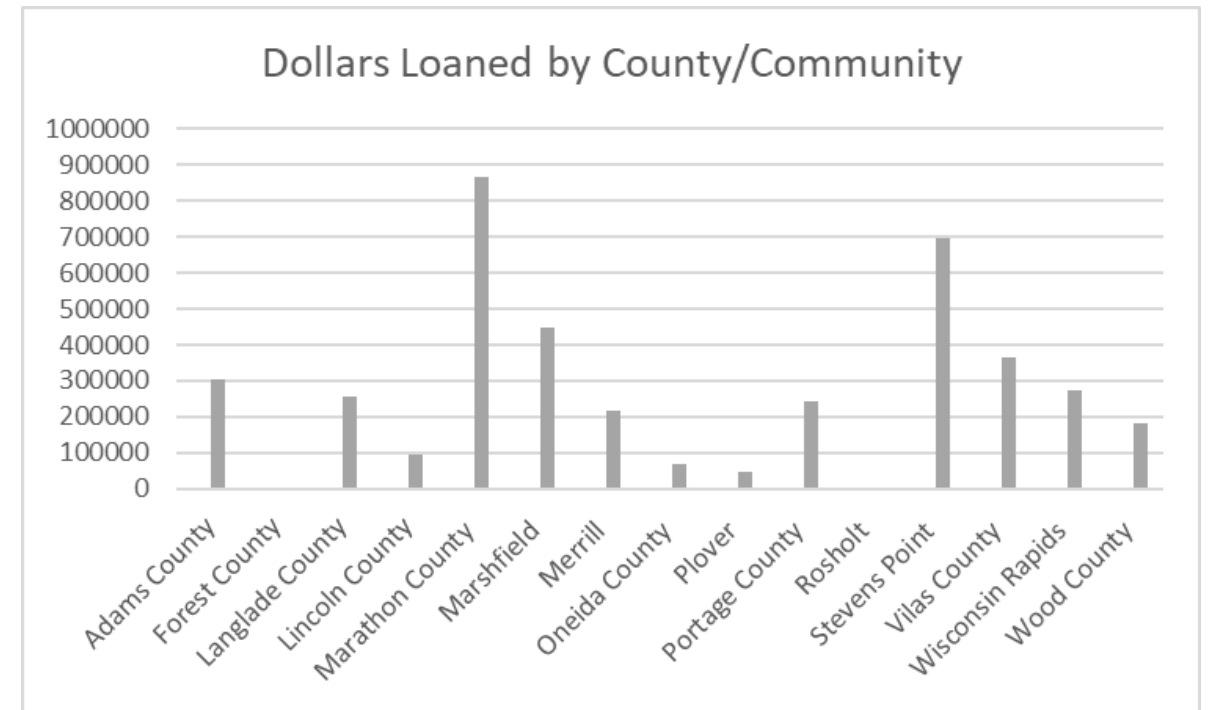
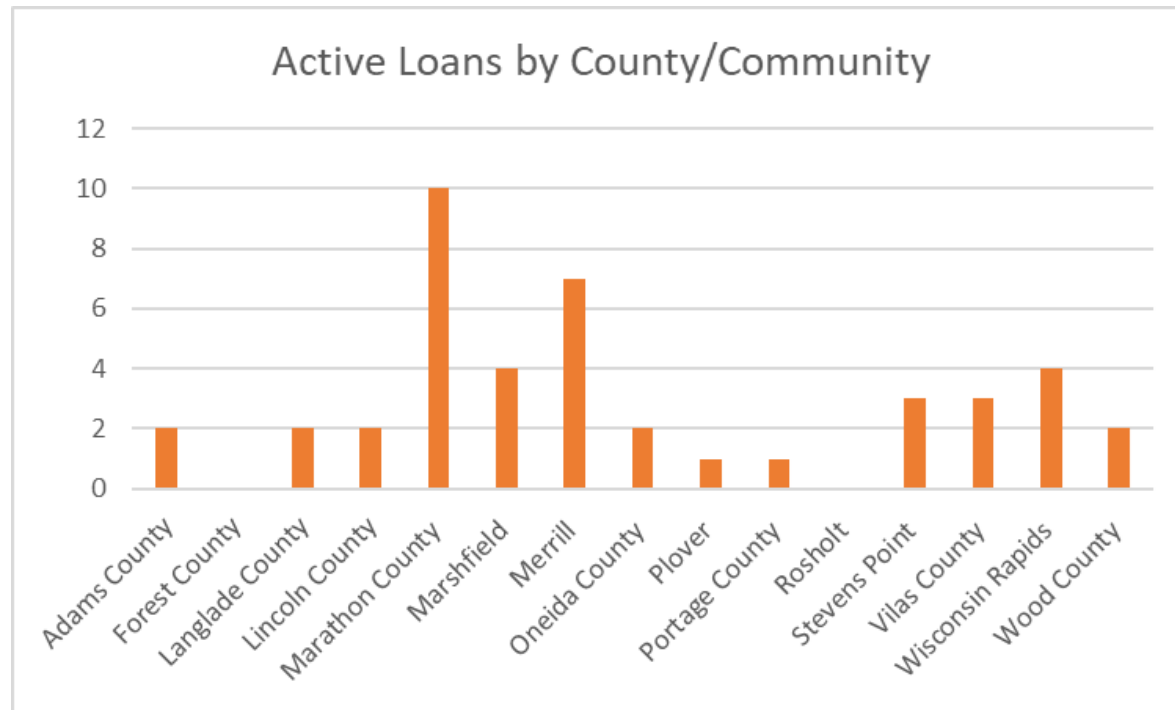
| | Sep 30, 23 |
|--|----------------------|
| ASSETS | |
| Current Assets | |
| Checking/Savings | |
| 1001 · Checking- PSB | 26,882.77 |
| 1002 · Savings People's Bank | |
| 1003 · Savings-PSB | 3,271,963.31 |
| 1004 · PSB (Micro) Savings | 502,906.87 |
| Total 1002 · Savings People's Bank | 3,774,870.18 |
| 1005 · CoVCU Member Account | 25,282.87 |
| 1007 · COVCU 36 month CD 0003 | 1,532,125.38 |
| 1008 · CoVCU 19month CD 001 | 3,500,000.00 |
| Total Checking/Savings | 8,859,161.20 |
| Other Current Assets | |
| 1399 · All Loan Receivable | |
| 1400 · Loans Receivable | 3,716,621.16 |
| 1420 · Loans Receivable-MICRO | 221,487.07 |
| Total 1399 · All Loan Receivable | 3,938,108.23 |
| 1440 · Allowance for Doubtful Accounts | -177,214.87 |
| Total Other Current Assets | 3,760,893.36 |
| Total Current Assets | 12,620,054.56 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 12,620,054.56 |
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | |
| Equity | |
| 3200 · Fund Balance | 11,830,523.98 |
| 3300 · Fund Balance-MICRO | 506,611.88 |
| Net Income | 282,918.70 |
| Total Equity | 12,620,054.56 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | 12,620,054.56 |

Income Statement Budget to Actual

Central Wisconsin Economic Development Fund, Inc. Income Statement Budget vs. Actual October 2022 through September 2023

| | Oct '22 - Sep 23 | Budget | \$ Over Budget | % of Budget |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | | | |
| Income | | | | |
| 4100 · Loan Interest Income-CWE | 161,004.43 | 160,225.56 | 778.87 | 100.5% |
| 4200 · Loan Interest Income MICRO-C... | 10,111.84 | 3,767.40 | 6,344.44 | 268.4% |
| 4300 · Bank Interest-CWE | 153,987.61 | 24,513.72 | 129,473.89 | 628.2% |
| 4350 · Dividend Income | 117,260.94 | 123,699.51 | -6,438.57 | 94.8% |
| 4400 · Other Fees-CWE | 60.00 | 1,505.05 | -1,445.05 | 4% |
| 4500 · Loan Origination Fees-CWE | 970.00 | 5,030.00 | -4,060.00 | 19.3% |
| Total Income | 443,394.82 | 318,741.24 | 124,653.58 | 139.1% |
| Expense | | | | |
| 6000 · Contractual/Consultant | | | | |
| 6010 · Professional Services | | | | |
| 6020 · Audit/990 Prep | 1,800.00 | 6,262.50 | -4,462.50 | 28.7% |
| 6030 · Loan Admin-Servicing Fee | 129,384.00 | 129,384.00 | 0.00 | 100.0% |
| 6040 · Legal | 90.00 | 3,000.00 | -2,910.00 | 3.0% |
| Total 6010 · Professional Services | 131,274.00 | 138,646.50 | -7,372.50 | 94.7% |
| Total 6000 · Contractual/Consultant | 131,274.00 | 138,646.50 | -7,372.50 | 94.7% |
| 6100 · Supplies | | | | |
| 6110 · Loan Origination Expense | 1,285.77 | 1,431.55 | -145.78 | 89.8% |
| 6120 · Computer Subscription Expen... | 1,674.00 | 1,800.00 | -126.00 | 93.0% |
| Total 6100 · Supplies | 2,959.77 | 3,231.55 | -271.78 | 91.6% |
| 6200 · Occupancy/Operating | | | | |
| 6210 · Insurance Expense | 6,254.00 | 7,076.00 | -822.00 | 88.4% |
| Total 6200 · Occupancy/Operating | 6,254.00 | 7,076.00 | -822.00 | 88.4% |
| 6300 · Other Expenses | | | | |
| 6310 · Bad Debt Expense | -13,941.39 | -8,004.00 | -5,937.39 | 174.2% |
| 6320 · Misc. Expense | 495.00 | 505.11 | -10.11 | 98% |
| 6330 · Meeting Room Rental | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Total 6300 · Other Expenses | -13,446.39 | -7,498.89 | -5,947.50 | 179.3% |
| Total Expense | 127,041.38 | 141,455.16 | -14,413.78 | 89.8% |
| Net Ordinary Income | 316,353.44 | 177,286.08 | 139,067.36 | 178.4% |
| Other Income/Expense | | | | |
| Other Income | | | | |
| 7000 · Other Income | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Total Other Income | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Net Other Income | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Net Income | 316,353.44 | 177,286.08 | 139,067.36 | 178.4% |

Fund Metrics by County/Community



Loans Paid in Full

During Fiscal Year
2022-2023, nine (9)
loans were paid in full,
including:

- Jessica's Cucina (1 large loan and 1 micro loan)
- Northward, LLC
- Johnson Electric Coil
- Michael Doughty (1st Choice Auto)
- Mueller Investment Properties, LLC
- Buck's Recycling & Metals
- Phoenix Properties, LLC
- Habitat for Humanity Northwoods



MARSHFIELD COMMUNITY BIKE SHARE RIVER RIDERS BIKE SHARE PROGRAM SUMMARY



BACKGROUND

River Riders Bike Share started in Wisconsin Rapids in 2014 as an initiative to increase physical activity and decrease obesity by enhancing outdoor recreation options and creating a new public mode of non-motorized vehicular transportation. Since then, the River Riders Bike Share program has endured and overcome challenges, maintained partnerships and created new ones, and has grown in numbers and the geographic areas served.



COMMUNITY BENEFIT

- Offers a low-cost physical activity opportunity for residents and visitors that can directly benefit their health and improve the overall health of our community.
- Compliments the parks, trail systems, and recreation facilities in the County with an affordable way to explore our community.
- Provides a low-cost transportation option.
- Supports the local economy when riders utilize the bikes while they shop, eat, and explore our small businesses and restaurants.
- Participates in and supports community events such as Science by the River.
- Hosts community bike rides to encourage bike riding, create a sense of belonging, and bring awareness of an amenity in our County.



- Assisted the City of Wisconsin Rapids in securing the title of Honorable Mention from the League of American Bicyclists for the 2023 Bicycle Friendly Community list.
- Serves as a point of connection for bike related initiatives such as coordinating the donation of bicycle racks to local hotels, housing units, and businesses.
- Expanded the program into Marshfield in 2021 now boasting a fleet of 50 bicycles and 10 racks throughout Wood County.

OUR PARTNERS

- Clean Green Action Team
- City of Marshfield
- City of Wisconsin Rapids
- Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library
- Incourage Community Foundation
- Marshfield Area Community Foundation Inc.
- Marshfield Clinic Health System YMCA
- Marshfield Fairgrounds
- McMillan Memorial Library
- Town of Grand Rapids
- Visit Marshfield
- Wood County CEED Committee
- Wood County Health Department

2023 SPOTLIGHT STORY

Research Scientists from the Texas A&M Transportation Institute reached out to engage us in an interview focusing on shared-use mobility services in rural areas, building towards both a final report and implementation guidebook at the end of the project. After the interview, they invited us to participate as a case study to share information about RRBS. The main focus was to learn about how agencies and organizations involved in RRBS have worked together to help fill a rural mobility need in our County. This opportunity highlighted the innovative work we do in Wood County where we put the needs of our community first.

RIVER RIDERS & MARSHFIELD COMMUNITY **BIKE SHARE**



THE FUTURE OF BIKE SHARE IN WOOD COUNTY

GROWTH. ACCESSIBILITY. EXPANSION. COMMUNITY.



Moving forward

Bike share has been present in our County for almost 10 years. Looking towards the future of bike share in Wood County, we strive to strengthen our partnerships throughout the County so we can achieve more together and better meet the needs of our community. Expanding into a program that includes e-bikes and additional tricycles to ensure accessibility are goals of the program. Many organizations, local businesses, and other County-based partners can play a vital role moving forward.

“The River Riders Bike Share location at McMillan Library has been popular and well-used over the years. Its location makes it convenient both for library visitors and others who just need a bike close to where they live. With our parking lot, it can also serve as a low-tech version of “park and ride”.

—Eric Norton, McMillan Memorial Library”