

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #115, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Kenneth Curry, Robert Ashbeck, Mark Holbrook, Dave LaFontaine and Carmen Good.

Members Excused: Bill Leichtnam

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg and Kim Keech.

Land & Water Conservation Staff: Adam Groshek.

UW Extension Staff: Jason Hausler, Nancy Turyk and Rachael Whitehair.

Others Present: Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dale Christiansen (Central Wisconsin State Fair Association) and Shannon Rohde (Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership).

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Curry called the CEED Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Declaration of Quorum.** Chairperson Curry declared a quorum.
3. **Public Comment.** None
4. **Review Correspondence.**
 - A. Jason Grueneberg gave an update on three county appointed positions to the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.
 - i. Wood County Board Chairperson appoints county appointed position.
 - ii. Joint position appointed by the County and Governor which is vacant.
 - iii. Governor appointed position which is vacant.The two vacant positions have not been filled for many years because Wood County has not been a paying member. Wood County is now a paying member and are moving forward to have those positions filled. Chairperson Doug Machon discussed with Peter Kastenzholz and they agreed by statutes that the County Board Chairperson could make recommendations on those positions. County Board Chairperson Machon has forwarded his name for the joint position as well as Supervisor LaFontaine. The hope is that County Board Chairperson Machon is appointed for the joint position and Supervisor LaFontaine is considered for the Governor appointed position. Position appoints are not high priority. Jason hopes that the two vacant positions will be filled within several months but may not be filled until the end of the year. County Board Chairperson Doug Machon and Supervisor Dave LaFontaine will continue attending the Regional Planning Commission meetings until appoints are made for the vacant positions. Chairperson Curry stated that this should be a standing agenda item under Economic Development.

Jason Grueneberg commented that the Regional Planning Commission has several meetings throughout the year and packets for those meetings will be made available to the CEED Committee.
 - B. Jason Grueneberg shared that Wisconsin Rural Partners 2020 Rural Summit will be on April 22-23 at Hotel Marshfield. Wood County has been asked to be a gold sponsor for the event. Jason encourages CEED Committee members to attend. Chairperson Curry asked for it to be a future agenda item.
5. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the January 8, 2020 CEED meeting, 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension and 3) staff activity reports from Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, Paul Bernard, Jeff Brewbaker,

Stevana Hamus, Kim Keech, Victoria Wilson, Shane Wucherpennig, Adam Groshek, Rod Mayer, Lori Ruess, Matt Lippert, Nancy Turyk, Jackie Carattini, Hannah Wendels, Kelly Hammond, Laura Huber and Rachael Whitehair.

- A. Minutes of January 8, 2020. No additions or corrections needed.
- B. Department Bills. Dave LaFontaine asked for clarification on DLT Solutions LLC 3 year subscription renewal in the amount of \$5,693.80. Adam Groshek explained that it is AutoCAD software program for civil engineering.
- C. Staff Activity Reports. No additions or corrections needed

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve and accept the January 8, 2020 CEED minutes, bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW-Madison Division of Extension-Wood County, and staff activity reports as presented. Second by Mark Holbrook. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Risk and Injury Report. None.

7. Land & Water Conservation Department.

- A. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Update Shannon Rohde (Project Manager) of Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership shared that they provide tree and shrub planting services, including windbreak and living snow fence design, fabric installation and maintenance. The Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership is administered through the Portage County Planning & Zoning Department. A cooperative venture consisting of Land & Water Conservation Committees and Departments of Adams, Juneau, Portage, Waushara, and Wood Counties. Working with Marathon, Green Lake, Langlade, Lincoln, Marquette, and Waupaca Counties. The Department of Transportation has partnered with the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership planting living snow fences along highways such as Highway I-39.
- B. Request extending county-wide nitrate water sampling into 2020 Chairperson Curry presented a county resolution to extend county-wide nitrate water sampling into 2020. The county approved nitrate well water sampling in 2019 for \$8,500 which came from contingency. The goal was to test 10 sites in every township in the county. Adam Groshek shared that the goal was to test 1 well in every section of the county. The Land & Water Conservation Department is at 40% of their goal and have approximately \$4,100 remaining. The request is to extend county-wide nitrate water sampling into 2020.

Motion by Mark Holbrook to accept and extend county-wide nitrate sampling into 2020. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Discuss Land & Water Conservation Association Board elections Chairperson Curry shared that this is a state organization with four people running for election on the Land & Water Conservation Board. Consensus of the committee is to have Shane Wucherpennig vote for Land & Water Conservation Board elections.
- D. Discuss Statue 92.06 Chairperson Curry shared Wisconsin Stats. 92.06 “the county board shall appoint to the land conservation committee a person who is the chairperson of the county farm service agency committee created under 16 USC 590h (b) or other county farm service agency committee member designated by the chairperson of the county farm service agency committee”. The chairperson of the Farm Service Agency committee designated Carmen Good to be the Farm Service Agency representative on the CEED Committee.
- E. Committee Reports
 - i. Citizens Groundwater Group meeting Minutes in committee packet.
All committee meetings are the third Monday of the month at 2:00 p.m. at the Wood County Riverblock Building, Room #206.

- ii. Health Committee report Chairperson Curry shared that Peter Kastenzholz (Wood County Corporation Counsel) and David Lasker (Juneau County Corporation Counsel) have been pushing Cameron Fields (counsel for AGC) to set up a meeting with the AGC and other interested parties which has not happened. Charles Mikalian (EPA's counsel) requested an update. Peter Kastenzholz shared an update. Charles Mikalian has since communicated with Cameron Fields (counsel for AGC). Wisconsin DNR representatives have initiated scheduling of a meeting with the hope that the AGC will attend.
- iii. Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative (CSGCC) Committee report
Organizational planning meeting. Meetings are open to the public. Rep Katrina Shankland updated the committee with proposed bills from Senator Vos's Task Force Committee.
 1. Appoint CEED member to the CSGCC
Chairperson Curry shared that Bill Leichtnam has been representing Wood County.

Motion by Kenneth Curry to appoint Bill Leichtnam to the Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative Committee. Second by Mark Holbrook. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Curry shared a letter that he drafted in support of AB 790/SB 723 funding for county conservation staff. The proposed bill is part of Senator Vos's Task Force Committee report. \$10 million package. Discussion followed.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve and authorize Chairperson Kenneth Curry to sign the letter to support AB 790/SB 723 funding for county conservation staff. Second by Mark Holbrook. Motion carried 4-1. Robert Ashbeck voted against the letter because he wants to know how funds will be matched for farmers.

8. **Private Sewage.** Staff report in committee packet.

9. **Land Records.** Staff report in committee packet.

10. **County Surveyor.** None

11. Planning.

- A. Consider a resolution supporting an application to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation 2020-2024 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Award Cycle, requesting funding to update the Wood County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Jason Grueneberg shared that the last Wood County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was completed in the late 1990's. Resolution would apply for a Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) 2020-2024 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant to update the plan. Total project cost is \$80,000. This is an 80%/20% local match grant program where WisDOT TAP funds will total \$64,000 and the 20% match of \$16,000 will be covered by the North Central Regional Planning Commission local planning funds reserve account. Wood County will incur approximately \$500 of WisDOT charges in processing this application if grant funding is awarded.

Chairperson Curry expressed that the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission should be a standing agenda item for Wood County projects.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to authorize Wood County Director of Planning & Zoning, Jason Grueneberg to apply for a Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) 2020-2024 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant to update the Wood County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Economic Development

- A. Update on the Regional Economic Development Innovation Initiative Jason Grueneberg shared that the steering committee met for two days in December 2019. Steering committee

will continue discussion on goals and strategies on Thursday, February 13th at MSTC in room 133/L34 in Wisconsin Rapids @ 12:30 p.m. Goals and strategies are being developed that promote economic development and improve quality of life. Draft is targeted for completion in June with the completed document in September.

Motion by Kenneth Curry to approve per diem and mileage for Dave LaFontaine to attend the Regional Economic Development Innovation meeting on February 13th at MSTC in Wisconsin Rapids. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.

Carmen Good was excused at 11:05 a.m.

13. UW Extension.

A. General Office Update

Jason Hausler shared the following office updates:

- UW-Madison Division of Extension Area Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21st tentatively scheduled for Wausau.
- Cranberry Specialist position – Interviews are scheduled for February 13th with a possible start date in early March. This position is a regional position serving several counties with the job location in Wood County.
- Horticulture position – Janell Wehr was hired as a full-time Horticulturist for Marathon County. The part-time position in Wood County is taking applications until February 24th.
- UW-Madison Division of Extension-Wood County is partnering with the Central Wisconsin State Fair Association and Dale Christiansen to transition junior fair administrative responsibilities to the fair. UW-Madison Division of Extension will still be involved in the fair as Educators.
- Class & Comp wage study for Human Resources is being completed for support staff.

- B. Fair Financial Allocation-Dale Christiansen 2019 fair attendance up by 30% with 6 days of great weather. It has been well received moving the fair 1 week earlier from Labor Day weekend. City of Marshfield transferred administrative duties to the Central Wisconsin State Fair Association. 2020 Fairground events list was shared. White Tiger Educational exhibit had a lot of attention prior and during the fair from PETA. The White Tiger exhibit passed inspection with the USDA. Dale Christiansen shared that there were 1,275 junior fair exhibitors and 4,012 exhibits in 2019. Exhibit numbers were down in 2019 from 2018 due to a decrease in rural farms/farm families.

Central Wisconsin State Junior Fair expenses:

Item	2019	2018
Premiums	\$10,793.50	\$11,927.00
Judges	\$5,103.50	\$4,978.60
Mileage Paid	\$2,132.86	\$2,342.60
Manure	\$3,125.00	\$3,552.00
Ribbons	\$4,548.50	\$2,779.00
Fair Entry	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Advertising	\$2,500.00	
Insurance	\$4,500.00	
Utilities/Water/Sewer	\$3,542.62	\$3,806.78
Free or Discounted Tickets	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Labor	\$3,775.00	\$2,775.00
PA System	\$550.00	\$250.00
Equipment Rental	\$1,900.00	\$2,150.00
Junior Fair Yearly Expense Total	\$47,470.98	\$39,560.98

Motion by Kenneth Curry to approve releasing to the Central Wisconsin State Fair Association \$32,000 allocation for 2020 Junior Fair expenses. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Educational Presentation-Rachael Whitehair Rachael Whitehair shared that a field day planning committee meeting met on January 27th with a field day planned in early December. This field day is a revamp of the Healthy/Healthy Soils Workshop held in past years. Planning Committee members consist of Sam Warp (Marshfield Wastewater Plant), Carissa Freeh (Pheasants Forever), Shane Wucherpennig (Wood County Land & Water Conservation), Rick Georgeson (Pettenwell and Castle Rock Stewards), Joshua Benes (Golden Sands RC&D) and Rachael Whitehair (UW-Madison Division of Extension-Wood County). The focus and goal of the field day will be on land practices and economic profitability for farmers.

Rachael Whitehair has drafted an Agricultural Producer Needs Assessment with a target date to be mailed in May-June 2020. The purpose of the needs assessment is to assess opinions and behaviors of agricultural producers throughout Central Wisconsin regarding their farming practices. This would include farmers who engage in the production of cash crops, vegetable crops, cattle and dairy. Collected data will be analyzed and then utilized to guide future programming.

- 14. Schedule Next Regular Committee Meeting.** The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at Wood County Courthouse in Conference Room #115.

- 15. Agenda items for next meeting.** Agenda items are due February 26th.

- A. North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission – Wood County vacant appointed positions
- B. Wisconsin Rural Partners – 2020 Rural Summit
- C. North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission projects in Wood County

- 16. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary.** None.

- 17. Adjourn.** Chairperson Curry declared the meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Minutes by Kim Keech, Planning & Zoning Office