

MINUTES
 CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2019
 WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #114, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Kenneth Curry, Robert Ashbeck, Mark Holbrook, Dave LaFontaine, Bill Leichtnam and Harvey Petersen.

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg, Jeff Brewbaker, Justin Connor
 Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpfennig, Tracy Arnold, Adam Groshek
 UW Extension Staff: Jason Hausler, Jackie Carattini, Karli Tomsyck, Kelly Hammond

Others Present: Dist. #12 Supervisor Douglas Machon, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendening, Nancy Eggleston (Wood County Health Department), Marla Cummings (Wood County Finance Department), Chad Schooley (Wood County Parks and Forestry), Bob Sorenson (Nekoosa), Gordon Gottbeheut (Nekoosa), Randy Moody (Port Edwards), Dan Matthews

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Curry called the CEED Meeting to order at 9:00am
2. **Declaration of Quorum.** Chairperson Curry declared a quorum.
3. **Public Comment.** Dan Matthews presented a groundwater resolution to committee. Dan stated backflows are tested a minimum of once per year. Minimum leak is 500 gallons of sewage per day – the equivalent of pumping out septic every other day. Dan has requested the committee review the resolution for the county to regulate, instead of voluntary reporting.
4. **Review Correspondence.** Jason Hausler introduced Kelly Hammond, the new UW-Extension FoodWise Program Coordinator for Wood & Portage counties. Kelly started on Monday, January 7th.
5. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the Dec 5, 2018, CEED meeting, 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension and 3) staff activity reports from Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, Justin Conner, Jeff Brewbaker, Stevana Skinner, Kim Keech, Victoria Wilson, Shane Wucherpfennig, Tracy Arnold, Adam Groshek, Emily Salvinski, Lori Ruess, Matt Lippert, Nancy Turyk, Jackie Carattini, Jodi Friday, Chris Viau and Laura Huber.
 - A. Minutes of Dec 8, 2018. No additions or corrections needed.
 - B. Department Bills. No additions or corrections needed.
 - C. Staff Activity Reports. Supervisor Leichtnam requested clarification of page 13, Adam Groshek - Accola manure abandonment. Shne Wucherpfennig stated the project is completely wrapped up.

Motion by Kenneth Curry to approve and accept the December 5, 2018 CEED minutes, bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension, and staff activity reports as presented. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Presentation/discussion on Amazon Credit Card

Marla Cummings shared that the Finance Department will now manage one consolidated Amazon Business account that all departments can utilize. Marla also provided information about a consolidated credit card system with US Bank. An informational webinar will be held on January 17th for department heads and other applicable employees to learn about the new credit card program. A representative from US Bank will be at the February executive committee meeting on January 29th. The transition for the Amazon Business account will be complete by end of January and US Bank by the end of February. Store charge accounts can still be used (i.e. Fleet Farm, Walmart, etc.).

7. Risk and Injury Report. None.

13. Planning

A. Consider resolution to adopt the 2018 Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Plan

Ken Curry requested this agenda item be moved up in the meeting. Adam DeKleyn shared the Open Spaces Plan has taken a year to develop and is a comprehensive inventory and analysis of Wood County's recreation system. It identifies the goals and recommendations to meet the needs of the county's system. A draft is available for review on the Wood County website and Parks and Forestry Facebook page. Recreation plans are updated every 5 years and must be completed for DNR grant eligibility. Since the last Wood County plan update in 2011, Parks and Forestry have received over \$345,000 in awarded grants. Updates to plans ensure effectiveness to meet changing recreation trends in the future. Outdoor recreation provides additional economic (increased property values, increased retention of residents, businesses and employees), social and health benefits. Planning and Zoning and Parks and Forestry recommend the committee approves the plan and for it to be forwarded on to County Board for adoption.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve the resolution adopting the 2019 Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Plan. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Land & Water Conservation Department.

A. Request contingency funds for no-till drill purchase. Shane Wucherpennig shared an update on the fundraising and search to purchase a no-till drill. Since starting the fundraising in spring of 2018, around \$9800.00 has been raised. An estimated additional \$500.00 from sale of "silver truck" will also be put towards purchase. Purchasing the equipment brand-new would cost \$30,000 and will not be an option. Shane has located a used Great Plains 10' unit with low hours in "fantastic" shape; all 3 seed boxes and is set-up for the county's needs. Through negotiation, the owner is currently asking \$18,500.00 for the equipment. Shane has offered \$17,500.00 but the offer hasn't been accepted or denied yet. Discussion on course of action for requesting contingency funds followed.

Motion by Bill Leichtnam to approve the use of contingency funds to purchase a no-till drill for \$7500.00 and not exceeding \$8500.00. Second by Harvey Petersen. Motion carried unanimously.

No-till drilling is encouraged is to keep vegetated cover on the ground through growing season and winter months. Many other Wisconsin counties have purchased the equipment to make it easier for farmers to use this practice and make it commonplace on their farms. The no-till drill will be rentable to Wood County residents at a low-cost rate to encourage trial and migration toward purchasing their own. Equipment should be available for rent by April 2019. Harvey

Petersen commented the promotion of this practice is becoming wide-spread throughout Wisconsin and other states. The next step is for this request to go to executive committee for approval.

- B. Report on December Land & Water County Conservationist meeting Bill Leichtnam and Shane Wucherpennig gave a report on the Land & Water County Conservationist meeting. Topics included nitrates in groundwater, flooding and climate control and roundtable county updates. Supervisor Leichtnam included a full report in the packet. Discussion followed.
- C. WI Prairie Chicken Festival, Golden Sands RC&D Supervisor Leichtnam distributed a letter from the Clean Green Action group to Golden Sands RC&D regarding the Wisconsin Prairie Chicken Festival items for sale and continued use of Facebook page and website. The website is the main concern as it creates confusion for people searching online for the correct festival. Supervisor Leichtnam suggested withholding dues until website is taken down. Discussion followed. Chairman Curry questioned CEED committee's future involvement with RC&D. Discussion followed. Joshua Benitz, RC&D interim director, formally requested this to be added as an agenda item. The 2019 dues have not been paid yet. Shane Wucherpennig will follow up with Joshua Benitz to attend the February CEED meeting.
- D. Update on Armenia/Port Edwards Memorandum of Understanding with AGC Nancy Eggeston shared that the Health Department sent 771 letters to Juneau County (Armenia) residents and 488 to Wood County (Port Edwards) residents regarding the water testing program. Letter recipients are asked to complete a survey about their well's location and if an outside spigot is available. The concern is that water will be turned off during winter months and there will not be an outside source to sample from. The AGC will decide what happens with residents whose water is turned off. Options would be to wait until spring, take a sample from inside or not sample those wells at all. Hopefully an estimated timeframe of when sampling will occur will be announced soon. Nancy informed the committee that ACOM is the consulting firm for the AGC and will be arranging the water testing/sampling but they have not selected a lab for analysis yet. There will be a site visit from the DNR on Friday, January 11. The Wood County Health Department may be chosen to run nitrate tests since a lab hasn't been identified yet. A lawsuit has been filed with 81 plaintiffs. The Daily Tribune published an article about the lawsuit on Tuesday, January 8 but only included Armenia, not Port Edwards. The letters have generated communication back to the health department. Nancy has received around 20 calls so far. Time spent by health department is being logged. Discussion followed regarding L&WCD staying informed, but communications will be directed to the Health Department.
- E. Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Program update. Tracy Arnold stated Joan Arnold's petition was denied. The Town of Rock public hearing regarding Coulee Frac Sand was held on Monday, January 7th. 40-45 people attended, including the board. Shane Wucherpennig noted Tracy put together a PowerPoint presentation to lead the meeting. This concludes the public hearing aspect. Pending financial assurance, there is authorization to issue permit. The Town of Rock board has a conditional use permit pending. If denied, this is "dead in the water". We are only one of the permits needed. There is a condition on our permit that all other permits are required for ours to be issued.
- F. Inform CEED of discontinuance of Progress Lane in the Town of Rock. Shane Wucherpennig passed out reference maps to committee members. Per state law, the town or applicant must notify the L&WCD oversight committee when an activity like this happens. Shane noted one small parcel (16005651) was owned by Marshfield School District but will be transferred over to Mr. Hardel. Wisconsin DNR requires at least 35 feet remain of the Progress Lane to allow for access to Rocky Run Creek. Survey exhibit may change to comply with

DNR's requirement. The DNR's comments will be addressed at a Town of Rock public hearing on January 23rd at 7pm. New documentation will be submitted at the public hearing to abandon right of way. Discussion followed.

- G. Discussion on groundwater Bill Leichtnam recommended that a discussion on groundwater should be added to the CEED agenda permanently. Ken Curry stated that he would like to see the agenda item be more specific, as the topic is very broad as it stands on the agenda. Bill Leichtnam suggested that a monthly report from the Central Sands Groundwater Group could be used for the agenda item. The Central Sands Groundwater group meets the third Monday of the month at Riverblock. Katie Tomsyck has served as secretary throughout the group's 2 year existence. Discussion followed on clerical presence for meeting minutes. Jason Grueneberg offers to have Planning and Zoning fill-in temporarily. Bill Leichtnam also shared that a group is going to lobby area legislators, including Senator Kohl and Assembly Speaker Voss on Wednesday, January 16th. Five 30-minute meetings have been scheduled for the day.
- H. Tri-County Groundwater Roundtable discussion. A meeting between Adams, Juneau and Wood counties is scheduled for January 24th in Necedah to discuss the MOU, future action and meetings. Bill Leichtnam has a temporary agenda prepared. The goal is to get the three counties working together on water quality, nitrates and other contaminants in soil and water. Attendees from Wood County will include Ken Curry, Bill Leichtnam, Nancy Egelston and Shane Wucherpfenning. Discussion followed regarding per diem and mileage reimbursement for Ken Curry and Bill Leichtnam's attendance.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to pay Chairman Curry and Supervisor Leichtnam per diem and mileage to attend the tri-county meeting on January 24th in Necedah. Second by Harvey Peterson.

Ayes – Kenneth Curry, Dave LaFontaine, Bill Leichtnam, Harvey Peterson

Nay – Robert Ashbeck

Robert Ashbeck stated that he was not given per diem for attending the Mill Creek meeting.

Motion carried.

Per diem was not previously requested for the Mill Creek meetings. Ken Curry requested an agenda item on per diem for the mill creek delegate.

9. Economic Development.

- A. Wood County ATV Trail committee update Jason Grueneberg shared that signage has been purchased. Some has been installed on county road main routes. Main routes were approved at the county level, but communication with townships is yet to be done. The 2019 grant funding deadline is in April. The committee is positioning projects for the 2020 grant cycle and is looking to do marketing/promotion of the trails with the Wisconsin Rapids Convention & Visitors Bureau and Marshfield Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. Justin Connor will be involved with mapping. Research is being done to determine ways to make maps available to public. Dexter Park is considered the trailhead. Chad Schooley has been doing design work on 10 ATV sites that would be available this year. Communication with towns will be done through the Towns Association meeting in February and will continue as the project rolls out this year. The CEED Committee is receiving ATV trail system updates because of the potential economic impact. Supervisor Holbrook suggested a bi-annual report on estimated economic development impact.

- B. Discussion on Wood County's funding and role in Economic Development The CEED committee does not have adequate time at their regularly scheduled monthly meeting to develop a coherent strategy of how to move forward with economic development. Chairman Curry proposed separating economic development from the regular CEED agenda and suggested a separate monthly or bi-monthly meeting. Options would be to have a standalone committee of non-CEED members, create a sub-committee and report through CEED or have the CEED committee meet separately to discuss economic development specifically. Jason Grueneberg noted there hasn't been a consensus on what is put toward partner organizations. The partner group consists of 8 different entities. \$151,250 budgeted in 2019. The mission and vision should be re-visited and a consensus reached on how to budget for economic development in 2020. Discussion followed. Committee members agreed on a separate CEED committee meeting to occur after County Board meetings at 1:00pm. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 19th at 1:00pm. It will focus on discussing the county's role in economic development and direction. Dave LaFontaine recommended that funding partners should be present. Jason Grueneberg will prepare the agenda and Planning & Zoning will take the minutes. The economic development portion of the February 6th CEED meeting will defer to the meeting on the 19th.

Supervisor Holbrook requested a break at 11:25am. Chairman Curry called the meeting back in session at 11:30am.

10. Private Sewage. Nothing to report.

11. Land Records.

- A. Consider resolution approving the 2019 Wood County Land Information Plan

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve and accept the 2019 Wood County Land Information Plan resolution and send to county board in January. Second by Mark Holbrook. Motion carried unanimously.

12. County Surveyor.

- A. Consider renewal of contract for Public Land Survey System maintenance for transportation work in 2019. Central Staking quoted work at \$185 per corner (increased from \$165 in 2015 and \$135 in 2009). Justin Connor noted Central Staking has worked well in the past and didn't see a need to extend an RFP to other companies. Consideration was brought to CEED because of the price increase. Discussion followed.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to renew the contract for Public Land Survey System maintenance for transportation work in 2019. Second by Mark Holbrook. Motion carried unanimously.

14. UW Extension.

- A. Office Update: Jason Hausler shared that Karli Tomsyck joined UWEX at the end of 2018 and Kelly Hammond (FoodWise Coordinator) started on January 2nd. UW-Extension's full integration into UW-Madison will be in effect as of July 1, 2019. Rebranding began on January 1, 2019 and will include new signage which will be purchased with UW-Madison funding. Jason Hausler will work with Ruben and facilities to ensure signage is updated accordingly with building requirements. State employees will have new email addresses but no other changes will affect day-to-day operations. The Wisconsin Association of County Extension Committees is a group that meets bi-annually and advocates for Extension. The Wisconsin Counties Association has

recently assumed administrative responsibilities of the group. Jason also shared that Chris Viau's liaison appointment has been extended. This creates a savings of \$9975.00 from the contractual services line-item for 2019. In 2018, the savings were used to hire a summer intern. UWEX will go through a Civil Rights review this spring.

- B. Horticulture Educator Update: Interviews will be held on Wednesday, January 16th. This position is a half-time Horticulture Coordinator and will work with the Master Gardeners. Supervisor Holbrook will be on the hiring committee. Jason Hausler extended offer to Supervisor Ashbeck and Supervisor Leichtnam to join committee.
- C. Family Living Programming Presentation: Jackie Carattini shared information regarding 2018 and 2019 financial literacy programming. UWEX has transitioned from classes to a coaching model. In 2018, four sessions were held at the Wisconsin Rapids Job Center (average of 2-3 attendees per session) and McMillan (0 attendees for all 4 sessions). Topics included budgeting, financial goals and credit score. For 2019, monthly sessions will be held at the job center and will cover budgeting, credit and rent smart. Family Living will also be partnering with FoodWise classes at SWEPS. They are working with health agencies in town for referrals. In July 2018, county employees and spouses were surveyed about financial wellness. Results prompted a 4-part financial wellness series for wellness points. Sessions were recorded and could be watched online. These will be available again in 2019. Jackie shared that a parenting program was offered virtually in the fall of 2018 and may lead to the possibility for financial programs to be virtual as well. Programming is being repositioned to encourage participation. Discussion followed.
- D. Support Staff LTE employment discussion: With the contractual services savings, Jason Hausler & Chris Viau discussed keeping Katie Tomsyck employed with limited term status for special project work. A motion to approve the LTE is unnecessary, but the committee appreciates notification and supports Katie's LTE casual employment.

15. Schedule Next Meeting.

The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 6th, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at Wood County Courthouse in Conference Room #115.

16. Agenda items for next meeting.

- A. CEED Involvement with Golden Sands RC&D
- B. Central Sands Groundwater Group Report
- C. Per Diem Mileage for the CEED Mill Creek Delegate.

17. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary.

- a. Special CEED Meeting on Economic Development is scheduled for February 19th at 1:00pm.

18. Adjourn.

Motion by Ken Curry to adjourn at 12:18pm. Second by Mark Holbrook. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark L. Holbrook, Secretary

Minutes by Karli Tomsyck, UW-Extension Wood County

Review for submittal to County Board by Mark L. Holbrook (approved on 1/24/2019)