

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2021
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #114, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Kenneth Curry, Robert Ashbeck, Jake Hahn, Dave LaFontaine, Bill Leichtnam, and Carmen Good (excused at 12:40 p.m.)

Staff Present:

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

Others Present: Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendenning, Ben Jeffrey (Environmental Health Supervisor), Ed Newton (Wood County Finance Director), Ray Bossert (Village of Port Edwards), Steve Schneider (Bug Tussel), Nancy Turyk, Scott Larsen (Marshfield Chamber Foundation via WebEx), Michael Olsen (via WebEx).

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Curry called the CEED meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Declaration of Quorum.** Chair Curry declared a quorum.
3. **Public Comment.** None.
4. **Review Correspondence.**
 - A. Jason Grueneberg shared the County is pursuing an update to LiDAR and the \$155,000 in federal funding has been secured. Planning and Zoning reached out for cost-share to the Land & Water Conservation Department, City of Marshfield and City of Wisconsin Rapids; they will reach out to the Highway Department and other county departments that use LiDAR. Land & Water Conservation Department allocated \$6,000 to the LiDAR update in the 2022 budget.
5. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the November 3, 2021 CEED meeting, 2) bills from Extension, Land & Water Conservation and Planning & Zoning Department and 3) staff activity reports from Laura Huber, Matt Lippert, Allison Jonjak, Hannah Wendels, Kelly Hammond, Janell Wehr, Jackie Carattini, Rachael Whitehair, Shane Wucherpennig, Caleb Armstrong, Klayton Kree, Lori Ruess, Rodney Mayer, Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, Paul Bernard, Jeff Brewbaker, Scott Custer, Kim Keech, Victoria Wilson.
 - A. Minutes of November 3, 2021. No additions or corrections needed.
 - B. Department Bills. No additions or corrections needed.
 - C. Staff Activity Reports. No additions or corrections needed.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve and accept the November 3, 2021 CEED minutes, bills from Extension, Land & Water Conservation and Planning & Zoning, and staff activity reports as presented. Second by Jake Hahn. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Review items, if any, pulled from Consent Agenda.** Bill Leichtnam referred to page 3 & 4 of the CEED packet. Specifically the second bullet point on page 4. He asked about Shane Wucherpennig bringing cost estimates to CEED for the continuation and expansion of nitrate testing. Shane attended the last hour of the Citizen’s Groundwater Group meeting and is aware of the motion that was made at that meeting. He added, two years ago his goal was to get a countywide baseline of nitrates. Until all data is analyzed, we won’t know how many townships have nitrate issues, so it’s too early to ask for additional dollars from the County. Data collection is moving along and staff continues to work on compiling the data. Discussion ensued.

Jake Hahn asked if there is a way to access countywide well testing results. Shane shared there is a ton of data, but it is all over the place. That is why the CSGWCC hired Carla Romano to compile data; but that could take up to a year to complete.

Dave Lafontaine asked who is responsible to enter and compile information and if additional LWCD staff would speed up the process. Shane responded a part-time position would speed up the process; however, nothing was put in the 2022 budget for a part-time position. He added his goal is to have a summary/report on nitrate testing/results out to CEED and County Board Supervisors by July of 2022.

Bill Leichtnam asked about the Grand Rapids nitrate testing and if anyone is looking at sampling in a wider gradient.

Bob Ashbeck shared an article that was in the Marshfield News Herald.

7. Risk and Injury Report. None.

8. Land & Water Conservation Department.

a. Committee Reports

i. Citizens Groundwater Group meeting.

Bill Leichtnam reported the Citizens Groundwater Group meeting was held on Monday, November 15th. December will mark the fifth anniversary of this group's inception. In the past five years, this group has done a lot of education; it may be time to move beyond education. The next meeting will be held on December 20th at 2:00 p.m., in Room 114 of the Wood County Courthouse (available via WebEx). Speakers will be Dennis Hancock, USDA Researcher from Madison and Adam Voskuil, Midwest Environmental Advocates Inc.

1. Discuss Wood County Clean Water supported by the Citizens Groundwater Group – Ray "Boz" Bossert.

Ray Bossert, Port Edwards Village Administrator, introduced himself and thanked the Committee for allowing him to present. He has been observing the county's issues with water and would like a more energetic, aggressive focus on clean drinking water. He referred to his Wood County Clean Water "A Way Ahead" proposal on pages 30 – 45 of the CEED packet. He covered:

- Why we need a more aggressive approach.
- What we know and what we need to know about Wood County wells/groundwater.
- What progress has been made
- How to address the problems.
- What can we do at the symposium

He added everyone wants clean drinking water and the County is in a position for federal dollars through ARPA. Discussion has taken place at the municipal level; the Village of Port Edwards authorized a resolution mandating providing clean water. He suggested that the County hire a part-time employee to expand on-going efforts to collect well water samples and data.

Following lengthy discussion, Bill Leichtnam stated he wants this proposal to move forward.

Motion by Bill Leichtnam to conduct a complete water quality assessment/testing program in Wood County in 2022 including a water symposium, hiring a part-time staff person to collect and compile data, and funding to conduct water testing including tapping into ARPA funding. Second by Dave LaFontaine.

Lengthy discussion followed.

Chair Curry stated he is not opposed to the symposium; but will not support the motion with a time limit.

Bob Ashbeck commented he would only support the motion if the funding comes from outside the tax roll.

Jake Hahn stated testing and the symposium are good ideas but he does not agree with hiring a part-time employee as Land & Water Conservation is currently working on accepting well water samples and compiling the data.

Carmen Good agreed with Hahn; she does not support hiring a part-time employee at this time.

Bill Clendenning shared he is the Chair of the Waters Committee in the Town of Grand Rapids and supports this motion. He has been fighting for clean water efforts since 1967.

Motion by Jake Hahn to amend the previous motion made by Bill Leichtnam and seconded by Dave LaFontaine - to remove from the motion the hiring of a part-time staff person. Second by Carmen Good. Motion passed with Dave LaFontaine opposing – LWCD needs a part-time staff person to complete the project.

Chair Curry called for voting on the amended motion: to conduct a complete water quality assessment/testing program in Wood County in 2022 including a water symposium and funding to conduct water testing including tapping into ARPA funding Motion passed with Ken Curry opposed.

ii. Health Committee report.

Ben Jeffrey reported; out of the 59 well water nitrate samples in the town of Grand Rapids, 10 came back high.

The next AGC meeting is December 15. Following this meeting, Ben will have more of an update.

iii. Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative (CSGWCC) committee report.

Bill Leichtnam gave a brief update on the CSGWCC committee meeting.

- He shared how some of the six counties are using their ARPA funds.
- Katrina Shankland talked about Senate Bill 677 and 678 – water bills. She wrote these bills for passage in the State Senate.
- Update on Carla Romono – already has 110,000 data points entered just two months into her contract.
- He share an email from Carla Romono regarding some data she has not received from Wood County.

iv. Golden Sands RC&D report.

Bill Leichtnam gave a brief update on the November 18th RC&D meeting.

- Each county has the opportunity to give a brief update on what is going on in their County.
- The problem of groundwater contamination in the Town of Grand Rapids was discussed.
- Portage County – Well protection ordinance passed in November; this ordinance originally failed to pass in May.

- Hannah Butkiewicz, RC&D Executive Director reported on groundwater lessons currently being offered to fifth graders in Waupaca and Waushara counties.

At this time without opposition agenda items 14(a) followed by 13(a) were moved up. (See 13a & 14a).

9. Private Sewage

Jason Grueneberg shared the complete private sewage report is in the CEED packet.

- 189 sanitary permits were issued this year; highest since 2013. Quite a few replacement systems.

10. Land Records

- a. Discuss & approve 2022-2024 Land Records Modernization Plan.

Jason Grueneberg shared information on the background of the Land Records Modernization.

- Wood County is part of the Wisconsin Land Records Program.
- As being part of the Wisconsin Land Records Program, Wood County is eligible for receiving grants and retaining the real estate documents recording and filing fees that are charged and collected in the Register of Deeds Office.
- To be part of the Wisconsin Land Records Program counties must complete and update a Land Records Modernization Plan.
- Plan is important; if we don't have a plan Wood County is not eligible for the recording and filing fees.

Motion by Ken Curry to approve and forward to County Board the 2022-2024 Land Records Modernization Plan. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

11. County Surveyor.

- a. Annual Report provided by County Surveyor, Kevin Boyer.

Kevin Boyer did not attend the meeting. Jason Grueneberg will follow up with Kevin and put this item on a future agenda.

- b. Consider annual contract with Central Staking for PLSS maintenance due to road projects in County.

Jason shared he reached out to contractors to see if the maintenance price will remain the same and has not heard back. This item will be put on the January CEED agenda.

12. Planning

- a. Request to approve a zoning map amendment/rezone – Town of Sigel

Adam DeKleyn presented a resolution approving a zoning amendment in the Town of Sigel Official Zoning Map. He shared on November 9, 2021 the Town of Sigel submitted a zoning map amendment/rezone to the Wood County Planning and Zoning Department for review and approval. He referred to page 80-82 of the CEED packet. Request is to rezone parcel # 2100431, a total of approximately 8 acres, from Agricultural (A) to Residential (R). The purpose of the rezone is to allow for the construction of a single-family dwelling. Town of Sigel agricultural district zoning provisions prohibit residential development on this site.

Adam shared the Town Plan Commission held a public hearing and recommended approval of the amendment and the Town Board approved the zoning amendment. The final step is approval or disapproval by County Board. He recommended the CEED approve and forward the resolution to the County Board of Supervisors.

Motion by Jake Hahn to approve and forward to County Board the resolution to approve a zoning amendment to the Town of Sigel Official Zoning Map. Second by Bill Leichtnam Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Discuss 2022 budgets (Planning, County Surveyor, Land Records & Private Sewage). Jason Gruenberg mentioned starting January 1, 2022, Planning and Zoning will administer the Wood County Well-Water Systems Program and this will help bring in additional revenue.

13. Economic Development.

- a. Update from Bug Tussel Wireless on recent infrastructure improvements to improve broadband access in the County.

Steve Schneider gave an update on the progress of the broadband infrastructure improvements in Wood County. They are working on 15 fixed broadband sites; progress at some of the sites include:

- City Point east location - foundation is in the ground – tower in January.
- Hewitt location – lease executed, foundation in December, tower in January.
- Highways D & Q location – foundation in December, tower in January
- Highways N & 13 location – foundation in December, tower in January
- Milladore location – foundation is in the ground.
- Northwest Wood County – lease executed & tower ordered.
- Bluebird Lane – lease is not signed.
- Working on some issues with Meadow Valley and Lonely Road sites.
- Making progress and overall ahead of schedule. He can provide a map of projected coverage.
- Doing well on supply chain issues; only issue is vault lids and they are manufacturing their own vaults and lids.
- Will start selling service throughout Wood County starting in January.
- He explained the bonding process and ARPA funding to the CEED. Cannot payback ARPA funding so established a “right of way” fee.

Following his presentation, Steve mentioned he enjoyed attending the meeting and listening to discussion on other agenda items. He heard the next groundwater concern is Benzalkonium Chloride due to the increased use of hand sanitizer since the COVID-19 pandemic.

- b. Discuss 2022 Economic Development Budget. Nothing to discuss.
- c. North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission update.
The NCWRPC hasn't met since the last CEED meeting.

Adam DeKleyn handed out a copy of the 2021 draft Wood County ATV/UTV Survey Report.

- He gave a brief overview of the project and how it came about.
- He explained the main purpose of the study/survey.
- 275 people completed the survey.
- The survey report was prepared by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission in partnership with Wood County Planning and Zoning.
- A draft copy is available on the Planning and Zoning website under Community Surveys.
- Overall project was a success.
- Any specific questions, contact Adam DeKleyn or Planning & Zoning Department.
- Jake Hahn will take a copy to the HIRC committee.

Jake Hahn asked if there was a way to extract from the survey the estimate of overall Economic Development impact.

Due to the amount of data to review, Chair Curry asked that this be put on the January CEED agenda.

- d. Review proposed 2021 Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) implementation expenditures.

Jason Grueneberg explained he only has one expenditure – request for information for broadband. The cost would be \$1,600.

Motion by Ken Curry to approve the 2021 Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) implementation expenditures presented. Second by Jake Hahn. Motion carried unanimously.

It was the consensus that REDI implementation expenditures continue to be brought before the committee for approval.

- e. Consider resolution requesting carryover of unexpended 2021 REDI implementation funds.

Jason presented a resolution requesting to carryover \$51,075 of unexpended 2021 REDI implementation funds into 2022. Brief discussion followed.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve and forward to County Board the resolution requesting to carryover \$51,075 of unexpended 2021 REDI implementation funds into 2022. Second by Jake Hahn. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Extension.

- a. Nancy Turyk recognition.

Jason Hausler expressed appreciation for the work Nancy Turyk did for Wood County in the past couple of years. Nancy resigned from her position in Extension on November 4th. The CEED presented Nancy with a certificate and thanked her for her service and commended her for the fantastic job she did while working for Wood County. On behalf of CSGWCC Bill Leichnam extended an invite to Nancy to be a member at large if she is interested.

Motion by Bill Leichnam to have Jason Hausler write and present to County Board a resolution commending Nancy Turyk for her outstanding work in Wood County. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion failed.

Voting Aye – Bill Leichnam and Dave LaFontaine

Voting Nay – Jake Hahn – no need for a resolution; presented certificate of recognition.

Bob Ashbeck.

Ken Curry

- b. General Office Update.

Jason Hausler shared he completed performance reviews on the two Program Assistants. Due to Nancy's resignation, some small restructuring is taking place in the office.

- c. Staffing update.

Jason Hausler shared:

- o The Community Development Position will be posted today.
- o Due to retirements, staffing the FoodWise Program is being realigned.
- o Adding FoodWise positions in Clark and Marathon County by the middle of 2022. This will not affect Wood County, as there will still be a full time educator based out of the Wood County office.

- d. Educator Presentation – Laura Huber, 4-H Program Educator. Due to going into closed session and time constraints, Laura will present at the January CEED meeting.

At 11:55 a.m., Chair Curry called for a 10-minute recess.

Reconvened at 12:05 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION. At 12:05 p.m., it was moved by Ken Curry, and seconded by Bill Leichtnam pursuant to Wis Stat 19.85(1)(c) to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the Land & Water Conservation Department Head's performance and Planning and Zoning Department Head's performance. Roll call taken Curry- Aye, Leichtnam – Aye, Ashbeck – Aye, Hahn – Aye, LaFontaine – Aye, Good – Aye.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION. At 12:55 p.m., it was moved by Ken Curry, seconded by Dave LaFontaine, to return to open session.

15. Requests for per diem for meeting attendants.

There were no requests.

16. Schedule Next Meeting.

The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 9:00 a.m., at the Wood County Courthouse in Room 114.

17. Agenda items for next meeting.

- a. Department Head 2022 goals.

18. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary. No additional meeting at this time.

19. Adjourn.

Motion by Bill Leichtnam to adjourn at 12:55 p.m. Second by Jake Hahn. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes by Lori Ruess, Land & Water Conservation Department