

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2021
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #114, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Kenneth Curry, Robert Ashbeck, Jake Hahn, Dave LaFontaine (via WebEx) and Bill Leichtnam.

Members Excused: Carmen Good.

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn and Kim Keech.
Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpfennig and Julianna Kollross.
UW Extension Staff: Jason Hausler and Jackie Carattini.

Others Present (for part or all of the meeting): Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendening, Dist. #16 Supervisor Lance Pliml, Sue Kunferman (Wood County Health Department), Kristie Rauter-Egge (Wood County Health Department), Jeff Gaier (Roy Shwery Field) and Jeremy Sickler (Alexander Field).

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.** Shane Wucherpfennig shared that Wood County will host the North Central Land & Water Conservation summer tour which will be on Friday, August 20th. Tour stops: Cold Snap Aquaponics, Mead Wildlife Area, Heiman Holsteins and drive by Twin Lakes Cranberry fence. CEED members wishing to attend the tour should contact the LWCD. Robert Ashbeck is the Wood County representative for North Central Land & Water Conservation.
5. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the July 7, 2021 and July 20, 2021 CEED meetings, 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, Scott Custer, Kim Keech, Victoria Wilson, Shane Wucherpfennig, Caleb Armstrong, Emily Salvinski, Rod Mayer, Klayton Kree, Julianna Kollross, Lori Ruess, Matt Lippert, Allison Jonjak, Janell Wehr, Jackie Carattini, Hannah Wendels, Nancy Turyk, Rachael Whitehair and Laura Huber.
 - A. Minutes of July 7, 2021. No additions or corrections needed.
 - B. Minutes of July 20, 2021. No additions or corrections needed.
 - C. Department Bills. No additions or corrections needed.
 - D. Staff Activity Reports. No additions or corrections needed

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve and accept the July 7, 2021 and July 20, 2021 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. **Review items, if any, pulled from Consent Agenda.** None..
7. **Risk and Injury Report.** None.
8. **Land & Water Conservation Department.**

- A. Wild Parsnip update. Shane Wucherpfennig gave an update on Wild Parsnip. On March 21, 2017, The Wood County Board passed a resolution designating wild parsnip as a “noxious weed” within Wood County. The State of Wisconsin does not recognize Wild Parsnip as a noxious weed. John Eron is the Weed Commissioner and donates chemicals to control Wild Parsnip in Wood County. There were 35 spot treatments that amount to 18 miles of Wild Parsnip in the county.
- B. Discuss 2022 budgets. Shane Wucherpfennig shared that the Land & Water Conservation budget looks good with no issues. The Governor’s Budget has been approved for the next two biennium for funding for County Conservationists at 100, 70 which is a one-time deal helping to reduce personnel costs in Wood County.
- C. Summer Intern update. Julianna Kollross expressed that she is thankful for having the opportunity to intern in the Land & Water Conservation Department this summer. She has learned about Nutrient Management Plans and Wildlife Management. She will be a junior this fall at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. She is originally from Arpin and hopes to obtain employment in Wood County.
- D. No-till drill update. Shane Wucherpfennig commented that the no-till drill has been steadily used throughout the growing season and is extremely happy with the device. There has been a couple of repairs but that is the reason there is a rental charge. The no-till drill was purchased with approximately \$10,000 in donations with the remaining cost absorbed by Wood County.

The Roller Crimper has been used a few times this year and that the expectation is that it will be used more in 2022.

E. Committee Reports:

i. Citizens Groundwater Group

Bill Leichtnam mentioned that Colleene Thomas, Lead Legislative Aide, Washington D.C. office for U.S. Senator Baldwin was the guest speaker. The topic was “Federal Clean Water Initiatives”.

Citizens (Wood County) Groundwater Group next meeting is on Monday, August 16th at 2:00 p.m. at the Wood County Courthouse in Conference Room #114 with a WebEx virtual option. Guest Speaker: Congressman Ron Kind’s Office.

- ii. Health Committee report Sue Kunferman shared that on August 4th and August 5th additional residential nitrate testing is planned. Testing results will be available at the next CEED Committee meeting. The next Armenia Growers coalition conference call will be held on Wednesday, September 15th @ 2:00 p.m. Farmer-led initiatives remains a concern.

Sue Kunferman mentioned that their department is seeing an increase in Covid-19 cases. Covid-19 testing is down throughout the county. The lack of subtyping of the samples remains a concern. Covid-19 ranks in the top 10 for deaths among adolescents. Wood County is at low to moderate risk with substantial community transmission. The CDC recommends masks indoors whether you are vaccinated or not. Wisconsin Counties Association Health & Human Services Committee has discussed local health orders challenged in court. What can we do? The goal is to protect the public. There are some states that have laws that it is a crime to threaten Health officials.

- iii. Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative (CSGWCC) committee report. Bill Leichtnam reported that the last meeting has been postponed to August 23rd. The Research Associate position has been narrowed down to 9 candidates from 25 applicants. The Research Associate will analyze the data for the counties that make up the Central

Sands Groundwater County Collaborative with project completion in approximately 12 months.

- iv. Golden Sands RC&D report. Bill Leichtnam and Robert Ashbeck attended the July 22nd meeting. Robert Ashbeck filled in for the absence of Bill Clendening. Council meetings meet the third Thursday every month. Bill Leichtnam commented that Gerald Zastrow spoke at the meeting that the Portage County Board hired a private engineering firm to evaluate the Village of Nelsonville water quality concerns. Robert Ashbeck shared that there was a discussion on cover crops.
9. **Private Sewage.** Jason Grueneberg shared that the Wisconsin Fund Grant has been extended. The Wisconsin Fund Grant is based on income eligibility and helps with groundwater quality. New and replacement sanitary permits continue to remain strong in 2021. Majority of the sanitary permits are replacement systems.
10. **Land Records.** Jason Grueneberg shared that the interactive maps online server migration has been solved. The redistricting maps are due November 23, 2021. Maps need to be updated prior to the election in 2022. The Land Information Council meeting will meet in a month or so to work on the budget.
11. **County Surveyor.** Jason Gruenberg commented that Kevin Boyer will be assisting on the Avon Street acquisition. Adam DeKleyn shared that plat review and land division numbers are substantially up from 2020.

12. **Planning.**

- A. Request to approve a zoning map amendment/rezone – Town of Grand Rapids. Adam DeKleyn explained the request for the amendment/rezone in the Town of Grand Rapids. The area proposed to be rezoned consists of three parcels ranging in size 2 to 2.6 acres. Existing zoning is Agricultural. The request is to rezone all three lots, a total of 6.64 acres to Residential. The purpose of the amendment is to bring the newly created parcels into conformation with the town's zoning ordinance and allow for residential development. The town's current zoning ordinance does not allow parcels under 5 acres in size to be zoned Agricultural. The Town Plan Commission recommended approval of the zoning amendment on June 14, 2021. The Town Board held a public hearing and approved the zoning amendment on July 13, 2021. The final step in the process is approval or disapproval by County Board. Adam DeKleyn commented that there is no conflict with county planning and zoning programs or ordinances. The department reviewed the request and recommends forwarding the resolution to the County Board of Supervisors approving the zoning amendment to the Town of Grand Rapids with a favorable recommendation.

*Motion by Jake Hahn to approve a zoning map amendment/rezone for the Town of Grand Rapids.
Second by Kenneth Curry. Motion carried unanimously.*

- B. Update on the Wood County Private Well – Water systems Program. Adam DeKleyn gave an update on the implementation process of the Well Delegation Program. The program provides the opportunity to protect public health and the environment as well as provide for the protection and safety of county citizens by inspecting new and replacement well installations, discovering old wells that should be filled and sealed and learning more about groundwater and soil conditions within the county. The implementation date is set for January 1, 2022 which will allow additional education to the public and well drillers. Jeff Brewbaker and Scott Custer are newly Level 1 Private Location Inspectors and Level 5 Well Filling & Sealing Inspectors. Adam DeKleyn is also a Level 1 and Level 5 certified inspector.

Wood County will administer the following delegation levels:

Level 1 – Private Well Location: Responsibilities include issuing well location permits for and inspecting new, replacement, reconstructed or rehabilitated private wells.

Level 5 – Well and Drillhole Filling and Sealing: Responsibilities include requiring the filling and sealing of all unsafe, hazardous, noncomplying and unused wells.

Robert Ashbeck was excused at 11:00 a.m.

13. Economic Development.

- A. Discuss 2022 budget. Jason Grueneberg shared that the Wood County Chairman budget directive letter and Finance Department budget letter has been received. 2022 budgets are due on Wednesday, August 25th @ Noon. Planning, Land Records, Private Sewage and Surveyor Budgets are straight forward budgets. There has been some budget corrections such as rent in the Planning and Private Sewage Budgets.

There will be a special CEED Committee meeting to review the 2022 Economic Development Grant applications on Tuesday, August 17th immediately following County Board. 2021 grants were \$165,500. 2022 grant requests received are in the amount of \$433,364.45. A recommendation was made to enter \$200,000 for 2022 grants in the Economic Development budget until a decision can be made.

- B. North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission update. Jason Grueneberg updated the committee on current projects in Wood County:
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan – Demographics and background information
 - ATV/UTV Project Survey – 220 surveys received
 - City of Wisconsin Rapids Verso Mill closure redevelopment project.
 - Repurposing Site Projects.

The North Central Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission is discussing projects for 2022.

- C. Update from Wood County Health Department on bike share, and consider release of 2021 Economic Development Grant Funds. Kristie Rauter-Egge presented an update on the Wood County Bike Share Program. In 2014, the River Riders Bike Share program was established by community members who saw the need for additional transportation and recreation options in Wisconsin Rapids. The goal is to provide community members and visitors with an easily accessible way to get around and explore the area. The grant funds allowed the program to be expanded to Marshfield in 2021 with 20 cruiser-style bikes. There are 30 cruiser-style bikes available at six locations in Wisconsin Rapids. In partnership with Koloni, Inc., River Riders Bike Share re-launched the program on June 15th.

Wood County River Riders Bike Share usage:

	<u>Checkouts</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Locations</u>
Marshfield	82	425	4
Wisconsin Rapids	145	840	6

Motion by Kenneth Curry to release the \$6,000 in grant funds to the Wood County Health Department Bike Share Program. Second by Bill Leichnam. Motion carried unanimously.

- D. Update from Alexander Field and Roy Shwery Field, and consider release of 2021 Economic Development Grant Funds.
- i. Alexander Field – Jeremy shared projects that have been completed and projects that are ongoing. Highlight of airport projects:
- Hanger Project – completed in 2020
 - Taxi Runway – completed in 2020
 - Structure Obstructions – obstructions consists of trees, shrubs. 33 parcels north of the airport have obstructions. First, reach out to landowners to obtain an

Obligation Easement customize action. State and engineering firms will work with landowners.

- Fuel System Replacement
- Jet Tank Replacement

Jeremy also mentioned that the new Airport Hanger which is heated was used as a vaccination site for Covid-19. Seasonal traffic was down 30%-40%.

Motion by Jake Hahn to release the \$10,000 in grant funds to Alexander Field for general funding for Economic Development. Second by Kenneth Curry. Motion carried unanimously.

- ii. Roy Shwery Field – Jeff Gaier shared projects of the Marshfield Airport.
 - Expansion Joint Project – patch project
 - Upgraded credit card reader new reader has WIFI – Received state funding to offset cost
 - Cross Runway eligibility – Received Federal and State funding

Motion by Kenneth Curry to release the \$10,000 in grant funds to Roy Shwery Field for general funding for Economic Development. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Extension.

A. General Office Update

Jason Hausler shared the following office updates:

- UW Chancellor has encouraged masking indoors following public health guidelines and recommendations.
- COVID-19: Unsure of capacity limit which can affect in-house programming.
- Budget: Working on 2022 budget. New copier has reduced office costs. Same level of service and same base budget.

B. Remote Work for Staff Currently, UW Extension state employees have flexible scheduling being able to flex their time.

What does it look like?

- Front office staff are allowed to work offsite one day per week.
- The perk is to be more flexible and assists in retaining staff with the added perk.

C. 4-H Program Staffing Update. 4-H Program Educator position is currently 100% funded by Wood County with no state cost share. Preliminary state budget will be that the 4-H Program Educator position will be state co-funded. What does this mean for Wood County? Wood County can add an additional 4-H staff member for Wood County in the 2022 budget. The staffing position will be 2 days per week and will assist Laura Huber. No additional funding for Wood County.

D. Educator Presentation – Jackie Carattini, Human Development & Relationships Educator. Jackie Carattini gave a presentation on the aging population and educational opportunities.

Aging Population Presentation highlights:

- Two Components of Aging: Health Care and Living Will
- Aging Mastery Program – Program allows participants to build their own playbook for aging well. The program empowers you to take key steps to improve your well-being, add stability to your life, and strengthen ties to your computing. Virtual program meets 5 weeks twice per week. Spots are available for 50 participants per session. How do you age well? Participants learn about volunteering, planning ahead, healthy eating, financial fitness, and healthy relationships. The program walks participants through the process.

- Adults are living 10 years longer than previously. How do you get the most of those extended years?

Other programs:

- Rent Smart – The program is designed for people with little or no rental experience of those that have had difficulty obtaining rental housing. Participants learn about planning for monthly expenses. Tips for finding and maintaining affordable housing. Building positive relationships with landlords.
- Minority Population Pilot Program – Proposed program to launch in November. First program nationwide. Wrote grant for pilot program.

15. **Requests for per diem for meeting attendants.** None.

16. **Schedule Next Regular Committee Meeting.** The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at Wood County Courthouse in Conference Room #114.

17. **Agenda items for next meeting.** Agenda items are due by Wednesday, August 25th.

18. **Schedule any additional meetings if necessary.** A special CEED meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 17th immediately following County Board at Wood County Courthouse in Conference Room #114.

19. **Adjourn.** Chairman Curry declared the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Minutes by Kim Keech, Planning & Zoning Office