

CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
AGENDA

DATE: Wednesday, May 5, 2021
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 meeting
 - b. Approve bills
 - c. Receive staff activity reports
 6. Review items, if any, pulled from Consent Agenda.
 7. Risk and Injury Report
 8. Land & Water Conservation Department
 - a. Open/approve low bid for Dale and Jason Behrend's intermittent stream culvert crossing project.
 - b. Review/approve resolution to oppose changes in the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims program.
 - c. Discuss UW Stevens Point Groundwater Center well testing data set.
 - i. Citizens Groundwater Group meeting.
 - ii. Health Committee report.
 - iii. Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative (CSGWCC) committee report.
 - iv. Golden Sands RC&D report.
 9. Private Sewage
 10. Land Records
 11. County Surveyor
 12. Planning
 13. Economic Development
 - a. North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission update.
 - b. Update on Economic Development Administration CARES Act funding for recovery efforts in response to the VERSO Mill closure.
 - c. Discuss implementation of Wood County Rural Economic Development Plan.
 - d. Discuss 2022 Economic Development budget.
 - e. Broadband grant update and discussion.
 14. Extension
 - a. General Office Update
 - b. Update on Board Chairs Return to Office Request
 - c. 2022 Extension Contract Update
 - d. Educator Presentation – Hannah Wendels, *FoodWise Nutrition Educator*
 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): 187 929 6383

Join by WebEx App or Web

<https://woodcountywi.webex.com/woodcountywi/j.php?MTID=m0532da931a2f54aec57241e54c58532d>

Meeting number (access code): 187 929 6383
Meeting password: CEED0505

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #114, WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI

Members Present: Ken Curry, Robert Ashbeck, Jake Hahn (via WebEx), Dave LaFontaine, Bill Leichtnam, Carmen Good

Staff Present:

Land & Water Conservation Staff:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg (via WebEx), Adam DeKleyn (via WebEx),

Extension Staff: Jason Hausler, Allison Jonjak (via WebEx), Karli Tomsyck (via WebEx), Nancy Turyk (via WebEx)

Others Present: Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendenning, Dist. # 16 Supervisor Lance Pliml (via WebEx), Corporate Counsel Peter Kastenholz, Ben Jeffrey (Wood County Health Department), Jon Evenson, Mike Schoenholz, Ray Bossert (via WebEx), Angel Whitehead (via WebEx)

1. **Call meeting to order.** Chairperson Curry called the CEED meeting to order at 9:00am.
2. **Declaration of Quorum.** Chairperson Curry declared a quorum.
3. **Public Comments (*brief comments/statement regarding committee business*)** None.
4. **Review Correspondence.** None.
5. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following items: 1) minutes of the March 3rd, 2020 CEED meeting, 2) bills from Land & Water Conservation, Planning & Zoning and Extension and 3) staff activity reports from Laura Huber, Matt Lippert, Nancy Turyk, Allison Jonjak, Jackie Carattini, Hannah Wendels, Kelly Hammond, Rachael Whitehair, Janell Wehr, Caleb Armstrong, Emily Salvinski, Klayton Kree, Lori Ruess, Rod Mayer, Shane Wucherpennig, Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, Paul Bernard, Jeff Brewbaker, Scott Custer, Kim Keech and Victoria Wilson.
 - a. **Approve minutes of previous meeting.** No additions or corrections needed.
 - b. **Approve bills.** No additions or corrections needed.
 - c. **Receive staff activity reports.** No additions or corrections needed.

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

6. **Risk and Injury Report.** None.
7. **Land & Water Conservation Department**

- a. Review/action on resolution to extend free countywide well testing for nitrates until funding is used. Supervisor Bill Leichtnam commented much of what's been done over the past 6-7 years has been centered in southern Wood County in Port Edwards. We may want to concentrate some of the nitrate testing in other parts of the county. Bill recently received a call from a resident on Kellner Road with a potential problem there.

Chair Curry noted this type of testing is important to raise awareness to have your water tested. Rural areas and 85% of Wisconsin water is provided through wells. It's about protecting yourself, your neighbors and the public in general.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve resolution to extend free countywide well testing until remaining funding is used. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Discuss letter from Sheboygan County Planning, Resources, Agriculture & Extension Committee to Governor Tony Evers reinforcing the Wood County resolution which recognizes the announcement of a

partnership amongst four long-established statewide groups concentrating on the main goal of enhancing water quality improvements throughout the State of Wisconsin.

Brief discussion ensued. Chair Curry noted everyone can appreciate there is more than one cause to water quality issues in Wisconsin.

c. Committee Reports

i. **Citizen's Groundwater Committee meeting.**

Supervisor Leichtnam shared a recap of the Monday, March 15th meeting. The primary speaker was Matt Krueger, head of Wisconsin Land + Water Conservation. Matt spoke on the topic of "Coming together in support of clean water and resilient farms".

The next meeting speaker is George Kraft, UW-Stevens Point Professor Emeritus. The next meeting will be held virtually on Monday, April 19th. Discussion followed.

ii. **Health Committee report.**

Ben Jeffrey provided an update. An intern will be starting in April. The Health Department now has most of the contact information for those who haven't sampled for nitrates yet and is working on getting in touch with them through outreach and the sampling program. The goal is to locate the high nitrates and focus on installation of RO systems.

Ben noted there was a recent meeting with AGC. They are going to be continuing the program with picking up the cost of nitrate sampling. Discussion followed.

i. **Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative (CSGWCC) committee report.**

Supervisor Leichtnam shared the nearly \$60,000 grant was received.

Next meeting is Monday, April 26th at 10am and will be virtual.

ii. **Golden Sands RC&D report.**

Supervisor Leichtnam reported the last meeting was held on Thursday, March 18th. He mentioned 2-3 years ago, there was an NR151 update tried in 17 counties of Northeastern Wisconsin and was found to be quite successful to reducing pollutants in groundwater. This is set to go statewide now; should be hearing from DATCP in the near future about it.

8. Private Sewage. Jason Grueneberg shared a staff person passed certification – Scott Custer is now able to do inspections.

9. Land Records. Paul Bernard has meeting with Land Information Council at the end of April.

10. County Surveyor.

- a. Select a licensed professional Land Surveyor to complete maintenance of 206 Public Land Survey System section corners.

Jason Grueneberg noted the contract is signed and moving forward.

11. Planning

- a. Discuss the Cranberry Creek Landfill, LLC proposed expansion, and determine if Wood County will have a representative serve on the Waste Facility Siting Board.

Jason Grueneberg noted a map of Cranberry Creek is included on page 39 of the packet. The map shows ownership, beyond the proposed expansion area. Cranberry Creek owns quite a bit of land.

There is some financial benefit to having the landfill close by. When the garbage truck picks up garbage and doesn't have to drive far, taxpayers save money. There are also not a lot of residences nearby the site, which is also a benefit. Jason shared if we were looking at a new location, the county would want a seat on landfill siting committee. Since it is an expansion, Jason doesn't see the benefit of expending county resources to have a seat on the review board. Discussion followed.

Motion by Ken Curry to accept staff recommendation that the CEED committee doesn't see a need for representation on this board. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Discuss ownership transfer of property to the Biron Licensee Group.

Jon Evenson (Village of Biron) and Mike Schoenholz (Biron Licensee Group) presented information and historical background for the committee. Jon shared Biron is requesting the support of Wood County relative to correcting a land exchange that recently occurred, primarily in the Village of Biron. There is a map in the packet showing the project area. The burgundy areas represent just over 3 acres of property; 26 lots owned by Consolidated Water Power Company. The lots were leased year to year. Leaseholders constructed homes, cottages, piers and made improvements on the properties. Consolidated desired to have the properties vacated to be utilized for public recreation purposes. The Biron Licensee Group approached Biron to improve the public access in the area so the properties could gain ownership and replace the public access.

Jon noted the concern derives from the very last step – the final conveyance of property when Consolidated gave ownership of the property to the licensee group. When Consolidated conveyed the 26 properties, just weeks ago, they didn't convey the properties to the shoreline. They conveyed the properties to a 1036' elevation mark and maintain a sliver of ownership, disallowing the licensed properties to gain ownership of the shoreline. Biron intends to go to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to ask them to review this and enforce the FERC order to correct the conveyance and convey to the high water mark shoreline. Biron would appreciate having the support in Wood County. Lengthy discussion followed.

Chair Curry noted a resolution to County Board or a letter from the County Board Chair are two options. County Board Chair, Lance Pliml, commented he wouldn't do anything contrary to wishes of the board but is willing to move forward in that direction.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine for CEED Committee to request the Wood County Board Chairman write a letter in support of Biron Licensee Group getting the change from the 1036' land level to their rights to water level. Second by Jake Hahn. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion followed. County Board Chair Pliml will write the letter with Corporate Counsel's review. Chair Curry offered to have a special meeting to review the letter before April County Board.

12. Economic Development

a. Review correspondence from the Wisconsin County Forests Association regarding Investment Opportunity in the Consolidated Cooperative

Page 53 of the CEED packet is a letter from Wisconsin County Forests Association looking to support the Consolidated Cooperative. Jason Grueneberg explained this group is looking at purchasing the Verso mill that was shut down last summer. The cooperative has officially formed. One of the reasons the group has formed is they need to see the Wisconsin Rapids mill up and running again. Forestry operations shut down as well in the state because of the mill shut down. Consolidated Cooperative is moving forward right now with the purchase of the Verso mill and the Park Falls mill. Not sure yet what the cost looks like. The group and County Foresters understand if those mills aren't up and running, the forest industry is really going to suffer.

This letter was sent to Wood County and 29 other counties looking for some kind of idea of willingness of counties to participate in borrowing for the purchase of those mills. Jason talked to Chad Schooley (Parks and Forestry) to take it to their oversight committee as well. Discussion followed.

b. Update on the rural broadband grant application that was submitted to the Public Service Commission in December of 2020 in cooperation with Hilbert Communications.

Jason Grueneberg shared both grant applications were successful. He commended everyone that was involved in pulling them together in such a short amount of time.

124 grants were submitted. Just over 1 million dollars in grant funding was received from PSC. Jason was proud to see we got the grants and ranked so high in grant applications. The county is going to have to consider their commitment to the project; financial obligations will need to be discussed in coming months. Discussion followed.

c. Consider release of 2021 grant request for the town of Grand Rapids Connecting Trails Systems & Signage

Jason gave a brief update. Grand Rapids isn't present at the meeting because they are not quite ready to request funds. They're working with the city of Wisconsin Rapids on an agreement that would allow them to use a piece of right-of-way. They will be back at a later date to request release of funds.

d. Review 2021 funding application for Central Wisconsin State Fair.

Jason Grueneberg provided background; there was desire to get more formality in place for junior fair funding. The CEED committee moved it to look like an economic development grant application. The application comes in after the fact, as their funding was approved last year in the budget. Jason thought to have the committee review the application and if the committee does approve, that we release funds at a later date, prior to the Central Wisconsin State Fair so they have funds prior to the event. Following discussion, committee deferred agenda item until Dale Christiansen was present for a report.

Dale Christiansen arrived at 10:40am. Jason Grueneberg invited Dale to provide a summary and open up to questions for the committee.

Dale shared as they're planning for the 2021 fair, the majority will stay the same. The cost of labor jumped from \$3775 to \$11000. Dale noted this was just his estimation. Part of the reason for this is some for the changes that are taking place with Extension's help at the fair. If Dale has to take personnel to be there, that will be an additional cost. This is a work in progress but is something moving forward that will have to be figured into junior fair expense. Discussion followed. Dale provided information on the cost of the fair and noted after the 2019 event, they were able to clear all debt.

Jason Hausler clarified Extension is not pulling out of the fair. Previously, there were 3 support staff; now there are less than 2.0 FTE support staff. Extension also used to have two 4-H educators and now have 1. They are working through the transition of the fair entry system, as the program is owned by the fair.

Carmen Good excused at 10:52am.

Jason Gruenberg commented it makes most sense to release all the funds prior to the fair, in light of Covid and lack of funding. He recommends to approve release of funds for 2021 junior fair.

Motion by Bob Ashbeck to approve release of funds for Central Wisconsin State Fair. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

e. North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Update

Jason Grueneberg gave an update – the group is going to help with a return on investment study for ATV & UTV recreation in the county. The study will be done this summer and should have an idea by the end of the year what the ROI is.

Jason shared they are also working on a bike and pedestrian plan update for Wood County. The current plan is 20 years old and needs to be updated. Jason asked if the committee knows anyone interested in participating in the work group to let him know or reach out to the Planning & Zoning office.

The group is actively moving forward with the regional recovery plan which is federally funded. Jason serves on that committee. Discussion followed.

- f. Consider a resolution to adopt the Rural Economic Development Plan for Wood County, Wisconsin.
Chair Curry noted a special meeting is scheduled before County Board; Jason will have the resolution ready for that meeting. Chair Curry complimented Jason Gruenberg and Nancy Turyk on all of their work. Nancy suggested having an economic development meeting in the near future to prioritize roll out. Supervisor LaFontaine asked if the REDI presentation will take place at the April 20th County Board meeting. It was confirmed someone will be presenting; either Jason or Nancy, or both.

13. Extension

a. General Office Update

Jason Hausler provided the following updates:

- Effective April 1st, programming numbers in light of covid protocols have been adjusted. Staff can have in-person programming of 50 indoors and 150 outdoors. These guidelines are effective April 1st through the end of May. If things continue as they are now, numbers will be expanded for summer. A lot of positivity is happening with programming numbers and in-person capacities. The Dean, along with leadership, has said by July 1, 2021 staff telecommuting will end. All staff will be back in the office as their primary office location and organization-wide telecommuting will cease at that time.
- Extension has been working with Dale Christiansen and the Fair office on the transition of the fair entry system. Extension has been a primary driver of that – it is a time intensive software Extension has been managing on behalf of the fair. The fair signed the contract and handed the software over to Extension. Now, Extension is training them to manage their own process and systems.
- Long-time profound 4-H volunteer, Jerry Lang, passed away. Please keep his family in your thoughts.
- Jason has pushed forward Wood County as a pilot site for a new monthly staff reporting process. There are currently 72 different ways County Board oversight committees get information from Extension across the state. There is a centralized system for staff to put in programming, results, narratives, etc. It was decided to use that data for the betterment of everyone, instead of having to do the work multiple times. Jason projects at the May or June meeting, there will be a different layout of the staff activity report in the packet.

b. 2020 Fee Structure Update

Jason Hausler alerted committee members that the contractual fees for cofounded Extension positions will be going up for 2022. The adjusted rate per FTE will go up from \$42,330 to \$43,600. While the FTE rate will be going up slightly, the professional development allocation of \$2,500 will be going away. Updated documents and information will continued to be shared in the coming months as budget discussions are ongoing.

c. Educational Presentation – Allison Jonjak, Cranberry Outreach Specialist

Allison Jonjak, shared a PowerPoint presentation to provide an update on her work.

- **Virtual Outreach**

- “Brown Bag” lunch meetings (held every month out of harvest)
 - Topics include: winter hardiness, national research round up, Cranberry School, SWOT analysis and strategic planning for Extension and the industry, aging a worker protection safety inspection and respirator fit tests, Spring Mini-Clinic
- Video interviews (YouTube)
 - 160-310 views on each
 - When Allison receives multiple questions on the same topic, she schedules a video interview with UW-Madison specialists.
 - Gets timely information out to growers and is reusable from year to year

- **Traditional Outreach**

- Marsh visits for troubleshooting

- Cranberry Crop Management Journal – 372 recipients
- Pesticide Applicator Testing – exams are resuming
 - DATCP extended certifications due to difficulties of covid. Tests are being administered for new employees or those who hadn't taken the test before.
- **Upcoming Projects**
 - Outreach Continuation
 - Cranberry Short Course – 10 video course about cranberry basics
 - Research Begins
 - Specialist Guided (Weed management, insect management, disease management)
 - Soil Health
 - Received mini-grant funding – joint project with Extension, USDA and CALS
 - Five upland marshes for 2021
 - Cores to be collected in “strong” and “weak” beds of similar age/drainage and same variety
 - Comprehensive lab analyses to be run (using grant funds)
 - Foundational analysis

Chair Curry asked how growers are accepting the virtual options. Allison noted the growers have requested virtual “Brown Bags” after covid restrictions are over. They will return back to the in-person summer meeting and Cranberry School but want the Spring Mini-Clinic and monthly brown bag meetings to remain virtual. Discussion followed.

Supervisor LaFontaine gave kudos to Allison for her WDLB radio presentation. He said it was an excellent job, enthusiastic presentation.

Jason shared the response from the growers, growers association and other individuals that have seen Allison’s work in her capacity, really drilling into one subject and being a specialist, has led to numerous other conversations – such as the Governor’s budget adding 15 positions like Allison’s. Jason also noted the Ag Institute is going through a dilation of staffing to make sure the diverse needs of the state are being met with staffing structure.

14. Schedule next regular committee meeting.

The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 5, 2020 at 9:00am at Wood County Courthouse in Conference Room #114.

15. Requests for per diem for meeting attendants.

Motion by Bill Leichtnam to approve per diem for Supervisor Curry for Biron Licensee group meeting. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

16. Agenda items for next meeting

Agenda items are due by Wednesday, April 28th.

- *Discuss UWSP water database utilization vs. water sampling*
- *Template Resolution*

17. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary. Special meeting prior to April 20th County Board (Planning & Zoning will schedule).

18. Adjourn. Chair Curry declared the meeting adjourned at 11:57am.

Minutes by Karli Tomsyck, UW-Madison Division of Extension - Wood County

MINUTES
 CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
 TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021
 WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #114, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

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

Members Excused: Carmen Good.

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg and Kim Keech.
 Land & Water Conservation Staff: None.
 UW Extension Staff: Nancy Turyk.
 Co Surveyor: None.

Others Present: Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendening, Dist. #16 Supervisor Lance Pliml, Mike Schoenholz (Village of Biron) and Susan Feith.

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** Chairperson Curry called the CEED Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Declaration of Quorum.** Chairman Curry declared a quorum.
3. **Public Comment.** Dist. #16 Supervisor Lance Pliml shared that he has contacted Mayor Blaser in regards to rezoning 17th Avenue property and the vacate Avon Street property with discussions ongoing.
4. **Review and approve letter of support for the Biron Licensee Group written by Chairman Pliml, that advocates changing the ownership of their property from the elevation line of 1036' to the shoreline** County Board Chairman Pliml's letter will be shared with all Supervisors at the County Board meeting.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve the letter of support for the Biron Licensee Group by Chairman Pliml that advocates changing the ownership of their property from the elevation line of 1036' to the shoreline. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Consider resolution that supports the adoption of the Rural Economic Development Plan for Wood County, Wisconsin.**

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve the resolution to adopt the Rural Economic Development Plan for Wood County, Wisconsin. Second by Jake Hahn. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Schedule next regular committee meeting.** The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at Wood County Courthouse in Conference Room #114.
7. **Agenda items for next meeting.** Agenda items need to be submitted by Wednesday, April 28th for the next regular CEED meeting.
8. **Schedule any additional meetings if necessary.** None.
9. **Adjourn.** Chairman Curry declared the meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Minutes by Kim Keech, Planning & Zoning Office

Committee Report

County of Wood

Report of claims for: Extension

For the period of: April 2021

For the range of vouchers: 30210023 - 30210029

Voucher	Vendor Name	Nature of Claim	Doc Date	Amount	Paid
30210023	UW MADISON ACCOUNTING SERVICES	Educator Fees January - June	04/13/2021	\$139,820.36	P
30210024	POSTMASTER - WISCONSIN RAPIDS	ECN Ag Mailing Postage	04/20/2021	\$86.82	P
30210025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Computer Supplies	04/27/2021	\$24.99	
30210026	JCEP WISCONSIN	Conference Registrations	04/27/2021	\$100.00	
30210027	UW SOIL TESTING LAB	Soil Testing Fees	04/27/2021	\$135.00	
30210028	HUBER LAURA	April Expenses	04/27/2021	\$50.00	
30210029	JONJAK ALLISON	April Expenses	04/27/2021	\$194.16	
Grand Total:				\$140,411.33	

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: APRIL 2021

For the range of vouchers: 18210043 - 18210054

Voucher	Vendor Name	Nature of Claim	Doc Date	Amount	Paid
18210043	NUBER BONNIE	LWC - REFUND TREE PURCHASE	03/31/2021	\$44.31	P
18210044	PHEASANTS FOREVER	LWC - PRAIRIE SEED MIXES	01/13/2021	\$1,273.95	P
18210045	ROTH GOLDEN ACRES LLC	SWRM - CS NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT	04/07/2021	\$1,392.00	P
18210046	ROTH GOLDEN ACRES LLC	SWRM - COST SHARE NUTRIENT MGT	04/07/2021	\$20,756.00	P
18210047	ROTH GOLDEN ACRES LLC	SWRM - COST SHARE NUTREINT MGT	04/07/2021	\$2,068.00	P
18210048	VITORT CRAIG & MELISSA	SWRM - CS COVER CROPS & NM	04/08/2021	\$2,360.00	P
18210049	VITORT CRAIG & MELISSA	SWRM - CS COVER CROPS AND NM	04/09/2021	\$1,072.50	P
18210050	VITORT CRAIG & MELISSA	SWRM - CS COVER CROPS & NM	04/09/2021	\$3,555.50	P
18210051	HRAMOR NURSERY	LWC - TREES AND SHRUBS	04/20/2021	\$11,798.50	P
18210052	US BANK	LWC -TREE SALE & FIELD SUPPLIE	04/18/2021	\$72.12	
18210053	QUEST CIVIL ENGINEERS LLC	SERENITY RIVER ENGINEERING EX	04/06/2021	\$1,750.00	
18210054	MARQUETTE COUNTY LWCD	LWC - TREE DELIVERY FEE	04/28/2021	\$350.00	
Grand Total:				\$46,492.88	

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 Department

For the period of: April 2021

For the range of vouchers: 22210038 - 22210048 38210003 - 38210003

Voucher	Vendor Name	Nature of Claim	Doc Date	Amount	Paid
22210038	STAPLES ADVANTAGE	PL-Office Supplies	03/26/2021	\$111.27	P
22210039	INDUSTRY SERVICES DIVISION	PS-State Sanitary Permits(Mar)	03/31/2021	\$900.00	P
22210040	CARMODY SOFTWARE INC	PS-Upgrades/Services (April)	04/01/2021	\$299.00	P
22210041	BOYER KEVIN	SU-Services Per Contract (Apr)	04/06/2021	\$833.00	P
22210042	WI DEPT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS	PS-Notary Renewal (Victoria)	04/07/2021	\$20.00	P
22210043	CUSTER SCOTT	PS-POWTS Inspector License	04/07/2021	\$145.86	P
22210044	CLOUDPOINT GEOSPATIAL INC	LR-Bldg Footprints 50% Complet	03/31/2021	\$5,685.00	P
22210045	AEGIS CORPORATION	OS-Notary Bond (Victoria)	04/12/2021	\$30.00	P
22210046	POSTMASTER - WISCONSIN RAPIDS	PS-2021 Septic Mtce Not (3035)	04/15/2021	\$784.13	P
22210047	CENTRAL STAKING INC	SU-Reestablish Monument (2)	04/13/2021	\$370.00	P
22210048	US BANK	Credit Card Charges	04/18/2021	\$80.11	
38210003	CENTRAL WI STATE FAIR ASSOC	ED-2021 Econ Development Grant	04/12/2021	\$32,000.00	P
Grand Total:				\$41,258.37	

Signatures

Committee Chair:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

CEED Committee Report

April 2021

LAURA HUBER

Extension Wood County, 4-H Program Coordinator

Educational Programs

- 4-H clubs are returning to in-person meetings. I work with club leaders to plan safe meetings
- Lego Club and Art Club are teen-led virtual clubs. I attend to ensure safety of participants and to support the teen leader. Lego Club meets weekly and Art Club meets every other week.
- Wood County Cloverbuds is a virtual program for youth in grades K-2. We meet once a month for fun, hands-on activities. In April, we learned about and made quilts of paper.
- Volunteers in Preparation (VIP) training is a required part of the 4-H youth protection process. I co-taught VIP for 7 people on 10 April.
- Wildlife & Woods is a virtual education program for youth from all across Wisconsin. I facilitate these youth-led meetings each month. In April, we learned about songbirds and fruit trees.
- I continued to work with colleagues to plan possible summer camp opportunities.
- I began working with local partners to plan short day "camp" programs. I am having trouble finding spaces that allow outdoor groups in.

Statewide Programs and Professional Development

- I attended the virtual National Extension Conference for Volunteerism.
- I serve on the Positive Youth Development Institute's Policy Advisory Standing Committee. We review and write policy that governs 4-H programs.
- I serve on the Virtual Learning Community Team. We recruit teachers for statewide virtual programs, review program proposals, and promote upcoming classes.

MATT LIPPERT

Extension Wood & Clark Counties, Agriculture Agent

- I interviewed on WDLB and WFHR, updating spring farm conditions, ag census information and sustainable agricultural systems.
- I participated in Faculty Senate and Department of Extension Agriculture Section Faculty programs.
- I met with the MACCI Agri-Business Committee; we are now collecting outstanding senior in agriculture recognition from area high schools.
- I helped select scholarship recipients for a college dairy student scholarship program.
- Farm visits and phone consulting has been about feeding programs, dairy facilities for replacement heifers, fencing law and soil testing.
- I participated in the series on impacts on agriculture of climate change. Things such as more precipitation, heavier single rain events, more heat stress for cattle, warmer nights, warmer winters, more invasive insect and weed pests are predicted and have already been shown to be occurring. We also covered methods to deliver information about climate change to producers and perceptions producers have about climate change and how they have changed over time.

- I had day of furlough.
- I participated on the MSTC Agriculture Program Advisory program. They reviewed the recent virtual farm tour which I was a part of, being on a general ask the experts table and giving a presentation on mastitis prevention as it is utilized at the Marshfield Agriculture Research Station.
- The Management Assessment Center, which I am a part of is making plans for reopening in late 2021. Producers participate in the program to interact with peers and have their management style be identified. They also observe their peer's management methods.
- The Central Ag News is going out at the end of the month to area producers. We are reviewing methods to make this more utilized as an email version instead of the current print newsletter version.
- The Equity in Agriculture hiring and retention committee met and is preparing a report for the larger committee.
- I have participated in a discussion about greater understanding of Hmong culture, reading the book *The Latecomer* and discussing it.

NANCY TURYK

Extension Wood County, Community Development Educator

Economic Development

- Finalized the REDI plan and presented to County Board. Initiated conversations with Jason Grueneberg to develop strategies and timelines for implementation.
- Participated in discussion with Extension and the Public Service Commission about broadband and economic development. Attended Wood County meeting on broadband.
- Met bi-weekly with the Wood County economic development recovery group to collaboratively address current topics associated with the economic development recovery needs and opportunities.
- Shared information about economic recovery business support opportunities by emails, telephone, and web conferencing conversations primarily with Wood County towns/villages/cities, chambers of commerce, visitor and convention bureaus, Mid-State Technical College, UW-Stevens Point@Marshfield, Ho-Chunk Nation, agricultural staff, Wood County health and planning and zoning departments.

Energy and Resiliency

- Reviewed materials and programs related to energy efficiency and renewable energy and shared relevant information with Wood County staff.

Local Community Initiatives

- Participated in weekly and final meetings for Wisconsin Rapids' cultural program with assistance by students in UW-Madison's UniverCity program.
- Participated in Situational Analysis discussions for the Area 7 counties.
- Coordinated CSGCC's grant project funded through DATCP. Current topics related to the contract, position description for post-doc, identification of advisory and outreach teams. Met weekly with the administrative team, met with CSGCC outreach team. Prepared and send CSGCC agenda and facilitated the Zoom portion of the meeting.
- Discussed the annual update to the County's Strategic Plan with Supervisor Rozar.



- In addition to routine collaborations and conversations with County staff, I kept informed about the County by reading county email updates, county committee packets, local newspapers, listening to the County Board and CEED committee meetings, and in discussions with Wood County employees and supervisors.

UW-Madison Extension

- Participated in virtual meetings with UW-Madison Extension Dean, Community Development Institute, and Wood County staff.
- Continued working with the core team working on the development of a community resilience menu and train-the-trainer course through the UW-Madison Extension Climate Change Leadership Team. Participated in Extension's Climate Change and Agriculture webinar.
- Organized structure and content for the WICCI report update.
- Contributed to Extension's plan for the Community Economic Development team.
- Participated in local and statewide discussions about diversity, racism, and inclusion.
- Partially attended the National Academy of Science's Nobel Prize summit "Our Plant, Our Future".

ALLISON JONJAK

Extension Wood County, Cranberry Outreach Specialist

- Acquired UW Fleet vehicle for travel to trials and field visits.
- Established protocol for Year One analysis of Cranberry Soil Health research (with USDA, UW-Madison, and UW-Extension).
- Interview with WDLB to encourage cranberry interest and education for all county citizens.
- Brainstormed with MaryAnn Lippert to leverage and capitalize on success of Cranberry Grower involvement in Wood County's broadband grant success.
- Designed (with UW-Madison and Extension) curriculum for Cranberry Leadership Alumni Club based on Humble Inquiry framework.
- Joined continent-wide cranberry plant pathology research pre-season planning discussion to coordinate research.
- Advised FPAC-RMA on best management practices for growers after a crop loss, so that they could update federal crop insurance guidelines.
- Planned (with Extension specialists) a Cranberry Short Course which will consist of video education and curriculum for new hires into the cranberry industry who need to receive quick, straightforward agronomic information about a unique crop.
- Progress phenocam project for 2021.
- Participated in Jason Hausler's Situation Analysis for Wood County planning.
- Organized Cranberry Mini-Clinic, with 2 hours of content on upcoming season practical advice.
- Hosted and delivered virtual Cranberry Mini-Clinic, to 122 attendees.
- Planned Growing Degree Day for Sparganothis Fruit Worm and Cranberry Fruit Worm control trials.
- Attended Public Relations Training with WSCGA.
- Planned and scheduled May, June, and July Virtual Brown Bags.
- Received trial equipment.
- Joined continent-wide cranberry insecticide research pre-season planning discussion to coordinate research.
- Reviewed Cranberry Board research budget amendments.



JACKIE CARATTINI

Extension Wood County, Human Development and Family Relationships Educator

- Attended the United Way of South Wood and Adams counties Stuff the Bus meeting.
- Attended the Mental Health First Aide trainers quarterly meeting.
- Attended 4 planning meetings for upcoming Adult Mental Health First Aid trainings
- Co-taught 3 full day Adult Mental Health trainings virtually. (2 out of the 3 were for Wood County residents and partners).
- Taught "Who Gets Grandmas Genealogy Materials".
- Attended the UW-Madison Faculty Senate meeting.
- Attended a UW-Madison Library Services training.
- Met every other Friday with the new Civil Rights compliance coordinator. with Extension, Kim Waldon to assist in her transition into her new role.
- Co-taught Aging Mastery Program. Which meets 2X a week for 5 weeks starting April 1st with 19 participants.
- Met with one individual client for financial coaching.
- Attended 2 planning meetings for the upcoming pilot program for the Planning AHEAD curriculum.
- Coordinated and hosted daily "Extension Wellness Moments".
- Co-piloted 2 sessions of the statewide Rent Smart monthly series
- Attended the WeCOPE community of practice statewide group
- Co-taught a once a week for 6 weeks WeCOPE self-care curriculum starting April 26th.
- Attended the Resilient Farms meeting
- Attended the United Ways Early Years coalition meeting
- Attended a Department of Extension Administrative committee meeting
- Attended a meeting with the Family Development section
- Attended the Racism As a Public Health Crisis co-hort facilitator training which will meet once a week for 6 weeks.
- 2 programs were planned, advertised but canceled due to low registration. One was Learning to Breathe- a mindfulness curriculum for youth. The other was Encouraging Financial Conversation which is a financial training curriculum for community partners. They will be rescheduled in the fall.

HANNAH WENDELS & KELLY HAMMOND

Extension Wood County, FoodWise Nutrition Educator and Coordinator

- Completed co-teaching a series of 10 weeks of virtual Strong Bodies classes every Tuesday & Thursday morning (Hannah, 04/08)
- Completed co-teaching virtual nutrition lessons to 3rd grade classrooms, series of 4 lessons per classroom, will teach two classrooms (Hannah, 04/23)
- Completed co-teaching a virtual Kids in the Kitchen class with Ho-Chunk Head Start, made a healthy snack with children and their parents via Zoom, series of 4 lessons - 1 per month (Hannah, 04/21)
- Begin teaching virtual nutrition lessons to 3 Kindergarten classrooms at Howe Elementary, series of 4 lessons, every Tuesday afternoon (Hannah, 04/27)



- Created and sent nutrition lessons to Grove and Mead Kindergarten classrooms as a form of indirect education to reach their students (Hannah, 04/05)
- Attend Healthy Aging Wood County virtual meeting (04/27)
- Continuing 8-week professional development training on Policy, Systems and Environmental Change (Hannah, 01/21, ongoing)
- Working with the Food Service Director in the WRPS System to send out a monthly nutrition newsletter to every school in the system using the Harvest of the Month program, materials each month are also included on the District website (Hannah, 04/12, monthly, ongoing)
- Attend Wood County Hunger Coalition virtual meeting (Hannah, 04/22)
- Continue co-teaching Strong Bodies class in both Wood and Portage County that is completely virtual and includes nutrition education as well as strength building (Hannah, 10/19, ongoing)
- Continue work with “Physical Activity/Nutrition for Colleagues in FoodWise” workgroup (ongoing, Hannah)
- Attend virtual FoodWise North Region check in calls (ongoing, Hannah & Kelly, Tuesdays)
- Attend virtual FoodWise State check in calls (ongoing, Hannah & Kelly, every other Tuesday)
- Attend virtual Wood County Extension check in calls (ongoing, Hannah & Kelly, Mondays)
- Attend virtual Extension Area 7 check in calls (ongoing, Hannah & Kelly, every other Wednesday)

RACHAEL WHITEHAIR

Extension Wood County, Natural Resources Educator

- Met with Shelly Strom of UW Madison to discuss collaborative opportunities on two Marathon County projects, one centered around the Fenwood Creek and understanding the perspectives around water quality of stakeholders within the watershed. The other project involves developing education and outreach materials around agricultural BMP's (April 6)
- Met with the WI Prairie Chicken Festival committee to finalize planning for the 2021 virtual festival. (April 6)
- Produced a promotional video by request of the Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Council to highlight their Educational programs, this video was showed to the group at a farmer-led meeting and approved for circulation (April 7)
- Facilitated a virtual discussion among 14 Mile Watershed Alliance board members about developing a brochure to share information about the mission of the group and describe the 14 Mile 9 key element plan to area stakeholders. (April 15)
- Facilitated a virtual discussion among 14 Mile Watershed Alliance board members and DNR staff about grant eligibility and reimbursement details for their water monitoring program (April 15)
- Hosted a speaker rehearsal for the WI Prairie Chicken Festival (April 15)
- Participated in the CSGCC Outreach committee meeting. As a co-developer of the outreach plan, I contributed to discussion about best first steps to developing a foundation for information sharing during the project time period of the Central Groundwater Gap Analysis that received funding (April 15)
- Attended a meeting with DATCP, Producer-led group representatives from around the state, and General Mills Representatives from their sustainability program. I attended on behalf of the Farmers for Tomorrow watershed group, inquiring about potential partnerships and funding opportunities with General Mills (April 15)
- Attended the PACRS monthly conference call to learn from Scott Provost about Neonicotinoids and their impact on groundwater quality (April 16)

UW-Madison Division of Extension Wood County CEED Report



- Met with colleagues in the Natural Resource Education Program to discuss DNR contract details and deliverables for the current funding cycle (April 16)
- Met with Natural Resource Institute Colleagues to begin analysis on the Farmer-led Involvement Survey sent out to Extension colleagues in the Nat. Resource and Ag institutes to learn about the role of extension in farmer networks. This data will be presented at the upcoming JCEP annual conference on May 4th (April 19)
- Attended the Citizens Groundwater Group monthly meeting to learn from Dr. Kraft about nitrate contamination in Central WI (April 19)
- Provided radio programming about environmentally friendly landscaping options on WFHR (April 22)
- Met with DATCP Producer-led program leaders and other members of the regional producer-led working group to provide updates on group work around the state and feedback on grant application and reporting content and processes (April 22)
- Attended a Cultural Initiative Presentation given by a student leadership research team of UW-Madison. Their mixed method site analysis lent important information about the opinions/feelings held by minoritized community Members in S. Wood County regarding opportunities for cultural celebration and respect. There was then a discussion about next steps to developing a coalition to provide ongoing institutions of support, resource, and information sharing needed by these communities (April 23)
- Attended the CSGCC quarterly meeting as a member of the outreach subcommittee to discuss the beginning of the Groundwater Gap Analysis (April 26)
- Met with members of the DATCP Regional Producer-led working group to discuss newly attained grant funding to be used for leadership training among producer-led members and partners (April 26)
- Attended a planning meeting for Agriventure camp, a local Mill Creek effort for youth education. I will be providing educational programs to youth on watersheds and water quality (April 26)
- Host a virtual video showing event for the 14 Mile Watershed Alliance, called The Biggest Little Farm, a story about regenerative agriculture. This event is intended to educate members and guests of 14 Mile Meetings about regenerative movement (April 27)
- Present a training to Marshfield Ag Research Station staff on Prairie Filter Strips, a conservation BMP capable of drastically reducing groundwater contamination and nutrient loss from landscapes when used strategically. This practice also increases ecosystem resources for pollinators and other native wildlife. (April 28)
- Met with Adams Co. Extension, DATCP, and Land & Water to discuss upcoming producer-led meeting with Big Roche A Cri farmers (March 16)
- Hosted Zoom meeting and co-lead discussion for producer-led group with Big Roche A Cri farmers, invited Matt Hintz of the farmers for tomorrow to bring in additional perspectives and discussion (March 18)
- Met with Prairie Chicken Festival to review virtual platform that I developed and make final edits before sharing with the public (March 19)
- Spoke on WDLB radio about environmentally friendly plantings to consider for spring garden and landscaping renovations (March 23)
- Hosted the Central WI Farm Profitability Expo presentation by Diane Mayerfeld of UW-Madison Extension "Silvopasture- Does it make sense for your farm?" (March 24)
- Attended planning meeting for local ag summer camp "Agriventure Camp", I am serving as a presenter on groundwater (March 29)
- Assisted Dan O'Connell and Tracy Arnold of Portage County with their virtual Prairie Chicken Fest presentation on educational programs that encourage conservation adoption (March 31)



JANELL WEHR

Extension Marathon & Wood Counties, Horticulture Educator

- **Lettuce Be Different.** Concluded 4-H program for March Discovery Month with discussion of the importance of diversity. Program explored variation within species by observing differences between 3 varieties of lettuce.
- **Planting the Vegetable Garden.** In this program I developed and delivered, participants learned which garden crops are best suited for direct sowing and which should be transplanted. Learners were also introduced to techniques for direct sowing seeds and transplanting started plants. All participants reported either prior confidence in both objectives or an increase in confidence in ability going forward.
- **Volunteer Recognition.** The inaugural Master Gardener Volunteer Week was successful across the statewide volunteer audience as well as locally. I will continue to serve on the statewide committee to develop continuing recognition efforts.
- **Foundations in Horticulture.** The steering committee is refocusing efforts from evaluation to development for the next iteration of FIH. I will be offering FIH in Wood County this fall. I will be creating tools of engagement for the course.
- **WFHR Outreach.** Shared with the listenership important key factors to keep in mind when heading out into the garden this spring

Staff Report for April

Caleb Armstrong

- Worked with Jared Katzenberger on soil sampling his 10 acre horse pasture. He wanted to plant rye/alfalfa grass into the existing grasses. He then rented out our drill.
 - Worked on calibrating the drill for his needs and delivered it to his house for no-tilling his and his father's land.
- Attended a nutrient management training with the new employees for DATCP, following the new rules and updates with nutrient management and SNAP PLUS.
- Attended a webinar training on how to improve water quality and soil health on tile drained lands in Wisconsin.
- Attended a webinar training on how to get the most out of your restoration projects economically and ecologically.
 - This was three days training steps covering three different Thursdays in the month.
- Worked with Luke Kuefer on renting out our no-till drill and what to plant.
 - Ended up planting 36 acres of a grass mix into old pastures/hay fields to give them a regeneration.
 - Working on a cost-share for residue management with him on land.
 - Also plans on renting out later in the year as well.
- Worked with Roth Golden Acres on no-tilling alfalfa into a rye stand
 - Cost-sharing this as well for residue management.
 - Working on a plan for future conservation practices this upcoming growing season.
- Working on grazing plans with Rachel Bouressa from Golden Sands RC&D.
 - Making a grazing plan for Luke Kuefer.
 - Making a grazing plan for Barry Richardson
 - Having a possible pasture walk/tour with Larry Altmann.
- Working on collecting all nutrient management plans not turned in so far for the 2021 season.
- Planning on some field days with farmers we have worked with in their BMP's.
- Advertising our drill and roller crimper and making a list of potential farmers who are interested in giving it a try to implement better conservation practices on their land.
- Worked the tree sale with our department. Sorting, bagging, and selling all the trees and the leftovers given to us.
- Did some field checks on potential manure complaints. Nothing thankfully was of too much of environmental concern.

Staff Report for Klayton Kree
February 2021 (first day February 15th)

- Conducted a survey at Cashen site for streambank erosion project with Russ Bieble and imported that into CAD file to make surface elevations.
- Attended four CAD training “happy hours” on creating surfaces, alignments, and profiles.
- Viewed a webinar on a livestock pipeline.
- Continued training series on hydrology including watershed delineation, RCN, and calculating peak discharge.
- Stream Stats training and watershed tool training with DATCP.
- Helped with the tree sale pickup, organization, packaging, and distribution of the trees for the majority of the week (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday)
- Transfer the no-till drill from one farmer to another, most Fridays/Mondays.
- Met with Drew Z. to talk about the Cashen site and begin excel spreadsheets and computations for construction plan.
- Have continued work on designing rock crossing project and excel spreadsheets and computations for that as well.
- Due to rain and snow, stream monitoring kept having to be postponed until three to four days after a precipitation event, have not had the chance to sample yet.

***Activities Report for Lori Ruess
April 2021***

- Answered phones and replied to emails
- Reviewed general ledger.
- Reviewed payroll reports and payroll registers.
- Completed March sales tax report and forwarded to Finance.
- Approved staff time cards for April 8th payroll.
- Assisted Rod with cleaning and organizing of Forestry Garage in preparation for the annual tree and shrub distribution.
- Attended Non-metallic mining webinar on Financial Assurance.
- Reconciled Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims general ledger for first quarter reimbursement.
- Completed LWCD payroll percentages and forwarded to Finance prior to the April 8th and April 22nd payrolls.
- The week of April 12 – April 16th assisted staff at the forestry garage, with tagging, sorting, bagging, and distribution of trees, shrubs and wildflowers.
- Attended April 23rd staff meeting and completed minutes.
- Requested cost-share reimbursement for nutrient management & cover crops landowners in the amount of \$ 31,204.
- Completed 1st quarter reimbursement request for Serenity River LLC grant.
- Completed change orders and reimbursement requests for six cost-share contracts and submitted to DATCP for reimbursement.
- Typed resolution to oppose changes to the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims program and forwarded to Corporation Counsel and Finance for review and approval.
- WebEx meeting with Dan Brandl and Rod Meyer to review progress of new non-metallic mining program.
- Organized County Board packet and submitted to the County Clerk's office.
- Electronically submitted staff reports and packet materials to the County Clerk's office for CEED packet.

Activities Report for Rod Mayer

APRIL 2021

- Met with landowner to address goose damage problems on new plantings – borrowed scare gun to landowner.
- Set up lab top and tested to work with hot spot at shop building for tree sale.
- Discussions with two landowners for possible wildlife fence builds on cranberry marshes for 2021.
- Continued correspondence with landowner regarding pond build complaint – reviewed exemption and sent back – discussions over phone with both owner and complainant.
- Cleaned/organized shop for tree sale.
- Correspondence with three new landowners or operators for future pond builds.
- Attended Non-metallic mining Financial Assurance Part 1 webinar.
- Picked up solar fence chargers for Apiary bear abatement and delivered to Wood County apiary owner.
- Tree Sale: Made arrangements with Nurseries - Highway Dept. - Emergency Management, Picked up trees from Laura Lane Nursery, received shipment from Hramer Nursery, Sorted and labeled received trees, Sorted all orders of purchased trees into order bags, Held tree distribution Friday and Saturday, made calls and sold all extra trees and arranged pick-ups, admin. updates to database etc., shop clean up, 25,850 trees/shrubs were sold. Packaged bonus trees to donate to Auburndale School.
- Completed enrollment papers and ordered batteries for Apiary bear abatement for large scale bee keeper in Wood Co.
- Worked on documentation for Wildlife 1st ¼ reimbursement.
- Recorded 6M wildlife fence build contract with Register of Deeds.
- Reviewed Wildlife program resolution.
- Picked up rusty crawfish from Pittsville School
- Began reviewing submitted Dupee Non-Metallic Reclamation Permit application and plan in the Town of Hiles. Correspondence with DNR for review of dewatering discharge.
- NMM software development meeting with IT.



Activities Report for Shane Wucherpfennig – April, 2021

- **April 1-13** – Vacation.
- **April 14** – Concrete Mix Check training, emails, Phone correspondence.
- **April 15** – CSGCC Outreach meeting, Emails, Phone correspondence.
- **April 16** – PACRS Meeting
- **April 19** – Citizens (Wood County) Groundwater Group, Landowner visits.
- **April 20** – CAD training - Creating Alignments and Profiles, County Board meeting.
- **April 21** – Randy Seidl Storage facility design.
- **April 22** – Met with Landowners involved with the Serenity River LCC. Project. TMDL Tracking.
- **April 23** – Attended Wisconsin lakes virtual conference. Zoom Meeting.
- **April 26** – PHS Rusty Crayfish project in Pittsville. Worked on 2021 annual work plan for DATCP.
- **April 27** – CSGCC Quarterly meeting.
- **April 28** – Time reporting, agenda items, staff reports, reports and BITS Program.
- **April 29** – Virtual Skype meeting with DNR, project designs.
- **April 30** – Zoom meeting. Tracking.

TO: Conservation, Education & Economic Development Committee

FR: Jason Grueneberg, Planning & Zoning Director
Adam DeKleyn, County Planner
Paul Bernard, Land Records Coordinator
Jeff Brewbaker, Code Administrator
Scott Custer, Code Technician
Kim Keech, Admin Services 5
Victoria Wilson, Admin Services 4

RE: Staff Report for May 5, 2021

1. Economic Development (Jason Grueneberg)

- a. Heart of Wisconsin (HOW) Chamber Economic Development Task Force – On April 7th, I participated in the first meeting of the HOW Economic Development Task Force. The task force is established to help implement economic development strategies identified by the HOW Board.
- b. Wood County Economic Development Roundtable – On April 8th and April 22nd, I facilitated Economic Development roundtable discussions in response to the economic impact of COVID-19 on our economy. Notes from those meetings are attached to this report.
- c. South Wood County Bicycle & Pedestrian Trail Wayfinding – On April 15th, I participated in a meeting to plan for bicycle and pedestrian wayfinding signage for trails in south Wood County. By fall of 2021, Grand Rapids, Biron, Wisconsin Rapids, Port Edwards, Saratoga and Nekoosa will have trail head and additional wayfinding signs installed.
- d. North Central Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission (NCWRPC) Regional Recovery – On April 15th, I participated in a meeting to develop a strategy for regional recovery from COVID-19. The planning process will take place over the next year.
- e. Wood County Broadband – On April 19th, I participated in a meeting to talk about the 2 Public Service Commission Grants that were awarded to Bug Tussel Wireless and Wood County. The group also discussed next steps in broadband expansion in Wood County, including the possibility of applying for a Public Service Commission Grant in 2021. The group is in the process of becoming the Wood County Digital Equity Solutions Team (DEST) that will further the efforts of broadband expansion. Creation of DEST is a recommendation that is included in the Wood County Rural Economic Development Plan.
- f. Marshfield Bike Share – On April 19th, I participated in a meeting to coordinate efforts of implementing a bike share program in the city of Marshfield.

2. Planning (Adam DeKleyn)

- a. Land Subdivision - Plat Review – CSM: (7) CSMs were submitted for review/approval. (7) CSMs were approved/recorded. (7) CSMs are pending approval.
- b. Town of Grand Rapids Comprehensive Plan – Town Plan Commission met twice this month. Presented Implementation Element at one meeting and discussed final public participation opportunities at the other. Draft of plan will be available for review by the public in May.
- c. Wood County Well – Water Systems Program – Currently working with DNR on staff training and certification. Program information will be available on the P&Z webpage in May. Staff are in the process of reviewing ordinance revisions; developing DPZ administrative/program functions; and determining well driller outreach efforts.
- d. Wood County Bike and Pedestrian Plan Update – Initiating plan update with assistance of RPC. Compiling background info; developing survey; and identifying core planning group and stakeholders.
- e. City of Marshfield Bike and Pedestrian Plan – Marshfield is in the process of developing a city bike and ped plan. Met with city officials to coordinate bike and pedestrian planning efforts, focusing on connectivity with adjacent unincorporated areas and ensuring consistency with other existing plans.
- f. Town of Marshfield Zoning Update – Presented updated official zoning map to the Town Board and Plan Commission. Town zoning ordinance and official zoning map is available online: [HERE](#)
- g. Town of Lincoln Zoning Ordinance – Completed a review of existing zoning ordinance with the Plan Commission. PC determined no amendments and/or revisions are necessary. Town Board may consider reaffirming zoning ordinance.
- h. Town of Port Edwards Zoning Update – Updated official town zoning map. An interactive official town zoning map is available online: [HERE](#)
- i. Wood County ATV/UTV Survey and Economic Impact Project – Working cooperatively with the RPC and other county departments to develop a survey. The purpose of the project is to gather information from ATV/UTV users related to trail and route preferences, and to determine some basic economic impact from users. The finished product is intended to guide future projects, planning, decision making, policy, funding, etc.
- j. Other Town Zoning Updates – Completing updates to the following official town zoning maps: Cameron, Grand Rapids and Auburndale. Presenting at upcoming TB meetings.
- k. Town/County Planning and Zoning Assistance – Provided planning and zoning assistance to the general public and town officials.

3. Land Records (Paul Bernard)

- a. Working towards completing projects outlined in the WLIA 3-year plan:
 - i. Hydro polygon & line improvement
 - ii. Indexing survey records
 - iii. NG911
- b. Reviewing deliverables from the DATAMARK addressing comparison that compared our GIS data to other sources such as ALI, Tax Roll, Utility list etc.
- c. A few custom map requests.
- d. Parcel mapping updates on a weekly basis.

4. Code Administrator (Jeff Brewbaker)

03-31-2021 – Shoreland & floodplain consults

04-01-2021 – Plan review, soils evaluation & hydrograph conventional TN: 07; floodplain meeting with homeowner; issued reconnect conventional TN: 18

04-05-2021 – Plan review & soils evaluation new mound >24" TN: 14; soils onsite TN: 02; inspection tank & absorption cell replacement conventional TN: 07; inspection plow & absorption cell replacement mound >24" TN: 14

04-06-2021 – Created American Disabilities Act affidavit for shoreland property TN: 07; plan review & soils evaluation new conventional TN: 19; soils evaluation new mound <24" TN: 16; soils evaluation new mound >24" TN: 16; soils evaluation new mound A+) TN: 08

04-07-2021 – Soils evaluation mound A+0 TN: 10; issued shoreland ADA restriction TN: 07; inspection report mound >24" TN: 16; inspection report mound <24" TN: 12; inspection report HT TN: 01

04-08-2021 – Inspection report mound <24" TN: 12; inspection report mound <24" TN: 21; (2) inspection report mound <24" TN: 15

04-09-2021 – Inspection report conventional TN: 07; inspection report mound >24" TN: 14; shoreland/floodplain onsite violation TN: 07; plan review, soils evaluation & issued new mound <24" TN: 06; soils evaluation mound <24" TN: 13

04-12-2021 – Plan review renewal mound <24" TN: 07; plan review, soils evaluation, hydrograph & issued new conventional TN: 18; plan review & issued reconnect mound <24" TN: 09

04-13-2021 – Plan review & issued new HT TN: 01; health & safety letter RE: cattle on mound system TN: 01

04-14-2021 – Inspection report mound A+0 TN: 11

04-15-2021 – Plan review, soils evaluation & issued replacement mound A+0 TN: 15

04-16-2021 – Soils evaluation mound <24" TN: 02; soils evaluation HT TN: 15; soils onsite & soils evaluation mound A+0

04-19-2021 – Soils evaluation & plan review mound <24" (re-core mound) TN: 18; soils evaluation & plan review conventional TN: 13

04-20-2021 – Soils evaluation & plan review aerobic unit TN: 07

04-21-2021 – Meeting regarding campground @ Bethel Center TN: 01

04-22-2021 – Soils onsite TN: 13

04-23-2021 – Soils evaluation HT TN: 01; soils evaluation, hydrograph, plan review & issued replacement conventional TN: 07

04-26-2021 – Septic system site visit verifications TN: 04 (2) & TN: 01

04-27-2021 – Shoreland site visit TN: 17; conventional onsite meeting TN: 07; HT & septic maintenance questions with property owners

5. Code Technician (Scott Custer)

3-31-2021 – Reviewed HT/conventional system for commercial property TN-18.*

4-1-2021– Floodplain research and meeting.

4-2-2021 – Holiday (Court House closed)

4-5-2021 – Mound inspection TN-14. Soil onsite TN-02.

4-6-2021 – Kimball well reading. Shoreland meeting with land owner.* Small claims court. Small claims meeting with Corporation Council.

4-7-2021 – Floodplain meeting*. Shoreland meeting with contractor TN-18. Mound plan review TN-06.

4-8-2021 – Soil test review TN-13.* Shoreland zoning permit TN-18. Mound application renewal TN-07.*

4-9-2021 – Floodplain site visit TN-18.* Eichhorn well reading.*

4-12-2021 – Out (sick kid)

4-13-2021 – Shoreland research and question for land owner TN-16. Renewal application review TN-18.*

4-14-2021 – Court case meeting with land owner. Mound system replacement review TN-15.*

4-15-2021 – Reviewed two soil reports TN-15 and TN-02*. Shoreland/Floodplain letter TN-18 and Floodplain letter TN-07.

4-16-2021 – Mound plan review TN-18.* Soil onsite TN-15.*

4-19-2021 – (2) Conventional plan reviews TN-13.* Citizens Groundwater Group web meeting.

4-20-2021 – Attended small claims Court. Met with two court cases.

4-21-2021 – Site inspection mound replacement TN-18.

4-22-2021 – Out (sick kid)

4-23-2021 – HT inspection TN-01.

4-26-2021 – Septic verification site visit verifications TN-04 (2) and TN-01*. Mound plan review TN-16.

4-27-2021 – Shoreland site visit TN-17*. Conventional system site inspection TN-13. Conventional onsite meeting TN-07*. Shoreland phone meeting with land owner TN-07.

*Training purposes with Code Administrator.

6. Office Activity (Kim Keech and Victoria Wilson)

- a. Monthly Sanitary Permit Activity – There were 9 sanitary permits issued in March 2021 (6 New, 3 Replacements, 0 Reconnects
- b. and 0 Non-Plumbing) with revenues totaling \$6,900. There were 8 sanitary permits issued in March 2020 (5 New, 3 Replacements, 0 Reconnects and 0 Non-Plumbing) with revenues totaling \$6,825.

There were 22 sanitary permits issued through March 2021. For comparison purposes, the following are through the same period for the previous five years: 2020 – 22, 2019 – 12, 2018 – 20, 2017 – 22 and 2016 – 17.

- c. 2021 Tax Refund Intercept Program (TRIP) – As of April 26th, Wood County received \$19.00 payment for a total of \$2,661.00 on five (5) outstanding cases for 2021.
- d. 2021 Maintenance Notices – Septic Maintenance Notices, ATU (Aerobic) Maintenance Notices, White Knight (Aerobic) Maintenance Notices, Holding Tank (Farmer Exempt) and Holding Tank Maintenance Notices are scheduled to be mailed approximately Friday, April 23rd with a due date of Friday, August 13th. There are approximately 3,207 to be mailed between the five notices.
- e. Enforcement Activities Update (Small Claims) – Vacancy checks by office staff for 2020 maintenance enforcement was completed on Thursday, January 21st and Friday, January 22nd.

i. Small Claims Court Cases Scheduled

Date

Small Claims # Cases & Court Case Type

4/06/2021 (9) Failure to pay \$25 program fee (2020)

4/06/2021 (1) Failure to provide servicing or Maintenance Report (2020)

Court Case Summary:

(9) cases have settled paying a forfeiture.

(1) case Default Judgment.

4/20/2021 (7) Failure to pay \$25 program fee (2020)

Court Case Summary:

(5) cases have settled paying a forfeiture.

(1) case has a monthly payment plan.

(1) case Default Judgment.

f. Sanitary Permit Database System Project – The next phase for the sanitary permit system database will consist of creating a service provider and comments interface. Information Technology Department continues work on the design phase of the project.

g. Survey Document Indexing Project – There are over 4,000 survey documents that are being indexed with a tentative completion by the end of 2021.

h. ArcGIS Software Project – Editing addresses in 22 townships.

i. Wisconsin Fund Grant Program - 2017 Wisconsin Act 59, the 2017 biennial budget act, repealed, effective June 30, 2021 the Wisconsin Fund Grant Program for failing septic systems. Governor Ever has included the Wisconsin Fund Grant program in his 2021-2023 budget draft. It is anticipated the fate of the program will not be known until it is signed into law which is due to happen by July 1, 2021.

Office Staff continues to promote and take applications for the grant program. Wisconsin Fund Grant program brochure and application form can be found on the Wood County Planning & Zoning website.

j. Kim attended the following meetings/trainings:

- i. Citizens (Wood County) Groundwater Group on April 19th.
- ii. Small Claims Court Status Meeting on April 6th & April 19th.
- iii. CEED Committee Meeting on April 20th.

k. Victoria attended the following meetings/trainings:

- i. Economic Development Meeting (COVID-19 Recovery) on April 8th & April 22nd.
- ii. Land Information council on April 29th.



RESOLUTION#

Introduced by
Page 1 of 1

CEED and Judicial & Legislative Committees

ITEM# 4 -

DATE May 18, 2021

Effective Date May 18, 2021

LAR

Motion:	Adopted:	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 st	Lost:	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 nd	Tabled:	<input type="checkbox"/>
No: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Number of votes required:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Majority	<input type="checkbox"/> Two-thirds	
Reviewed by: PAK, Corp Counsel		
Reviewed by: EN, Finance Dir.		

INTENT & SYNOPSIS: To oppose changes in the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims program through Senate Bill 63 and Assembly Bill 49, which eliminates any local County control of the program and instead gives all authority to the State government officials.

FISCAL NOTE: None

		NO	YES	A
1	LaFontaine, D			
2	Rozar, D			
3	Feirer, M			
4	Wagner, E			
5	Fischer, A			
6	Breu, A			
7	Ashbeck, R			
8	Hahn, J			
9	Winch, W			
10	Thao, L			
11	Curry, K			
12	Valenstein, L			
13	Hokamp, J			
14	Polach, D			
15	Clendenning, B			
16	Pliml, L			
17	Zurfluh, J			
18	Hamilton, B			
19	Leichtnam, B			

WHEREAS, the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims program, fully funded by a surcharge on hunting licenses, is a voluntary Department of Natural Resources program to assist producers with agricultural losses caused by deer, bears, geese, and cougars, as well as elk and sandhill cranes if hunting those animals is authorized; and,

WHEREAS, Wood County has participated in the program since its inception in 1983 and has administered the program through the Conservation, Education, and Economic Development (CEED) Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin State Legislature is proposing making changes to the Wildlife Damage and Claims program through Senate Bill 63 and Assembly Bill 49 by eliminating the administration of these programs from the Land Conservation Committee and changing the administration to these programs to the DNR instead; and,

WHEREAS, by eliminating any local authority, when landowners have issues and appeals concerning harvest objectives or management of the program, they will no longer appear before the (CEED) Committee, but would instead have to travel to Madison to appear before DNR officials who don't necessarily have local concerns in mind when rendering a decision.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wood County Board of Supervisors oppose the changes to the Wildlife Damage and Claims program through Senate Bill 63 and Assembly Bill 49 which eliminates any local County control of the program and instead gives all authority to the State government officials.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Evers, the members of the State Legislature, the Wisconsin Counties Association and the other counties of the State of Wisconsin.

{ }

Kenneth Curry, Chair

Bill Clendenning, Chair

Robert Ashbeck

Ed Wagner

Jake Hahn

Joseph Zurfluh

Dave LaFontaine

Bill Leichtnam

Carmen Good - Citizen Member

Adopted by the County Board of Wood County, this _____ day of _____ 20 21 .

County Clerk

County Board Chairman

CITIZENS (WOOD COUNTY) GROUNDWATER GROUP MEETING

DATE: Monday, April 19, 2021
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Teleconference via WebEx

Present: Ray Bossert, Rhonda Carrell, Bill Clendenning, Scott Custer, Bruce Dimick, Gordon Gottbeheut, Tamas Houlihan, Kim Keech, George Kraft, Clayton Kree, Dustin Ladd, Bill Leichtnam, Matt Lippert, Robert Sorenson, Michael Tiboris, Nancy Turyk, Gregg Wavrunek, Rachael Whitehair, Allison Werner, Shane Wucherpennig and Tim Wuebben.

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Bill Leichtnam called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.
2. **Public Comment:** "Clean Water" referendum confused people with water issues versus politics.
3. **Speaker – George Kraft, Professor Emeritus, UWSP**
"What we've learned from 30 years of Groundwater Testing"
George Kraft is a Professor of Water Resources and Director of the Center for Watershed Science and Education with appointments with UWSP College of Natural Resources and the University of Wisconsin – Extension.

Highlights of "What we've learned from 30 years of Groundwater Testing" presentation:

- A lack of information isn't what's keeping us from doing better.
- Nitrate misconceptions & untruths.
- Big Springs Iowa Groundwater Monitoring – Groundwater nitrate on agricultural landscapes is increasing with the increase due to increasing nitrogen inputs. Crops get less efficient taking up nitrogen as nitrogen increases.
- Whiting Wisconsin Municipal Well Nitrate Study – Nitrates in Central Wisconsin groundwater is increasing.
- 1994 Nitrate Conference – 80 participants with presenters in hydrology, agriculture, public health and land use planning putting together our best understanding of Wisconsin nitrate picture.
- Sources of nitrate – 9% septic systems, 1% lawns/other and 90% agriculture.
- Shaw's Work – Shaw overestimated non-agriculture impacts and underestimated Agriculture impacts. Shaw's estimate is state-wide with local estimates differing. Lawns and septic systems contribute nitrate to groundwater but does not mean they necessarily push nitrate above drinking water standards. Most areas with septic systems with no agriculture have "safe" nitrate levels.
- Port Edwards Groundwater Priority Watershed Study summary – median nitrate: 21 mg/L, 2x drinking standard; pesticides: 5 detected, some > drinking standards. Most applied nitrogen leached in groundwater. Potato, vegetable & field corn leaches huge amounts of nitrate to groundwater. University recommendations for nutrient management plans don't work here. Agriculture pollution can make aquifer unstable. Need rotations that combine high leaching and low leaching crops.
- Pollution moves with groundwater flow.
- Springfield Corners lessons – Deeper, older groundwater is "clean". Shallower, young groundwater is higher in nitrates. The increase in nitrate over time follows increasing nitrogen use. Agriculture practices must change otherwise aquifer will become polluted above drinking water standards.
- Summary: We have plenty of data but lack resolve.

Discussion followed.

4. **Correspondence/Updates/Handouts/Reports:**
Bill Leichtnam shared the following at the meeting:
 - A. "DNR Received Public Comments on Draft Economic Impact Analysis Regarding Nitrate Pollution in Groundwater" email – Rule amendment proposes to establish agricultural nonpoint source performance standards targeted to nitrate pollution in areas of the state which are susceptible to

groundwater contamination. Website link:
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/news/input/ProposedPermanent.html>

5. **Action Items proposed by Citizens (Wood County) Groundwater Group**
Action items proposed from the Citizens (Wood County) Groundwater Group would be brought forward to the CEED Committee followed by the Wood County Board of Supervisors.
6. **Roundtable**
 - A. Bruce Dimick – The water table is down in the Town of Saratoga and Central Sands region the last couple of years.
 - B. Rhonda Carrell – The water table in the Town of Saratoga is 2 feet down than it was in 2014.
7. **Announcements of members / visitors (upcoming parallel events / meetings)**
Proposed NR 151 rule changes for Nitrate public hearings will be scheduled for summer 2021.
Website line: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/nonpoint/nr151nitrate.html>

Wisconsin DNR Central Sands Lakes Study Public Hearing is Wednesday, April 28th @ 6:00 p.m.
Website link: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/calendar/hearing/42751>.

Joint Finance Committee 2021-2023 Biennial Budget Public Hearing is on Wednesday, April 28th. Website link: www.legis.wisconsin.gov/topics/budgetcomments.

The next meeting for the Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative meeting will be Monday, April 26th @ 10:00 a.m. with a quarterly update.
8. **Future Speakers:**
May – Russ Groves, Entomologist, “Neonicotinoids”
9. **Agenda Items for next meeting**
Agenda items should be submitted to Bill Leichtnam by the second Monday of the month.
10. **Next Meeting** Monday, May 17th, 2:00 p.m. (VIRTUAL)
11. **Adjourn Groundwater Group Meeting** Chair Bill Leichtnam adjourned @ 3:35 p.m.

Notes by Kim Keech, Planning & Zoning Office

Via: Teleconference

Jason Grueneberg, Wood County Planning & Zoning Director, as facilitator

In Attendance: Matt McLean-Director-Visit Marshfield;; Betsy Wood-Managing Director-Incourage; Kristie Rauter-Egge-Community Health Planner-Wood County; Josh Miller-Development Services Director-City of Marshfield; Nancy Turyk-Community Development Educator-UWEX; Victoria Wilson-Administrative Services-Wood County Planning & Zoning

Jason Grueneberg-Wood County Planning & Zoning:

- Wood County COVID cases are down with only 17 active cases at this time. Statewide the number of cases is stable.
- Unemployment is down to 3.8% statewide and we are starting to hear about workforce shortages again.
- First time jobless claims are down 684,000, which is the lowest since the start of the pandemic.
- There is a lot of talk surrounding the state budget. Governor Ever's proposal is being dissected.
- The American Rescue Plan of \$1.9 billion dollars in stimulus funds has been approved. Municipalities are trying to figure out the allocation of those funds and how they can be used.
- Vaccines are in the news daily and appear to be going well.
- Bug Tussel Wireless was approved to receive grant funding around \$800,000 from the public service commission for broadband expansion in Wood County.
- The county applied for a transportation alternative program grant last year and were awarded funding to do a Bicycle and Pedestrian plan in Wood County.
- The regional plan commission is leading an ATV Return on Investment (ROI) study in the county.

Josh Miller-City of Marshfield:

- We continue to work on our Economic Development Strategic plan with the Economic Development Board, with our main focus being on housing. Other things we are working on are redevelopment and entrepreneurship.
- We are also working to get new lots in the city for subdivisions.

Matt McLean-Visit Marshfield:

- We plan to go ahead with the Maple Fall Fest event in September.
- The sports study is coming up in two weeks.
- We have made some headway on our video project and will be putting out some RFPs to some video production companies. We hope to do something in the next two months.
- We launched another grant program with the Central Wisconsin Tourism Association.
- Travel optimism is very strong at this time. Unfortunately, we are not seeing it in the hotel industry yet.

Kristie Rauter-Egge-WC Health Department:

- We are working with schools to do testing of symptomatic children through a pilot testing grant. The testing has been extended through the end of June.
- The schools on the south end of the county have gone to a four day school week. We are working with Aspirus on doing voluntary surveillance testing of children. We are seeing low percentages of positives. Marshfield is working towards going to full time schooling.
- Many people are getting vaccinated so our numbers are dropping. We are slowly getting more and more vaccines. After today, most of our educators will be vaccinated.
- We are projected to get the Johnson & Johnson vaccination in the near future, which is a one-dose vaccination.
- We are moving out of the airport hangar and to the Grand Rapids Lions park facility in about five weeks.

Nancy Turyk-UWEX:

➤ CEED committee will take up a resolution to move the REDI plan forward to the county board.

❖ Next EDR meeting: Thursday April 8, 2021 at 9:00am via teleconference
Adjourned at 9:58 am

Via: Teleconference

Jason Grueneberg, Wood County Planning & Zoning Director, as facilitator

In Attendance: Angel Whitehead-President-Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce; Scott Larson-Executive Director-MACCI; Kristie Rauter-Egge-Community Health Planner-Wood County; Nancy Turyk-Community Development Educator-UWEX; Mark Spiers-UWSP-Small Business Development; Victoria Wilson-Administrative Services-Wood County Planning & Zoning

Jason Grueneberg-Wood County Planning & Zoning:

- Wood County COVID cases remain low at 28 active cases. We are seeing a slight increase in cases statewide.
- One in five people in the state are fully vaccinated. Soon, everybody will be able to get the vaccine.
- The last round of stimulus is a topic of discussion for many people. They are working to understand what the funding can be used for specifically.
- The governor's order was struck down so the mask mandate is no longer in place.
- The Wood County Solar project is currently working on clearing trees. They hope to be done with that around June 1st at which time the construction will begin. They continue to look for housing for the workers. The hope is to have them housed in Wood County. They will be providing educational opportunities. If anyone can help connect the schools with the Solar Project please let me know.
- There is not much new to report on Verso. The Consolidated cooperative has been legally formed and has a board of directors.
- The Wood County Bicycle and Pedestrian plan is moving forward. We will look at wrapping that plan up by April of 2022.
- We are working with the Regional Plan Commission on an ATV/UTV economic impact study.
- We are working on an ATV/UTV County plan/strategy.

Scott Larson-MACCI:

- Visit Marshfield is starting the process of the sports tourism study as of this week.
- We continue to work through the stimulus programs that are out there by answering questions related to that.
- We have transitioned more towards economic development questions from COVID response questions. The workforce issues continue to be a problem.
- Rural broadband expansion continues in Wood County. There was a meeting with Lt Governor Barnes in Pittsville last Friday to discuss this topic. Bug Tussel Wireless was in attendance at this meeting as well. More information will come on this project as it moves forward.
- Centergy is putting together another meeting regionally to discuss how we can advance broadband service throughout central Wisconsin.

Angel Whitehead-HOW:

- Next week we are having our job fair at East Junior High with over fifty vendors expected. We estimate between one and two hundred individuals to attend.
- We are still waiting to hear back on the final Economic Development Administration application for WEDC grant funding.
- We are assisting a few businesses that are re-locating in the Wisconsin Rapids area.
- Our sub-committee for economic and workforce development met yesterday to discuss looking at options for programming for business retention and expansion. We are looking to change the model for the way the data is collected.

- We are working on a joint video for Wood County recreation. We have finalized an RFP that has been sent to six local contractors along with one to Discover Wisconsin. We plan to use those videos in many ways to promote recreation in central Wisconsin.
- We are super excited to announce our new Sip, Shop, Support Local campaign! The Bingo card campaign will run from May 1st – 8th this will be a great week to shop for Mother's Day and Father's Day gifts and ideas and enjoy some great food and drinks too.
We hope that you will take part in this event. You can pick up a BINGO card at one of the participating businesses or the Chamber of Commerce after April 20th.

Kristie Rauter-Egge-WC Health Department:

- We are giving more and more vaccines. In a month, we will move from the airport hangar to the Grand Rapids Lion's park in Grand Rapids.
- On the 21st and the 28th of April, we will be doing vaccinations at the Marshfield Fairgrounds. We will return to the Marshfield fire department on May 5th.
- We have staff that will be reaching out to people regarding the bike share program and planning a meeting about the program.
- We had a vaccination clinic a couple of weeks ago to vaccinate around two hundred Spanish speaking and Hmong people. We will also be vaccinating inmates at the jail. We are trying to reach some of our vulnerable population as well.
- We are doing a lot of planning for the upcoming Farmer's Markets in North and South Wood County.

Mark Speirs-UWSP:

- Jenny Resch has left employment at UWSP. The university is working to fill her position due to the extent of her involvement with businesses and economic development for the university.
- The Small Business Development Center is up thirty to forty percent as far as clients and businesses.
- We have seen an increase in participation in the classes we provide to entrepreneurs and people looking to start a business.
- Workforce continues to be a great concern along with supply chain issues, especially in the restaurant industry.

Nancy Turyk-UWEX:

- The REDI plan will go to the County Board this month and begin implementation next month.
- Colleagues in the Community Development Institute of UW Extension are compiling a website of resources concerning the stimulus money.
- Small Business Association, Wisconsin Housing & Economic Development Authority and Extension are partnering on some funds that came through the SBA for childcare. It is called Boot Camp 101 and aims to get organizations up and rolling.

- ❖ Next EDR meeting: Thursday April 22, 2021 at 9:00am via teleconference
Adjourned at 9:54 am



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
WOOD COUNTY



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension Wood County

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UW-MADISON EXTENSION

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES *with* THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

As a statewide engagement arm of UW–Madison, the Division of Extension embodies the Wisconsin Idea to extend university knowledge to every corner of the state. That mission started in 1912 with Extension’s first agent making farm visits and continues today along with community and business development, youth engagement, and well-being programming. Our statewide network of educators and specialists with the UW–Madison College of Agricultural & Life Sciences and on UW campuses across Wisconsin is responding every day to emerging and longstanding hurdles residents are overcoming to compete and prosper. We’ve identified key opportunities to leverage local resources and leading research to affect change and improve lives through:

Supporting Wisconsin’s Agriculture Industry »

We use applied research from UW-Madison’s College of Agricultural and Life Sciences in addition to other Campuses along with educational outreach to support an economically viable agricultural industry that produces safe food in an environmentally responsible manner.

Fostering Leadership and Civic Engagement »

We work with communities across the state to support individuals, groups, and organizations to enhance quality of life and improve overall well-being, leading to stronger communities today and for generations to come.

Creating Positive, Healthy Change »

We catalyze positive change in Wisconsin families through evidence-based programs focused on nutrition, food security, food safety, chronic disease prevention, mental health, and substance misuse.

Empowering Families and Communities »

We support families in caring for each other in ways that promote growth and understanding, enhance aging-friendly communities, coach effective parents, and help families put technology, mindfulness, and financial awareness to use.

Enhancing Resilient Natural Resource Systems »

We help individuals and communities make informed decisions that support the state’s rich land, water, and mineral resources. We’re working to ensure that our resources remain at the heart of our communities, economies, and state identity.

Furthering Positive Youth Development »

We prepare the youth of today to become effective, empathetic leaders of tomorrow. From teens advising local government to Wisconsin 4-H clubs, we offer diverse educational opportunities that put youth on the path to success in Wisconsin and beyond..



Agriculture

Matt Lippert, Agriculture Educator

A Strong Start and then a Big Change in Strategy

January and February 2020 started out with some great Agriculture programs. An Automated Milking Systems Meeting (AMS) on robotic milking was well attended. A grant for the program provided funds to bring in a speaker from Finland and an Extension Specialist from Minnesota. There were sponsorships for the program from milking equipment suppliers as well.

In March, the annual Heart of the Farm Program for Farm Women was cancelled and we went to all virtual and distance learning opportunities for the remainder of the year.

Newsletters and magazine articles were useful educational tools. Working with other Extension specialists, Matt and colleagues produced webinars on "Methods to Reduce Milk Production through Diet". This was created in the face of new production quotas for farmers and milk being dumped. A podcast "Heat Abatement Strategies for Dry Cows" was produced in the summer.

Fall and winter programming included Badger Dairy Insights, which were offered on Tuesdays at 1pm. This was a part of a larger collection of programs titled "Farm Ready Research" that were accessible through online enrollment.

Agriculture Collaborations and Partnerships

Extension Wood County partnered internally for many virtual offerings and also worked with Mid-State Technical College, Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry, UW - Marshfield Agriculture Research Station, and area High School Agriculture instructors to offer support and ideas to help producers be successful in 2020.

SUPPORTING LOCAL FARMERS

1062

Total Farms in
Wood County

145

Dairy Farms in
Wood County

570

Copies of the Central
Wisconsin Agriculture
Extension Report were
distributed quarterly

18

Agriculture radio interviews
broadcasted locally



Agriculture

2020 Milk Price Variable and Frustrating: Lippert Provides Professional Insight for Producers

An article written by Matt Lippert was published in the Wisconsin State Farmer magazine and the Wisconsin Agriculturist magazine and online platform, to help dairy producers understand the value of feeding for higher milk protein yield. The article is titled “Today, the money in the milk check is in the protein”.

Milk is priced at the farm level based on its content of butterfat and protein. Markets did a number of unusual things in 2020 which resulted in very large swings in the price of milk. The price dropped to \$12.14 in May and by July, it more than doubled to \$24.54 per cwt. One constant was the protein became more valuable relative to fat in 2020, as compared to the previous four years.



Dairy cows grazing on a Wood County farm in Pittsville

In the current environment, feed ingredients used and practices on the farm highly reward improving milk protein yield.

The information on how to feed for more protein yield from cows was featured in a farm newspaper, a farm magazine, a radio interview and an email news feature reaching many dairy producers. Circulation of the publications totals over 40,000. This was timely information developed for the current market affected by the pandemic.

Agriculture Agent, Matt Lippert, also worked with producers to take advantage of farm support programs such as Coronavirus Food Assistance Program I & II.

Agriculture Retools and Updates

Dairy facilities modernization guidance continued through the pandemic. Contacts were made over the phone and with limited farm visitation for farmers and those considering farming, allowing them to make better decisions.

In 2020, the Wisconsin Rapids Verso mill was closed. Several people who lost their job due to the closure contacted Lippert about utilizing their agricultural land and buildings to see if updates could be made to facilities to enter the dairy farming industry.

In another case, Lippert assisted a crop farming family that was considering adding a dairy enterprise. In several other cases, he advised dairy farmers in adding and updating dairy heifer facilities.

In several of these cases, it was identified that the capital needed and the expected return was not well suited for the individuals to enter the dairy business. For the existing dairy farmers, successful plans were made to update the facilities.

Overall, even a decision not to take action was a favorable outcome. Lippert was able to share his expertise and help the individuals understand the economics of dairy production.



Cranberries

Allison Jonjak, Cranberry Outreach Specialist

Wood County Welcomes New Extension Cranberry Outreach Specialist

Wood County is the top cranberry-producing county in North America so it is a natural fit to have Cranberry Outreach Specialist, Allison Jonjak, working out of the Extension Wood County Office. Allison began her position on April 1, 2020.

Allison's efforts are focused on improving education about cranberry production practices. Since joining Extension, Allison has hosted virtual education events focusing on nutrient use efficiency, water use and quality, profitability, and integrated pest management. Cranberry growers appreciate a regional specialist who is deeply in tune with their challenges and who can create programming to address pressing needs.



Cranberry Harvest Safety Assistance

In the uncertainty of 2020, the cranberry crop still needed to be harvested. Many growers had questions about how best to protect their workers and their marshes, when temporary harvest crews swell the number of workers on-farm. Allison sought answers to questions, and prepared a planning guide for marsh owners and managers, as well as a video in both English and Spanish, that could be shared with crew members before they arrived to work. These materials, titled Harvest in a Covid Era, prepared employees for the safety processes they would be following on the farm.

The goal of Harvest in a Covid Era was to help eliminate risk that doesn't bring a benefit. The planning guide outlined simple and straightforward steps to reduce risk of disease spread.

SUPPORTING WISCONSIN CRANBERRY GROWERS

235

Total number of Wisconsin Cranberry Growers

407

Copies of the Cranberry Crop Management Journal were distributed bi-weekly April through September

578

Attended Virtual Cranberry Educational Events

1060+

Viewed Virtual Cranberry Video Interviews



Cranberries

Virtual Cranberry Outreach

Mini-Clinic and Brown Bag Events

An April Mini-Clinic has long been a staple of the cranberry program, letting growers talk with researchers as their crops begin to transition to the growing season. Common topics are nutrient management and early season weeds and insect pests. Because 2020's restrictions on gatherings happened before the Mini-Clinic was scheduled, virtual sessions were held on the planned date, and were well received by growers.

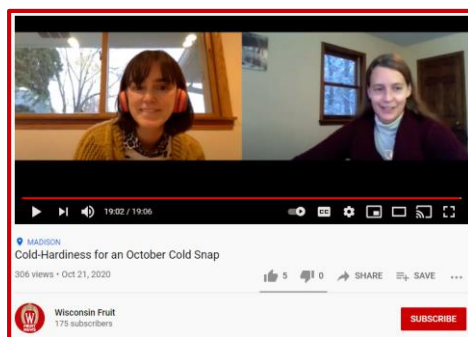
As a result, with encouragement from Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association (WSCGA), Allison created a schedule of monthly "Virtual Brown Bag" events. The brown bags became a series of one-hour virtual meetings, hosted the last Friday of each non-harvest month. The meetings were facilitated by the Cranberry Outreach Specialist and featured research specialists, crop consultants, industry experts, and grower panels. Topics were selected in 2020 based on direct grower requests. Topics for 2021 will be a combination of grower requests and suggestions from the WSCGA Education Committee.

2020 "Virtual Brown Bag" topics included: legislative, researcher and crop consultant updates, Covid safety for harvest, winter grower panel, nationwide roundup, cranberry school and business management.

YouTube Video Interviews

A new format explored in 2020 was the video interview. When several growers would reach out to Allison with a similar question that could be well-addressed by a conversation with a specialist, Allison would record a Zoom interview with the specialist. Interviews are then closed-captioned and uploaded to Wisconsin Fruit's YouTube channel as quickly as possible, as the content is generally time-sensitive. The Leaf Drop and Cold Hardiness for a Cold Snap videos both got more than 50% of their views on the day of release.

We expect these videos will continue to be useful for reference for growers in coming years, and that future topical video interviews will be added to the collection as well.



2020 video interview topics included: leaf drop, leafhoppers, murder hornets, Covid safety for Harvest (in English and Spanish) and cold hardiness for a cold snap.



Community Development

Nancy Turyk, Community Development Educator

Case Study: Successful Business Reopening during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Following the Safer at Home period in Wisconsin that took place early in the Covid-19 pandemic, many businesses were unsure how to re-open in a manner that would be safe for their employees, patrons, and visitors while maintaining financial viability.

Ho-Chunk Gaming Nekoosa worked with the Public Health professionals at the Ho-Chunk Nation and Wood County to develop plans for a safe setting. They were one of the area's first large businesses to re-open to the public during the pandemic. The Casino manager participated in the discussions about how to help businesses respond to and weather the pandemic that took place during the County's economic development task force weekly meeting and invited participants to visit the Casino to learn from their experience.

The Wood County Health Department managers and Community Development educator, Nancy Turyk, met with a team of professionals at the Casino to see and hear about the approaches they chose to employ for safe operations.



From this experience, Nancy prepared a 2-page case-study to share with other businesses that were seeking ideas. The case study covered how the facility was prepared, steps to keep patrons and employees safe, planning for response to Covid-19 cases, and reflections on the need for planning for long-term disruptions.

CLEAN SWEEP HIGHLIGHTS

7654

Pounds of household materials collected

3693

Pounds of agricultural materials collected

200

Vehicles participated in the event with newly enforced safety restrictions.



Community Development

Wood County Rural Economic Development Initiative

The role of county government in guiding economic development varies throughout the state. Some counties hire economic development specialists while others are only passively involved through their planning and zoning efforts. Wood County sought to explore their role in economic development. Additionally, the County wanted assistance identifying and prioritizing economic development initiatives to guide the allocation of staffing and funding.

To obtain support for this process, Turyk worked with County staff and partners to successfully access support from Extension at Purdue University and UW-Madison through a USDA Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) grant.

Over the past year, 25 representatives created the Wood County REDI plan. Throughout the process, the Community Development educator facilitated many of the work groups and meetings, coordinated with the partners, and prepared the final document.

The highest priority initiatives included expansion of broadband, identifying county branding, supporting an entrepreneurial ecosystem, developing a housing plan, and continuing a collaborative economic development group. This experience further enhanced the capacity of the partners to function as a team. This was most evident when they came together to learn about the pandemic and developed strategies to assist local businesses, often by providing services, resources, and support not typically offered by the partner organizations.

Having an economic development plan with SMART goals will enable the County to address impediments to economic development in a coordinated fashion and improve access to needed funding for implementation. Ultimately, the outcomes will help alter the projected trajectory of a declining population in the County.

Wood County Clean Sweep

Hazardous waste that is improperly disposed can impact human health and have environmental consequences. As unused products are stored around the home and farm, labels can become illegible, leading to an inability to identify contents and containers can decompose, leading to unintended leaks and spills.

The Wood County Board of Supervisors annually allocates funds to compliment funding from DATCP enabling them to offer an annual Clean Sweep Event for County residents at no additional cost to participants. Extension Community Development Educator, Nancy Turyk, prepares and submits the DATCP grant proposal and organizes and facilitates the event.

In 2020, this included identifying the location (Marshfield Agriculture Research Station), coordinating with the contractor, County Health Department and host facility, publicizing the event, printing needed signage, overseeing the event, and developing and submitting the report to DATCP.

Clean Sweep events help residents become more aware of the types of products they are purchasing and the need for proper disposal, which can lead to healthier communities, water, soil, and air.



Health & Well-Being

Kelly Hammond, Program Coordinator; Hannah Wendels, Nutrition Educator

Wild Edibles

In spring, a Wild Edibles class, created by the Natural Resources Educator, 4-H Program Educator, and FoodWise Nutrition Educator, helped families learn how to correctly identify wild edibles, gather their findings, and prepare what they found to enhance their knowledge of what grows locally in their communities.

The Educators combined efforts to host a 2-session virtual class. In addition to the interactive lessons, participants received a Wild Edibles Identification Booklet and a supplies toolkit prior to the first class.

Families met with all three educators at the first virtual session to learn how to identify wild edibles growing in their communities and how to properly store them once collected. Families came together at the second virtual session to share what they found and learn how to prepare their findings in their own kitchens.

Participants indicated that they were positively impacted by this hands-on learning activity and hope to join future Wild Edibles classes in different growing seasons.



Wild Edibles class flyer

200+

Community members reached through direct virtual education

17

Percent increase in FoodShare participation

250+

Wood County students reached through virtual programming



FOOD WISE
Healthy choices, healthy lives.

UW-MADISON EXTENSION

Community Impacts

- Online Nutrition Education for all WRPS Students
- Full suite of online programs offered, for all ages. Classes included Healthy Babies, feeding toddlers with Yuck to Yum and healthy aging with online Strong Bodies classes.
- Educational support of Boys and Girls Club with engaging at-home nutrition activities.
- Support of SWEPS Food Pantry Food Drive in collaboration with the South Wood County Hunger Coalition.
- Collaboration with Wood County Health Department to improve access to FoodShare and resources at the Farmers Market.



Health & Well-Being

Engaging Partners and Reaching New Audiences

2020 challenged us to think of new ways to reach our audiences and provide new resources. While handing out food boxes in partnership with South Wood Emerging Pantry Shelf (SWEPS) and Feeding America, we promoted future online parent and adult education classes.

In fall 2020, we pilot tested 4 curriculums that were adapted to meet an online audience - Healthy Babies, Yuck to Yum, FoodSmarts and Strongbodies. These classes reached new audiences, from the parents of young children with infant feeding, to providing physical education along with lifelong nutrition information to seniors.

From Classroom to Computer



Hannah and Kelly teaching at Mead Elementary

2020 started off with a year of change for Wood County FoodWise, with new educator, Hannah Wendels, and new interactive curriculum in the classrooms. Just as education was getting underway with 3rd grade and Kindergarten classrooms at Mead, Howe and Grove Elementary, the pandemic hit. These classes were all ultimately cancelled.

Fall 2020 arrived, and the FoodWise team was ready with a suite of online options for WRPS schools. Teachers were offered live virtual classes, interactive Bitmoji classrooms or pre-recorded YouTube lessons.



Hannah's interactive Bitmoji classroom

ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER



UW-Madison Division of Extension works alongside the people of Wisconsin to deliver practical educational programs where people live and work – on the farm, in schools and throughout urban and rural communities. In Wood County, FoodWise partners with The Wood County Health Department, WIC, CAP Services/Head Start, SWEPS, South Wood County Hunger Coalition, the Aging and Disability Resource Center, Wisconsin Rapids Area School District and many others to help make the healthy choice the easy choice in our communities.

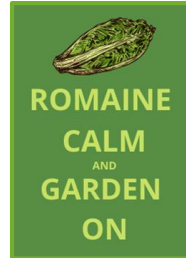


Horticulture

Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator

Romaine Calm and Garden On

With the outbreak of COVID-19, food supply anxiety has created a unique need for virtual beginners gardening courses. Reports of anxiety due to possible disruptions to food supplies have fueled a resurgence in popularity of war time Victory Gardens. Seed companies and nurseries saw an uptick in their sales. People who have never gardened before are looking for research based educational opportunities.



In an effort to fill that need, Janell created a series of gardening classes specifically for those with limited resources, using the Zoom platform. 12 sessions total were held twice a week, one hour each. The course was free and participants received links to supplemental material available through The Learning Store.

- 80% reported an increase in confidence to choose appropriate containers
- 77% reported an increase in confidence in differentiating which crops should be direct sown vs transplanted
- 73% reported an increase in confidence in appropriately watering their gardens
- 60% reported an increase in motivation to use cover crops
- 63% reported an increase in understanding weed management
- 86% reported an increase in motivation to employ IPM techniques
- All participants reported strong levels of confidence to harvest their garden produce safely

At the completion of the program:

- 88% of participants reported they were more motivated to contact their local Extension office with gardening questions
- 100% were more motivated to use The Learning Store
- 50% were more motivated to grow some of their own produce

One participant shared, "even though I've gardened for years I'm learning. I would highly recommend this program."

48

WCMGV IMPACT

42

Active Wood County
Master Gardener
Volunteers

825

Hours of continuing
education completed by
WCMGV

1783

Individuals impacted by
WCMGV outreach efforts

2000+

Hours of volunteer service
completed by WCMGV

\$54,481

Value of WCMGV
volunteer contributions*

*based on the value of \$27.20 per hour for volunteer time in WI for 2020, according to Independent Sector



Horticulture

Foundations in Horticulture

A team of Extension Educators with Horticulture and Master Gardener duties in Brown, Iron, Marathon, Rock, Walworth, Waukesha, Winnebago, and Wood counties, developed Foundations in Horticulture (FIH) online course in cooperation with the Horticulture and Master Gardener Programs.

Foundations in Horticulture addresses the following needs:

- *Increase consumer access to horticulture education*
- *Improve and provide consistent horticulture education training to prospective Master Gardener Volunteers*
- *Reduce the burden of Master Gardener training to staff that don't have primary duties in Horticulture or Master Gardener programs*
- *Provide online programming to appeal to wider audiences, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic*



FIH was developed using Universal Design for Learning Principles and Canvas, the online learning management system for UW-Madison, allowing for an engaging distance learning environment for adults with varied learning preferences and digital literacy.

Extension Educators collaboratively developed specific learning objectives and repurposed education materials from Master Gardener Level 1 Training. Topics selected provide the learner with fundamental knowledge of Wisconsin horticulture with an emphasis in integrated pest management.

Foundations in Horticulture is being piloted in four counties with total of 144 participants during fall/winter 2020-2021. Upon completion, participants will demonstrate an increase in knowledge about Wisconsin horticulture and be prepared to enroll in Master Gardener Volunteer Onboarding if desired. The results of the pilot will also be used to make improvements to FIH and train other educators on how to facilitate the course. The intent is to explore expanding access to statewide audiences, making FIH available to the public and not just prospective Master Gardener Volunteers.

The Garden Guru

Wood County Master Gardeners began 2020 with monthly horticulture programs called The Garden Guru at the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library.

Beginning in March, The Garden Guru programming nimbly adapted to a virtual format using the Zoom platform. Volunteers remained committed to their mission, which is to share evidence-based horticulture knowledge with their communities. The virtual programs' following grew, with programs averaging 30 participants each month in the last quarter of the year. The programs also strengthened community partnerships with the library.



Human Development & Relationships

Jackie Carattini, Human Development & Relationships Educator

Mental Health and Well Being

Extension works with local leaders to create healthier communities. We apply the research and resources of UW-Madison to help:

- Promote positive mental health by teaching skills to manage stress more effectively, practice self-care and reduce risky substance use by youth and adults
- Build community skills, tools and resources to promote health

Highlights of Taking Care of You

One program that addresses the need of teaching self-care and stress reduction is Highlights of Taking Care of You.

An 8-session series of Highlights of Taking Care of You, where childcare providers learned skills to cope with stress in both their work and home lives. The series was presented in partnership with United Way of South Wood and Adams Counties and Childcaring, Inc. Over the 8 sessions, 24 participants were able to participate via Zoom to learn skills to cope with stress. 96% of participants reported learning new coping skills including breathing, gratitude and finding joy.

A 3-session Taking Care of You series was also held at SWEPS (South Wood Emerging Pantry Shelf) where participants learned about the impacts of stress on their health and developed strategies to manage their stress in healthy ways. At the completion of the program, the nine participants had identified healthy ways to reduce their stress. Participants were able to demonstrate using tools such as breathing, guided relaxation and making joy lists.

Additional programming on managing stress was provided to organizations such as the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Central WI, Childcaring and United Way of South Wood and Adams counties. In addition to full educational series, materials were adapted for one day staff in-services, newsletters, radio segments and public service announcements.

302

Partners engaged

323

Virtual education sessions
hosted

1,223

PSAs on WLJY and WFHR
radio stations

1,000+

Views of 4 recorded
educational videos



Human Development & Relationships

Maintaining Community Partnerships

Extension Wood County partnered with United Way of South Wood and Adams Counties to reach their community coalitions and partners to provide a weekly online educational program. The goal of the weekly meetings was to touch base with each other, maintain community relationships and gain mental health tools for working in a crisis situation.

An average of 6 participants attended each week for 12 weeks reporting that they were able to learn and implement new coping skills around stress management and self-care. At the end of the 12 weeks the meetings were continued within each agency.

These existing relationships allowed us to expand our outreach and work with these community partners to maintain relationships in order to help staff transition to work in the era of COVID-19 and to maintain mental health.

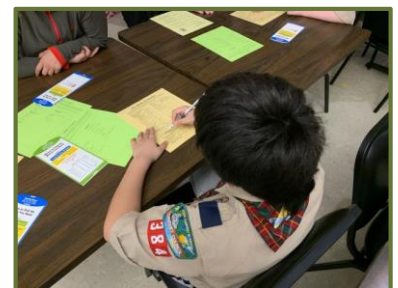
Increasing Financial Capability in Youth

Wood County partners and organizations continue to identify financial security as a challenge. The United Way of South Wood and Adams Counties' Financial Stability Coalition continues to focus on the need for promoting financial capability in youth. To address these issues two new programs were implemented in 2020.

In February of 2020, the first Wisconsin Rapids Finance and Investment Challenge Bowl was held at Mid-State Technical College with teams from six local schools. The FICB is a financial literacy program for Wisconsin high school students. It aims to teach a wide range of financial literacy topics that align with Wisconsin's Model Academic Standard for Personal Finance. Two Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln High Schools teams won first and second place. Due to its success, it is planned to be an annual event.

A new partnership was developed with the Samoset Council, Boy Scouts of America in Marshfield. We held a "Funny Money Night" for local scouts in the Marshfield area. The purpose of "Funny Money Night" was to help them learn about money, career choices and budgeting basics. The key concepts taught were: jobs and income, building a budget, and distinguishing needs versus wants.

We had 17 youth in attendance along with their families and their leaders. One mother stated, "This is great! We have been working on budgeting at home but your stations make it fun and easier to understand! We will definitely continue to work on this at home!"



A participant at the Boy Scouts' "Funny Money Night".



Natural Resources

Rachael Whitehair, Regional Natural Resource Educator

Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo

The Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo was created to revive the effort dedicated to creating the 'Healthy Soil, Healthy Water' workshops held in years past. This revived effort



included multiple stakeholders and strived to re-brand the event and shift the focus of programming from one of soil and water health to one of profitability while achieving soil and water health.

The expo was originally planned to be a single day event, however, the planning committee shifted to a virtual learning series to accommodate for the COVID-19 pandemic. Keynote speaker Rick Clark, a regenerative farmer from Indiana, kicked off the event in early December with additional presentations planned in 2021, to cover the financial components of best management practices like cover crops, no till, precision agriculture, managed grazing, and silvopasture. The event provided intentional opportunities for farmer-farmer discussion on best methods to make conservation profitable here in Central Wisconsin.

14-Mile Watershed Alliance

The 14 Mile Watershed Committee began as a sub-committee of the Tri-Lakes Association, appointed to address compromised water quality in the form of algal blooms in Lakes Arrowhead, Camelot, and Sherwood. Opportunities to hold in-person meetings ceased as a result of the pandemic, thus, Extension offered virtual hosting through the Zoom platform. This partnership sparked a strong period of growth for the committee. Ongoing virtual meetings continued alongside a successful effort to develop a 9 Key Element Watershed Restoration Plan for the 14-Mile area, a guide for the committee's mission. UW-Madison Extension offered facilitation of discussions with area water and agricultural specialists, as well as guidance with grant development and submission for continued water monitoring projects



239

Attendees at the Farm Profitability Expo events

3,867

Contacts reached through Facebook and YouTube social media platforms

40

Percent of Profitability Expo registrants who identified as farmers

6

Educational videos made with partners, showcasing farmers and land conservation practices

6

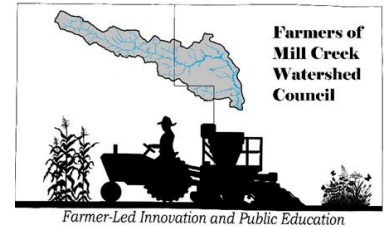
Ongoing farmer led or watershed group partnerships



Natural Resources

Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Council

The Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Council is dedicated to community education and outreach as a pillar of their programmatic goals. In early 2020, a partnership between Land and Water and UW-Madison Extension, developed what is known as The Pollinator Pledge. The pledge is a community-based program meant to transform unproductive acres of land within or near the Mill Creek Watershed into beneficial prairie habitat for pollinators and erosion control for soil and water quality.



Producers and conservation staff offer hands-on activities to students about prairie ecosystems. For every school that signs up, the Farmer Council matches their participation with a prairie installation. The pollinator pledge brings classrooms to the farm and makes the prairie site an outdoor learning space for the community. The goals of this program include:

- plant a minimum of ten sites, either school-based or agricultural land, into prairie habitat
- host four field day demonstrations to exemplify options for prairie implementation
- increase prairie acres on farmland to mitigate nutrient loss and improve ecosystem function
- educate the community about the benefits of incorporating native habitat into the landscape.

Due to the pandemic, all in-school presentations were halted. During 2020, three sites were successfully planted (example shown at right), and one used for two school field trips. The program intends to continue through the 2021-2022 seasons.



One of three sites successfully planted as a prairie site for outdoor learning.

An Ear-Full of Conservation Stories

To accommodate for the lack of in-person field days, Mill Creek farmers, UW-Madison Extension, and Land and Water Departments developed a series of education videos to showcase the best management practices being utilized in the area as well as the farmers implementing them. The video series called “An Ear Full: Hearing from the farmers leading the conservation conversation” provides firsthand experiences of how local farmers make these practices work, the challenges they’ve had, and ultimately, share the good it has done for their operation and what being a good steward of the land means to them.



Positive Youth Development

Laura Huber, 4-H Program Educator

Lumberjacks: Building Your Future Camp in a Box

Summer camp looked a little different in 2020. We introduced Camp in a Box – a hybrid summer camp program featuring written curriculum with project materials, static video instructions, and virtual campfires to develop positive relationships for youth in grades K-13 and their families. The goal was to deepen familial relationships and experience hands-on education while engaging in camp-like programs from their homes. To support campers, instructional videos were shared; live “campfires” including guest speakers, interactive games and songs were hosted on Zoom; and a closed Facebook community was created allowing families to share camp experiences. Older youth served as leaders - developing instructional videos, leading campfire songs, and facilitating other campfire activities.

The program included three camp days and included activities on Arts & Crafts, Astronomy, Mindfulness, STEAM, Group and Water-Based Recreation, Physical Education, Camp Cooking, Music, and Career Considerations.

Lumberjacks: Building Your Future Camp in a Box served approximately 1,000 youth from about 400 families. 4-H educators from 8 counties collaboratively created this family-focused experience to meet traditional camp goals. Twenty five percent of camp families were non-traditional 4-H families who experienced camp for the first time. This program was awarded the 2020 Specialty Award for Excellence in Camping-Team by the Wisconsin Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals.



From top left counterclockwise: Campers were encouraged to name their camp; retiring the flag; making cloud dough; owl pellet dissection; meal time

631

Youth members enrolled

35

Percent of enrolled youth live on farms

47

Percent of enrolled youth live in rural areas

18

Percent of enrolled youth live in cities of 10K+

153

Certified adult volunteers

6,152

Hours of volunteer service

\$167,334

Value of total volunteer hours*



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

*based on the value of \$27.20 per hour for volunteer time in WI for 2020, according to the Nonprofit Leadership Center



Positive Youth Development

Keeping Youth Connected

Youth Leaders Organize Special Interest Clubs

Youth leaders in Wood County 4-H accepted the challenge to keep youth connected and learning by creating special online clubs focused on a common interest.

In Lego Club, youth learn building techniques, get challenges and share their builds with each other. Art Club gives youth an opportunity to share their art work – both incomplete and complete, share new ideas and a common interest in art.

Both clubs are open to youth of all ages and meet weekly via Zoom or Google Meet. In addition to sharing their weekly challenge or creation, youth receive feedback on their work, have fun and meet new people. One parent shared “Thank you! Peter loves these meetings. He works on the task all week and can't wait for the meeting to come.”

Pen Pal Project

In March, five Wisconsin counties combined efforts to facilitate a Pen Pal Project for youth in grades K-3. Based on the Flat Stanley Project, an international literacy and communications pen pal activity based on the book Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown, we introduced youth to the story during a read-a-long via Zoom and all participants then received a journal and a Flat Stanley/Stella template to complete. They mailed their journal and character through USPS to another participant and the recipient then shared adventures with Flat Stanley/Stella and journaled about their adventures. At the end, each journal and Flat Stanley/Stella were returned to their creators.



A Pen Pal Project participant with Flat Stella

Through this project, youth were able to practice reading, writing, planning and record-keeping skills in order to create and build new relationships.

County-wide Cloverbud Program

Cloverbuds are our youngest 4-H members, in grades K-2. Many times, the virtual meeting platform makes it difficult for them to be engaged and actively participate.

In order to ensure that these important 4-Hers are learning and staying connected, a county-wide Cloverbud program was created. This club meets virtually once a month. Upon registration, members received a Cloverbud Record Book in the mail that includes all of the hands-on lessons and activities for each meeting. New youth are able to join at any time.



Extension

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(i.e. the discount amounts to roughly \$834 per month).

2. **Extension Responsibilities.** Extension agrees to:
 - a. Hire local Extension staff who will deliver educational services aligned to County priorities. As vacancies occur, and if the County and Extension agree to continue to support the desired program and position, Extension will seek County input when filling vacant positions.
 - b. Invoice the County semi-annually, by March 31st and September 30th for amounts due under this agreement.
3. **County Responsibilities.** In consideration of the programs that Extension provides to County under this contract, the County agrees to:
 - a. Pay to Extension the County share of up to \$273,255 for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 as allocated below.

Positions	Fee	FTE	Total
Agriculture Extension Educator - Dairy	\$42,330	0.5	\$21,165
Agriculture Extension Educator – Cranberry	\$42,330	0.5	\$21,165
Human Development and Relationships Extension Educator	\$42,330	1.0	\$42,300
First Educator Discount			(\$10,000)
Subtotal			\$ 74,660
Professional Development	\$500	5	\$2,500
Natural Resources Extension Educator	\$71,740	0.5	\$35,870
4-H Program Coordinator	\$61,672	1.0	\$61,672
Communities Extension Educator	\$74,970	1.0	\$74,970
Horticulture Coordinator	\$78,609	0.3	\$23,583
Final Total			\$273,255

- b. Provide travel and appropriate job expenses to the staff, office facilities and equipment, office supplies and demonstration materials, salary and fringe benefits for the clerical support staff, and other supporting budgetary items through regular County budgetary procedures in which funds are appropriated for such purposes under applicable Wisconsin law.
4. **General Conditions** This contract is established under the following conditions:

under Section 3.a. through the notice period. In addition, if the contract is cancelled before the end of the term, the discount identified in Section 3.a. shall be prorated (i.e. the discount amounts to roughly \$834 per month).

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- a. Pay to Extension the County share of up to \$273,255 for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 as allocated below.

Positions	Fee	FTE	Total
Agriculture Extension Educator - Dairy	\$43,600	0.5	\$21,800
Agriculture Extension Educator – Cranberry	\$43,600	0.5	\$21,800
Human Development and Relationships Extension Educator	\$43,600	1.0	\$43,600
First Educator Discount			(\$10,000)
Subtotal			\$ 77,200
Professional Development			
<i>Natural Resources Extension Educator</i>	<i>\$71,740</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>\$35,870</i> <i>(37,000)</i>
<i>4-H Program Coordinator</i>	<i>\$61,672</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>\$61,672</i> <i>(63,000)</i>
<i>Communities Extension Educator</i>	<i>\$74,970</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>\$74,970</i> <i>(76,000)</i>
<i>Horticulture Coordinator</i>	<i>\$78,609</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>\$23,583</i> <i>(24,000)</i>
Final Total			\$277,200

****Final investment based upon true cost adjustments for health insurance and other benefits package****