

MINUTES  
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021  
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #114, WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI

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

Staff Present:

Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpennig, Klayton Kree

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn Scott Custer, (via WebEx), Paul Bernard (via WebEx),

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

Others Present: Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendenning, Wood County Chair Lance Pliml (via WebEx), Kevin Boyer (Wood County Surveyor), Nancy Eggleston (Wood County Health Department), Ben Jeffrey (Wood County Health Department), Ray Bossert (via WebEx), Scott Larson (via WebEx), MaryAnn Lippert (via WebEx), Jessica Mancel (via WebEx), Josh Miller (via WebEx)

1. **Call meeting to order.** Chairperson Curry called the CEED meeting to order at 9:01am.
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 February 3rd, 2021 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 February 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. **Review items, if any, pulled from Consent Agenda.** None.
7. **Risk and Injury Report.** None.
8. **Land & Water Conservation Department**
  - a. Introduction of Klayton Kree newly hired Engineering Technician.

Shane Wucherpennig introduced the new Conservation Engineering Technician, Klayton Kree. Klayton shared he went to UW-Stevens Point and majored in Soil Science Management.

Chair Curry welcomed Klayton; committee members and department heads introduced themselves.

Discuss DOJ settlements with several Wood County farms.

Shane shared that two out of the three farms were referred to the DOJ.

Tri-Star Dairy in Auburndale had a very significant manure pit overflow discharge that ended up in a stream. This case made it all the way to the DOJ and was settled out of court for \$55,000. Shane noted there are some extra stipulations: maintain manure pit at MOL (maximum operating level), which is typically about 2 feet below the top so they have room for emergency rain events or unforeseen situations.

Supervisor Leichtnam noted this was a significant large spill and questioned why they didn't know at the time. Shane said they were brought in day one. It happened on a weekend; DNR warden was on site the first day. Land and Water Conservation was involved through the whole process. Shane noted when there isn't resolution with the landowner, it goes to DOJ. Discussion followed.

The second farm discussed is the Accola site on the county line. They were fined \$10,065.00 (agreed on forfeitures and payment schedule were set based on financial information submitted by Accola). Shane shared during the life of this stipulation, Accola will not engage in the dairy business. They need to maintain the manure in the north structure not to exceed the MOL. DNR is allowed staff to access and inspect the structure with reasonable and advanced notice. Discussion followed.

Shane discussed the third farm, south of Hewitt, Schiferl Brothers. A manure pit overflow went on for a couple days. Following discussion, Shane noted the landowners worked with LWC right away and took care of the spill.

b. Request to extend free countywide well water testing for nitrates until funding is used.

Shane shared a map of the well sampling that was done in 2019 and 2020. He noted they had a very successful year in 2019 with private wells. The first year stations were set up for people to bring well samples to. With Covid last year, LWC wasn't able to do that. There is money left that was appropriated from County Board. LWC would like to do another big push in the spring. Discussion followed.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve extension of free countywide well water testing for nitrates until remaining funding is used. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.*

c. Resolution to discuss Aquatic Invasive Species Grant for Wood County.

Shane noted this is not a resolution but eventually may bring a resolution to the committee. Shane explained that typically aquatic invasive species grants or lake study grants were happening regionally through RC&D. RC&D would handle the counties that were in their region, involved in their membership. The DNR decided a few years back that when these services are hired out contractually like through RC&D or other entities, there's a much higher administrative cost. They felt the counties, if given the money, could do a better job of reducing the administrative cost.

Starting in 2021, this fall, Land and Water Conservation would be eligible to apply for an aquatic invasive species grant. Discussion followed.

*Motion by Ken Curry to direct Land & Water Conservation Department Head to pursue the aquatic invasive species grant. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.*

• **Citizens Groundwater Group meeting.**

Supervisor Leichtnam noted minutes from the Citizens Groundwater Group meeting are on pages 31-32 of the CEED packet. There was not a speaker at the February meeting. Neonotinoids were the focus of discussion.

Wisconsin Water Week is being held virtually next week (March 8-12). Discussion followed.

Next Citizens Groundwater Group meeting will be held virtually on Monday, March 15th. Matt Krueger will be the speaker.

- **Health Committee report.**

Nancy Eggleston introduced Ben Jeffrey who will be the new Health Department Environmental Supervisor. Ben shared that he has been an Environmental Health Assistant with Wood County for almost 3 years. He graduated from UW-Stevens Point with a focus on Biology/Ecology.

Nancy noted there are updates to come on the MOU this afternoon (March 3rd).

There will be additional water testing in the Port Edwards/Armenia area; one last direct call to people to do sampling so there is a good representation. Nancy shared this probably won't happen until April or May to make sure people who are gone for the winter will be back. Chair Curry asked for a best guess of how many wells have been tested. Nancy responded it might be around 50%. Discussion followed.

Per committee request, Chair Curry shared that he reached out to Sue Kunferman, Health Department Director, to continue the relationship that Nancy has built between the CEED committee and Health Department after Nancy retires.

Supervisor LaFontaine asked if anyone is checking how effective the installed RO units are. Nancy shared there is a post RO test after the well is installed. A sample is collected from the units so they know they work right after installation. Some of them have failed, only because the filters were not changed. AGC provided filters for two years – beyond that, it's up to the homeowners to change the filters. Discussion followed.

Chair Curry wished Nancy well in her retirement. He shared that she should be proud of the connection she's made between the CEED committee, County departments and Health Department and the work that's been done. Supervisor Leichtnam also complimented Nancy's work and thanked her for all of her service.

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

Supervisor Leichtnam shared a brief update on the CSGCC grant proposal submission status. They are waiting to hear back from the Groundwater Coordinating Council and Nancy Turyk suggested it may be beneficial to share the proposal with others in the meantime.

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

Supervisor Leichtnam shared the next meeting will be held in two weeks.

**9. Private Sewage.** Jason Grueneberg shared a brief update on Private Sewage – referenced on page 28 of the CEED packet. Planning & Zoning is working through the small claims process for those who failed to provide servicing or maintenance reports or pay the program fee. Jason noted there are only a handful that require enforcement action.

**10. Land Records.** Nothing to report.

**11. County Surveyor.**

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

Jason Grueneberg reported requests for proposals went out last month and two proposals were received. Kevin Boyer shared this year they are proposing 180 corners; which is about the same number of corners for 2022. That will complete the entire county. There will be an 8-10 year break in 2023 where other projects can be looked at.

Kevin noted that surveyors are very busy right now. Last year 4 bids were received; this year they received 2. Discussion followed.

Lowest bid was from Quest Civil Engineers for 180 corners this year for \$43,323.00 (\$240.68 per corner). The second bid was from Steigerwaldt for \$87,120.00 (\$484 per corner). Kevin noted that Quest Civil Engineers met all RFP qualifications and they have been happy with their work in the past. Kevin recommended awarding the project to Quest Civil Engineers.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to award project to lowest bid, Quest Civil Engineers LLC, to complete maintenance of 180 Public Land Survey System section corners. Second by Ken Curry. Motion carried unanimously.*

## 12. Planning

### a. Request to Approve Zoning Map Amendment/Rezone – Town of Marshfield

Adam DeKleyn shared another request for approval of town zoning map amendment that was submitted by the Town of Marshfield for a parcel located on the southwest corner of Stadt Road and County Highway Y. The request is to re-zone this parcel from a single family residential (R1) to a multiple family residential (R2). The main purpose of the amendment is to allow for construction of a 4-plex apartment building.

Town Plan Commission reviewed the rezone and recommended approval to the Town Board. Subsequently, the Town Board did approve the proposed rezone to R2. The final step is for the town to submit amendment to Planning & Zoning and County Board for approval.

Planning & Zoning reviewed the request and it appears the town followed the statutory requirements for a zoning amendment as outlined by state statutes. There are no conflicts with any county Planning & Zoning ordinances or programs. Adam recommends forwarding the resolution to the County Board.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve the zoning amendment to the Town of Marshfield Official Zoning Map. Second by Jake Hahn. Motion carried unanimously.*

### b. Update on Wood County Well Inspection (Delegation) Program

Adam DeKleyn gave an update on the Planning & Zoning department's status with the County Well Delegation Program.

In 2019, this was a program Planning & Zoning was looking at implementing. Then the pandemic hit and due to staff turnover, the department focused priorities on existing programs and staff work. Now that Planning & Zoning is back to full staff, they are pursuing the implementation of the County Well Delegation Program.

This program will allow Planning & Zoning the authority to administer regulation on private water wells in the county. This is a program that is currently implemented at the state level through administrative code. This will bring the state level program into the county level and implemented locally with assistance and support from the DNR.

The goal of the program is to protect drinking water quality, groundwater quality in Wood County and the residents of Wood County. Specifically, Planning & Zoning is requesting the DNR to allow the department to administer two levels of the program which are:

- Level 1: permitting of a new well or reconstruction of a new well (to protect the residents that are constructing or receiving a new well)

- Level 5 delegation: regulates the abandonment of used wells that don't meet drinking water standards or construction standards as identified in the administrative code

Adam noted it is a very beneficial program with both short and long term benefits.

In February, Planning & Zoning submitted an application to the DNR to authorize the department to administer state administrative code standards specific to private well suppliers. The DNR is currently reviewing all of the application materials and will respond once they work through the approval.

In the meantime, Planning & Zoning staff are working cooperatively together on legwork and administrative functions of the program. Adam noted this is not the first time CEED will hear about the program, the committee will be involved throughout the implementation.

Lengthy discussion followed.

### 13. Economic Development

#### a. Presentation of the draft Rural Economic Development Innovation Initiative Plan.

Nancy Turyk shared a PowerPoint presentation of the Wood County REDI Plan. It is in the last round of revisions and they are looking to share it with CEED and possibly County Board for appropriate approvals. Nancy briefly reviewed the background of the project and timeline.

There have been about 24 people involved on the REDI team; in addition to the 14 staff from Extensions at Purdue and UW-Madison. Nancy shared the full list of people involved; it includes a variety of people from businesses, regional organizations, state level organizations and lots of organizations from within the county.

Nancy shared the following goals in plan include:

- **Develop a diverse and sustainable economy in Wood County.**
  - To accomplish that need to transform the economic development network into a collaboration economic development group.
  - Establish an entrepreneurial "ecosystem"
- **Establish Wood County as a vibrant and diverse community to live, grow, work and play**
  - Broadband, internet and cellular infrastructure throughout the County.
  - Plan addressing the housing needs throughout the County.
  - Develop a branding strategy for the County.
  - Support a centralized site promoting arts, cultural assets, and entertainment in the County.
  - Develop a combined countywide outdoor recreational map for visitors and residents.
- **Implementation of the following are critical to successful economic development in Wood County but will be led by the County independent of the REDI planning team.**
  - Update the County Comprehensive Plan
  - Improve health outcomes by complimenting the County Health Improvement Plan
  - Improve health, equity and resilience and reduce expenses by implementing the County Energy Plan

Nancy noted the next steps are to determine whether it needs to move to County Board, and if there should be a presentation and when that might be.

Nancy highlighted the contributions of all the organizations that sent participants for many hours to share their expertise in the development of this plan. She can't say enough good things about them and appreciated working with them – it is an incredible group of people for Wood County to work with moving forward. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Leichtnam asked who will administer the plan 3 years from now. Nancy responded that through the REDI process, support from Purdue will go away in September. In the interim, Purdue will work with the group on webinars, providing guidance and helping the county identify funding for any initiatives that require it. Extension resources are always available as they're embedded throughout many of these initiatives. In terms of administration, Nancy suggested that she, Jason Grueneberg or someone from the county needs to take the lead in facilitating to get the initiatives off the ground.

Following discussion, it was decided to move forward with a resolution for the April CEED meeting and potentially presenting the plan at the April County Board meeting. The full plan is available to view in the March CEED packet.

b. North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission update.

Jason Grueneberg shared an update on the regional recovery plan that Carrie Edmonton presented last month. Moving forward, this is funded by federal economic administration funding. Jason serves on this committee and will keep CEED up to date on how things move forward.

#### 14. Extension

a. General Office Update

Jason Hausler provided the following updates:

- Programming guidelines will be adjusting in the next couple weeks. Vaccines rolling out and declining cases will allow staff to do in-person processes. The current guidance stands through the end of March. Come April 1<sup>st</sup>, guidance will be for the summer.
  - Staff are still doing great things remotely. Extension is looking forward to more in-person dynamics that staff are accustomed to.
- The Governor's budget asks for funding for Extension. Other things in the budget have connection to Extension including broadband, food share (FoodWise) and other items that Extension has insight into.

b. Situational Analysis Update

Jason thanked group for their time at the special meeting in January. Jason has conducted all of the situational analysis meetings with oversight committees.

The next step is working with County Chairs and Administrators to have the same conversations. There is a kick off meeting with area 7 (Clark, Marathon, Portage and Wood Counties) on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The goal is to have draft document created by end of summer. This is an opportunity to reimagine our prioritization moving forward.

Supervisor LaFontaine asked if there were commonalities between the different counties. Jason confirmed there were including housing (identified in all 4 counties), workforce development, broadband, rural health and work with aging communities/ramifications of self-isolation during the pandemic.

c. WI Fairs Advisory Committee

Jason shared at the end of January the newly formed Wisconsin Fairs Advisory committee kicked off.

When the pandemic hit, some counties continued fairs in 2020 and some didn't. It was important to get everyone together to have a conversation about the future of Wisconsin fairs. The next meeting is on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

This is more of an advisory committee than a policy committee but some policies may be changed.

Wood County Chair Lance Pliml is on the committee representing WCA. Counties and county government are heavily involved and Jason is thankful that Lance agreed to help.

Jason also shared that he is chairing the committee statewide. Discussion followed.

d. WEXA Update

Jason gave a brief update and mentioned that Chair Curry received a correspondence from WCA – they have established a board of directors and are starting to get by-laws and structure set up as well as officials elected. This is an additional channel to Extension leadership to support the work of Extension.

Jason will try to keep this on future CEED agendas as he learns new information from the group.

Wood County Chair Lance Pliml shared that the WCA committee met with Karl Martin (Dean and Director, UW-Madison Division of Extension) to work on some of the guidance documents. As more information becomes available, Lance will forward it on to the CEED committee. Jason noted he wants to keep the committee in tune as best he can to make informed decisions.

e. Educator Presentation – Nancy Turyk, Community Development Educator

Nancy Turyk presented the draft Rural Economic Development Innovation Initiative Plan under agenda item 13a.

**15. Requests for per diem for meeting attendants.**

Supervisor Leichtnam shared that Wisconsin Water Week is all next week (March 8-12). He requested per diem for Monday only. RC&D covered the \$20.00 registration and it is all virtual so there is no mileage.

*Motion by Ken Curry to approve per diem for Supervisor Leichtnam to attend Wisconsin Water Week conference on Monday, March 8th. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.*

Supervisor Ashbeck requested per diem for special fair meetings next week.

*Motion by Ken Curry to approve per diem for Supervisor Ashbeck to attend special fair meetings. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.*

**16. Schedule next regular committee meeting.**

The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7th at 9:00am at Wood County Courthouse in Conference Room #114.

**17. Agenda items for next meeting**

*Agenda items are due by March 31<sup>st</sup>.*

**18. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary.** None.

**19. Adjourn.** Chair Curry declared the meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.

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