

AGENDA

CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, October 1, 2025
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
LOCATION: Courthouse – Room 302

Join by phone

+1-408-418-9388 United States Toll
Access code: 2492 926 4764

Join by WebEx App or website

<https://woodcountywi.webex.com/woodcountywi/j.php?MTID=m48623f0a6e0297bc04d0a2455c155ea7>

Webinar number: 2492 926 4764

Webinar password: 100125

1. Call meeting to order
2. Declaration of Quorum
3. Public Comments (*brief comments/statement regarding committee business*)
4. Review Correspondence.
5. Approve minutes of previous meetings
6. Approve vouchers, staff reports, & committee reports
7. Risk and Injury Report
8. Extension
 - a. General AED Update
 - b. Review and approve FoodWise Programming Funding Extension
9. Land & Water Conservation Department
 - a. Update on nitrate well testing project / cost share reverse osmosis systems
 - b. Update on Mill Creek Watershed
 - c. Update on ongoing violations
 - d. Albert Acres' Demo Trial Field Day, Tues., October 7, 2025 (RSVP required)
10. Private Sewage
11. Land Records
12. County Surveyor
13. Planning & Zoning
14. Economic Development
 - a. Update from C2 Makerspace Grant and consider release of Economic Development grant funds of 1,750.
 - b. Update from South Wood County Airport and consider release of Economic Development grant funds of \$15,000.
 - c. Consider release of \$5000 of REDI Implementation funds for the Wisconsin Rapids Area Sports Commission to complete and indoor sports facility feasibility study.
 - d. Review Economic Develop Grant application and policies.
15. Committee requests for per diem for meeting attendance
16. Schedule next regular committee meeting
17. Agenda items for next meeting
18. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary
19. Adjourn

MINUTES

CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, September 3, 2025
TIME: 9:00 AM
PLACE: Courthouse – Conference Rm #302

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Leichtnam, Tom Buttke, Wayne Schulz, Russ Perlock, Tim Hovendick,

MEMBER EXCUSED: George Gilbertson

OTHERS PRESENT: Trent Miner, County Clerk; See attached sign-in list

1. Chairman Leichtnam called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and declared a quorum present.
2. There was no public comment.
3. The minutes of the August 6 & 13, 2025 meetings were presented. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Motion by Schulz/Hovendick to approve the vouchers, monthly department reports and committee reports. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Planning & Zoning Director Grueneberg and Darryl Landeau from the North Central Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission presented the updated Bike and Pedestrian Plan highlights to the committee. This plan updates the 1995 version and allows for grant funding opportunities going forward. A resolution was drafted to approve the plan at county board. Motion by Buttke/Perlock to approve the resolution and forward onto the county board for their consideration.
6. Tyler Freund from the Auburndale Park Association presented an update on the progress made at the Auburndale Park in the village and requested the economic funding grant dollars be released at this time. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve the release of \$4,000 of economic development grant dollars to the association. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Extension Area Director Gatterman and Associate Dean Hausler presented the 2026 Extension budget which included an increase of FTE based on the loss of federal funding for the SNAP program. They propose having a county funded 80% position to replace the federally funded position. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve the budget as presented and forward onto the Finance Dept. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Land & Water Conservation Dept. Program Assistant Peeters presented the revised 2026 LWCD budgets, amended from last month to incorporate additional state funding. Motion by Schulz/Buttke to approve the budget as presented and forward to the Finance Dept. Motion carried unanimously.
9. Peeters reviewed the current status of the Nitrate Well Testing and the funding of reverse osmosis systems, the Mill Creek Water Shed testing now being conducted by Wood County instead of Portage County, as well as the ongoing violations.

10. A field day is coming up highlighting various land conservation practices will be held at Albert Acres' in Junction City on October 7th. The committee was advised that if they plan to attend to let the County Clerk's office know so that it can be noticed in accordance with the Open Meetings Law.
11. Grueneberg, along with Planning & Zoning Staff presented the various 2026 Planning & Zoning budgets. The committee reviewed some of the projects and funding mechanisms within the department. Motion by Buttke/Schulz to approve the budgets as presented and forward them to the Finance Dept. Motion carried unanimously.
12. The CEED tour of Friday, September 12th highlighting various departmental projects within the county, was brought up with a reminder to register by September 5th.
13. Melissa Haack, the regional farmers market coordinator discussed the changes made in the administration of farmers markets in the state, requiring additional paperwork and reporting. They are requesting REDI funds in the amount of \$6,000 to help organize the Marshfield Festival Foods market and upgrade the Wisconsin Rapids Farmers Market. Motion by Schulz/Hovendick to approve the release of \$6,000 of REDI Implementation grant funding as requested. Motion carried unanimously.
14. Grueneberg presented the 2026 Transportation & Economic Development budget. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve the budget as presented and forward to the Finance Dept. Motion carried unanimously.
15. Chair Leichtnam presented some ideas on changes to the parameters for the economic development grant requests and requested the committee to come with their ideas to the October CEED meeting, where this item will be discussed.
16. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 1st, at 9:00 AM.
17. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously at 11:06 AM.

Minutes taken by Trent Miner, County Clerk, and are in draft form until approved at the next meeting.

Conservation, Education, & Economic Development Committee
September 3, 2025

[illegible]

Committee Report

County of Wood

Report of claims for: Land & Water Conservation Dept.

For the period of: September 2025

For the range of vouchers: 18250105 - 18250114

Voucher	Vendor Name	Nature of Claim	Doc Date	Amount	Paid
18250105	NORTH CENTRAL LAND & WATER CONSERVATION	NCLWCA Summer Tour	08/27/2025	\$150.00	P
18250106	PHEASANTS FOREVER	Customer seed order	09/02/2025	\$117.45	P
18250107	CHILI IMPLEMENT CO	Parts for no-till drill	09/02/2025	\$18.39	P
18250108	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Office & field supplies	09/04/2025	\$26.98	P
18250109	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Office supplies	09/09/2025	\$8.98	P
18250110	WATER EXCELLENCE	Cost share nitrate system (MS)	09/05/2025	\$4,880.00	P
18250111	WATER EXCELLENCE	Cost share nitrate system (RM)	09/12/2025	\$7,040.00	P
18250112	WATER EXCELLENCE	Cost share nitrate system (DP)	09/12/2025	\$7,040.00	P
18250113	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Office supplies	09/12/2025	\$8.79	P
18250114	US BANK	Supplies, conference, meter	09/17/2025	\$1,160.46	
Grand Total:				\$20,451.05	

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

For the period of: September 2025

For the range of vouchers: 22250057 - 22250064 38250018 - 38250019

Voucher	Vendor Name	Nature of Claim	Doc Date	Amount	Paid
22250057	HEART OF WIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	PS-Training/Conf	09/03/2025	\$800.00	P
22250058	INDUSTRY SERVICES DIVISION	PS-Sanitary Permit Fees	09/04/2025	\$2,200.00	P
22250059	WISCONSIN LAND INFORMATION ASSC	LR-Training & Conferences	09/10/2025	\$175.00	P
22250060	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	LR-Office Supplies	09/10/2025	\$22.35	P
22250061	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	PL-Office Supplies	09/09/2025	\$43.62	P
22250062	AYRES ASSOCIATES INC (Eau Claire)	LR-Operating Supplies & Expens	06/23/2025	\$15,000.00	P
22250063	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	PL-Office Supplies	09/16/2025	\$41.97	
22250064	US BANK	LR/PL/ED Charges	09/17/2025	\$1,040.99	
38250018	VILLAGE OF AUBURNDALE TR D MARTH	ED-Grants, Donations	09/12/2025	\$4,000.00	P
38250019	MARSHFIELD AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION INC	ED-Grants, Donations	09/15/2025	\$6,000.00	P
Grand Total:				\$29,323.93	

Signatures

Committee Chair:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

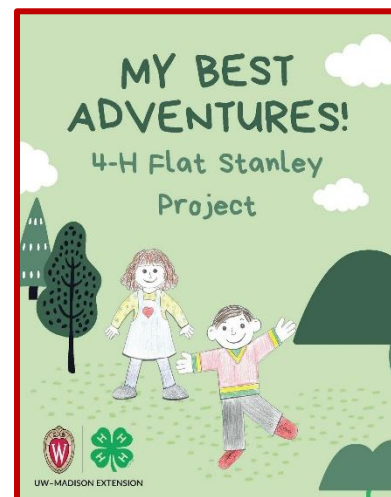
Extension Wood County staff led, delivered, planned or collaborated on all of the following activities:

4-H POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Laura Huber, 4-H Program Educator

Trina Bores, 4-H AmeriCorps member

- A direct education program for high school juniors and seniors in which we help youth build independent living skills.
- Preparation for a travel opportunity for youth ages 13-17 to travel to Washington DC on a Herb Kohl Learning Journey to learn about the history of the United States and the structure of representative democracy. We will travel in October 2025.
- A series of hands-on activities for fairgoers at the Central Wisconsin State Fair. Youth were able to take part in hands-on activities free of charge. The activities stations were designed to promote 4-H and engage youth in 4-H's experiential learning style.
- Monthly meetings with the Central Wisconsin State Fair's Junior Fair Board in which I represent the interest of youth exhibitors as the Board reviews the last fair and plans the next. The goal is to ensure a successful fair that meets the educational needs of youth.
- A multi-county pen pal project for youth in kindergarten - 2nd grade featuring Jeff Brown's book "Flat Stanley." This project will incorporate developing literacy skills with social skills. The program will include two virtual meetings.



AGRICULTURE

Matt Lippert, Agriculture Educator

- Planning for a cost of raising heifers survey. The goal is to (what do people learn or what will they do, or what will get done?), so that (impact/bigger picture/the 'so what').
- An article was written that explores the fundamentals of grouping strategies within Automatic Milking Systems (AMS). Thoughtful cow grouping in AMS herds can improve cow flow, AMS efficiency, reduce feed costs, and support management goals. This article provides an unbiased summary of concepts and research related to grouping cows in AMS situations.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Kayla Rombalski, Community Development Educator

- Planning for a strategic planning meeting with "Build the Basin", a collaborative regional advancement effort in Northcentral Wisconsin, in collaboration with UW Stevens Point. The goal of this meeting is for

the group to establish a shared vision, mission, and priorities of this work in order to support entrepreneurial and placemaking efforts in the region.

- **Total Reach:** 12 planning committee members
- Planning for a regional rural housing summit hosted in Stevens Point in collaboration with state and regional CDI educators, and local, regional, and state housing partners. The goal is to engage developers, local government, and housing practitioners around rural housing solutions and best practices in order to increase affordable workforce housing and local economies in their area.

CRANBERRIES

Allison Jonjak, Cranberry Outreach Specialist

- A Cranberry Communications Virtual Brown Bag Lunch was hosted in coordination with the Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers' Association, assisting growers on understanding current discussion topics, 2025 crop predictions, and modeling live discussions to improve grower confidence.
- Archived copies of Cranberry Virtual Brown Bags are being reviewed, captioned, and added to Extension's YouTube channel so that growers who attended Brown Bags can refresh themselves on content, and newly hired cranberry employees can catch up on recent presentations.
- Work continues on revising the Nitrogen for Bearing Cranberries in North America to reflect modern hybrids and the establishment of new plantings of modern hybrids.

FOODWISE

Hannah Wendels, FoodWise Nutrition Educator

Mallory McGivern, FoodWise Administrator

Michelle Van Krey, Healthy Communities Coordinator

- A direct education program for high school juniors and seniors in which we help youth build independent living skills.
- A partnership with United Way/Hunger Coalition, FOCUS Food Pantry, and the Housing Authority of Wisconsin Rapids that provides "Stockboxes for Seniors", a monthly food box service where low-income seniors can receive around 25-30 pounds of nutritious foods to stock their pantry with. The goal of this partnership is to promote the boxes with community partners with the overall goal to improve food security.
- Planning for and supporting the StrongBodies volunteers in the start-up of the upcoming 11-week StrongBodies series in Nekoosa.
 - *This class is full with 30 participants registered and a waitlist of 11 participants - the demand for StrongBodies in Wood County continues to grow in positive ways!*
- A 12-week series of strength training sessions (StrongBodies) at the Pittsville Community Center for older adults/adults in the community, where participants engage in regular, progressive strength training



and health education to improve their physical and mental health and enhance social connectedness. This series is led by two Extension StrongBodies volunteers.

- *This class is full with 30 registered participants and a waitlist of 4 participants! Wood County is also excited to welcome another StrongBodies leader to our volunteer team!*
- A food waste audit was conducted at Grove Elementary School in partnership with the WRPS Food Service team to identify and quantify the types and reasons for food waste in the cafeteria. Two food waste audits were held one week apart. After the first audit, a new share cart was introduced into the cafeteria with an update cart and branding to bring better awareness to the share cart for students to use! Share carts help to reduce food waste by allowing students to donate uneaten, unopened food to classmates who are still hungry and helps combat food insecurity by providing nutritious foods at no cost to students.



HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Ka Zoua Thao, Bilingual (Hmong) Community Health Worker

- A bi-monthly support group for Hmong elementary students in grades four and five, where they learn about feelings, safety, and respect through storytelling, art, and guided conversations. Using age-appropriate terms, basic concepts of mental health, personal boundaries, and trusted adults while honoring Hmong traditions and values will be introduced. Through this program, Hmong students will feel safe, heard, and confident to lay the foundation for lifelong emotional well-being and opening the door to healthier conversations in their families and communities.
 - **Total Reach:** 7 students in grades four and five
- A bi-weekly meeting for Hmong middle and high school students to engage in open conversations, cultural storytelling, and guided activities to learn about mental health, domestic violence, and sexual assault within the Hmong community. They gain tools to recognize signs of trauma, understand healthy boundaries, and access support systems – all in a safe, judgement-free environment. Through this effort, we are fostering a generation of informed, compassionate youth who feel seen, heard, and empowered to break cycles of silence and advocate for healing and change in their families and communities.
 - **Total Reach:** 33 students in grades 6–8
 - **Total Reach:** 8 students in grade 9–12
- A Tai Chi class for older adults and individuals with arthritis, where participants learn gentle, low-impact movements designed to improve balance, flexibility, and joint health. Through this activity, the program

help reduce the risk of falls and empower participants to lead healthier, more active lives, fostering independence and confidence in their daily routines.

- **Total Reach:** 20 participants
- Building relationships and engaging with partners to address health needs with the Hmong community within Wood County.
- Ongoing one-on-one meetings with Hmong clients, where resources and referrals are made. Through these efforts, individual clients are able to receive support navigating through the healthcare and legal systems and get connected with community resources.
 - **Total Reach:** 13 one-on-one clients
- The Hmong Women's Social Space serves as a monthly gathering for Hmong women to engage in discussions about often overlooked topics within their community. This initiative aims to foster relationships among participants and empower them to advocate for the recognition of their voices.
 - **Total Reach:** 8 participants

HORTICULTURE

Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator

- A diagnostic service for the general public, where Marathon and Wood County residents' horticultural inquiries are answered through evidence-based resources. This effort is designed to reduce pollution through horticultural product (pesticides and fertilizers) misuse.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS & DEVELOPMENT

Ben Eberlein, Human Development & Relationships Educator

- A direct education program for high school juniors and seniors in which we help youth build independent living skills.
 - **Total Reach:** 57 students
- A coaching program for families and individuals, where participants learn how to create financial goals and gain money management skills. The goal of this program is to enable participants to prepare for and take charge of household financial situations that occur due to changes in income or unforeseen hardships.
 - **Total Reach:** One 60-minute session with one individual.
- A 6-session course for renters where participants learn how to find and apply for rental housing, understand their responsibilities as a renter, how to communicate effectively with their landlords, and manage housing expenses. Through this, those with negative rental records and those new to renting are able to increase their ability to find and keep safe affordable housing, thereby increasing their stability and decreasing their reliance on public supports.
 - **Total Reach:** 4 individuals met for three 2-hour sessions.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Jen McNelly, Natural Resources Educator

Anna Mitchell, Natural Resources Educator

- A meeting with stakeholders in the Fourmile Creek Watershed to discuss proposed water quality monitoring work in the Nepco and Wazeecha Lakes and how stakeholders could work together on future collaborations to benefit the water resources of the watershed.
 - **Total Reach:** 10 participants
- Planning for a Health and Conservation Fall Summit for County Health and Land and Water Conservation Department Staff, as well as state agency representatives in collaboration with Wisconsin Land and Water. The goal is for county representatives to learn more about emerging water-related health and conservation issues, so that they can use the information from the summit to address these issues in their counties.
- Planning for a nutrient loss reduction strategy stakeholder roundtable event for agricultural producers, partners and agency representatives in collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Land and Water, and UW-Madison Division of Extension. The goal is for stakeholders to come together at a one-day event to discuss nutrient loss reduction strategy actions that can help inform and guide an updated state nutrient loss reduction strategy.
- A meeting with stakeholders to develop a monitoring plan for the Nepco Lake watershed, that will outline plans for gathering data that can help inform management decisions in the watershed and activities of the Nepco Lake District in the future.
 - **Total Reach:** 10 Stakeholders from the Nepco Lake Watershed
- Facilitation of monthly meetings of the Wood County Citizen Water Groups, where stakeholders meet to discuss ways to implement their annual action plan, learn about water related issues in Wood County, plan events and activities, update each other on work being done in Wood County, and identify new collaborations for future work/projects.
 - **Total Reach:** 15 Citizen Members of the Wood County Citizen Water Group
- A facilitated discussion for Farmers of the Roche-A-Cri, a producer-led watershed protection group, where members collaboratively identified goals, objectives, cost-share programs, and outreach activities for their 2026 Producer-Led grant application through Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Through this activity, participants gained strategic clarity on priority efforts to pursue, with the overarching goal of improving water quality in the Big and Little Roche-A-Cri watersheds. This discussion is designed to strengthen the group's capacity to implement impactful conservation practices and enhance community engagement around watershed health.
- A presentation for the Portage County Agriculture and Extension Committee, where Anna Mitchell and Guolong Liang shared their education and outreach efforts in Portage County. Through this presentation, committee members gained insight into the relationships Anna and Guolong have



cultivated within the county's agricultural community, and how those connections have supported conservation focused education and outreach initiatives aimed at improving water quality. This presentation is designed to build awareness and support for ongoing efforts focused on improving water quality through farmer-led and on-farm solutions.

- A meeting with Nepco Lake District, where members reviewed results from a stakeholder engagement survey and outlined the strategic planning process. Through this meeting, participants learned how to incorporate community feedback into planning efforts, ensuring diverse perspectives are considered in decision making. This meeting is designed to foster inclusive and informed strategic planning, laying the groundwork for future meetings and conversations that will guide the Lake District's long-term goals and initiatives.
- An educational station for Nekoosa High School environmental science students during a field trip in the 14 Mile Watershed, where students engaged in a watershed board game. Through this activity, students learned about different watersheds and explored how human actions and land use decisions impact water quality and overall watershed health. This activity is designed to build environmental literacy and foster stewardship among youth by connecting classroom concepts to real-world conservation challenges.
 - **Total Reach:** 29 students in grades ten, eleven, and twelve
- Planning for Science by the River, a free, one-day, outdoor event for community members of all ages from Wood County and surrounding areas. The goal of this event is to celebrate science and the outdoors through Discovery Stations that explore different fields of science through information, demonstrations, and hands on learning opportunities. Through this event, attendees will learn about opportunities to engage in science and conservation related organizations and will gain a better understanding of science and conservation efforts within their communities.

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HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS & DEVELOPMENT

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- Facilitation of monthly meetings of the Wood County Citizen Water Groups, where stakeholders meet to discuss ways to implement their annual action plan, learn about water related issues in Wood County, plan events and activities, update each other on work being done in Wood County, and identify new collaborations for future work/projects.
 - **Total Reach:** 15 Citizen Members of the Wood County Citizen Water Group
- A facilitated discussion for Farmers of the Roche-A-Cri, a producer-led watershed protection group, where members collaboratively identified goals, objectives, cost-share programs, and outreach activities for their 2026 Producer-Led grant application through Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Through this activity, participants gained strategic clarity on priority efforts to pursue, with the overarching goal of improving water quality in the Big and Little Roche-A-Cri watersheds. This discussion is designed to strengthen the group's capacity to implement impactful conservation practices and enhance community engagement around watershed health.
- A presentation for the Portage County Agriculture and Extension Committee, where Anna Mitchell and Guolong Liang shared their education and outreach efforts in Portage County. Through this presentation, committee members gained insight into the relationships Anna and Guolong have



cultivated within the county's agricultural community, and how those connections have supported conservation focused education and outreach initiatives aimed at improving water quality. This presentation is designed to build awareness and support for ongoing efforts focused on improving water quality through farmer-led and on-farm solutions.

- A meeting with Nepco Lake District, where members reviewed results from a stakeholder engagement survey and outlined the strategic planning process. Through this meeting, participants learned how to incorporate community feedback into planning efforts, ensuring diverse perspectives are considered in decision making. This meeting is designed to foster inclusive and informed strategic planning, laying the groundwork for future meetings and conversations that will guide the Lake District's long-term goals and initiatives.
- An educational station for Nekoosa High School environmental science students during a field trip in the 14 Mile Watershed, where students engaged in a watershed board game. Through this activity, students learned about different watersheds and explored how human actions and land use decisions impact water quality and overall watershed health. This activity is designed to build environmental literacy and foster stewardship among youth by connecting classroom concepts to real-world conservation challenges.
 - **Total Reach: 29 students in grades ten, eleven, and twelve**
- Planning for Science by the River, a free, one-day, outdoor event for community members of all ages from Wood County and surrounding areas. The goal of this event is to celebrate science and the outdoors through Discovery Stations that explore different fields of science through information, demonstrations, and hands on learning opportunities. Through this event, attendees will learn about opportunities to engage in science and conservation related organizations and will gain a better understanding of science and conservation efforts within their communities.



Wood County, Wisconsin LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Activities Report for Barb Peeters - September 2025

- Completed LWCD payroll percentages and forwarded to Finance prior to the September 4th and 18th payrolls. Reviewed payroll reports and verified distribution by accounts/departments.
- Attended virtual Teams meeting to discuss planning and logistics for Albert Acres Field Day event on 10/7/25 with Caleb Armstrong, Marathon Co. Land & Water/EPPIC and Kendra Wilhelm, Wood Co. LWCD.
- Assisted Conservation Program Coordinator with mailing nonmetallic mine reclamation permit and processing of 2025 permit fee (for new Mathy-Marshfield site with Mathy Construction Co.).
- Worked with I.T. to order dept. cell phone. Phone will be used to communicate with landowners/farmers who prefer to communicate via text as well as to take field photos as needed. Set up phone and trained staff on use/process.
- Assisted Conservation Program Coordinator with printing and mailing Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program enrollment applications to landowners.
- Processed payment and placed customer seed order through Pheasants Forever. Contacted customer regarding notification from supplier of potential order delay due to some seeds in the mix being out of stock until the end of Sept.
- Attended September 3rd CEED committee meeting in person and reported on behalf of County Conservationist.
- Published Public Notice Class I for Milestone Materials nonmetallic mine reclamation permit application for a new mine site in the Town of Hiles in the Wis. Rapids Daily Tribune. Also sent letters to landowners within 300 ft. of the boundaries of the parcels of land on which the proposed nonmetallic mine site is located as notice of the application per Wood County ordinance.
- Ordered department supplies and processed invoices/payments.
- Created flyer regarding public access to hunting lands through the Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program.
- Generated 8 cost-share contracts for reverse osmosis (RO) systems and recorded 4 contracts with the register of deeds (R./J. Millard, D./D. Pearson, M. Sorenson, D. Newman, D./S. Davies, N. Oltesvig, L. Goodwin, J. Daugherty).
- Downloaded the DATCP monthly report for September and shared with LWCD staff.
- Purchased supplies for CEED tour and followed up with Hauke Honey CEO to verify date/time of tour stop.
- Worked with Finance to submit the 2026 LWCD Mission Statement for 2026 budget.
- Assisted with sending letter to landowner via certified mail for a violation of the Animal Waste, Nutrient Management and Groundwater Protection Ordinance #801 (D. Rogney).
- Attended Sept. 9th Wellness Committee meeting and shared updates with LWCD staff & Parks/Forestry staff via email.
- Processed payments for rental of no-till drill as received and took calls to reserve the no-till drill.
- Organized County Board packet materials and electronically submitted to the County Clerk's office.
- Assisted Kendra Wilhelm in proofreading two Surface Water Grant applications that she is writing and provided feedback.
- Worked with caterer for Oct. 7th Field Event our dept. is co-sponsoring to set menu/arrange for delivery, etc.
- Attended CEED Tour on September 12th. The stop at Hauke Honey was VERY interesting and informative. Hauke Honey works with our department through the Wildlife Damage Claims & Abatement Program to address bear abatement issues with bee hives in Wood County. He runs over 3,000 bee colonies across Wood, Clark, Marathon & Portage counties.
- Processed department invoices/vouchers and deposits weekly for submission to the Treasurer/Finance.
- Generated two cost share contracts for cover crops (McMillan Farms Inc.) totaling \$997.50.
- Processed first grant reimbursement payment for Nutrient Management Farmer Education totaling \$34,980.00.
- Out of office September 18, 19, 22, 23 & 26.
- Processed 3 cost-share reimbursements for the installation of nitrate removal systems totaling \$18,960.00 with ARPA grant funds.
- Processed deposit of nonmetallic mine review fees as received.
- Scheduled, created agenda, attended and took minutes at September 24th staff meeting.
- Served as point of contact for LWCD staff while County Conservationist was out of the office Sept. 3, 15, 16, 24, 25.
- Recorded/tracked RSVPs as received for Albert Acres' Demo Trials Field Day being held on October 7th and responded to email and phone inquiries regarding the event.
- Electronically submitted staff reports/packet materials to the County Clerk's office for the CEED meeting packet.

Activities Report for Kyle Andreae – September, 2025

- September 1 – Holiday
- September 2 – Heiman Plan Review, No-till Drill Repair
- September 3 – No-till Drill Repair, Heiman Plan Review
- September 4 – Heiman Plan Review, Liquid Coin Plan Review
- September 5 – Liquid Coin Plan Review
- September 8 – Liquid Coin Plan Review, move no-till drill
- September 9 – AWO Violation Inspection
- September 10 – Heiman Permit Posting and Site Visit, Lippert design
- September 11 – Lippert design
- September 12 – Lippert design
- September 15 – Lippert design, Cohort Meeting
- September 16 – Lippert design
- September 17 – Crop Assessments
- September 18 – Lippert design
- September 19 – Eastling site visit
- September 22 – Lippert design, move no-till drill
- September 23 – Lippert design, no-till drill assessment
- September 24 – Staff meeting Lippert design
- September 25 – Lippert design
- September 26 – Lippert design
- September 29 – no-till drill repair
- September 30 – no-till drill repair

Activities Report for Emily Salvinski

-September 2025-

- **Tuesday, September 2.** Created a nutrient management plan in the new online snapplus for a potential user of NMP and cover crop cost-share.
- **Wednesday, September 3.** Attended NMP update regional meeting in Stevens Point. They reported on the progress of updating the nutrient management standard and other topics.
- **Thursday, September 4.** Typed up notes from the previous day's meeting. Converted/combined/compressed 49 checklists to send to DATCP for NMFE reporting.
- **Thursday, September 11.** Took baseflow measurements at 5 out of the 6 usual locations within SE Wood Co (1 was dry). Added results to SWIMS and to tables. Prepared and sent maps to farmer interested in cost-share.
- **Friday, September 12.** Attended the CEED committee tour.
- **Tuesday, September 16.** Sent out many emails with specific info needed from each regarding NMFE. Prepared for next day's sampling.
- **Thursday, September 18.** Took samples at 4 sites within the Mill Creek to be tested for total phosphorus and total suspended solids. Organized pictures and paperwork from sampling.
- **Tuesday, September 23.** Took gathered NMFE information (in-kind) and added it to spreadsheet for final report. Made a shapefile for where water treatment systems have been installed and mapped where some of the locations.
- **Wednesday, September 24, 2025.** Attended staff meeting. Worked on putting together Mill Creek testing data in brochure form.



Activities Report for Kendra Wilhelm – September 2025

- Coordinated the use and transport of the no-till drill for 6 operators.
 - This consists of answering questions via phone, managing the schedule of the no-till drill, and transporting the no-till drill to renters.
- Participated in a meeting with Jen McNelly, UW-Extension and Scott Provost, DNR to discuss two grant applications for baseline water quality testing at inlets and outlets of Nepco and Wazeecha Lakes as well as within areas of the Fourmile Creek watershed in order to identify sources of nutrient and sediment pollution.
 - Wrote the narrative and made adjustments as needed to the application.
- Participated in a meeting with Ben Ewoldt, DNR to discuss our presentations for the upcoming educational session for the Nepco Lake District.
 - Finalized the presentation after the meeting.
- Completed Dexter Lake and Wazeecha Lake water quality testing for the month of September.
- Picked up the last Clean Boats Clean Waters data sheets from the Nepco Lake District and entered the data into the SWIMS database.
- Created a presentation for the rusty crayfish trapping project at Pittsville High School and a presentation for the biology 2 class regarding the conservation poster contest.
 - Both presentations occurred on September 11th.
 - Traps were also set for the rusty crayfish trapping project.
- Attended the virtual component of an ordinary high-water mark and stream navigability training on September 10th and attended the in-person training on September 17th in Merrill.
- Participated in the CEED tour on September 12th.
- Submitted the 2026 Lake Monitoring & Protection Network grant application to DNR.
- Finalized and submitted the pre-application for two comprehensive management plan surface water grants to the DNR.
 - One is for the water quality testing at the inlets and outlets of Nepco and Wazeecha Lakes and the other is water quality testing within the Fourmile Creek Watershed.
- Submitted a County Lake surface water grant on behalf of Shane to the DNR.
- Put together parcel data for cost-share contracts.
- Assisted the Wood County Highway Department with a question about invasive species management.
- Assisted Rod with multiple days of crop damage appraisals.
- Attended the Nepco Lake District September Board meeting.
- Completed the mapping of harvestable buffers for Pep Acres.
- Completed the mapping of harvestable buffers for R. Knuth.
- Assisted the Nepco Lake District with technical assistance on the Clean Boats Clean Waters grant reporting and reimbursement process along with the application process for 2026.
- Presented about aquatic invasive species, Clean Boats Clean Waters, and Snapshot Day at an educational event hosted by the Nepco Lake District.
- Began mapping the data from the Nepco Lake Shoreline Assessment that was completed at the end of August in conjunction with Portage County Land & Water Conservation Department.
 - Preliminary maps have been shared with members of the Nepco Lake District for review.

Activities Report for Rod Mayer – SEPTEMBER 2025

- Vobora, Autumn Cranberry Bostovitz, Urban, Breuch, Schlaefer, Behrend, Mueske, Spreeman, Newby, Vruwink - Act 82 enrollments for wildlife crop damage shooting permits – mapped enrolled lands, acre calcs, enrollment application, permit application, site access, landowner signatures, processed, sent to DNR.
- Correspondence to Milestone for differences in Non-metallic reclamation Dupee plan review – vs what DNR stormwater received.
- Bohn 48th site vegetation inspection – created site visit picture document – emailed to DNR – not meeting vegetative standards. Correspondence to Bohn on DNR responses – etc.
- Mathy Marshfield site updates – created in spreadsheet, permit spreadsheet, created site and financial assurance in software, updated file, processed payment, approval letter, permit laminated, updates to permit binder, emailed & mailed permit and approval letter to Mathy.
- Draft 2 Milestone Dupee review (132 pages). Correspondence sent to Milestone for clarification on financial assurance acres and berm construction.
- Drafted and sent public notice for Milestone Dupee mine site – mailed drafted letter to all landowners within 300' of property and sent for Class 1 public notice for the 30 day time period pending approval. (Landowner letter and Public Notice write up)
- Contact to missing processor signatures to participate in the deer donation program. Obtained signatures, reviewed forms, sent to DNR for enrollment. (3 processors for 2025)
- Created deer donation advertisement – posted several on own time.
- Contacted Travis Marti for crop info on enrolled claim fields. Created field maps for appraisals and appraisal worksheets for calculations. 19 fields – broke into 16 appraisals.
- Worked with landowner for bear damage issue. Gave advice and explained program – crop owner was able to find hunter and harvest bear.
- Bohn 48th site inspection – GPSed, mapped, calculated areas still in need of vegetation for active acres going forward.
- Earth 186 mine site inspection – GPSed, mapped, calculated mine site with violation expansion for updating financial assurance by renewal date.
- Review – update IBrandl financial assurance. Update software, spreadsheet, and file.
- Drafted Ron Bohn mine site for fee and financial assurance agreement – to go inactive and provide financial assurance for final seeding.
- Correspondence to Quest engineering for Bach Mid WI setbacks to the mine site plan.
- Completed Marti Corn Field Appraisals – done in 16 appraisal sheets for 19 fields. (3 days)
- Correspondence to pond exemption for possibility for extension beyond 1 year.
- Review- update Earth 186 financial assurance – spreadsheet, software, file.
- Review – update Ron Bohn FA
- Correspondence with Bank and Corp Counsel for Brehm violation site with expiring financial assurance. Drafted violation warning letter giving timeline of 7 days to have in place or penalties will be issued.
- Processed Marti corn appraisals. Conversions to bushels undamaged and damaged, GIS mapping of damage with acre calcs., input into worksheets for total loss calcs., input all figures into DNR database, downloaded all documents and attached to database, etc.



LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Activities Report for Shane Wucherpennig – September 2025

- Zoom meeting with UWSP intern advisor Rob Michitsch to discuss internship program and the 2025 summer intern
- Attended EPPIC Farm Tour at the Pat Socha Farm in Edgar
- Sat down with 15 private landowners in their home discussing in-home Nitrate Removal Systems
- Tested water in homes with existing R.O. systems before/after treatment to see if systems were working
- Approved timesheets and payroll percentages.
- Participated in GIS Discussion/Meeting regarding data disruption/availability of Aerial Photos and moving of files
- Attended Wood Co Citizens Groundwater Group Meeting
- Met with Jen McNelly – UW Ext. to discuss Nitrate Sampling equipment
- Attended Golden Sands RC&D meeting
- Inspected first round of Nitrate Removal in-home installations
- Staff activity report and CEED agenda.
- Reviewed new contracts and signed for various grants.
- Attended PACRS meeting in Monroe
- Staff Meeting
- Met with several landowners to interview and use the “High Nitrate Questionnaire” as part of the pre-application to determine eligibility for treatment systems using ARPA Funds.
- Met with Barb Peeters to discuss department budget.
- Attended EPPIC Tour – Fransen Farm, Stratford



Wood County WISCONSIN

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ZONING

TO: Conservation, Education & Economic Development Committee

FR: Jason Grueneberg, Planning & Zoning Director
Emily Arndt, County Planner
Paul Bernard, Land Records Coordinator
Brad Cook, Code Administrator
Kayla Rautio, Code Technician
Victoria Wilson, Program Assistant
Julie Mancl, Program Assistant

RE: Staff Report for October 1st, 2025

1. Economic Development (Jason Grueneberg)

Wood County Housing Repair Program – On September 8th I met with Heather Gehrt to coordinate the close out of the Wood County Housing repair program. These efforts are being guided by and coordinated with the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources (DEHCR). County Treasurer Gehrt will continue to process loan payments on existing loans and transfer funds to the State.

Conservation, Education, and Economic Development (CEED) Tour – The annual CEED Tour was held on Friday, September 12th. This year's educational tour was a great success that highlighted some of the projects that the Planning & Zoning Department, Land & Water Conservation Department, and UW Extension have been involved with. Over 20 people participated in the tour and some highlights included the "Triangle Development", Jim Freeman Boat launch in Nekoosa, the mapping of Powers Bluff, Hauke Honey Corporation, and Snyder 4-H Club. A big thank you to Victoria Wilson for coordinating the tour, staff for presenting at each stop, and the Wood County CEED Committee for sponsoring the tour.

Central Wisconsin Economic Development Fund (CWED) – On September 17th I participated in the CWED Board of Directors' Meeting. Some of the agenda items included 2025-2026 Budget approval, loan activity and financial reports, review of a Start Up loan application, and Administrator/Service Provider report. Loan activity with CWED is very high right now with 17 loan applications in the pipeline.

Triangle Block Development – All of the remaining buildings on the Triangle Block have been razed. With the buildings gone, we will continue to work with the City of Wisconsin Rapids on implementing the Development Agreement that was approved on August 19th. Some of the next steps will include vacating Market St., relocating utilities, amending the Courthouse Planned Development District, and design of the County parking lot.

County Planner – The County Planner position will be posted until October 27th. I am hoping that we have some qualified applicants apply so that we can conduct interviews in early November. In the meantime, I will continue to take care of Planner job responsibilities and pause a few projects until the department is fully staffed.

2. Planning & Zoning (Vacant)

3. Land Records (Paul Bernard)

- Digitizing Building Footprints
- Georeferencing Historic Imagery
- Parcel Mapping
- Address Mapping
- Custom map requests for Auburndale Fire Department, City of Nekoosa Assessor

4. Code Administrator (Brad Cook)

8-28-2025- (3) Reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for new HT, rep mound, and rep conv TN: 09,15,18 phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

8-29-2025- Office staff meeting, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

9-1-2025- Holiday

9-2-2025- (1) Reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for new conv TN:18 , -(1) mound abs cell insp TN: 17, (1) new HT insp TN: 11, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

9-3-2025- (1) new HT insp TN:16, (1) rep HT insp TN: 06, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

9-4-2025- (1) new conv insp TN:18, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

9-5-2025- (2) HS letter 25-031 &25-032 written and sent, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

9-8-2025- (1) well permit reviewed and issued TN:19, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

9-9-2025- (1) Reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for new mound TN: 02, (1) mound insp TN: 02, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

9-10-2025- (1) mound plow insp, abs cell, and tank insp TN 14, (1) new HT insp TN: 12 answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

9-11-2025- (2) well permits reviewed and issued TN: 07,18, (1) POWTS/HS insp 25-032 TN:08, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

9-12-2025- CEED Tour and Well Demonstration

9-15-2025-(1) Reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for rep HT TN:15, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

9-16-2025- (1) mound plow insp TN:15 answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

9-17-2025- (1) mound plow insp TN: 21, (1) POWTS violation insp TN: 18, answer phone calls

and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

9-18-2025- (1) Reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for new conv TN:07 , (1) mound abs cell insp TN: 21.answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

9-19-25- (2) Reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for rep HT TN:06, 18, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

9-22-25- (4) well permits reviewed and issued TN: 07,12,14,20, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

9-23-2025- (1) Reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for rep mound TN: 14, (1) HS 25-034 letter written and sent, (1) mound & tank insp TN:21, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

5. Code Technician (Kayla Koziczkowski)

- A.** Reviewed and approved POWTS & well permit applications
- B.** Completed inspection reports
- C.** Reviewed and approved Shoreland zoning permit
- D.** Sent Shoreland zoning and Health Sanitary correspondence letters
- E.** Continued education and reviewed shoreland zoning
- F.** Studied POWTS GeoMat component manual
- G.** Assisted with daily phone calls/emails/office questions
- H.** Inspections/Investigations:
 - 8-28-25: Conventional inspection TN: 18
 - 9-2-25: Holding tank inspection TN: 11
 - 9-4-25: Mound plow inspection TN: 04
 - 9-10-25: Health sanitary correspondence letter follow-up with owner & pumper; Holding tank inspection TN: 10; Well inspection TN: 03
 - 9-11-25: Mound plow inspection TN: 02; Inspection for septic failure TN: 08
 - 9-15-25: Mound tanks inspection TN: 02
 - 9-18-25: Mound plow inspection TN: 16; Mound tanks & reinspection TN: 16
 - 9-23-25: Mound plow inspection TN: 22; Mound dose tank & pipe inspection TN: 22
- I.** Attended Meetings/Trainings/Etc.
 - 8-29-25: Demonstration of new Land Records Viewer meeting
 - 9-9-25: DSPS POWTS chat update
 - 9-10-25: OHWM & navigability virtual training
 - 9-17-25: OHWM & navigability field training
 - 9-24-25: Staff meeting

6. Office Activity (Victoria Wilson & Julie Mancl)

- a. Monthly Sanitary and Well Permit Activity – There were 9 sanitary permits, 1 shoreland permit, 1 floodplain permit and 9 well permits issued in September 2025. 4 CSMs were processed and 4 were recorded in September 2025.

- b. ArcGIS Pro Software Project – Julie continues to assist Paul with various GIS mapping projects.
- c. Septic Maintenance 2nd Notices – 589 notices were mailed on September 23rd to the property owners who have not yet completed their septic maintenance for this year. Septic maintenance was due to be completed by August 8th, 2025.
- d. Triennial Program Fee Notices – Approximately 4,645 triennial program notices will be mailed out on October 20th to the property owners that owe the \$25 triennial fee for the period of 2023-2025.
- e. Attended the following meetings/trainings & activities:
 - i. September 3rd CEED meeting (VW)
 - ii. September 12th CEED tour (VW)
 - iii. September 22nd Economic Development grant application meeting (VW)



Monday, Sept. 15, 2025 @ 2:00pm (Riverblock Auditorium, room 206)

- 1.) The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Leichtnam at 2:03 pm.
- 2.) Agenda order was switched so presenters could go first.
 - a. Presentation: *An Overview of Neonicotinoid Insecticides and the Risks They Pose to Our Aquatic Resources* by Mike Miller, WDNR
 - b. *Overview of Pollinator Protection Legislation* by 71st Assemblyman Vinnie Miresse
- 3.) Public Comment: Bruce Dimmick wanted to publicly thank the driver of the County bus driver from Health and Human Services for her excellent service today getting into the meeting
- 4.) Motion to approve August 18, 2025 meeting minutes as they were presented was made by Rhonda Carrell and seconded by Gordon Gottbeheut. Motion passed unanimously.
- 5.) Correspondence / Updates / Handouts / Reports on meetings attended
 - a. An article from Municipal Swer and Waste was shared. Article is attached to the meeting minutes.
 - b. There were questions about the potential for bringing back cows to the large farm in southern Wood County. However, no one knew any definitive information regarding the matter.
- 6.) CEED recognizes CWG; Resolution on County Board floor on Aug. 19th—Subcommittee Structure & Responsibilities
 - a. There was discussion from the Committee around who could represent CWG at CEED and whether an entire subcommittee was needed.
 - b. Bill Clendenning will serve as the representative from CWG to CEED for now and Bill L and Bill C will have a discussion with Corp Counsel.
- 7.) Science by the River Booth
 - a. CWG will have a booth at Science by the River.
 - b. CWG agreed that hosting a nitrate screening booth/event would be good. They will see if Wood Co Land and Water would be interested in co-hosting.
 - c. Bill L, Bill C, Gordon Gottbeheut and possibly Rhonda Carrell will volunteer at the booth.
- 8.) Discussion on items from the floor
 - a. IT will hopefully have the webex situation fixed for the Oct. meeting. Please watch the agenda to see if there will be an online option.
 - b. Shane Wucherpfennig from Wood Co Land and Water has RO systems going as part of the ARPA funding.
- 9.) Next mtg.—Oct. 20, 2025, 2:00 pm

- 10.) Adjourn – A motion to adjourn was made by Gordon Gottbeheut and 2nd by Ken Winters. No discussion was had and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Bill Leichtnam adjourned the meeting at 3:24 pm.

Present in the meeting: Bill Leichtnam, Jen McNelly, Rhonda Carrell, Bill Clendenning, Bruce Dimmick, Ken Winters, Gordon Gottbeheut, Vincent Miresse, Myra Gottbeheut, Lance Pliml, Tom Raymon, Shane Wucherpennig

Respectfully submitted by Jen McNelly on September 22, 2025

DRAFT



**Wood County Economic Development
(Planning & Zoning/Extension)**

400 Market Street/ P.O. Box 8095, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
Phone: 715-421-8466

Wood County (WI) Economic Development Funding Application Instructions & Grant Information

The Wood County CEED (Conservation, Education, and Economic Development) Committee and the Board of Supervisors have made available a limited amount of economic development funds to be awarded each year to projects or proposals that seek to enhance the economic vitality of Wood County. This includes projects or proposals to encourage business growth and development, promote tourism and recreational opportunities, develop workforce retention or attraction strategies, and more.

To be successful, proposals should be clear and concise with a detailed description of the project's scope, program, or activity, timeline, and 1:1 match funding. A successful proposal will -

1. **Align to REDI Plan Goals:** Wood County's economic development strategy (The Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Plan) outlines strategic goals in key focus areas. Proposals should align with one of these strategic goals -
 - Supporting **Entrepreneurship**
 - Offering collaborative **Economic Development Networking**
 - Ensuring robust **Technology Infrastructure**
 - Addressing **Housing** needs throughout the County
 - Engaging in solutions for **Child Care** Accessibility & Affordability
 - Supporting **Asset-Based Branding & Tourism**
 - Developing combined county-wide **Recreational Mapping** to increase use and attract tourism
2. **Provide an ROI to Wood County:** Proposals should provide a detailed ROI (Return on Investment) description for the funds invested.
3. **Be Completed in One Year:** These economic development grant funds are not ongoing. Successful proposals will have a clear timeline and be completed within the 2025 calendar year.
4. **Include a 1:1 Match:** Proposals should include at least a 1:1 match. The match can be monetary or in-kind contributions. A description of the match must be included in the application.

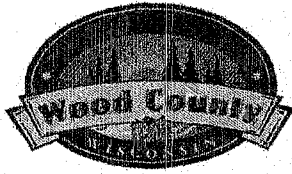
Who Can Apply? Applications are welcome from local municipalities or units of government, non-profit/community organizations, or project-based teams. Proposals should have a Wood County focus.

Funds Available & Grant Size: A total of \$400,000 is available in this fund for the 2025 grant cycle. There is no cap in place for these requests, but keep in mind there is a **1:1 match preference** and scoring will be based, in part, on the match details.

What we do not generally fund: Annual campaigns, Operating expenses or losses, Debt retirement, Endowments, Direct support of individuals, Lobbying, Sectarian causes

Process: All applications are due by **4:30pm on Friday, July 5, 2024**. Applications are reviewed in August, approved by the County Board in November and grantees will be notified following approval of the County budget. Note that funds will not be released until a project results report is presented to the CEED Committee.

Questions/More Information: Contact Jason or Victoria in Wood County Planning & Zoning with questions. 715-421-8466, jason.grueneberg@woodcountywi.gov, victoria.wilson@woodcountywi.gov.



Wood County Economic Development
(Planning & Zoning/Extension)
400 Market Street/ P.O. Box 8095, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
Phone: 715-421-8466

2025 Wood County (WI) Economic Development Funding Request

Proposal Title: CEED Grant for C2 Makerspace

Applicant Organization: C2 Makerspace

Website: www.c2makerspace.com

Mailing Address: 10193 River Edge Lane, Marshfield, WI 54449

Street Address: (if different)

Contact Name & Title: Sondra Hastreiter

Phone: 715-600-6107

Email: sondrah@shilohbound.org

Proposal Narrative

1. **REDI Alignment** (select one) General Economic Development

If selected other, please describe:

2. **Please provide a summary of your proposal.** Explain how it is consistent with and supports the Wood County REDI (Rural Economic Development Initiative) Plan.

The C2 Makerspace is a hands-on learning space for students, entrepreneurs and the community to create and collaborate through innovation and exploration.

The need for workforce continues to be one of the top needs for businesses in our area. As seen on page 8-9 of the REDI Plan a decline in population and an aging population has impacted the workforce negatively.

Providing a space for students to engage with nearby businesses and learn necessary skills for future job opportunities within Wood County are a key focus at the C2 Makerspace.

3. **Have you received funds through this grant in the past?** (if yes, check box) ☒

Have you applied in the past? (if yes, check box) ☐

If yes, in which years did you receive funds and in which years did you apply?

Applied and received monies in 2022, 2023, 2024



**Wood County Economic Development
(Planning & Zoning/Extension)**

400 Market Street/ P.O. Box 8095, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
Phone: 715-421-8466

- 4. Describe the timeline for this proposal.** Note this grant requires the funding recipient to complete work on the proposal/project within one calendar year (2025).

The needed equipment would be purchased within 2025 and utilized at our facility.

- 5. Explain how this proposal will provide a Return on Investment (ROI) to Wood County.** Please be as specific as possible. E.g. The housing incentive we offered with County Economic Development funds will lead to an annual tax levy increase of \$X.

Five POD areas have been implemented. These include robotics/engineering, 3D printing, fabrication/laser, CNC/metals and Textiles. Estimates are to actively work with a diversity of students from 5th-12th grade in 11 school districts each year. It is estimated 20% of today's students will pursue jobs in STEM related fields. With the exposure of the students to the various PODS and the relationship with local business sponsors, it is more likely they will make Wood County their future home.

- 6. Describe the match for this proposal.** Note that a 1:1 match is preferred. E.g. For a \$5,000 grant award, the grantee must provide \$5,000 of in-kind or financial match. The match must occur within the calendar year (2025) the funds are awarded for.

Within our year-to-date budget, we currently have enough funds for a 1:1 match.

We are asking for a match of \$3500 to our \$3500 for a total of \$7000.



**Wood County Economic Development
(Planning & Zoning/Extension)**
400 Market Street/ P.O. Box 8095, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
Phone: 715-421-8466

Funding Considerations/Request Summary

(provide separate spreadsheet/budget if needed)

Budget Summary		Budget Detail	
Total Organization Budget	\$ 100,000	Revenue/Income	
Total Proposal Cost	\$ 7000	Business Contributions	\$ 60,000
Total Amount Requested	\$ 3500	Grants & Individual	\$ 40,000
Total Match *	\$ 3500	Total Revenue/Income \$ 100,000	
* Please provide a match explanation in question 6.		Expenses	
		Wages	\$ 60,000
		Equipment & Materials	\$ 36,000
		Marketing & Professional Services	\$ 4,000
		Total Expense \$ 100,000	

Project Reporting Requirement

As a reporting requirement of receiving an Economic Development Grant, a one-page summary project report will be prepared and presented to the CEED Committee. **This report must be submitted no later than Tuesday, October 1, 2025.** Funding will not be released to the applicant prior to the reporting requirement being met. Please also note that funds are not able to be carried over into the following year.

Signatures

I attest that the information in this application submitted to Wood County is true and correct.

Applicant

	Sondra Hastreiter	6/28/24
Signature	Printed Name	Date

Highest Organization Elected Official/Board Chair

	Allie Hastreiter	6/28/24
Signature	Printed Name	Date



**Wood County Economic Development
(Planning & Zoning/Extension)**

400 Market Street/ P.O. Box 8095, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
Phone: 715-421-8466

Wood County (WI) ONGOING Economic Development Funding Application Instructions

About: The Wood County CEED (Conservation, Education, and Economic Development) Committee and the Board of Supervisors have made available a limited amount of economic development funds to be awarded each year to projects or proposals that seek to enhance the economic vitality of Wood County.

Ongoing Funding: The CEED Committee recognizes that the County's airports, chambers of commerce, and other entities provide a direct and ongoing contribution to economic development in Wood County. As such, these entities receive year after year ongoing funding for economic development.

This application is for those entities. Organizations with more limited program/project requests should submit an *annual* Economic Development Funding application.

Process: All applications are due by 4:30pm on Friday, July 5, 2024. Applications are reviewed in August, approved by the County Board in November and grantees will be notified following approval of the County budget. Note that funds will not be released until a project results report is presented to the CEED Committee.

Questions/More Information: Contact Jason or Victoria in Wood County Planning & Zoning with questions. 715-421-8446, jason.grueneberg@woodcountywi.gov, victoria.wilson@woodcountywi.gov.

2025 Wood County (WI) ONGOING Economic Development Funding Request

Contact Information

Organization:

Website:

Mailing Address:

Street Address: (if different)

Contact Name & Title:

Phone:

Email:



**Wood County Economic Development
(Planning & Zoning/Extension)**

400 Market Street/ P.O. Box 8095, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
Phone: 715-421-8466

Proposal Narrative

1. Please provide a summary of your organization's actions related to economic development in Wood County. Explain how these actions support the REDI plan.

2. Explain how your organization provides a Return on Investment (ROI) to Wood County.

Please be as specific as possible. E.g. County funding will allow us to conduct 25 business prospects leading to the establishment of 2 new local businesses creating 10 full time jobs; County funding contributed to funding an entrepreneurial boot camp that led to the development of 12 business plans and the creation of 2 businesses employing 6 people

3. Please describe any new programming you are planning for in 2025 related to economic development that you have not previously reported on.



**Wood County Economic Development
(Planning & Zoning/Extension)**

400 Market Street/ P.O. Box 8095, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
Phone: 715-421-8466

Budget / Requested Funds

Please attach an organizational budget.

Project Reporting Requirement

As a reporting requirement of receiving economic development funding from Wood County, a summary report will be prepared and presented to the CEED Committee.

This report must be submitted no later than Tuesday, October 1, 2025. Funding will not be released to the applicant prior to the reporting requirement being met. Please also note that funds are not able to be carried over into the following year.

Signatures

I attest that the information in this application submitted to Wood County is true and correct.

Applicant

<i>Signature</i>	<i>Printed Name</i>	<i>Date</i>

Highest Organization Elected Official/Board Chair

<i>Signature</i>	<i>Printed Name</i>	<i>Date</i>

VISIT WISCONSIN RAPIDS

**SPORTS TOURISM STRATEGIC
PLANNING PROPOSAL**



June 4, 2025

POWERED BY THE HUDDLEUP GROUP



Meredith Kleker
Executive Director
Visit Wisconsin Rapids
160 2nd Street N.,
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

June 4, 2025

Dear Meredith,

Thank you for taking the time to speak with us about this critical project for Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. It is great to see that sports tourism is an important factor in shaping the future of your community.

Enclosed is a proposal to forge a partnership between Visit Wisconsin Rapids (“VWR”), and the Huddle Up Group, LLC (“Consultant”). The scope of work includes a comprehensive effort in both planning and execution. While the enclosed timeline is tentative, we have used a July 2025 start date and a December 2025 completion date to illustrate a potential project schedule. Our method focuses on three key elements for success:

1. Community Engagement – We interview key stakeholder groups via phone and in person, to garner their input throughout the process. We believe collaboration and transparency are keys for long-term success.
2. Sustainability – In every project, our goal is to build a plan that can leverage existing assets (funding, partnerships, and community-wide leadership) and to identify new resources to sustain your long-range sports tourism vision.
3. Execution – Our end deliverable will not only include a playbook for success but will also outline action items moving forward.

As someone who has personally led award winning non-profit sports organizations and helped numerous clients build and grow their sports tourism impact in the community, I’m excited for the opportunity you have ahead of you. Through our experiences both throughout Wisconsin and with similar projects across the country, we are confident we can deliver a strategic plan for your organization that will enhance the impact sports tourism has on your community.

We thank you for your consideration of our proposal, and we look forward to working with you on this important project.

Yours in Sport,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jon S'.

Jon Schmieder, Founder + CEO
Huddle Up Group, LLC

About the Huddle Up Group, LLC

Founded in 2012 as a sports tourism industry consulting company, our team has a successful track record of leading sports organizations through strategic growth and increased community collaboration. We have extensive experience in building cohesive organizations and external relationships while working with volunteer boards, donors, elected officials, hospitality community leaders, and various corporate partners.

We believe the major differentiator for the Huddle Up Group is our team's experience in the sports tourism and events trenches, where we have personally led or worked on:

- Award winning sports commissions
- Multiple Olympic Games
- Youth tournaments
- Facility development
- National championship management
- Final Fours
- All-Star Games
- New event creation
- Capital campaigns/fundraising
- College Bowl Games
- State Sports Tourism Groups
- State Tourism Office

These well-rounded experiences lend themselves to a diverse view of sports organization development projects and is the primary reason we believe the Huddle Up Group is the best team for you and your stakeholders to partner with on this strategic planning effort.



2017 NASC SUPERIOR SERVICE AWARD WINNER

The highest honor a consulting firm can earn from the National Association of Sports Commissions (now Sports Events & Tourism Association)



POWERED BY THE HUDDLE UP GROUP

SPORTS TOURISM INDEX

A FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND TOOL DEVELOPED TO MEASURE THE
EFFECTIVENESS OF A SPORTS TOURISM AND EVENTS DESTINATION.



DESTINATION'S STRENGTHS

The destination's strengths as a sports tourism community.



OPPORTUNITIES

The destination's areas of opportunity as a sports tourism community.



COMPETITIVE ANALYSIS

The destination's standing relative to its competitive set.

The Sports Tourism Index™ was built with the input of numerous sports tourism and event leaders, utilizing national best practices in the four measurement areas that make up the Index:



FACILITIES



DESTINATION
STRENGTH



ORGANIZATION
STRUCTURE



EVENTS

As the sole proprietor of the **Sports Tourism Index™**, the Consultant Team has exclusive use of our trademarked tool to determine the destination's strengths, competitive set, and areas of opportunity.

The Huddle Up Group employs four (4) full-time staff members. Below is a brief bio of each team member that will contribute to the project:



JON SCHMIEDER, FOUNDER + CEO

Huddle Up Group, LLC | Phoenix, Arizona

Jon has 28 years of direct experience in the sports tourism industry having held the top role with three different sports commissions: Phoenix, Tulsa, and Denver. Schmieder brings a wealth of experience in sports tourism and economic development having also served in lead staff positions for the Senior Olympic Games and Pop Warner Football and Cheerleading. Schmieder is one of only three two-time Chairman of SportsETA, formerly the National Association of Sports Commissions (NASC) and was on the organization's Executive Committee for six years. While Schmieder served as the President of the Phoenix Regional Sports Commission, the NASC chose the organization as the 2012 Large Market Sports Commission of the Year.

Schmieder was named the 2012 CEO of the Year by the Phoenix Chapter of the Organization of Non-Profit Executives. In 2016, Connect Sports honored Schmieder as an industry "Game Changer". In 2018, the Huddle Up Group was recognized by the NASC with the Superior Service Award, the highest honor a consulting company can receive in the sports tourism and events industry.

He holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of Arizona. He also holds a master's degree in higher education leadership from Northern Arizona University.



COLE MCKEEL, VICE PRESIDENT OF PARTNERSHIPS

Huddle Up Group, LLC | West Palm Beach, FL

Cole served as the manager of Olympic & Paralympic Training Center sport business development for the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee from 2016-2020. In this position, McKeel was in charge of generating outside revenue for the Olympic & Paralympic Training Centers in Colorado Springs, Colo. and Lake Placid, N.Y. Prior to his role with the USOPC, McKeel worked as the marketing and media assistant and diversity and inclusion champion for USA Bobsled & Skeleton. In this role, McKeel was responsible for the company's partnerships with BMW and Under Armour.

McKeel serves as the Vice President of GoEmpire Group, a professional basketball athlete representation firm in Chicago. In addition, McKeel is an adjunct professor for the sport and recreation management program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He serves on advisory committees for the Southeast Tourism Society and the Adapted Sport Leadership & Business Symposium.

McKeel was the head manager for the basketball team at the University of Louisville, where he graduated with honors with a bachelor's degree in sport administration and minors in business administration, finance and marketing. Upon graduation, McKeel furthered his education at UofL, earning a MBA with a concentration in finance. He also has a MS in Olympic Studies, Olympic Education and Organization and Management of Olympic Events from the International Olympic Academy in Olympia, Greece.

KEVIN DE LANGE, DATA & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Huddle Up Group, LLC | Wilmington, NC



Kevin brings his expertise and passion for data-driven insights to the sports tourism industry. He joined the Huddle Up Group in February 2023 as a Data Analyst intern, where he gained valuable experience and exposure to the intricacies of the field.

Before joining the Huddle Up Group, de Lange completed an internship within the marketing department at Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, OH. During this time, he gained valuable experience and contributed to various marketing initiatives. His responsibilities included preparing content for social and news media, as well as supporting the Marketing & Communications Team in promoting campus events.

During his collegiate years, de Lange excelled as a student-athlete, earning the distinction of two-time recipient of the Academic All American Soccer Player of the Year award at the NAIA level. He served as the captain of the soccer team for four years and set a record for all-time career goals scored. De Lange holds bachelor's degrees in Marketing, Business Management, and Information Systems from Shawnee State University.

VINCE TRINIDAD, CONSULTANT

Huddle Up Group, LLC | Tulsa, OK



Vincent Trinidad is a vibrant changemaker with 30 years of experience in sports, tourism and nonprofit industries. He has worked for groups that include Local Organizing Committees, National Governing Bodies, Sports Commissions, Convention & Visitors Bureaus, Parks & Recreations, and Chambers of Commerce. In addition, he has worked with elected officials at the City, County/Parish, State and National levels. His passion and enthusiasm for sports has taken his career to

great places in the Southwest (Tucson), the Pacific Northwest (Portland), the South (Baton Rouge) and now Tulsa, Oklahoma.

He earned his Bachelor's degree in Political Science and German from the University of Arizona. He also earned a Certified Sports Event Executive (CSEE) from Sports ETA (formerly NASC), and an Institute of Organizational Management (IOM) graduate of the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation. He is currently an MBA Candidate with the Oklahoma State University MBA Spears School of Business at OSU-Tulsa.

Partner Portfolio

The Huddle Up Group has worked with numerous communities and sports organizations across the United States. Our clients and partners include, but are not limited to, the following:

DMOs

Arlington CVB	Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority
Bermuda Run (NC)	London (KY) Tourism Commission
Boulder CVB	Louisville Sports Commission
Branson CVB	Monroe-West Monroe CVB
Bryan-College Station CVB	Morgantown CVB
Butler County (OH)	North Platte CVB (NE)
Campbell County CVB (WY)	Oklahoma City CVB
Charleston CVB (WV)	Peoria CVB (AZ)
City of Longview (TX)	Richmond Region Tourism (VWR)
City of Lynchburg (VWR)	Rockford Area CVB (IL)
Columbia County (FL)	Springfield Sports Commission (MO)
Columbus CVB (IN)	Stevens Point Area CVB (WI)
Delaware Sports Commission	Travel Medford
Des Moines CVB	Treasure Coast Sports Commission
Discover Kalamazoo (MI)	Virginia Beach Sports Marketing
DuPage County CVB	Valley Forge Sports Commission
Durham Sports Commission	Visit Brookings
Eau Claire CVB	Visit Detroit/Detroit Sports Commission
Elizabethtown Tourism and Convention Bureau	Visit Duluth
Evansville Sports Corp	Visit Hershey Harrisburg
Fort Worth CVB	Visit Macon
Fox Cities CVB	Visit Mississippi Gulf Coast
Greater Birmingham CVB	Visit Norman
Greater Grand Junction Sports Commission	Visit Sacramento
Hamilton County Sports Authority	Visit Tucson
Harris County-Houston Sports Authority	Visit Tulsa/Tulsa Sports Commission
Jacksonville-Onslow Sports Commission	Visit Tuscaloosa
Las Cruces CVB	



NGBs/Rights Holders

Arizona Football Coaches Association
 Association of Chief Executives of Sport (ACES)
 College Baseball Foundation
 Ohio Basketball
 USA Badminton
 USA BMX
 Ripken Baseball



Additional Partnerships

Collinson Media & Events
 DMO Proz (formerly Zeitgeist Consulting)
 EventConnect
 Phoenix Sports Women's Association
 Resonance Consulting
 Safe Football
 Skyhawks Sports
 Sports Facilities Companies
 STEM Sports
 Strider Sports International
 Track Girlz
 Tempest iDSS
 Twin Cities Youth Soccer Association (Bermuda Run, NC)
 Veteran Tickets Foundation



Conferences/Media Outlets

ACES
 Cal Travel
 Connect Sports
 Destinations International
 DMA West
 Florida Sports Foundation
 California Conference on Tourism
 Louisiana Lieutenant Governors Conference on Tourism
 Minnesota Tourism Conference
 NASC Symposium
 North Carolina Tourism 365
 Oklahoma Travel Industry Association Conference
 Southeast Tourism Society
 South Dakota Tourism Conference
 Sports Events Magazine
 Sports Events & Tourism Exchange (South Africa)
 Sports Illinois
 Sports Planners Guide
 S.P.O.R.T.S. Relationship Conference
 Texas Association of CVBs
 Treasure Coast (FL) Sports Tourism Summit
 Upper Midwest CVB Association
 US Sports Congress
 California Conference on Tourism
 Western Association of CVBs
 Wisconsin Tourism Conference





Related Project Experience and References

The Huddle Up Group has worked with numerous DMOs, sports commissions, and government entities on strategic plan projects. Below are several references that relate specifically to long-range visioning projects our team at the Huddle Up Group has led.

Fox Cities CVB and Sports Commission (Appleton, WI)

Total Number of Projects – 2

Key Outcomes:

- Conducted a full facility audit as part of the development of a long-range strategic plan for the Sports Commission.
- Made recommendations for the development of a new indoor venue as well as the expansion of an existing outdoor complex, including the identification of a funding source (a bed tax increase) for all projects.
- Helped identify venue development partners as well as potential third-party management companies to facilitate the building and management of these new/enhanced facilities.
- The new indoor facility suggested in this study opened in 2020.

Reference: Matt Ten Haken, Director of Sports
mtenhaken@foxcities.org | (920) 734-3358, extension 132

Visit Beloit (Beloit, WI)

Total Number of Projects – 1

Key Outcomes:

- Conducted an analysis on multiple existing venues as well as various proposed facility upgrades and potential development sites.
- Results included economic impact projections, best in class examples, and analysis for each proposed venue development/enhancement.
- Made recommendations and prioritized the facility development/enhancement project that would provide the most ROI for the community and in sports tourism.

Reference: Celestino Ruffini, Chief Executive Officer
celestino@visitbeloit.com | (608) 313-1360

Stevens Point Area CVB (Stevens Point, WI)

Total Number of Projects – 1

Key Outcomes:

- Development of a 5-year strategic plan.
- Conducted a feasibility study for a planned indoor multipurpose venue which would significantly drive new events year-round, especially during off-peak and shoulder seasons.
- Recommended an enhancement of SPA's overall sports tourism efforts, including the hiring of a dedicated staff member.

Reference: Sara Brish, Executive Director
sbrish@travelwisconsin.com | (608) 266-8773



Eau Claire CVB (Eau Claire, WI)

Total Number of Projects – 3

Key Outcomes:

- Concluded a full facility audit for Visit Eau Claire. The audit included a facility inventory/evaluation and recommendations for new facility development as well as the expansion of numerous existing venues.
- Included venue funding options, an economic impact evaluation of events that could be secured with the venue improvements, as well as a competitive analysis of similar venues in Wisconsin and across the United States.
- Made recommendations for organizational enhancements for the Eau Claire Sports Commission, inclusive of a game plan for CVB created/owned events.

Reference: Benny Anderson, Executive Director
benny@daredevilconsulting.com | (715) 214-7603



Visit Wisconsin Rapids (“VWR”)
Sports Tourism Strategic Planning Project
Approach, Methodology, and Project Schedule

Approach

In all cases, our proven process is used to engage the community in a proactive and inclusive manner. The process outlined below has been especially successful with sports commissions, CVBs/DMOs, cities, counties, and places where multiple stakeholder groups exist. Alignment with parks and recreation departments, regional sports clubs, local universities, and other sports-related factions throughout the area will be crucial to improving the work of VWR. The more entities we can engage, the more support the project will generate through the process, and any barriers will be minimized or eliminated entirely.

Preliminary Scope of Work, Methodology, and Project Schedule

Our proposed scope of work and timeline is outlined below. The goal of the project is for our team to lead in the creation of an achievable and sustainable strategic plan (or “playbook”) that would help identify, grow, develop and service the community’s sports tourism efforts in the Wisconsin Rapids area to ensure continued significant economic impact. Using our proven methodology, the project includes six (6) scheduled deliverables, due at the assigned date noted below each stage of the project:

1. The Consultant Team will assist VWR in completing the Sports Tourism Index™, a first-of-its kind data-driven tool developed to help destinations benchmark and evaluate their position in the sports tourism market. The Sports Tourism Index™ is the only tool in the industry designed to measure an organization’s sports tourism presence against regional and national standards. Multiple reports and a competitive analysis will be produced by the Consultant and time will be scheduled to evaluate and discuss with VWR.

(Delivered by July 31, 2025)

2. The Consultant Team will conduct a complete audit on the current sports tourism efforts in the region with the goal of determining organizational and community-wide gaps that may hinder growth. The audit will include a review of all previously conducted and relevant strategic research/surveys and related projects. In addition, the audit will include phone interviews with the top 10-12 key stakeholders, one-on-one meetings, and online surveys with the remaining stakeholders. These outreach efforts will include VWR staff and board members, partners/sponsors, elected officials, and other key stakeholders and community influencers as defined by VWR.

(Delivered by August 31, 2025)

3. Over the course of three days, the Consultant Team will conduct an in-person sports tourism evaluation of the Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin region. This site visit will include tours of local venues, a review of events currently held in the area, an evaluation of existing sports tourism, community programs and activities, and a presentation for stakeholders on sports commission, partner, and community best practices.

(Delivered by September 30, 2025)

4. Consultant will utilize the audit, the in-person evaluation, and national best practices to develop a comprehensive sports tourism strategic plan for VWR. This report will include, but may not be limited to:

- (1) A SWOT analysis of the Wisconsin Rapids region's existing sports tourism & marketing efforts, facilities, and current community assets.
- (2) An analysis of VWR's sports tourism organizational competitive set, along with benchmarking of high-performing organizations/destinations similar in size and structure to VWR.
- (3) A detailed inventory and analysis of the area's current and planned sports tourism facilities and an outline of facility needs (enhancements or new development) that would make the greatest impact on sports tourism and community user groups in the region.
- (4) Recommendations for enhancing the sports tourism work of VWR, including, but not limited to, an assessment of the current staffing needs, organizational structure, operations, marketing, sales, funding, grant program, event portfolio, and/or community outreach efforts.
- (5) Identification of potential public/private partnerships, and corporate engagement opportunities for all proposed structures and new programs suggested within the strategic plan as well as funding and management models that are viable and sustainable for VWR and its partners long-term.
- (6) An economic impact analysis of one (1) potential new venue development opportunity, including projections on total visitors, room nights, hotel and sales tax revenues, and total visitor spending.

(Delivered October 31, 2025)

5. Consultant will make multiple in-person presentations on their findings and recommendations to the members of VWR staff and board, as well as their stakeholders, including various city/county/area leadership groups, elected officials, and the hospitality industry. The goal of these presentations is to formally solicit support and garner feedback on the proposed strategic plan for VWR. This presentation phase includes pre- and post-con meetings with key VWR leadership.

(Delivered by November 30, 2025)

6. Consultant will facilitate a follow-up call to discuss the implementation of the strategic plan and action items going forward. The Consultant Team will also be available to VWR staff via phone, and/or at industry related events to act as a sounding board and to offer execution advice for all related questions pertaining to this scope of work for 30 days following the delivery of the strategic plan.

(Delivered by December 31, 2025)

Project Budget/Fees

Consultant Team agrees to cover their own costs for two (2) team members for up to two (2) site visits to the Wisconsin Rapids area, including:

- Round trip airline travel to and from the area.
- Rental car and mileage.
- Incidental travel expenses outside of the destination such as meals, airport parking, and airport transfers for the scope of work outlined in this proposal.

VWR will do their best to obtain complimentary hotel rooms for the Consultant Team during all site visits for this project.

Additional staff and/or site visits may be made at the request of VWR. These direct expenses will be subject to reimbursement by VWR.

Major Tasks

1. Sports Tourism Index™
2. Stakeholder Interviews/Sports Tourism Marketing Audit
3. Market Visit
4. Strategic Plan Creation
5. Final Report and Presentation
6. 30-Day Follow-Up

Total Project Cost: \$32,000

Additional Terms

- This agreement is for the term July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025.
- VWR agrees to pay the Consultant's fees as outlined in the enclosed budget. The fees are to be billed in two equal installments: the first upon the signing of this agreement, and the second either four months after the project's start date or upon completion, whichever occurs first. Invoices are to be paid within thirty (30) days of receipt by VWR.
- Additional work beyond what is outlined above would require a separate agreement between VWR and the Consultant.
- This is a NON-EXCLUSIVE consulting agreement.
- As communication is critical to success, the parties agree to a bi-weekly update either via phone or e-mail as requested by VWR.
- This partnership can be extended by mutual agreement of the parties at any time.



**Wood County Economic Development
(Planning & Zoning/Extension)**

400 Market Street/ P.O. Box 8095, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
Phone: 715-421-8466

Wood County (WI) Economic Development Funding Opportunity 2027 Grant Information & Application Instructions

The Wood County CEED Committee (Conservation, Education, and Economic Development) and Wood County Board of Supervisors are pleased to announce the availability of **economic development grant funding** for 2027. These funds support innovative projects that strengthen the economic vitality of Wood County.

Purpose & Impact | Each year, Wood County allocates a limited pool of competitive, one-time funding to support innovative proposals that demonstrate a clear and measurable benefit to the County. Past recipients have advanced economic development through:

- Infrastructure improvements
- Recreational enhancements
- Economic revitalization
- Strategic initiatives aligned with Wood County's Economic Development Strategy, or REDI Plan (Rural Economic Development Initiative)

Eligibility | Eligible applicants include:

- Local municipalities or units of government
- Non-profit or community organizations
- Project-based teams

**Please Note:*

- Only one proposal per organization will be accepted.
- Wood County departments or projects within TIF districts are not eligible to receive funds.
- The following types of requests are generally not funded: Annual campaigns, Operating expenses, Debt retirement, Endowments, Direct support of individuals, Lobbying efforts, Sectarian causes

Application Guidelines | To apply, complete the form, answering each narrative question thoroughly and thoughtfully. This is a competitive process, and funding is limited. The maximum request per proposal is \$75,000, and a one-to-one match (cash or in-kind) is required.

Evaluation Criteria | Strong proposals will be:

- **Clear and concise** with a **well-defined scope, timeline and budget**
- Aligned with a **REDI strategy**:
 - Supporting entrepreneurship
 - Fostering collaborative economic development networks
 - Enhancing technology infrastructure
 - Addressing county-wide housing needs
 - Improving childcare accessibility and affordability
 - Promoting asset-based branding and tourism
 - Developing county-wide recreational mapping to boost usage and tourism
- Demonstrative of **ROI (Return on Investment)** for Wood County
- Time-bound, with **completion expected within the 2027** calendar year
- **Matched one to one**, with a clear description of monetary or in-kind contributions

Timeline & Review Process |

- **Application Deadline:** Friday, July 10, 2026, by 4:30 PM
- **Review Period:** August 2026
- **Approval:** November 2026 (following County Board budget approval)
- **Fund Release:** Upon presentation of a project results report to the CEED Committee

Questions or More Information | Contact Jason or Victoria at Wood County Planning & Zoning 715-421-8466, jason.grueneberg@woodcountywi.gov, victoria.wilson@woodcountywi.gov.



Wood County Economic Development

(Planning & Zoning/Extension)

400 Market Street/ P.O. Box 8095, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

Phone: 715-421-8466

2027 Wood County (WI) Economic Development Funding Request

Proposal Title:

Applicant Organization:

Website:

Mailing Address:

Street Address: (if different)

Contact Name & Title:

Phone:

Email:

Proposal Narrative

1. Please provide a summary of your proposal.

2. REDI Alignment

Select the category this proposal fits with.

Please explain how your proposal aligns with the REDI plan (use page numbers or additional documentation if applicable).

3. Have you received funds through this grant in the past? (if yes, check box) ☐

Have you applied in the past? (if yes, check box) ☐

If yes, in which years did you receive funds and in which years did you apply?



**Wood County Economic Development
(Planning & Zoning/Extension)**

400 Market Street/ P.O. Box 8095, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
Phone: 715-421-8466

- 4. Describe the timeline for this proposal.** Note this grant requires the funding recipient to complete work on the proposal/project within one calendar year (2027).

- 5. Explain how this proposal will provide a Return on Investment (ROI) to Wood County.** Please be as specific as possible.

- 6. Describe the match for this proposal.** Note that a one-to-one match is required. If an in-kind match is suggested please provide a detailed description of this match.
E.g. For a \$5,000 grant award, the grantee must provide \$5,000 of in-kind or financial match. The match must occur within the calendar year (2027) the funds are awarded for.



Wood County Economic Development

(Planning & Zoning/Extension)

400 Market Street/ P.O. Box 8095, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

Phone: 715-421-8466

Funding Considerations/Request Summary

(provide separate spreadsheet/budget if needed)

Budget Summary		Budget Detail	
Total Organization Budget	\$	Revenue/Income	
Total Proposal Cost	\$	Funding Source A	\$
Total Amount Requested	\$	Funding Source B	\$
Total Match *	\$	Total Revenue/Income	
* Please provide a match explanation in question 6.		Expenses	
		Expense A	\$
		Expense B	\$
		Expense C	\$
		Total Expense	
		\$	

Project Reporting Requirement

As a reporting requirement of receiving an Economic Development Grant, a one-page summary project report will be prepared and presented to the CEED Committee. **This report must be submitted no later than Tuesday, October 1, 2026.** Funding will not be released to the applicant prior to the reporting requirement being met. Please also note that funds are not able to be carried over into the following year.

Signatures

I attest that the information in this application submitted to Wood County is true and correct.

Applicant

Signature	Printed Name	Date

Highest Organization Elected Official/Board Chair

Signature	Printed Name	Date



**Wood County Economic Development
(Planning & Zoning/Extension)**
 Courthouse - 400 Market Street
 P.O. Box 8095
 Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-8095
 Phone: 715-421-8466

2027 Wood County (WI) Economic Development Funding Request Scoring Rubric

Proposal Title:			
Amount requested?			
Criteria	Points Possible	Points Awarded	Comments
Proposal summary is Clear and concise with a well-defined scope, timeline and budget			
Alignment to REDI category is outlined thoroughly and makes sense			
This is a first-time proposal for funding of this project			
Proposal has a strong likelihood of being completed successfully in one year			
Proposal will provide a Return on Investment to Wood County			
Proposal clearly describes a one-to-one match that is cash or in-kind. If in-kind, the in-kind justification is appropriate.			
Total			