

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2023
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM 114

Members Present: Bill Leichtnam, Tom Buttke, Jake Hahn (via WebEx), Dave LaFontaine, Laura Valenstein, Carmen Good

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg, Paul Bernard
Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpennig, Lori Ruess
UW Extension Staff: Jeremy Solin, Mallory McGivern, Anna James

Others Present (for part or all of the meeting): Dist. #11 Supervisor Jeff Penzkover, Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendenning, Dist. #16 Supervisor Lance Pliml, Ben Jeffrey, Environmental Health Supervisor (via WebEx), Ed Newton, Finance Director (via WebEx), Tina Krummel, Historic Point Basse, Staci Kivi, Heart of Wisconsin Chamber.

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Leichtnam called the CEED meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Declaration of Quorum.** Chairperson Leichtnam declared a quorum.
3. **Public Comment.** None.
4. **Review Correspondence.** None.
5. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the January 4, 2023 CEED meeting. 2) bills from Extension, Land & Water Conservation and Planning & Zoning and 3) staff activity reports from Laura Huber, Jasmine Carbajal, Matt Lippert, Kayla Rombalski, Allison Jonjak, Hannah Wendels, Janell Wehr, Jacki Carattini, Anna James, Shane Wucherpennig, Kyle Andreae, Caleb Armstrong, Rodney Mayer, Lori Ruess, Emily Salvinski, Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, Paul Bernard, Jeff Brewbaker, Scott Custer, and Victoria Wilson.
 - A. Minutes of January 4, 2023. No additions or corrections needed.
 - B. Department Bills. No additions or corrections needed.
 - C. Staff Activity Reports. No additions or corrections needed.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve and accept the January 4, 2023 minutes, bills from Extension, Land & Water Conservation, Planning & Zoning, and staff activity reports as presented. Second by Tom Buttke. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Review items, if any, pulled from Consent Agenda.** None.
7. **Risk and Injury Report.** None.
8. **Land & Water Conservation Department**
 - a. Review and approve County Board resolution to amend the 2023 DATCP Budget for unanticipated NMFE dollars. Shane Wucherpennig presented a resolution to amend the 2023 DATCP budget for unanticipated Nutrient Management Farmer Education (NMFE) dollars. Wood County Land & Water Conservation was appointed the financial agent for the NMFE dollars after completion of the 2023 budgets.

Motion by Tom Buttke to approve and forward County Board the resolution to amend the 2023 DATCP Budget for unanticipated Nutrient Management Farmer Education (NMFE) dollars. Second by Laura Valenstein. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Review and approve County Board resolution to amend the 2022 14-Mile Creek Grant Budget for unanticipated dollars. Shane Wucherpfennig presented a resolution to amend the 2022 14-Mile Creek grant budget for unanticipated dollars received for the Serenity River riprap project.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve and forward County Board the resolution to amend the 2022 14-Mile Creek Grant Budget for unanticipated dollars. Second by Laura Valenstein. Motion carried unanimously.

- c. ARPA funding update. Lance Pliml gave a brief update on the status of ARPA funding. The County has identified five or six resources; now waiting to see where the state allocates their dollars.
- d. Report on county-wide nitrate sampling effort. Shane Wucherpfennig shared a PowerPoint presentation on the County-Wide Nitrate Study 2017 through 2022. The presentation was a snapshot look at nitrate testing results in Wood County over the past five years. 10,690 wells were sampled county-wide and 573 wells out of the 10,690 sampled (5.4%) came back with nitrates higher than 10 ppm. The PowerPoint included a breakdown of wells tested by Municipality and Section, number above 10 ppm by Municipality and Section, mapping differences between the County-wide Study and Wisconsin Well Water Viewer – UWSP Groundwater Center, and Result Summary by Township from the Wisconsin Well Water Viewer. Wucherpfennig concluded with the study was a good effort and mission accomplished. He covered the steps to focus on moving forward. Discussion followed.

The question was asked if the nitrate testing results were shared with Townships. Results have not been shared with Townships, but certainly could be. Bill Leichtnam stated he would share the result information with the Saratoga Town Board.

Motion by Bill Leichtnam to have Wucherpfennig present the County-Wide Nitrate Study to the County Board at the February 14, 2023 County Board meeting. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Voting Aye: Bill Leichtnam Voting Nay: Dave LaFontaine, Tom Buttke, Laura Valenstein, Motion failed.

Motion by Laura Valenstein to amend the motion to include the presentation in the County Board packet and Supervisor Leichtnam address the County Board and briefly answer questions regarding the results. Second by Tom Buttke. Motion Carried Unanimously.

e. Committee Reports.

- i. Citizens Groundwater Group meeting. Bill Leichtnam gave a brief update on the Citizens' Groundwater Group meeting. He referred to pages 51 and 52 in the CEED packet. Guest Speaker was State Representative Scott Krug. He spoke on "Prospects for Groundwater Protection Legislation & Assistance for Residents with Contaminated Wells". The next meeting will be Monday February 20th at the River Block Auditorium.

ii. Health Committee report. Ben Jeffrey gave a brief summary of the January AGC meeting.

- The AGC MOU expired December 31, 2022; AGC will not be expanding on the MOU.
- AGC provided data from studies; local Health Department has a link to the data.
- Still waiting on some more data.
- Identified nitrate from commercial fertilizers and manure.
- AGC will continue on water treatment until stock is out.
- Future communication will be on an ad hoc basis.

iii. Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative (CSGWCC) committee report. Bill Leichtnam shared there was no CSGWCC meeting in January. The next meeting will be February 27, 2023 at the Hancock Research Station.

iv. Golden Sands RC&D report. Bill Leichtnam reported briefly on the January 19th meeting. The meeting was held virtual due to bad weather.

- Welcomed the 13th County Member.
- Talked about voluntary dues.
- Starting in 2023 RC&D will be providing wildlife lessons to fifth graders in all counties.
- Next meeting – March 16, 2023.

Carmen Good mentioned Travis and Melissa Marti received the Wisconsin's Outstanding Young Farmer 2023 award. It was suggested that the County Board recognize the Marti's for their award. Carmen will arrange with the Marti's and County Clerk.

9. **Private Sewage.** Nothing to report; all information in the packet.

10. **Land Records.**

- a. LiDAR ARPA funding request. Paul Bernard updated the Committee on his ARPA funding request, which was discussed at the last meeting. He stated he has been in contact with Ayres and Associates; they lowered their original quote of \$160,000 to between \$110,000 and \$115,000. Phase III of the LiDAR funding request focuses specifically on layers that will aid county departments and municipalities in viewing, visualizing and analyzing hydrography data. He asked the Committee for their thoughts and guidance on moving forward. Discussion followed.

Information on funding breakdown for each phase will be included in the March CEED packet and Paul will move forward with the RFP process.

11. **County Surveyor.**

- a. Consider renewal of contract for the appointed County Surveyor. Jason Grueneberg mentioned the County Surveyor contract is up for renewal. He referred to pages 53 and 54 in the CEED packet and reviewed current salary and job responsibilities. Kevin Boyer is the current Surveyor under contract. Jason mentioned that Kevin is very detailed and doing a very good job and his recommendation is to renew the contract under the same conditions. He added; there may be need to review the salary prior to approving future contracts. Discussion followed.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to renew the two-year County Surveyor contract with Kevin Boyer under the same conditions stated on pages 53 and 54 of the CEED packet. Second by Laura Valenstein. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Survey Project Updates. Kevin Boyer will give an annual report at the March CEED.

12. **Planning and Zoning.**

- a. Present County Plat Review Annual Report. Jason Grueneberg shared the 2022 Plat Review Annual Report is on page 55 of the CEED packet. This item will be on the March CEED agenda as Adam DeKleyn was not able to attend this CEED meeting.

- b. Present County Well-Water Systems Annual Report and program overview. Jason Grueneberg shared the 2022 Well-Water Systems Annual Report is on page 56 of the CEED packet. This item will be on the March CEED agenda as Adam DeKleyn was not able to attend this CEED meeting.

13. Economic Development

- a. Update from Historic Point Basse and consider release of 2023 Economic Development Grant Funds. Tina Krummel gave an update on the progress of the Historic Point Basse Pavilion and thanked the CEED committee. The CEED invited Tina to give another update on the project in July.

Motion by Tom Buttke to approve the release of 2023 Economic Development Grant Funds in the amount of \$32,500 to Historic Point Basse for the Pavilion. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Centergy update and introduction of President/CEO Angel Whitehead. Angel Whitehead was not able to attend this meeting. This item will be on the March agenda.
- c. Heart of Wisconsin Chamber, introduction of President/CEO Staci Kivi. Staci Kivi introduced herself to the CEED Committee. Staci started her position as President of the Heart of Wisconsin Chamber two months ago. Prior to starting at Heart of Wisconsin Chamber, she worked for the South Wood County YMCA.

Upcoming Heart of Wisconsin events include:

- Awards meeting – March 8th at the Ridges – check in at 5 p.m.
- Legislative Breakfast – March 17th at Mid-State Technical College – 7:00 a.m.

- d. Consider release of REDI implementation funds for broadband planning. Jason Grueneberg requested the release of \$5,000 in REDI implementation funds for broadband planning. This money will be used for consulting services. Jason added he wants to do another RFI (request for information) and needs assistance. He will be enlisting Mary Ann Lippert to help. Brief discussion followed.

Motion by Laura Valenstein to approve the release of \$5,000 in REDI Implementation funds for broadband planning. Second by Tom Buttke. Motion carried unanimously.

- e. Consider carryover resolution for REDI Implementation funds. Jason Grueneberg presented a resolution to amend the 2023 Transportation and Economic Development budget for additional Rural Economic Development Plan implementation (REDI) expenditures that were not anticipated during the original budget process.

Motion by Tom Buttke to approve and forward to County Board the resolution to amend the 2023 Transportation and Economic Development budget for additional REDI implementation expenditures. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

- f. Consider carryover resolution for Village of Port Edwards kayak launch project. Jason Grueneberg presented a resolution to amend the 2023 Transportation and Economic Development budget to include 2022 unspent funds for the Village of Port Edwards kayak launch project that they were unable to complete in 2022.

Motion by Tom Buttke to approve and forward to County Board the resolution to amend the 2023 Transportation and Economic Development budget to include \$10,000 in 2022 unspent funds for the Port Edwards Kayak launch project. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Extension.

- a. General Office Update. Jeremy Solin reported he has a month in as Area Extension Director and things are going well. Wood County Extension is at full staff and they are a great team. Very fortunate to have the full extent of Extension Educators.

Supervisor LaFontaine asked for clarification on the staff reports; specifically how the individuals participated in courses/workshops/session they list on their reports. Jeremy explained staff reports are pulled from the statewide structure. He added courses/workshops/sessions listed have all been delivered. He will pass this concern on to the state Extension staff.

- b. Introduction of FoodWise Administrator – Mallory McGivern. Mallory McGivern introduced herself to the CEED. She started as the FoodWise Administrator in September. Mallory is a UW Stevens Point Grad and has worked for Neighbors' Place Food Bank and Pantry and community gardens.
- c. Natural Resource Presentation – Anna James. Anna James gave a PowerPoint presentation on Central Sands and Water Quality. She covered background on nonpoint source pollution and why drinking and surface water is more susceptible to contamination in sandy soils, programmatic and educational approach to water quality, citizens approach to water quality and opportunities to get involved.

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

16. Schedule Next Regular Committee Meeting. Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

17. Agenda items for next meeting.

- a. Discuss Golden Sands RC&D annual dues.
- b. Surveyor Annual Report.
- c. Present County Plan Review Annual Report.
- d. Present County Well-Water Systems Annual Report and program overview.
- e. Centergy update and introduction of President/CEO Angel Whitehead.
- f. Update from Bug Tussel on bond project.
- g. Eric Hummel – NEPCO Lake District presentation.

18. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary.

19. Adjourn.

<i>Motion by Tom Buttke to adjourn at 11:20 a.m. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.</i>

Minutes by Lori Ruess, Land & Water Conservation Department