

MINUTES

CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, August 6, 2025
TIME: 9:00 AM
PLACE: Courthouse – Conference Rm #302

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Leichtnam, Tom Buttke, Wayne Schulz, Russ Perlock, George Gilbertson

MEMBER EXCUSED: Tim Hovendick

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 July 2, 2025 meeting were presented. Motion by Buttke/Schulz to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
4. The minutes of the July 24, 2025 meeting were presented. Motion by Buttke/Perlock to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Motion by Schulz/Buttke to approve the vouchers, monthly department reports and committee reports. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Jenna Hanson & Isabell Grethen from Main Street Marshfield presented an update to their grant funded project, WELCOME BACK and showed photos of the progress made on a number of store backs in Marshfield. Motion by Schulz/Leichtnam to approve the release of economic grant funding of \$18,875 to Main Street Marshfield. Motion failed 2-2. Voting no were Buttke & Perlock.
7. Motion by Schulz/Perlock to reconsider the above request at a future meeting. Motion carried unanimously. It will be placed on both the special CEED meeting agendas of August 13th and September 3rd. dependent on Main Street representation at either meeting.
8. Area Extension Director Gatterman reviewed a letter from Extension Dean Karl Martin, alerting the state that the SNAP funding that was in place to fund the FoodWISE Educator had been eliminated at the federal level and layoff notices have been sent out to those employees affected, effective October 1, 2025. There may be some state funding allowed to keep the program going until the end of the year, but that is unknown at this time. Gatterman stated he will be putting a full time, county funded position in the 2026 budget for a Nutrition Educator for 2026. This will be discussed more next month.
9. County Conservationist Wucherpennig reported that the summer intern is no longer employed by the county so there is some funding that will not be expended this year due to that termination.

10. Wucherpfennig presented the 2026 Land & Water Conservation Dept. budget for the committee to review. Motion by Buttke/Perlock to approve the budget as presented and forward to the Finance Dept. Motion carried unanimously.
11. Wucherpfennig reported on the current status of the nitrate well testing and the ARPA funded reverse osmosis system requests to date. They are ready to move on the first round of these and are looking for committee permission to consider those in the next group of contamination (15-20 ppm). Committee consensus directed Wucherpfennig to continue as presented and discussed.
12. Wucherpfennig reported that salt testing will be conducted in September along the Mill Creek Watershed, working with Portage County.
13. Wucherpfennig updated the committee on the status of various violations in the county.
14. Leichtnam requested that the committee consider having the existing Citizens Water Group be an advisory committee of CEED. He reviewed the history of the organization and the progress made by them. Motion by Buttke/Perlock to approve the Citizens Water Group be an advisory subcommittee of CEED. Motion carried unanimously. Corp Counsel Flanagan will draft a resolution for the county board to ratify this move.
15. Leichtnam reviewed the economic development grant process and recommended tweaks to the process. He listed 6 items for the committee to consider at a later meeting.
16. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 3rd, at 9:00 AM. A special meeting to review the economic development grant applications will be Wednesday, August 13th at 9:00 AM.
17. Chairman Leichtnam declared the meeting adjourned at 10:37 AM.

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

Conservation, Education, & Economic Development Committee

August 6, 2025

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