

MINUTES  
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023  
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM 114, WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI

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

Staff Present:

Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpennig  
Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg, Kevin Boyer, Jeff Brewbaker, Adam DeKleyn  
Extension Staff: Jeremy Solin, Karli Tomsyck

Others Present (for part or all of the meeting): Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendenning, Ben Jeffrey (Wood County Health Department – WebEx), Peter Kastenholz (Corporate Counsel), Tom Turchi (City of Marshfield - WebEx), Eric Hummel, Jeff Mayer

1. **Call meeting to order.** Chairperson Leichtnam called the CEED meeting to order at 9:00am.
2. **Declaration of Quorum.** Chairperson Leichtnam declared a quorum.
3. **Public Comments (*brief comments/statement regarding committee business*).**  
Facilities Director Reuben Van Tassel provided the committee with an update on the Riverblock building power outage.
4. **Review Correspondence.**  
Jason Grueneberg shared there have been two resignations in Planning & Zoning this week. Adam DeKleyn has accepted a position with the Village of Plover and Scott Custer has accepted a position with the DNR. Jason wished them well and thanked them for their service to Wood County. Adam DeKleyn shared that he will be the Community Development Manager for the Village of Plover. He appreciates the opportunity Wood County has given him over the past 7 years and has enjoyed working with the CEED Committee, Planning & Zoning department and everyone at the County as a whole.
5. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following items: 1) minutes of the February 1, 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, Mallory McGivern, Janell Wehr, Jackie Carattini, Anna James, Caleb Armstrong, Kyle Andreae, Lori Ruess, Rod Mayer, Shane Wucherpennig, Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, Paul Bernard, Jeff Brewbaker, Scott Custer and Victoria Wilson.
  - a. **Approve minutes of previous meeting.** No additions or corrections needed.
  - b. **Approve bills.** No additions or corrections needed.
  - c. **Receive staff activity reports.** Supervisor LaFontaine requested review of the Extension staff activity report.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve and accept the February 1, 2023 CEED minutes, bills from Extension, Land & Water Conservation and Planning & Zoning, and Land & Water Conservation and Planning & Zoning staff activity reports. Second by Laura Valenstein. Motion carried unanimously.*

6. **Review items, if any, pulled from Consent Agenda.**  
Supervisor LaFontaine shared that when looking at the Extension staff activity report, there is a question about who is doing the activities because of the way it's written. He would appreciate if there was a statement noting that these are activities that Extension members either participated in, led or planned.

Jeremy Solin, Area Extension Director, explained the reporting system is state wide and there is a standard structure of how activities have to be submitted. He shared that what you see in the report are submissions by educators in this county about activities done in Wood County.

Supervisor LaFontaine is concerned that the report format is denying the staff credit for all that they're doing. Following discussion, it was decided that an introductory paragraph will be included in future Extension reports.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve the Extension staff activity report as presented. Second by Jake Hahn.  
Motion carried unanimously.*

**7. Risk and Injury Report. None.**

**8. Land & Water Conservation Department**

a. Wisconsin Land + Water Conservation Annual Conference update.

Shane Wucherpennig shared this was a 3 day conference held last week at Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells. It was the first in person conference since March 2020. 518 people attended.

b. Discuss RC&D membership dues.

Shane Wucherpennig provided a brief background on RC&D membership dues. A motion was made by CEED to pay 75% of dues in 2022 and 100% the next year, based on evaluation of services provided by RC&D. There is \$1900 in the 2023 budget for dues but it is a matter of whether the committee feels services are adequate. Following discussion, it was decided that this should be brought back to the agenda one more time.

c. Consider recommendations for NEPCO Lake District Board.

Eric Hummel shared he lives on Nepco Lake and has been a permanent resident for 4.5 years. About 9 months ago, a group of volunteers felt they needed to find a way to get the lake in better condition. It was determined that forming a lake district was the best way to go.

A lake district is a special unit of government; fees are collected. The group is hoping that Wood County and others will help on this journey. To start a lake district, a petition has to go out. Eric noted it went to every person on the lake. 51% of individuals have to vote yes, per state statute. Currently, 63% of individuals have responded yes to the Nepco petition.

Eric shared there is a lot to do between now and getting formal approval of the entire Wood County board. One part is to identify a committee and set up a temporary commission until the first annual meeting of the Lake District. A public hearing will be held on March 21st at 8:30am, before the County Board meeting. Lengthy discussion followed.

Corporate Counsel Kastenholz explained there will be 4 appointments to the committee if the resolution is passed by County Board; 3 being residents, 1 either from the CEED committee or a person nominated by the CEED committee.

d. Update on Conservation Administrative Specialist position.

Shane shared they conducted interviews last week and brought 2 candidates back for final interviews and meet and greet with staff. Shane made a formal offer this morning; they accepted and will likely be starting around March 27<sup>th</sup>.

e. Committee Reports

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

Chair Leichtnam shared the last meeting speaker talked about PFAS. 22 states have standards for forever chemicals; Wisconsin does not.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in River Block.

ii. **Health Committee report.** None.

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

Chair Leichtnam shared there was a final announcement of a date for their gap analysis grant project. The final report will be shared on April 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30pm at Marquette County Extension Annex building in Montello at 480 Underwood Avenue.

CSGWCC meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month.

Supervisor Valenstein suggested moving committee reports to the consent agenda to be approved with minutes, activity reports, etc. Following discussion, it was decided this should be added to the April meeting agenda.

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

Golden Sands RC&D will meet next Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at River Block in Room 206. There will be 4 meetings starting at 9am.

**9. Private Sewage.**

a. Application for Low Flow Holding Tank in the town of Hansen

Jeff Brewbaker shared this application is a rarity. Holding tanks are a system of last resort in the County. An exception can be granted for sites with less than 150 gallons per day such as seasonal cabins.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve application for low flow holding tank for Irvin Vollert as presented. Second by Laura Valenstein. Motion carried unanimously.*

**10. Land Records.** None.

**11. County Surveyor.**

a. Review proposals and select surveyor to complete Public Land Survey System maintenance for corners affected by road construction projects.

Kevin Boyer shared they received 4 bids; Badger-Land Survey, Rutzen Survey Services, Riverside Land Surveying and Quest Civil Engineers.

Kevin considers all 4 bids to be qualified and based on cost, he recommends committee approval of Badger-Land Survey contract.

*Motion by Laura Valenstein to approve Badger-Land Survey bid to complete Public Land Survey System maintenance for corners affected by road construction projects at a cost of \$200.00 per corner. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.*

b. Discussion of Request for Proposal process for proposed highway right-of-way project.

Kevin Boyer shared background information on highway right-of-ways. He has been working with Roland Hawk, Highway Commissioner, on the proposed project. Kevin would like to use \$10,000 of the County Surveyor budget that was previously dedicated to PLSS project and the Highway Department will be putting up \$15,000. Discussion followed.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve RFP process for proposed highway right-of-way project. Second by Jake Hahn. Motion carried unanimously.*

c. Presentation of 2023 Annual Report by the Wood County Surveyor, Kevin Boyer.

Kevin Boyer shared a brief background; he was appointed County Surveyor January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 and is a

contract employee. It's mostly an office position here and field work is contracted out. Kevin also highlighted recent projects and office work.

Kevin noted they are done with PLSS project. He has now been talking to the Highway Department, Register of Deeds and Treasurer's office as there are a lot of county right-of-way problems.

## 12. Planning

### a. Present County Plat Review Annual Report

Adam DeKleyn shared the program is administered county wide in all of the incorporated areas of the county. It basically promotes orderly division and development of land by identifying specific standards and requirements for subdivisions.

Trends from 2022 include:

- Substantial decrease in number of land divisions in the county
- No new subdivisions plats in 2022
- Overall, CSM totals were still above the 5 year average.

### b. Present County Well-Water Systems Annual Report and general program overview.

Adam DeKleyn provided a general overview of the well program. It is a newer program and was implemented at the beginning of 2022. Administration of the program is to protect the groundwater and drinking water in Wood County done through regulating and reviewing the location of new private wells being constructed in the county and also by allowing Planning & Zoning the authority to require filling and sealing of unused, non-compliant or dangerous private wells.

Adam noted in 2022, the Planning & Zoning office cited 115 new wells properly located and permitted in the county. Those wells will also be inspected and information made available to the public, well drillers, realtors, etc. Adam also shared 43 is the number of unsafe, non-compliant or unused wells that were filled and sealed. There is a map included in the annual report as well. Discussion followed.

### c. Consider resolution approving a Town of Grand Rapids zoning amendment/rezone.

*Motion by Jake Hahn to approve resolution for Town of Grand Rapids zoning amendment/rezone. Second by Tom Buttke. Motion carried unanimously.*

## 13. Economic Development

### a. Consider request for REDI implementation funding for ATV/UTV signage in the city of Marshfield.

Jason Grueneberg explained that the City of Marshfield opened up roads after the first of the year for ATV/UTV usage but didn't have funding for signage at that time. Some county signage has been funded through REDI funds.

Tom Turchi, Director of Public Works, shared they are getting things ready to start opening in April and want to make sure there aren't issues with the Police Department and users with roads that are prohibited.

*Motion by Tom Buttke to approve release REDI implementation funds for ATV/UTV signage in the city of Marshfield in the amount of \$11,000.00. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.*

b. Broadband planning grant update.

Jason Grueneberg shared there is a planning grant from state to do planning at county level. Jason signed off on it on Tuesday. He noted the approach they're taking right now is regional.

c. Update on Central Wisconsin Days 2023.

Jason Grueneberg shared a flyer with the committee. The event is a day to go down to Madison and talk to the state legislature. It will be held on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### 14. Extension

a. General Office Update

Jeremy Solin provided the following updates:

- Allison Jonjak shared that there was a grant proposal recently funded to fund some research on nitrogen efficiency in cranberry bogs, related to water quality issues. Allison is excited to have funding come through. The grant came from DATCP. Marshes involved in this will include some partially located in Wood County.
- Anna James and Shane Wucherpennig are planning the Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo. It is coming up on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is another effort to help farms be more sustainable but also consider alternative treatments to help with water quality issues and a variety of other factors.
- The Healthy Communities Coordinator FoodWise position has approval from state leadership to be rehired. This position works across the area. Jeremy hopes to have someone on board in the next couple of months.
- 4-H Creative Arts Day is coming up on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Jeremy shared a flyer and invited CEED Committee to attend. The event will be held in Pittsville.

b. Wood County Real Colors Sessions

Extension is providing a training for county staff on Real Colors. There was a request from a county department to do the training so it has now been opened up to all county staff. There will be two sessions.

Real Colors is a personality traits training to help understand how to better work with each other. Laura Huber and Jackie Carattini will be leading the trainings on Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

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

**16. Schedule next regular committee meeting.** The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 9:00am at Wood County Courthouse Room #114.

**17. Agenda items for next meeting.** *Agenda items are due by Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.*

- RC&D Membership Dues
- Moving Committee Reports to Consent Agenda

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

**19. Adjourn.**

*Motion by Tom Buttke to adjourn the meeting at 11:10am. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.*