

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #114, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Bill Leichtnam, Dave LaFontaine, Tom Buttke, and Laura Valenstein

Members Excused: Carmen Good & Jake Hahn

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg & Victoria Wilson
Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpennig & Barb Peeters (via WebEx)
UW Extension Staff: Jeremy Solin and Kayla Rombalski

Others Present (for part or all of the meeting): Dennis Polach, Jeff Penzkover, Bill Clendenning, Lance Pliml (via WebEx), Jeffrey Gaier, Mark Bowie, Ken Hastreiter, Dale Christenson, Josh Ostermann, Josh Schoemann

1. **Call to Order** Chairperson Leichtnam called the CEED Meeting to order at 9:01 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 May 3, 2023 and May 23, 2023 CEED meetings, 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension and 3) staff activity reports from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension offices.
 - a. Approve minutes of previous meeting. No additions or corrections needed.
 - b. Approve bills. No additions or corrections needed.
 - c. Receive Staff Activity Reports. No additions or corrections needed.

Motion by Laura Valenstein to approve the minutes from the May 3rd and May 23rd committee meetings. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Tom Buttke to approve the bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension, and staff activity reports as presented. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Review items, if any, pulled from Consent Agenda** None.
7. **Risk and Injury Report** None.

With the approval of the committee, item #13 was moved up on the agenda.

8. **Land & Water Conservation Department**
 - a. Discuss and possible action on designating supervisor as Wood County representative on North Central Land & Water Conservation Association
Shane Wucherpennig talked about the designation of a representative for NCLWCA. Dave LaFontaine expressed interest and Shane shared information with him about this role. Dave LaFontaine has agreed to fill this role.

Motion by Tom Buttke to approve Dave LaFontaine as the Wood County representative on North Central Land & Water Conservation Association. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Discuss and possible action to establish rate per acre for permanent pasture for prescribed grazing.
Shane gave an overview of the need for an established flat rate per acre for permanent pasture for prescribed grazing. He recommends a rate of \$230 per acre.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve the \$230 rate per acre. Second by Laura Valenstein. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Private Sewage-information in packet.

10. Land Records-information in packet.

11. County Surveyor-no update.

12. Planning and Zoning

- a. CEED Tour date, discuss and select.
The consensus of the committee is to hold the CEED Tour on Friday September 29th.

13. Economic Development

- a. Presentation on Uniquely Wisconsin marketing campaign by Discover Mediaworks.
Josh Schoemann and Josh Ostermann presented a marketing product provided by Discover Mediaworks that promotes counties in Wisconsin and the people that live in those counties. The videos they provide require an economic development component, vision for the future and a tourism component. The videos define the heart and the culture of the counties. The cost for this product is \$60,000. Questions and answers took place. Consensus from the committee is to move as quickly as possible on this project.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to move forward with the marketing campaign with Uniquely Wisconsin for Wood County using economic development funds. Second by Laura Valenstein. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Update from C2 Makerspace and consider release of 2023 Economic Development funds in the amount of \$10,000.
Mark Bowie and Ken Hastreiter presented the progress that has been made at the C2 Makerspace. Questions and answers took place.

Motion by Laura Valenstein to release \$10,000 in funding to C2 Makerspace. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

- c. Update from Marshfield Municipal Airport and consider release of 2023 Economic Development funds in the amount of \$15,000.
Jeff Gaier presented information on the activity at Marshfield Municipal Airport.

Motion by Tom Buttke to approve release \$15,000 in funding to Marshfield Municipal Airport. Second by Laura Valenstein. Motion carried unanimously.

- d. Update from Central Wisconsin State Fair and consider release of Junior Fair grant funds in the amount of \$32,000.
Dale Christenson presented information and needs of the Central Wisconsin State Fair, specifically the Junior Fair. Dale is requesting \$38,000 in funding due to increased costs to run the fair. Discussion took place on the additional \$6,000 in funding.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to release \$32,000 in funding to Junior Fair. Second by Tom Buttke. Motion carried unanimously.

- e. Discuss inquiry to place wind turbines on Wood County property.
Jason Grueneberg spoke to the committee about a request from Alliant Energy to use Wood County owned property as part of a wind turbine farm. Jason asked the committee for direction on whether to move forward with the request from Alliant. There is potential for revenue to Wood County from this project. The consensus from the committee was for Jason to continue conversations with Alliant on this project.

14. Extension

a. General Office Update

Jeremy Solin gave a general office update. He shared that UW Extension 4H is hosting Animal Science Day at the fairgrounds on Friday June 9th and invited everyone to stop by and check it out.

He further shared that the funding for the Natural Resources Education (NRE) position was inadvertently left out of the DNR budget request. Because of this, 3.5 water-focused NRE positions (including Anna James' position) would be eliminated unless there is a way to address this. State leadership and UW Extension are working on this.

A verbal offer has been accepted for the Healthy Communities Coordinator position. The new person will start in two weeks.

An issue was brought forward about calls not reaching the UW Extension office. This was investigated but there is not a clear answer as to what is causing this issue. Jeremy will continue to investigate.

b. Clean Sweep

Kayla Rombalski shared a flyer and information on the September Clean Sweep event. Discussion took place on whether to hold this event in the spring rather than the fall. Further discussion included holding the event in both the spring and fall and in Marshfield as well as Wisconsin Rapids. Kayla will look into information and funding avenues for this.

15. Requests for per diem for meeting attendants None.

16. Schedule next regular committee meeting

Wednesday July 5, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

17. Agenda items for next meeting

- a. Increased funding of \$6,000 for Central Wisconsin Junior Fair for 2023.

18. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary

None

19. Adjourn

Chair Bill Leichtnam declared the CEED Meeting adjourned @11:32 a.m.

Minutes by Victoria Wilson, Planning & Zoning Office and in draft form until approved at next meeting.