

MINUTES
 CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2022
 WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #114, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

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

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg, Paul Bernard, Jeff Brewbaker (WebEx), Scott Larson (WebEx)

Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpfennig, Lori Ruess.

Extension Staff: Jason Hausler, Anna James

Others Present: Dist. # 14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendenning, Dist. #16 Supervisor Lance Pliml (WebEx), Ben Jeffery, Environmental Health Supervisor, (WebEx), Ed Newton, Finance Director, (WebEx), Christine Hollar, Town of Milladore, Ken Bargender, City of Marshfield EDB, Meredith Kleker, Wisconsin Rapids Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, Karen Olson, MACCI – C2 Makerspace, Mark Bowie – C2 Makerspace, Ray Bossert, Town of Port Edwards.

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Leichtnam called the CEED meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Declaration of Quorum.** Chair 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 October 5, 2022 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, Hannah Wendels, Janell Wehr, Jacki Carattini, Shane Wucherpfennig, Kyle Andreae, Caleb Armstrong, Emily Salvinski, Lori Ruess, Rodney Mayer, Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, Paul Bernard, Jeff Brewbaker, Scott Custer, Victoria Wilson and Karoline Whitman.
 - a. Minutes of October 5, 2022. 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 October 5, 2022 CEED minutes as presented. Second by Jake Hahn. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve bills from Extension, Land & Water Conservation and Planning & Zoning and staff activity reports as presented. Second by Jake Hahn. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Review items, if any, pulled from Consent Agenda.** None.
7. **Risk and Injury Report.** None.
8. **Update on ARPA Funding.** Chair Leichtnam mentioned he put information on the Child Care ARPA funding proposal on the table for each CEED member to review.

At this time with consensus from the Committee, items 13b, 13c, 13d, and 13e were moved up on the agenda. See 13b, 13c, 13d, and 13e.

9. Land & Water Conservation Department.

- a. Approve Wood County 2022 crop prices for the Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program.
The 2022 Wood County Crop prices for the Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program were included in the packet. Prices were arrived by averaging prices from several sources. Prices are as follows: Corn - \$6.18/bushel, Soybeans – 13.96/bushel, Alfalfa - \$170.34/ton.

Motion by Jake Hahn to accept and approve the Wood County 2022 crop prices for the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Approve low bid for Adam Borchert's waste storage facility project.

Shane Wucherpennig explained this is a re-bid of Borchert's project. Previous bids received came back very high (two bids each over \$200,000). He denied the previous bids and requested the project be re-bid. Two new bids were Earth Inc., – Dan DeBoer - \$170,850.40 and Mid WI Concrete & Exc. – Casey Krause - \$171,450.00.

Motion by Tom Buttke to accept and approve the low bid for \$170,850.40 from Earth Inc., for the purpose of basing cost-share dollars for the Adam Borchert's project. Second by Laura Valenstein. Motion carried unanimously.

- c. Approve low bid for Jon & Raeann Gust's streambank & shoreland protection project.

Shane opened the only bid received prior to the CEED meeting. Bid was from Jeff Ertl Trucking and Excavating in the amount of \$4,730.00.

Motion by Jake Hahn to accept and approve the low bid for \$4,730.00 from Jeff Ertl Trucking & Excavating for the purpose of basing cost-share dollars for Jon & Raeann Gust's streambank & shoreland protection project. Second by Laura Valenstein. Motion carried unanimously.

- d. Approve low bid for Todd Karl's waterway system project.

Shane Wucherpennig explained this project was also a re-bid. The CEED approved the original bid of \$60,000 from Jeff Ertl Trucking and Excavating. The landowner requested a re-bid, as he couldn't do the project at the \$60,133.25 cost. Ertl was contacted for the re-bid and stated he wanted to leave his bid at \$60,000 for the re-bid process. New bid were as follows: Earth Inc. - \$56,852.90, Jeff Ertl Trucking & Excavating - \$60,133.25.

Motion by Jake Hahn to accept and approve the low bid for \$56,852.90 from Earth Inc., for the purpose of basing cost-share dollars for Todd Karl's waterway system project. Second by Laura Valenstein. Discussion followed.

Tom Buttke moved to amend the motion on the floor to have the County Conservationist reach out to Corporation Counsel for advice on the re-bid procedure. Following Corporation Counsel's approval of the re-bid procedure, accept and approve the low bid in the amount of \$56,852.90 from Earth Inc., for the propose of basing cost-share dollars for Todd Karl's waterway system project. Second by Laura Valenstein. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion carried unanimously on the amended motion.

- e. Update on ARPA fund proposal.

Shane Wucherpennig reviewed the Land & Water Conservation Department ARPA funding proposal. This was discussed at previous CEED meetings. He reached out to Ed Newton, Lance Pliml and Laura Valenstein on the process to forward the proposal to the ARPA Ad Hoc Committee. Laura explained; priorities need to be ranked by the CEED and the proposal in ranking order needs to be included in the County Board Packet as part of the ARPA Ad Hoc Committee. Chair Leichtnam asked each Committee member for his or her ranking based on the proposal presented. Ranking order by Laura Valenstein, Dave LaFontaine, Jake Hahn and Tom Buttke:

1. Drone
2. Water Quality Improvement Practices
3. Field Test Plots/Training/Field Days
4. Reverse Osmosis Systems

Chair Leichtnam's ranking order:

1. Water Quality Improvement Practices
2. Reverse Osmosis Systems
3. Field Test Plots/Training/Fields Days
4. Drone

Motion by Laura Valenstein to include the Land & Water Conservation Department prioritized ARPA proposal in the November County Board Packet. Second by Tom Buttke. Motion carried unanimously.

f. Committee Reports

i. Citizens Groundwater Group meeting.

Bill Leichtnam gave an overview of the October 17, 2022 CGG meeting. Future meetings will move to the River Block Auditorium. Next meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2022.

ii. Health Committee report.

Ben Jeffrey gave an overview of the October 26, 2022 AGC MOU meeting. This was supposed to be the last meeting, but another meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2023.

Bill Leichtnam read a statement he gave at the October 26, 2022 meeting, which is recorded in the October 26, 2022 meeting minutes.

AGC is not interested in future MOU.

iii. Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative (CSGWCC) Committee report.

Bill Leichtnam gave an overview of the October 24, 2022 CSGWCC meeting. The next CSGWCC meeting is Monday, November 28, 2022.

iv. Golden Sands RC&D report.

The next Golden Sands RC&D Council meeting is Thursday, November 17, 2022 at the River Block Auditorium.

10. Private Sewage. In packet.

11. Land Records.

a. ARPA Funding Requests

- i. LiDAR – Paul Bernard shared the ARPA funding request for LiDAR can be found on pages 29-40 of the CEED packet. He reviewed the funding breakdown and deliverables for Phase I and Phase II. The ARPA funding request is for Phase III to acquire more layers that will help view, visualize and analyze hydrography data. This phase as presented would cost \$222,800.00. However, Paul received a lower quote, from what is noted on page 32 of the packet, for the Impervious Surfaces and he will be reaching out for additional quotes. Discussion followed.

With consensus from the Committee, this item will be moved to the December 7, 2022 meeting to allow Paul Bernard time to prioritize his request and get additional quotes.

- ii. Facility Mapping. Paul Bernard shared information on facility mapping. He is working with Dispatch on data for mapping of all public and private schools for emergency response. Applying for grants to map all county facilities (Courthouse,

River Block, Edgewater Haven, Norwood Health Center). He will have more information on this ARPA request at the December 7, 2022 meeting.

12. **County Surveyor.** In packet.

13. **Planning.** In packet.

14. **Economic Development.**

a. North Central Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission update.

Jason Grueneberg reported briefly on the October 26, 2022 NCWRPC meeting. All three Wood County representatives were in attendance. Gerald Nelson, past County Board Supervisor, retired from the Commission at the age of 90 and was recognized for serving on the NCWRPC.

b. Update from Town of Milladore and consider release of 2022 Economic Development Grant Funds.

Christine Hollar, Milladore Town Clerk, reported the road repair work on Trestik Drive from Blenker Road to Mayflower Road and Blenker Road from Highway 10 to Trestik Drive in the Town of Milladore was completed the last week of September.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to release \$7,014.45 in 2022 Economic Development Grant Funds to the Town of Milladore. Second by Laura Valenstein. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Update from Wisconsin Rapids Area Convention & Visitors Bureau and consider release of 2022 Economic Development Grant Funds.

Meredith Kleker, Wisconsin Rapids Area CVB, reported briefly on the Central Wisconsin Tourism booth at the Wisconsin State Fair. Attendance at the Fair was over one million. It is estimated over 16,500 people took information from the booth. The booth promoted the central place initiative in the Wood County REDI plan, the county's outdoor recreation opportunities and provided Wood County Parks and Forestry maps for trails and water access. New at the booth this year, was "spin to win" and "scan to win".

Motion by Laura Valenstein to release the \$3,000 in 2022 Economic Development Grant Funds to the Wisconsin Rapids Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. Second by Tom Buttke Motion carried unanimously.

d. Update from Village of Port Edwards and consider delaying the release of 2022 Economic Development Grant Funds due to lack of contractors and seeking DOMTAR final approval.

Ray Bossert, Village of Port Edwards Administrator, gave a brief update on the progress of the kayak platform/launch sites on the west side of Nepco Lake and the west side of the Wisconsin River. Due to lack of contractors and the delay of DOMTAR final approval, the project will not be completed until spring of 2023. Village crews are currently working on clearing trees. He asked the CEED Committee if they could consider one of the following options:

- 1, Release part of the funds for the work that is complete.
2. Release all funds now.
- 3, Release all funds in the spring.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to release \$5,000 of the 2022 Economic Development Grant Funds to the Village of Port Edwards and carryover the remaining \$10,000 into 2023. Second by Laura Valenstein.

Discussion followed. Jake Hahn stated he agrees with the \$5,000 but disagrees with carrying over the \$10,000.

Jason Grueneberg mentioned there is a multi-step process that requires a resolution approved by County Board to carryover the funds. Ed Newton stated any of the options would work; a resolution is needed to move funds to 2023.

Jake Hahn moved to amend the motion on the floor to award the \$5,000 for work completed this year and deny the carryover of the remaining \$10,000. Second by Tom Buttke. Voting Aye: Jake Hahn and Tom Buttke. Voting Nay: Bill Leichtnam, Laura Valenstein, and Dave LaFontaine. Motion failed.

Dave LaFontaine moved to amend the motion on the floor to release \$5,000 of the 2022 Economic Development Grant Funds to the Village of Port Edwards and by resolution, carryover the remaining \$10,000 into 2023. Voting Aye: Dave LaFontaine, Bill Leichtnam, Laura Valenstein, and Tom Buttke. Voting Nay: Jake Hahn. Motion carried.

e. Consider release of REDI implementation funds.

Karen Olson and Mark Bowie reported on recent progress at C2 Makerspace and requested REDI funds for their current needs of computers, hardware/storage/materials, robotics and transportation. Discussion followed.

Jason Grueneberg shared there is \$70,000 to \$75,000 REDI implementation funds available this year. Whatever is not spent in 2022 will be carried over to the 2023 budget of \$50,000.

Ribbon cutting and open house at C2 Makerspace is scheduled for Thursday, December 1, 2022.

Motion by Laura Valenstein to release \$32,000 in REDI implementation funds to C2 Makerspace to cover computers & Hardware. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

15. Extension.

a. General Office Update.

Jason Hausler shared information on the status of the Area Extension Director Position. Received close to 20 applications. Preliminary interviews will be held next week; anticipate having someone on staff by mid to late December.

One administrative support staff person is out on extended leave. She will be returning January 2023.

b. Anna James Introduction.

Anna James, Natural Resource Educator, introduced herself. She transferred from Adams County Land & Water Conservation and has worked with Rachael Whitehair in the past, so she is familiar with the CSGWC and other projects.

c. 2023 Extension Budget.

Jason explained "Budget" was a typo in this agenda item. It should have been 2023 Extension "Contract". The contract is in the CEED packet, deadline for approval is December 12, 2022. Brief discussion followed.

Since action is needed to approve the contract, this item will be put on the December CEED agenda as 2023 Extension Contract.

16. Requests for per diem for meeting attendants.

Dave LaFontaine requested per diem for attending the October 19, 2022 drone demonstration at Marshfield Legion Hall.

Motion by Jake Hahn to approve Dave LaFontaine's per diem request for attending the October 19, 2022 drone demonstration. Second by Tom Buttke. Motion carried unanimously.

17. Schedule next regular committee meeting.

Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 9:00 a.m., in Room 114

- a. Department Head Evaluations. Shane Wucherpennig handed out his 2023 goals. Jason Grueneberg will send his to the committee before the November 9, meeting.

18. Agenda items for next meeting.

Land Records

- a. ARPA Funding requests.
- b. More on Facility Mapping.

Extension

- a. 2023 Extension Contract.

19. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary. Special CEED Meeting - Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 9:00 a.m., in Room 114.

20. Adjourn.

Chair Bill Leichtnam declared the CEED meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Minutes by Lori Ruess, Land & Water Conservation Department and in draft form until approved at next CEED meeting.