

**MINUTES**  
**CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, October 4, 2023

**TIME:** 9:00 AM

**PLACE:** Courthouse – Room 114

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bill Leichtnam, Dave LaFontaine, Laura Valenstein, Jake Hahn, Carmen Good

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Tom Buttke

**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. Under public comment, Supervisor LaFontaine expressed frustration at the Operations Committee referral of cutting 2024 Economic Development grants to the CEED Committee.
3. Motion by LaFontaine/Valenstein to approve the minutes of the previous meetings. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Motion by LaFontaine/Valenstein to approve the vouchers and monthly department reports. Motion carried unanimously.
5. UW Extension Director Solin provided a general office update.
6. Solin provided copies of the 2024 Extension contract for the committee for initial review. Approval will be sought at the next meeting.
7. Pittsville City Clerk Tami Hahn requested release of 2023 Economic Development grant dollars for \$35,000 for the resurfacing of the tennis courts in Pittsville. Motion by LaFontaine/Hahn to release the funds to the City of Pittsville. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Clerk Hahn requested the release of \$20,000 of grant funding for their building incentive program. Motion by Hahn/LaFontaine to approve the release of these funds. Motion carried unanimously.
9. County Conservationist Wucherpfennig reviewed the grazing tour held recently at Behlen Farms.

10. Wucherpennig presented a resolution requesting the state to review foreign ownership of farmland in Wisconsin. Motion by LaFontaine/Good to approve the resolution and forward onto the county board for their consideration. Motion carried unanimously.
11. Wucherpennig and Good provided an update as it relates to FSA membership on the CEED Committee. The statutes have changed in that it is not a requirement that the person be on the FSA Committee, rather a producer in the county. They will be coming up with a "job description" for this position and report back to the CEED Committee.
12. Community Educator Rombalski provided a preliminary update on the Clean Sweep held on September 9. Final numbers are not in yet but should be by the next meeting, when she will share those findings.
13. Director Grueneberg stated that the Surveyor contract is coming due soon and will need to be acted on.
14. Grueneberg provided an update on the Uniquely Wisconsin project. There are some podcasts completed already. He will work to get those uploaded on various platforms so as many people as possible can access them.
15. The Operations Committee sent back the Economic Development budget to the CEED Committee to cut the grant expenditures down to \$400,000 from the \$627,100 approved at a previous meeting. Discussion on the guidelines the committee should use to determine actual economic development; i.e. increased tax base, return on investment, etc. The following actions were taken:
  - a. Motion by Valenstein/Hahn to cut the City of Marshfield cross walk proposal in its entirety. Motion carried 3-1. Voting no was LaFontaine.
  - b. Motion by Valenstein/Hahn to cut \$5,000 from the approved amount for the Historic District Signs and Brochure Holders proposal. Motion carried unanimously.
  - c. Motion by Hahn/Valenstein to cut \$10,000 from the approved amount for the Village of Auburndale Park Improvements proposal. Motion failed 1-3. Voting no were Leichtnam, LaFontaine, & Valenstein.
  - d. Motion by LaFontaine/Valenstein to cut \$25,000 from the approved amount for the Village of Auburndale Park Improvements proposal. Motion carried unanimously.
  - e. Motion by Valenstein/LaFontaine to cut \$50,000 from the Light up the Pit proposal in the City of Pittsville. Motion carried 3-1. Voting no was Leichtnam.
  - f. Motion by Valenstein/Hahn to not fund the Audio & Video equipment for the City of Marshfield. Motion carried unanimously.
  - g. Motion by LaFontaine/Valenstein to cut \$25,000 from the approved amount for the Braem Park Pickle ball Court proposal. Motion carried unanimously.
  - h. Motion by Valenstein/Hahn to cut the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library proposal in its entirety. Motion carried unanimously.
  - i. Motion by LaFontaine/Hahn to cut the Mill Creek Youth Foundation Complex in its entirety. Motion carried unanimously.

- j. Motion by LaFontaine/Valenstein to approve a grant of \$35,000 for Upham Mansion updates, down from \$50,000. Motion failed 2-2. Voting no were Hahn & Leichtnam.
  - k. Motion by LaFontaine/Valenstein to approve a grant of \$25,000 for Upham Mansion updates, down from \$50,000. Motion carried unanimously.
  - l. Motion by Valenstein/LaFontaine to cut the C2 Makerspace proposal in its entirety. Motion carried unanimously.
  - m. Motion by Valenstein/Hahn to approve not to exceed \$90,000 of 2023 Economic Grant funds for early execution in 2023 for the following 2024 requests:
    - i. Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce
    - ii. Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce.
    - iii. Marshfield Municipal Airport
    - iv. South Wood County Airport Commission
    - v. Wood County Health Dept. Bike Share ProgramMotion carried unanimously.
16. Motion by LaFontaine/Hahn to approve meeting per diem and mileage for Leichtnam & LaFontaine for the CEED Tour. Motion carried unanimously.
17. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 AM.
18. Motion by Valenstein/LaFontaine to adjourn. Motion carried at 11:44 AM.

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

**Conservation, Education, & Economic Development Committee  
October 4, 2023**

NAME	REPRESENTING
Jefferson Kauer Ed Newton	WCB # 11 Finance
Jeremy Soli	Extension
Jason Grueneberg	P+Z
Victoria Wilson	P&Z
Lami Hakim	Pittsville
DENNIS POLACH	wcb-14
Bill Ciesleski	wcb-15
Kayla Rombalski	Extension
WebEx	
Barb Peeters	LWCA
Lance Pliml	County Board Chair
Ben Jeffrey	Health Dept
Katie DeKleyn	County Clerk