

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

Wednesday, July 5, 2023

WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM 114, WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI

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

Excused: Carmen Good

Staff Present:

*Land & Water Conservation Staff:* Shane Wucherpfnig, Barb Peeters

*Planning & Zoning Staff:* Jason Grueneberg, Victoria Wilson

*Extension Staff:* Jeremy Solin, Michelle Van Krey, Kayla Rombalski

Others Present (for part or all of the meeting): Dist. #11 Supervisor Jeff Penzkover, Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendenning, County Board Chair Lance Pliml (WebEx), Ray Bossert (WebEx), Ben Jeffery (WebEx), Angel Whitehead, Denise Sonneman, Karen Olson, Staci Kivi, Tina Krummel

1. **Call meeting to order.** Chairperson Leichtnam called the CEED meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Declaration of Quorum.** Chairperson Leichtnam declared a quorum.
3. **Public Comments (*brief comments/statement regarding committee business*)**
  - The July 25<sup>th</sup> Economic Development Grant Review meeting will be rescheduled; further discussion to be held under agenda item #18 at end of meeting.
  - Shane Wucherpfnig shared that Caleb Armstrong, Land Conservation Specialist, submitted his resignation to take a position with Marathon County. Interviews will occur next week.
4. **Review Correspondence.** None.
5. **Consent Agenda:** The Consent Agenda included the following items: a) minutes of the June 7, 2023 CEED meeting; b) bills from Extension, Land & Water Conservation and Planning & Zoning; c) staff activity reports from Laura Huber, Matt Lippert, Kayla Rombalski, Allison Jonjak, Hannah Wendels, Mallory McGivern, Janell Wehr, Jackie Carattini, Anna James, Barb Peeters, Caleb Armstrong, Clinton Sabers, Kyle Andreae, Rod Mayer, Shane Wucherpfnig, Jason Grueneberg, Paul Bernard, Jeff Brewbaker, Brad Cook, Victoria Wilson and Kayla Rautio.
  - 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.
  - d. **Receive committee reports.** No additions or corrections needed.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve and accept the June 7, 2023 CEED minutes. Second by Tom Buttke. Motion carried unanimously.*

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve and accept the bills from Extension, Land & Water Conservation, 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. **Land & Water Conservation Department**

- a. Review and approve Keuffer permanent pasture/livestock fencing project (bid). A single bid was received from Real Fence for \$42,025.63 which fell within the expected price range.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve Keuffer livestock fencing project bid as most advantageous to Wood County. Second by Tom Buttke. Motion carried unanimously.*

- b. Discuss and take action to increase Nonmetallic Mining (NMM) and Financial Assurance (FA) fees effective January 1, 2024. Shane Wucherpfennig proposed a 20-25% increase in NMM fees and an increase in FA fees from \$4,500.00 per acre to \$6,000.00 per acre. The fees have not changed since 2015. Shane noted the county currently has 51 nonmetallic mines to inspect annually and is consistently 3 weeks short of budgeted time for the self-sustaining DNR program administered by LWCD. Every nonmetallic mine is required to have financial assurance to ensure that the county has enough money to cover administrative costs and to clean up and restore a nonmetallic mining site should the site operator or owner abandon the site. Discussion ensued.

It was noted fees should be reviewed annually or biannually so they can be increased in smaller increments. It was suggested one of the upcoming CEED tours include a reclaimed mine site.

*Motion by Tom Buttke to increase NMM fees by 20% effective January 1, 2024. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.*

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to increase financial assurance fees to \$6,000.00 per acre effective January 1, 2024. Second by Laura Valenstein. Motion carried unanimously.*

9. **Private Sewage** – None.

10. **Land Records** – None.

11. **County Surveyor** – None.

12. **Planning & Zoning**

- a. Consider zoning amendment resolution for the Town of Marshfield.  
Jason Grueneberg reviewed a map of the parcel and reason for the request.

*Motion by Jake Hahn to rezone Lot 1 of CSM: 9049, (S22, T25N, R3E), Parcel #11-00207A (15.97 acres) from agricultural to industrial. Second by Laura Valenstein. Motion carried unanimously.*

13. **Economic Development**

- a. Project Close-Out report from Point Basse Economic Development Outdoor Shelter project. Tina Krummel reported that the shelter project is almost complete with electricity to be installed since the roof was completed last week. A dedication will be held this fall. Tina thanked the committee for their support of the project.

- b. Project Close-Out report from Village of Port Edwards Kayak Put-ins project. Ray Bossert requested a 30-day extension to provide close-out report. The report will be included on the agenda for the August 2, 2023 CEED meeting.
- c. Update from Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce and consider release of 2023 Economic Development funds in the amount of \$25,000. Staci Kivi provided the committee with key updates from the Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce. It was noted the chamber assisted/supported over \$425,000.00 in grants in 2022.

*Motion by Todd Buttke to release economic development funds in the amount of \$25,000.00 to the Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce. Second by Laura Valenstein. Motion carried unanimously.*

- d. Update from Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry and consider release of 2023 Economic Development funds in the amount of \$25,000. Denise Sonneman provided the committee with key metrics from the Marshfield Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Discussion ensued regarding challenges in funding for child care due to the state legislature voting to end funding for the pandemic-era child care subsidy program. It was noted child care funding remains a high priority for ARPA funding. Wood County has been classified as being in economic distress which may result in increased eligibility for additional programs.

*Motion by Tom Buttke to release economic development funds in the amount of \$25,000.00 to the Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Second by Jake Hahn. Motion carried unanimously.*

- e. Discuss increase funding request of \$6,000 for Central Wisconsin Junior Fair for 2023. Jason Grueneberg reviewed request, noting costs totaled \$52,000.00. It was noted that it is imperative budgets be reviewed annually to request increases in funding as needed to keep pace with increasing costs. After further discussion, the committee would like a Central Wisconsin Fair representative to attend a CEED meeting to review the fair budget.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to release ready implementation funds in the amount of \$6,000.00 to the Central Wisconsin Junior Fair for 2023. Second by Tom Buttke. Motion carried unanimously.*

- f. Review/Approve CEED grant funding one-page semiannual "Progress Report" and one-page final "Project Summary with pictorial documentation" forms. Forms proposed to provide updates to CEED committee and for assurance that county investment was used for intended purpose. Discussion ensued.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to require progress report for any economic development funds approved via the grant process. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Voting Aye: Tom Buttke, Dave LaFontaine, Bill Leichtnam, Laura Valenstein. Voting Nay: Jake Hahn. Motion carried.*

#### 14. Extension

- a. General Office Update
- Jeremy Solin introduced Michelle Van Krey as the FoodWise Healthy Communities Coordinator who serves Area 7 for the Extension (Wood, Clark, Marathon & Portage counties). Her position is regional with a focus on changing policies/systems around hunger and nutrition.

- Due to funding for Anna James position being inadvertently left out of the DNR budget, additional funding options are being explored through NRCS and other agencies. We are optimistic funding can be obtained to bridge the 2-year budget gap and get it reinstated in the next state budget. The committee asked that Jeremy keep the committee apprised of the situation in order to take action as needed.

b. 2022 Annual Report

The 2022 Annual Report was included in the CEED meeting packet which will be included in the next County Board meeting packet. Jeremy will also provide the County Board with hard copies at their next meeting.

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

16. **Schedule next regular committee meeting**

Wednesday, August 2, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

17. **Agenda items for next meeting**

- a. Close out report for Village of Port Edwards Kayak Put-In project
- b. Further discussion of Wood County economic distress classification
- c. Update on *Uniquely Wisconsin* project
- d. Marshfield County Fair budget presentation

18. **Schedule any additional meetings if necessary**

The Economic Development Grant Review meeting scheduled for July 25, 2023 will be rescheduled due to a conflict. Victoria Wilson will send Doodle poll to committee members with potential dates.

19. **Adjourn**

Chair Bill Leichtnam declared the CEED Meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Minutes by Barbara Peeters, Land & Water Conservation Department and in draft form until approved at next meeting.