

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, December 6, 2023

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: Courthouse – Room 114

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

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. There was no public comment.
3. Motion by LaFontaine/Valenstein to approve the minutes of the previous meetings. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Motion by LaFontaine/Buttke to approve the vouchers, monthly department reports and committee reports. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Alliant Energy representative Ben Tanko presented a PowerPoint about a proposed wind turbine to be located on Wood County land in Marathon County, currently leased to the UW Board of Regents for the Experimental Station. He presented a possible timeline and basic lease language. Contact will be made with the Board of Regents on the proposal as well as the value of Wood County owning that land.
6. Wucherpfennig reviewed the membership of the citizen member on the CEED Committee. Carmen Good has submitted her resignation and there is an ag producer interested in serving in the capacity. Motion by Leichtnam/Good to recommend Joe Behlen to the county board chair for appointment to the CEED Committee as an ag producer member. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Wucherpfennig presented the rebid for one part of the Keuffer livestock watering system. Motion by Valenstein/Buttke to accept the low bid of \$12,941.00 as a basis for cost share dollars. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Wucherpfennig presented the bid for the Lewis rip rap project. One bid was received from Kolo Trucking for \$34,759.00. Motion by Buttke/Hahn to approve this bid as a basis for cost share dollars. Motion carried unanimously.
9. Wucherpfennig reported that they recently set crop prices for the Wildlife Damage Claims program using a variety of sources to develop the pricing.

10. County Surveyor, Kevin Boyer, presented his year-end report, highlighting the highway road right of way project that will be continuing, and making sure that all surveys comply with industry standards.
11. Grueneberg reported the total amount of \$5,647 left in unused funds in the Economic Development Grant funding, including the REDI grants. With the amount so low, he recommendation was to let this lapse into the general fund. Committee consensus was to agree with this recommendation.
12. Grueneberg reported that the Uniquely Wisconsin spots highlighting Wood County are out and will be shared broadly within the county and with our economic development partners to get the word out.
13. Solin provided an Extension office update:
 - a. The joint groundwater educator position has been posted and will close on December 8th with interviews scheduled after that.
 - b. There may be an opportunity to get a Rural Health educator using funds from a federal grant. More information will follow.
 - c. Space is a concern with Extension with the addition of a number of educators. Solin is working with Facilities Manager to develop solutions.
 - d. Working with IT to come up with a solution of poor cell phone coverage within the department.
14. Rombalski provided a 2023 Clean Sweep recap. The total number collected was down from previous years. Information on this clean sweep will be shared with the municipalities. There will be 2 Clean Sweeps in 2024. May 25th in Marshfield and September 7th in Wisconsin Rapids.
15. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 3rd at 9:00 AM.
16. A recess was called at 10:43 AM and the committee reconvened at 10:50 AM. Good is excused.
17. Motion by Valenstein/LaFontaine to go into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats 19.85(1)(e) & (f) to consider allegations of violation of a user agreement by a contractor. Motion carried unanimously.
18. Motion by LaFontaine/Valenstein move into open session. Motion carried unanimously.
19. Motion by Valenstein/Buttke to go into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(c), to conduct performance reviews of department heads they oversee. Motion carried unanimously.
20. Motion by Valenstein/LaFontaine to move into open session. Motion carried unanimously.

21. Chairman Leichtnam declared the meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM.

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

Conservation, Education, & Economic Development Committee

December 6, 2023

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