

AGENDA
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, December 6, 2023

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Wood County Courthouse – Room 114

1. Call meeting to order
2. Declaration of Quorum
3. Public Comments (*brief comments/statement regarding committee business*)
4. Review Correspondence.
5. Consent Agenda.
 - a. Approve minutes of previous meetings
 - b. Approve bills
 - c. Receive staff activity reports
 - d. Receive committee reports
6. Review items, if any, pulled from Consent Agenda.
7. Risk and Injury Report
8. Land & Water Conservation Department
 - a. Discuss AG producer representation on CEED Committee.
 - b. Review and approve bids for Keuffer livestock watering system/solar project (rebid).
 - c. Review and approve bids for Lewis rip rap project.
 - d. 2023 Wildlife Abatement Crop Damage Prices (informational).
9. Private Sewage
10. Land Records
11. County Surveyor
 - a. County Surveyor annual report.
12. Planning & Zoning
 - a. Review authorization to utilize unused '23 Economic Development monies.
13. Economic Development
 - a. Update from Alliant Energy on proposed project on county owned property.
 - b. Update on Uniquely Wisconsin
14. Extension
 - a. General Office Update
 - b. 2023 Clean Sweep Recap
15. Requests for per diem for meeting attendants
16. Schedule next regular committee meeting
17. Agenda items for next meeting
18. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary
19. The Committee may 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
20. Return to open session
21. The Committee may go into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(c), to conduct performance reviews of department heads they oversee.
22. Return to open session
23. Adjourn

Join by phone

+1-408-418-9388 United States Toll
Meeting number (access code): 2483 188 1340

Join by WebEx App or Web

<https://woodcountywi.webex.com/woodcountywi/j.php?MTID=ma30a8771e3db9bf538607a5813026952>

Meeting number (access code): 2483 188 1340
Meeting password: 120623

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, November 1, 2023

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: Courthouse – Room 114

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED: 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/Buttke to approve the minutes of the previous meetings. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Motion by LaFontaine/Hahn to approve the vouchers and monthly department reports. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Wucherpennig presented the bids for one part of the Keuffer livestock watering system, this being the drilled well. There were no bids for the other components. Motion by Buttke/LaFontaine to accept the bid from Bertram Junemann Well Drilling for \$8,800 as a basis for cost share dollars. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Joe Behlen introduced himself to the committee and vice versa, and is interested in serving as the ag producer member. The timeline for appointment will be finalized in December. Due to a state law change, the citizen member of this committee has to be an ag producer and not a Farm Service Agency representative.
7. Chair Leichtnam reviewed the process for conducting the evaluations of the Planning & Zoning Director and Land Conservationist. The department heads were instructed to complete a self-evaluation and narrative and to return those to Chair Leichtnam by December 1st.
8. Gruenberg informed the committee of the resignation of the Code Administrator. Recruitment continues and the use of contracted help to sign off on certain plans, etc. is in place.
9. Grueneberg updated the committee on the funds remaining (approximately \$11,000) for economic development and an opportunity for broadband expansion in the Town of

Lincoln. Country Wireless is looking to apply for a \$7M broadband grant to bring fiber to that section of the county. A matching fund donation may help with the scoring of this grant. Motion by Leichtnam/Valenstein to release \$500 in economic development grant funding for a cost share in the Country Wireless grant application, with the funds being released only if the grant request is successful. Motion carried 3-2, Voting no were Buttke and LaFontaine.

10. Grueneberg & Arndt presented a resolution approving a zoning amendment for the Town of Saratoga. The amendments do not conflict with any Wood County zoning ordinance. Motion by LaFontaine/Buttke to approve the resolution and forward onto the county board for their consideration. Motion carried unanimously.
11. Solin provided an Extension office update, stating they are fully staffed at this point.
12. Solin reported that due to additional funding from both the state and federal government, we still have a 50% educator position available. In working with NRCS, there is funding to make a full 100% position using the county's 50% funding and NRCS' 50% funding to fund a full time Groundwater Regional Educator. This would be a 2 year pilot program. Motion by LaFontaine/Valenstein to approve the creation of this educator position using the funding mechanism described above. Motion carried unanimously.
13. Solin presented the 2024 Extension contract that was handed out at the last meeting. Motion by LaFontaine/Buttke to approve the 2024 Extension contract as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
14. Grueneberg & Rombalski presented the Rural Economic Development Initiative dashboard website. While it is not public yet, it soon will be. It shares the information from the various workgroups and their membership as well as their meeting minutes. A link was sent to the committee members.
15. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 6th at 9:00 AM and will include department head evaluations.
16. Motion by Buttke/LaFontaine to adjourn. Motion carried at 10:55 AM.

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

November 1, 2023

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Committee Report

County of Wood

Report of claims for: Extension Wood County

For the period of: November 2023

For the range of vouchers: 30230137 - 30230148

Voucher	Vendor Name	Nature of Claim	Doc Date	Amount	Paid
30230137	UW MADISON EXTENSION	2023 4H Congress Delegate Fee	11/07/2023	\$1,300.00	P
30230138	AWARDS 'N MORE	4H Recognition Awards	11/14/2023	\$39.75	P
30230139	CENTRAL WI CULTURAL CENTER INC	Staff Development	11/14/2023	\$300.00	P
30230140	US BANK	November Credit Card Bill	11/21/2023	\$618.72	
30230141	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Office Supplies	11/21/2023	\$48.63	P
30230142	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Office & Kitchen Supplies	11/21/2023	\$55.18	P
30230143	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Office Supplies	11/21/2023	\$71.28	P
30230144	CARATTINI JACKIE	November Expenses	11/21/2023	\$172.92	P
30230145	CARBAJAL JASMINE	November Expenses	11/21/2023	\$254.14	P
30230146	ROMBALSKI KAYLA-ROSE	November Expenses	11/21/2023	\$104.89	P
30230147	VEOLIA ES TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS	Clean Sweep - Agricultural	11/28/2023	\$496.50	
30230148	VEOLIA ES TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS	Clean Sweep - Household	11/28/2023	\$15,196.04	
Grand Total:				\$18,658.05	

Signatures

Committee Chair:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

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Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Report

County of Wood

Report of claims for: Land & Water Conservation Department

For the period of: November 2023

For the range of vouchers: 18230160 - 18230170

Voucher	Vendor Name	Nature of Claim	Doc Date	Amount	Paid
18230160	AGSOURCE COOPERATIVE SERVICES	Wastewater Testing	10/30/2023	\$107.00	P
18230161	GILBERTSON GEORGE & JILL	Cost Share - Nutrient Management	11/09/2023	\$350.00	P
18230162	KNUTH RONALD	Cost Share - Cover Crops	11/09/2023	\$442.50	P
18230163	KNUTH RONALD	Cost Share - Cover Crops	11/09/2023	\$295.80	P
18230164	KNUTH RONALD	Cost Share - Cover Crops	11/09/2023	\$517.65	P
18230165	STAPLES ADVANTAGE	Office Supplies	11/09/2023	\$81.73	P
18230166	ARMAGOST RICHARD C JR	Cost Share - Cover Crops	11/17/2023	\$175.00	P
18230167	US BANK	WI Pesticide Certification Manual	11/17/2023	\$52.75	
18230168	ROTH GOLDEN ACRES LLC	MC - Cost Share Cover Crops	11/28/2023	\$6,197.50	
18230169	ROTH GOLDEN ACRES LLC	MC-Cost Share Cover Crops	11/28/2023	\$787.50	
18230170	ROTH GOLDEN ACRES LLC	MC-Cost Share Cover Crops	11/28/2023	\$592.50	
Grand Total:				\$9,599.93	

Signatures

Committee Chair:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Report

County of Wood

Report of claims for: Planning & Zoning

For the period of: November 2023

For the range of vouchers: 22230075 - 22230081

Voucher	Vendor Name	Nature of Claim	Doc Date	Amount	Paid
22230075	BOYER KEVIN	SU-Services per contract Nov	11/01/2023	\$833.00	P
22230076	INDUSTRY SERVICES DIVISION	PS-October Permits	11/08/2023	\$1,000.00	P
22230077	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	PS-Office Suplies	10/29/2023	\$19.74	P
22230078	STAPLES ADVANTAGE	LR-Office Supplies	10/31/2023	\$345.08	P
22230079	OPPORTUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER	PS-Other Prof Svcs	10/31/2023	\$2,297.90	P
22230080	WI DEPT OF SAFETY & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	PS-Dues	11/09/2023	\$35.83	P
22230081	US BANK	LR/ED/PL/PS Credit Card Chgs	11/17/2023	\$340.43	
Grand Total:				\$4,871.98	

Signatures

Committee Chair:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:



Extension Wood County staff led, delivered, planned or collaborated on all of the following activities:

4-H POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Laura Huber, 4-H Program Educator

Jasmine Carbajal, 4-H Associate Educator (Marathon & Wood Counties)

Malina Carattini, 4-H Americorps member

- A six-week educational series called Juntos (Together) where Latinx high school students and their families learned tools and resources to help students achieve high school graduation and post-secondary academic success which is the goal of the program.
- A training session for youth treasurers and adult financial managers in Wood County 4-H clubs and groups in which they learned how to fulfill their roles and responsibilities. Youth and adult leaders learned how to work in partnership. The goal was to build financial skills and to ensure that 4-H financial policies are understood and followed.
- A radio interview on local radio (WFHR) where the listeners learn about 4-H's positive youth development programs. These interviews help reach new audiences and help garner support for overall 4-H efforts.

AGRICULTURE

Matt Lippert, Agriculture Educator

- A field study data collection in collaboration with Colorado State University to better understand the practices and challenges associated with transportation of pre-weaned dairy heifer, dairy bull, and beef x dairy calves from the source (dairy farms), hauler, and receiver (calf raiser). Results from this study will help dairy farmers, managers, haulers, calf raisers, and the dairy community in adopting practices and improving transportation welfare to improve farm business viability and food safety.
- Planning for development of factsheets/articles, longer publications, and videos on nutrition, genetics, & reproduction topics. The goal of this effort is to increase farmer, nutritionist, veterinarian, and other agribusiness professionals understanding of management of these topics to help improve farm sustainability and economic viability.
- A pasture walk on an organic dairy farm was held for local dairy producers to learn about sustainable practices in pasture management and the management of pasture grazed dairy cows and replacements.
 - Following two previous years of successful fall grazing pasture walks, local Extension Educators organized a pasture walk on the farm of a very successful organic dairy producer belonging to the plain faith community. Working with the local County Land and Water Conservation departments, an organic milk cooperative, and a vendor and provider of organic farm supplies, and ultimately with the farmer host, topics of interest, addressing the current needs of organic dairy producers were identified. These topics included establishment of perennial pasture mixtures, maintaining high yield, crop rotation and high forage quality with maximum use of crop cover to minimize erosion and to maintain soil health; breeding and identifying the optimum type of dairy cow selecting for longevity, disease resistance, fertility and consistent yields of high component milk suitable for organic markets; raising of dairy replacements on pasture systems; and testing of soil and interpreting soil reports to economically improve pasture yield



- Extension educators were identified to present on these topics and to lead group discussions with the participants and the host farm to learn how these goals were being addressed on this dairy farm.
- Promotion of the event among the plain faith organic dairy farm community and with Land Conservation Departments and other groups resulting in a successful day with dynamic and interactive discussion.
- Planning for a dairy goat field day to be held in the local Amish Community who are expanding in goat production capacity and who as new producers have many production and marketing related questions.
- Plans for a dairy open house on a robotic dairy farm are being developed to address the high level of interest by dairy producers to embrace this cow management, production enhancing and labor saving technology.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Kayla Rombalski, Community Development Educator

- Facilitation of four REDI (Rural Economic Development Initiative) Implementation Team meetings, including note taking. The purpose of these meetings is to advance goal completion of objectives in each area; general economic development; broadband; child care; housing; and entrepreneurship. These strategic objectives enhance the economic vitality and quality of life of Wood County.
- Development of a REDI (Rural Economic Development Initiative) online dashboard where County board members, implementation team members, and staff can view minutes, goal progress and team achievements. The aim of this effort is to improve communication and strengthen stakeholder relationships in order to enhance the economic vitality and quality of life of Wood County.
- A diversity and inclusion program for community leaders where local context is discussed to make participants more aware of their decisions for greater equity.

CRANBERRIES

Allison Jonjak, Cranberry Educator

- Small plot field research exploring the use of a new class of fungicides in concert with familiar registered fungicides, allowing cranberry growers to control disease while preventing fungicide resistance by using multiple modes of action, was developed.
- A large scale field research project studying the efficacy of registered and experimental chemistries against cranberry flea beetle in cranberry marshes was developed. This will enable growers to control the pest while maintaining crop health and safety. (
- A research project studying the efficacy of registered and experimental chemistries against blunt-nosed leafhopper adults (the vector of an incurable disease), in cranberry marshes was developed. This will enable growers to control the pest and prevent transmission of the disease.
- A research project studying the efficacy of registered and experimental chemistries against blunt-nosed leafhopper nymphs (the vector of an incurable disease), in cranberry marshes was developed. This will enable growers to control the pest and prevent transmission of the disease.



FOODWISE

Hannah Wendels, FoodWise Nutrition Educator

Mallory McGivern, FoodWise Administrator

- Monthly educational sessions and training (Adulting 101) for teens at River Cities Alternative High School. The goal of this effort is to empower teens to adopt healthier coping skills to handle stress and anxiety along with life skills such as budgeting, purchasing a car, tenant rights in WI to help prepare and ease the transition into adult life and independent living.
- A Healthy Living series for teens (grades 9-12) at the alternative high school (River Cities), where students learn basic life skills such as food preparation and cooking skills, budgeting and finance skills, and mindfulness activities to better prepare them for their future and living on their own.
- A 12-week series of strength training sessions (StrongBodies) in Wood county (Nekoosa), for where older adults learn best practices and learn nutrition and health education. Participants engage in regular strength training exercises to improve strength, balance, and flexibility so they can stay healthy and socially connected.
- A partnership with ADRC, United Way, FOCUS Food Pantry, and the Housing Authority of Wisconsin Rapids that provides "Stockboxes for Seniors", a monthly food box service where low-income seniors can receive at least 10 pounds of pantry staples and nutritious foods. The goal of this partnership is to promote the boxes with community partners with the overall goal to improve food security.

HORTICULTURE

Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator

- An in person horticulture course where Wood County residents and potential Master Gardener Trainees learn the fundamental principles of IPM based gardening to increase awareness and knowledge of resources to address environmental contamination and pollution due to overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments.
- A community of practice for horticulture educators where we explore strategies and resources to expand horticulture education and outreach to underrepresented audiences. The goal of participating in this group is to dig into ways we can locally continue to grow and enhance our horticulture programs to reach more diverse audiences.
- Planning for the creation of a repository of existing horticultural resources in multiple languages for home/community gardeners of all abilities. The goal of this effort is to make this repository accessible on the Horticulture Topic Hub.
- Developing informal learning communities utilizing the Horticulture Program's social media for all Wisconsin gardeners, including underserved populations. The goal of this effort is to provide accurate, practical and up-to-date information to the public primarily through the topic hub in order to bolster educational outreach efforts in support of addressing the Horticulture Program objectives.



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONSHIPS

Jackie Carattini, Human Development and Relationships Educator

- A 6-session wellness series (WeCOPE) for adults where participants learned different strategies that support awareness of mind-body connection. The goal of this effort is to offer skills to decrease stress and increase positive emotions of participants.
- A diversity and inclusion program for community leaders where local context is discussed to make participants more aware of their decisions for greater equity.
- Monthly planning meetings to address mental health outreach with in the Hmong communities in WI. The goal is to collaborate to provide Mental Health First aid and QPR trainings to increase awareness of mental health challenges and prevention efforts.
- Monthly educational sessions and training (Adulting 101) for teens at River Cities Alternative High School. The goal of this effort is to empower teens to adopt healthier coping skills to handle stress and anxiety along with life skills such as budgeting, purchasing a car, tenant rights in WI to help prepare and ease the transition into adult life and independent living.
- A Healthy Living series for teens (grades 9-12) at the alternative high school (River Cities), where students learn basic life skills such as food preparation and cooking skills, budgeting and finance skills, and mindfulness activities to better prepare them for their future and living on their own.
- Two online workshops ("Rent Smart" in the Wood County Jail) per month where participants gain knowledge and skills essential for a successful renting experience. This effort is designed to encourage safe and sober housing stability.
- Financial coaching sessions with residents where we support them in setting and developing financial goals, designed to assist clients in developing the skills to meet basic needs.
- A series of monthly, in-person workshops (Rent Smart) for renters where participants gain knowledge and skills essential for a successful renting experience. This effort is to encourage safe and sober housing stability.
- An online program (Money Matters) for participants who want to improve their financial knowledge, where they complete 1-12 modules on different financial topics. The goal of the Money Matters modules is to increase participants' knowledge on topics such as credit scores and reports, making a spending plan, what to do when you can't pay your bills, and identifying financial strengths so that participants can apply these skills in the future.
- An online 6-session course for renters where participants learn how to find and apply for rental housing, understand their responsibilities as a renter, how to communicate effectively with their landlords, and manage housing expenses. Through this, homeless populations and those who have negative rental records are able to increase their ability to find and keep safe affordable housing, thereby increasing their stability and decreasing their reliance on public supports.



NATURAL RESOURCES

Anna James, Natural Resources Educator

- Participation in the advisory panel of a local producer-led watershed group for farmers, conservationists and community members of the Big Eau Pleine watershed, by assisting with planning and facilitating activities geared toward increasing the awareness and adoption of conservation and ultimately water quality of the Big Eau Pleine and Wisconsin River watersheds.
- A survey of agencies and organizations that support farmer-led watershed groups in Wisconsin was conducted to better understand how these groups are functioning and the nature of support they receive from their partners. Results of the survey will be used to inform decisions about what types of support are most beneficial and most needed by the farmer-led groups.



Wood County, Wisconsin LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Activities Report for Barb Peeters - November 2023

- Answered phones, replied to emails and processed incoming and outgoing LWCD mail.
- Compiled LWCD payroll percentages and forwarded to Finance prior to Nov. 2, 16 & 30 payrolls.
- Reviewed payroll reports and payroll registers; submitted journal entries to correct fringe benefits that were credited to incorrect accounts.
- Responded to numerous customer inquiries about the LWCD tree/shrub/wildflower seed sale.
- Attended November 1st CEED meeting via WebEx.
- Finalized LWCD annual newsletter (with the 2024 tree/shrub/wildflower sale information and order forms) and put on LWCD website
- Sent out the LWCD newsletter with annual tree/shrub/seed sale information (emailed to over 700 landowners & sent snail mail to over 150 landowners).
- Typed and sent out News Release for tree/shrub/wildflower sale to 4 Wood County newspapers.
- Completed October sales tax report and forwarded to Finance.
- Completed CREP annual report (had County Conservationist review report) & submitted to DATCP.
- Created bid & re-bid letters for Luke Keuffer's livestock watering system & solar panel projects.
- Scheduled, attended and typed minutes for Nov. 2, 8, 17 and 30 staff meetings.
- Ordered office supplies and processed invoice(s). Processed fuel invoice from Highway Dept.
- Reviewed DATCP's monthly report for November 2023.
- Completed six SWRM reimbursement requests totaling \$6,405.95 and forwarded to DATCP for payment (well decommissioning and five cover crops).
- Calculated and completed the 2023 DATCP Grant Staff and Support Reimbursement Request in the amount of \$175,847.00 and forwarded to DATCP for payment.
- Assisted customers who came to the office to complete tree order forms or drop off order forms.
- Processed 30 order forms for the tree, shrub and wildflower sale and deposited payments (as received) totaling \$3,286.12.
- Notified customers who submitted incorrect amount(s) for tree order(s) and requested additional amount(s) be submitted by check.
- Assisted Rod Mayer with mailing of the nonmetallic mining annual permit fees and financial assurance letters.
- Processed nonmetallic mining annual permit fees as received.
- Processed DATCP cost-share reimbursement payments totaling \$14,520.95.
- Printed reports and reviewed 2023 budget to assure no function levels exceeded 2023 budget amounts. Submitted to County Conservationist for review.
- Assisted Rod Mayer with mailing of Wildlife Damage Claim forms to landowners.
- Processed 2023 DATCP grant staff & support reimbursement payment of \$175,847.00.
- Assisted Rod Mayer with submission of 2024 Wildlife Damage Budget and Reimbursement Application information to DNR.
- Processed 3 Mill Creek cost share payments to landowners (for cover crops) totaling \$7,577.50.
- Electronically submitted staff reports/packet materials to the County Clerk's office for CEED packet.
- Organized County Board packet and electronically submitted to the County Clerk's office.

Activities Report for Emily Salvinski

-November 2023-

- **Wednesday, November 1.** Explored WI DNR's PFAS map ahead of meeting on PFAS. Looked at standards and test costs.
- **Tuesday, November 2.** Attended staff meeting. Attended PFAS data viewing meeting.
- **Monday, November 6.** Measured streamflow and 6 locations within southeast Wood Co.
- **Tuesday, November 7.** Attended staff meeting. Met with farmer and then measured field buffers using GPS.
- **Thursday, November 16.** Worked on multiple contracts. Measured field buffers using GPS.
- **Friday, November 17.** Measured field buffers using GPS. Worked on contracts.
- **Monday, November 20.** Did P reductions using snapplus for cover crops and added them into GIS. Mapped contracts into GIS. Entered streamflow data into swims from earlier in the month.
- **Tuesday, November 21.** Put together cover crop contract for farmer.
- **Tuesday, November 28.** Met with farmer to get contracts signed and checked cover crops. Put together maps and numbers for Shane's Mill Creek presentation.
- **Wednesday, November 29.** Put together P reductions in snap plus and added to GIS.

Activities Report for Kyle Andreae – November, 2023

- November 1 – Crep inspections, Gorst construction inspections
- November 2 – Staff meeting, Gorst construction inspections
- November 3 – Gorst inspections
- November 6 – Gorst inspections, review updated design standards
- November 7 – Gorst inspections, review updated design standards
- November 8 – Staff meeting, review updated design standards, discharge response
- November 9 – Theil construction inspections, Theil as-built
- November 10 – Theil as-built
- November 13 – Theil as-built, Sick
- November 14 – Sick
- November 15 – Gorst construction inspections, Theil as-built
- November 16 – Review updated design standards
- November 17 – Staff meeting, Theil construction inspections
- November 20 – Vacation
- November 21 – Vacation
- November 22 – Vacation
- November 23 – Holiday
- November 24 – Holiday
- November 27 – Theil follow up, Lewis follow up, Gorst inspections
- November 28 – Keuffer design clarification
- November 29 – Keuffer site visit, Keuffer design clarification
- November 30 – Staff meeting, Theil site visit, Theil as-built



Activities Report for Kendra Kunding – November 2023

- Read and reviewed Wisconsin Legislature Chapter NR 120: Priority Watershed and Priority Lake Program.
- Continued training, reading, and studying to become a certified pesticide applicator.
- Participated in the November 2nd staff meeting to discuss cost-share/grant funds for 2023 and 2024.
- Attended the November Lakes & Rivers Partnership Meeting.
- Attended the Aquatic Invasive Species Fall Partnership Meeting.
- Assisted Kyle with CREP field inspections.
- Read and reviewed Wisconsin Legislature Chapter NR 40: Invasive Species Identification, Classification and Control.
- Completed a Snap Plus demo nutrient management plan.
 - Watched recorded Snap Plus trainings, including how to use the rotation wizard and nutrient planning.
- Read and reviewed Wisconsin Legislature Chapter NR 107: Aquatic Plant Management.
- Read and reviewed Wisconsin Legislature Chapter NR 109: Aquatic Plants: Introduction, Manual Removal and Mechanical Control Regulations.
- Assisted DNR staff and Domtar staff on their stranded wildlife salvage efforts due to the drawdown between the Port Edwards and Nekoosa dams as well as assisting DNR staff on a second day for an in-depth search of the non-native freshwater golden clam (*Corbicula fluminea*).
 - Tasks included finding stranded native mussels and relocating them back to deeper water and looking for non-native mussels, clams, and snails.
 - We were specifically looking for a live, non-native freshwater golden clam specimen to verify its presence within the Wisconsin River system as empty shells were found downstream in 2021 by Chris Hamerla and myself.
 - Used specialized rakes and shovels to dig into sediment and look for live freshwater golden clams as they burrow into the sediment for protection.
 - No live freshwater golden clams or empty shells were found.
 - Shells of Chinese mystery snails and zebra mussels were found (not a new discovery).
 - Walked approximately three miles of shoreline in search of the native and non-native species.
- Participated in the November 17th staff meeting to discuss schedules and cost-share/grant funds for 2023 and 2024.
- Assisted Shane with cost-share agreement signatures and cover-crop verification.
- Attended webinars on groundwater resource concerns, managed grazing systems, amending soil properties with lime, and economics of soil loss.
- Participated in the November 30th staff meeting to discuss cost share/grant funds for 2023 and 2024.

Activities Report for Rod Mayer – NOVEMBER 2023

- Attended staff meetings Nov. 2, 8, 17 & 30th.
- Modified procedure to bring GPS data into GIS mapping system.
- DNR correspondence for mine site pumping without correct storm water permitting (B&R).
- Completed 3rd quarter Wildlife Damage and Abatement program reimbursement request (29 pages, signatures, DNR database updates) and sent to DNR.
- Completed annual permit/fee – additional notes letter for all mine operators.
- Completed NMM end of year inspection administration: GIS map of each site showing active acres, Fee/FA amounts needed – expiration dates letter, binder updates, spreadsheet updates, file copies, file inspection form, software updates, mail all. (52 sites)
- DNR correspondence for possible amendment to plan for changes with storm water practice (Wolosek).
- Addressed pond build complaint – correspondence with complainant and landowner.
- Completed reclamation administration on two sites that were reclaimed and released: letters, certificates, vegetative transect documentation, maps, spreadsheet updates, correspondence to DNR, etc.
- Correspondence for existing wildlife damage fence modification – issued conditional approval for addition of gate at landowner's expense. (Twin Lakes)
- Completed all crop appraisal administration for three farms – approx. 1,193 acres appraised. Damage GIS maps, compute acres damaged, complete damage forms and calculations (Bushel/tons per acre), database updates, scans, file updates, etc.
- Sent Wood County deer donation info packet to pantries receiving donated venison. Contacted DNR for processor change of ownership participation in program. Sent correspondence to DNR and processor for deer harvested in Sandhill State lands being donated.
- Correspondence for complaint of landowner possibly digging banks of 7 Mile Creek. Info sent to DNR wetlands and County Shore land zoning.
- Completed crop price spreadsheets. Averaged data from multiple sources locally and state wide. Contacted US dept. of Ag. APHIS wildlife experts in Portage and Clark county for comparable. Established local crop price for DNR payout of damaged crops.
- Completed wildlife damage claims for three landowners. Sent forms to landowners for signatures.
- Reviewed several mine sites getting out of compliance. Completed GIS maps to show the permitted areas allowed. Reviewed issues with administrator.
- Contact to Earth Inc. for financial assurance renew coming due beginning of December.



LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION
DEPARTMENT

Activities Report for Shane Wucherpennig - November 2023

- November 1 – CEED committee meeting, Meeting with Health Department
- November 2 – Field visits, contract signatures with landowners
- November 3 – Cost-share contracts, field visits
- November 6 – Field visits, emails, phone correspondence, Database updates
- November 7 – Staff meeting, Virtual meeting and schedule field visits with landowners
- November 8 – Roth Cover Crop checks, Farmland Preservation Plan Discussion with P&Z
- November 9 – Virtual meeting, Field visits, design work, Pond exemption request with Ryan Gruber
- November 10 – Roth Cover crop inspections, Ron Knuth Cover crop inspections
- November 13 – Citizens Water Group meeting.
- November 14 – HC Committee meeting – WI Land & Water
- November 15 – Field visit, Department head meeting
- November 16 – Roth Cover Buffer acreage digitizing
- November 17 – Roth Cover Buffer acreage digitizing
- November 20-24 – Vacation
- November 27 - Field visits, Leg admin meeting – Wisconsin Land & Water
- November 28 – Field visits, CSGCC Mtg.
- November 29 – Leadership Retreat Wood county MSTC
- November 30 – Staff Meeting, Landowner meeting, Field visit



Wood County WISCONSIN

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ZONING

TO: Conservation, Education & Economic Development Committee

FR: Jason Grueneberg, Planning & Zoning Director
Emily Arndt, County Planner
Paul Bernard, Land Records Coordinator
Vacant, Code Administrator
Brad Cook, Code Technician
Victoria Wilson, Program Assistant
Kayla Rautio, Program Assistant

RE: Staff Report for December 6, 2023

1. Economic Development (Jason Grueneberg)

Marshfield Economic Development Board – On November 2nd I attended the Marshfield EDB meeting. At the meeting I provided information on the Central Housing Region Housing Repair program, and also a general County economic development update. Other agenda items included EDB project updates, update on the 2024 Wood County Grant Program, and economic development activity updates.

Central Wisconsin Economic Development (CWED) Fund – On November 15th I participated in the CWED Board of Directors' meeting. Agenda items included follow-up from the strategic planning session, approval of financials, approval of the 2023-2024 budget, Loan Committee update and administrator/service provider update.

Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Meetings – In November I participated in the REDI Roundtable on the 9th, the Digital Equity Solutions Team on 16th, and the Entrepreneur Ecosystem on the 30th.

Central Wisconsin Economic Development Organizations (EDO) and Municipalities Meeting – On November 28th I participated in the Central Wisconsin Economic Development Organizations (EDO) and Municipalities meeting held in Pittsville. Some of the agenda items included WHEDA Housing Programs, WEDC program updates, a presentation on Central to Success, and roundtable updates.

2. Planning & Zoning (Emily Arndt)

1. Attended the Diversity and Inclusion Day for the Heart of Wisconsin Community Leadership Program
2. Attended Pittsville Community Forum
3. Continued correspondence with Town of Cameron and Town of Rock
4. Met with Chad Schooley to discuss the 5-year update for the Parks, Recreation, & Open Spaces Plan
5. Met with Rich Schmidt to discuss possible City of Nekoosa zoning and ordinance updates
6. Continued planning the organization of future Comprehensive Plans
7. Continued working with staff to ensure that questions are answered in a proficient manner.

3. **Land Records** (Paul Bernard)

- Parcel Mapping
- NG911 Data Preparation
- Custom Map Requests

4. **Code Administrator** (Vacant)

5. **Code Technician** (Brad Cook)

10-26-2023- WCCA Conference; Warrens, WI.

10-27-2023- WCCA Conference; Warrens, WI.

10-30-2023- Well Delegation DNR video course

10-31-2023- (7) well permits issued TN: 07,16,18, (2) new conventional inspections TN: 07,18

11-01-2023- (2) >24 mound inspection TN: 07,10, plow, tanks, abs.cell, (1) HT inspection TN:10, (1) <24 mound inspection TN: 18, tanks.

11-02-2023- (1) <24 mound inspection TN: 15; tanks, abs. cell, study for well delegation.

11-06-2023- (1) <24 mound inspection TN: 05, plow, (2) floodplain permits reviewed, issued

11-07-2023- (1) <24 mound inspection TN: 05, tanks, abs.cells, study for certified soil tester exam

11-08-2023- (1) floodplain permit reviewed, issued, study for certified soil tester exam.

11-9-2023- (4) well permits issued, study for certified soil tester exam.

11-10-2023- (2) well permits issued TN: 07, 17, study for certified soil tester exam.

11-13-2023- (1) <24 mound inspection TN: 21; plow (1) shoreland onsite inspection TN: 13, (1) new conventional inspection TN: 07

11-14-2023- (2) soil onsite inspections TN: 08, 17

11-15-2023- (2) <24 mound inspections TN: 17,21, plow, tanks, abs.cells, (1) replacement conventional inspection TN: 07

11-16-2023- (1) HT inspection TN: 11, study for certified soil tester exam

11-17-2023- (2) HT inspections TN: 15

11-20-2023- Vacation.

11-21-2023- Vacation

11-22-2023- Vacation

11-23-2023- Holiday

11-24-2023- Holiday

11-27-2023- (1) new conventional inspection TN: 18, submit/reviewed sanitary permits.

11-28-2023- (3) well permits issued,(4) submit/review sanitary permits, (1) HT inspection TN: 22

6. Office Activity (Victoria Wilson & Kayla Rautio)

- a. Monthly Sanitary and Well Permit Activity – There were 18 sanitary permits, 1 Shoreland permit and 12 well permits issued in November 2023.
- b. Triennial Program Fee Notices – 828 second notices will be sent on December 8th to property owners who have not paid the program fee that was due November 17, 2023.
- c. Septic System Maintenance Letters – 153 letters were sent from the Corporation Counsel Office to property owners who have not had their septic maintenance completed. The due date for septic maintenance was August 11, 2023.
- d. ArcGIS Pro Software Project – Victoria continues to assist Paul with Point of Interest projects. Kayla continues to assist Paul with various GIS mapping projects.
- e. Attended the following meetings/trainings & activities:
 - i. November 1st CEED meeting (VW-via WebEx)
 - ii. November 13th Citizen's Water Group (KW & VW)

CITIZENS WATER GROUP (OF WOOD COUNTY) MEETING

DATE: Monday November 13, 2023

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Teleconference via WebEx

Present (In person or via WebEx): Bill Leichtnam, Ben Jeffrey, Tim Wuebben, Dave Joosten, Tamas Houlihan, Ken Winters, Shane Wucherpennig, Gordy Gottbeheut, Sandy Cain, Rhonda Carrell, Cecile Stelzer-Johnson, and Bill Clendenning

1. Chair Leichtnam called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
2. There was no public comment.
3. Motion by Gottbeheut/Winters to approve the minutes from October 17th, 2023 meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Gottneheut/Winters to approve the minutes of the November 6th subcommittee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Correspondence/Updates/Handouts/Reports on Meetings Attended
 - Leichtnam shared informational handouts. News release from WIDNR: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/newsroom/release/84721> or see additional attachments in email.
 - Drinking Water in 8 Minnesota counties found to have unsafe levels of nitrates: <https://www.fox9.com/news/epa-warns-of-contaminated-drinking-water-in-8-southeast-minnesota-counties>
 - Stelzer-Johnson shared information from a recent Town of Grant meeting.
5. CWG "Next Steps"
 - What should this group be doing after the large group presentation in the Spring?
6. Plans for Off-site Panel discussion (work of subcommittee) Discussion took place on the following items:
 - Who will the panelists be?
 - What date? Monday 11th, 18th or 25th of March depending on availability.
 - Where? McMillan Library?
 - Who will help with presenting to the media that there will be a panel discussion?
 - Moderator?
 - Format of meeting?
7. Upcoming local & regional events to be aware of - None
8. Agenda items for next meeting (next agenda comes out on week prior)- None
9. Next meeting – December 11th @ 2:00 p.m. & schedule next subcommittee meeting
 - Events Subcommittee will meet in the McCourt room at McMillan Library on Monday November 27th at 2:00 p.m.
10. Adjourn – Carrell/Gottbeheut made a motion to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Notes by Victoria Wilson, Planning & Zoning Office



Wood County
LAND AND WATER
CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

2023 Wood County Crop Prices
Wood County Wildlife Damage, Abatement & Claims Program

Corn	\$5.87 per bushel
Soybeans	\$13.80 per bushel
Alfalfa	\$198.07 per ton

Sources averaged:

- APHIS (surrounding counties) – USDA
- USDA – National Ag Statistics Services
- Wisconsin Farm Reporter – NASS
- Ace Ethanol – Stanley
- UW Team Forage – Hay Report
- Allied Coop – Wisconsin Rapids (Progressive Farmer DTN)
- Marquis Grain – Necedah Ethanol
- AgWeb – Allied – Auburndale, Stratford, Stevens Point

Note: This is for the Wisconsin DNR Wildlife Damage, Abatement, & Claims Program. The farms enrolled in the FULL program are issued shooting permits, all land enrolled is opened to public hunting, and crop damage is appraised by Wood Co. Land and Water Conservation Dept. prior to harvest. The appraisals along with crop prices are submitted to DNR – who directly pay the crop owner for damages caused by wildlife for the given year.

Three farms were enrolled in the full public access/crop appraisal program for 2023 - with Corn, Soybean, and Alfalfa crops.

Total of 16 other landowners were enrolled in the program in 2023 for shooting permits without appraisals or apiary assistance.