

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, September 4, 2024

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: Courthouse – Room 114

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Leichtnam, Tom Buttke, Tim Hovendick, Russ Perlock

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Wayne Schulz, Joe Behlen

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. The minutes of August 7 & 13, 2024, were presented. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Motion by Hovendick/Buttke to approve the vouchers, monthly department reports and committee reports. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Ben Tanko from Alliant Energy reviewed the possibility of a lease agreement for wind energy for the Wood County land in Marathon County being leased to the Board of Regents for the Experimental Station. Planning & Zoning Director Grueneberg will discuss this possibility with the Board of Regents and bring this subject back at a future meeting.
6. Extension Area Director Solin presented the 2025 Extension budget for review. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve the budget as presented and forward to the Operations Committee for their consideration. Motion carried unanimously.
7. County Conservationist Wucherpennig presented the 2025 Land & Water Conservation Dept. budget for review. Motion by Hovendick/Perlock to approve the budget as presented and forward to the Operations Committee for their consideration. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Wucherpennig discussed the field day being held in Portage County coming up on September 17th. Committee members interested need to pre-register for the event.
9. Wucherpennig presented an update on the progress of the LWRM Plan update. A draft plan is posted to the LWCD website. The committee will need to hold a public hearing in November before it goes to the full county board for approval.
10. Wucherpennig updated the committee on the ongoing violations of non-metallic mines and manure runoff. These are progressing through the various legal proceedings.

11. Marshfield Parks & Recreation Director Justin Casperson reviewed the progress of the Braem Park Pickleball Courts and requested release of the economic grant funding allocated to the project. Motion by Buttke/Perlock to approve the release of \$25,000 of economic grant funding to the City of Marshfield for the Braem Park Pickleball Courts. Motion carried unanimously.
12. Casperson requested reallocation of \$12,500 of previously approved grant funding from the Wenzel Plaza restroom to the Braem Park Pickleball Courts, since the city has not decided what avenue to pursue with the restrooms. In addition, the Pickleball Courts bids came in over budget. Motion by Hovendick/Buttke to reallocate \$12,500 of economic development grant funding to the Braem Park Pickleball Court project. Motion carried unanimously.
13. City of Wisconsin Rapids Director of Community Development Kyle Kearns presented the progress of the downtown waterfront plan being conducted and requested the release of the \$25,000 economic development grant funding for this purpose. The plan is expected to be complete by the end of the year. Motion by Leichtnam/Hovendick to release \$25,000 of economic development grant funding to the City of Wisconsin Rapids for the waterfront plan. Motion carried unanimously.
14. Representatives of the North Wood County Historical Society requested release of \$25,000 of economic grant dollars for updates to the Upham Mansion but have not completed any of the work associated with the grant fund request yet but assured the committee that by the end of November, there would be significant progress. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve the release of \$25,000 of economic development grant dollars to the North Wood County Historical Society. Motion carried unanimously.
15. Planning & Zoning Director Grueneberg presented the 2025 Planning & Zoning budgets to the committee for review. Motion by Buttke/Perlock to approve the budgets as presented and forward to the Operations Committee for their review. Motion carried unanimously.
16. Grueneberg reminded the committee of the tour coming up on Friday, September 13th at 8:00 AM beginning in front of the courthouse.
17. Grueneberg presented the 2025 Economic Development budget to the committee for review. Motion by Buttke/Perlock to approve the budget and forward to the Operations Committee for their consideration. Motion carried unanimously.
18. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 2nd at 9:00 AM.
19. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously at 11:01 AM.

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

**Conservation, Education, & Economic Development Committee
September 4, 2024**

NAME	REPRESENTING
Bill O'Leary	WCB #15
Jeff Perzgar	WCB #1
DENNIS POLACH	WCB-14
Ed Newton	Finance
Tim Houender	WCB #5
Jeremy Sohe	Extension
Russ Perlock	WCB #4
Victoria Wilson	P#2
Peter Kastentholz	Corp. Counsel
Kayla Rombakski	EXTENSION
JUSTIN CASPERSON	CITY OF MARSHFIELD
Jason Grueneberg	P#2
Barb Peeters (Web Ex)	LWCA
Lance Pliml (Web Ex)	CB Chair