

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 7, 2024

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: Courthouse – Room 114

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Leichtnam, Dave LaFontaine, Jake Hahn, Tom Buttke, Joe Behlen

MEMBER EXCUSED: Laura Valenstein

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/Buttke to approve the vouchers, monthly department reports and committee reports. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Area Extension Director Solin provided an email updated due to his absence from the meeting:
 - a. Jen McNelly has been hired for the Groundwater Natural Resources Educator position. She starts next week. Jen was previously the Water Quality Specialist with Portage County Land & Water. Thank you to Chair Leichtnam for being on the interview team.
 - b. The Bilingual Community Health Educator position is posted. We hope to have that position start sometime in March.
 - c. Rombalski reported that the City of Pittsville was successful in receiving a THRIVE Grant for Rural Development. This grant can be used for planning of a larger scale project in the City.
6. Wucherpennig presented the dues request from Golden Sands RC&D. The full price is \$1,900 per year however Wood County has historically only paid 75% of that total. Motion by Buttke/LaFontaine to pay the 75% rate (\$1,425) for 2024. Motion carried unanimously.
7. The Land & Water Conservation Conference is coming up March 6-8, 2024 in Green Bay. Let Wucherpennig know if you wish to attend.

8. Wucherpennig reported that he presented the LWCD request for ARPA funding to the ARPA Adhoc Committee. They will meet again to review the presentations, and allocate the dollars.
9. Grueneberg discussed the upcoming Housing Summit and asked for REDI Implementation Funds to help defray any costs associated with presenting this conference. Motion by Hahn/LaFontaine to approve up to \$1,000 of REDI Implementation Funds for this purpose. Motion carried unanimously.
10. Grueneberg requested REDI Implementation Funds to help fund broadband infrastructure initiatives geared towards the northern townships in the county. Motion by Hahn/Buttke to approve not more than \$7,500 of REDI Implementation Funds for this purpose. Motion carried unanimously.
11. The Wood County Housing Summit is coming up on March 7th at Mid-State Technical College. If any committee members wish to attend, they are to get with the County Clerk's office to register. A meeting notice will be posted for this summit.
12. Grueneberg highlighted the 3 Uniquely Wisconsin videos that were linked in the CEED packet and encourage those in attendance to view them. They will also be posted to other venues as well.
13. The committee, along with Grueneberg and Rombalski, reviewed the application for economic development grants for 2025. Suggestions were made to staff for improvements to the form and process. They will be incorporated into a final document, to be presented at a future meeting.
14. Extension Associate Professor Jackie Carattini discussed the various programming that she is involved with that includes the Hmong Community. By doing this type of outreach, it builds relationships for future programming needs for minority communities. Much of the programming development has been paid for by grant funding.
15. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6th at 9:00 AM.
16. Motion by Buttke/LaFontaine to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously at 10:35 AM.

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

**Conservation, Education, & Economic Development Committee
February 7, 2024**

NAME	REPRESENTING
Sharon Wechsung	LWCD
DENNIS POLACH ✓	WCB-14
Jason Greenberg	P+2
JOE BEHLEN	LWCD
Kayla Rombalski	Extension
Victoria Wilson	P+3
Jackie Carranti	Extension
Barb Peeters (WebEx)	LWCD
Ben Jeffrey (WebEx)	Health Dept