

MINUTES

CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, May 7, 2025
TIME: 9:00 AM
PLACE: Courthouse – Conference Rm #302

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Leichtnam, Tom Buttke, Tim Hovendick, Wayne Schulz, Russ Perlock, George Gilbertson

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. Corporation Counsel Flanagan was present to discuss the Economic Development Grant Funding program and the current criteria and limitations placed on the applicants. He reviewed statutory guidance on allowable expenditures of the program, notably the limitation of application by sectarian causes. Consensus of the committee was to leave the current restriction language in place on the application. The scoring rubric was discussed. Motion by Buttke/Schulz to change the following criteria points:
 - a. Program provides a clear ROI for Wood County: from 25 points to 17 points
 - b. Program is clearly described: leave at 10 points
 - c. Program demonstrates alignment to REDI category: from 10 points to 14 points
 - d. Program includes a match. Match is clearly described, especially if in-kind: from 10 points to 14 points.Motion carried unanimously.
3. There was no public comment.
4. The minutes of the April 2, 2025, meeting were presented. Motion by Buttke/Perlock to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Motion by Schulz/Hovendick to approve the vouchers, monthly department reports and committee reports. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Extension Area Director Gatterman introduced the new Human Development & Relationships Educator Ben Eberlein to the committee. They reviewed the areas of education he provides and the residents this position serves.
7. County Conservationist Wucherpennig and Portage County Conservationist Tracy Arnold reviewed the sodium rates in the Mill Creek Watershed. Arnold reviewed the testing that has been completed all along the watershed and how the committee can track this information online. Many levels of the DNR are involved in this research with the ultimate hopes of being able to find the source of this pollutant.
8. LWCD Engineering Technician Andrae reviewed the presentation he gave to the Wisconsin Land + Water Conference, titled Drones & Conservation. He reviewed some of the data garnered by the drone and how it incorporates into all of the county data needed for their department.

9. Wucherpennig reviewed the 2024 departmental annual report with the committee.
10. Wucherpennig updated the committee on the status of the nitrate testing project and reviewed the map showing where the tests were conducted and the levels of nitrates found. He discussed the next steps and a questionnaire developed to help aid in the disbursement of ARPA funding for possible reverse osmosis systems.
11. Wucherpennig reviewed the status of the two ongoing violations within the department.
12. Chair Leichtnam called a 5-minute recess.
13. The Village of Port Edwards is officially requesting to opt out of the economic development grant funding for this year due to the inability to obtain a demolition permit from the landowner (DMI Property). The committee encourage the Village to apply again in the future.
14. GIS Specialist Bernard reviewed the 2025 Emergency Services Atlas that was developed for the fire department in the aid of fighting forest fires. DNR Grants helped pay for the project in the amount of \$22,000.
15. County Planner Arndt presented a resolution amending the City of Marshfield Sewer Service Area Map/Plan to allow for the development of I-State Trucking on the southeast part of the city. City Administrator Barg highlighted the pertinent information. Motion by Buttke/Schulz to approve the resolution and forward onto the county board for their consideration. Motion carried unanimously.
16. Planning & Zoning Director Grueneberg updated the committee on the state decision to close out the county CDBG Housing Grant Program across the state. There will, however, be opportunities for this type of funding for residents through the state. A resolution will be forthcoming next month to officially close out the program in Wood County.
17. Schulz attended the Town of Lincoln meeting to highlight and promote the nitrate testing being done by the Land & Water Conservation Dept. and requested per diem for attendance. Motion by Buttke/Perlock to approve the per diem request as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
18. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 4th, at 9:00 AM.
19. Chairman Leichtnam declared the meeting adjourned at 11:43 AM.

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

Conservation, Education, & Economic Development Committee
May 7, 2025

NAME	REPRESENTING
Bill Clederking	WCB #15
George Gilbertson	
Russ Perlock	WCB #4
DENNIS POLACK	WCB - #14
Wayne Schell	WCB #1
Barb Peeters	LWCD
Kyle Andrae	LWCD
Tracy Arnold	Portage Co.
Shane W.	LWCD
Ben Martinsen	Port Edwards
Nick Flanagan	Corp Council
Ben Eberlein	UW Extension
Kayla Romalski	Extension
Jason Greeneberg	P-3
Victoria Wilson (Web Ex)	P-3
Steve Burg (Web Ex)	C/Marshfield
Kendra Wilhelm (Web Ex)	LWCD
Lance Pliml (Web Ex)	CB Chair
Paul Bernard (Web Ex)	P-3
Julie Mancel (Web Ex)	P-3
Emily Arndt (Web Ex)	P-3