

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2019
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #115, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Kenneth Curry, Robert Ashbeck, Dave LaFontaine, Bill Leichtnam and Harvey Petersen.

Members Excused: Mark Holbrook.

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, Paul Bernard and Kim Keech.
Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpennig and Adam Groshek.
UW Extension Staff: Jackie Carattini and Nancy Turyk.

Others Present: Dist. #12 Supervisor Doug Machon, Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach (arrived at 10:48 am), Kevin Masarik (UWSP Groundwater Education Specialist) and Angel Whitehead (Heart of Wisconsin).

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Curry called the CEED Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Declaration of Quorum.** Chairperson Curry declared a quorum.
3. **Public Comment.** None
4. **Review Correspondence.**
 - A. Jason Grueneberg reminded everyone that the CEED Tour is Friday, October 4th. Closed toe shoes are required. Chairman Curry shared that per diem and mileage will be paid to committee members.
 - B. Chairman Curry shared that he attended the Wisconsin Counties Association Conference along with Bill Leichtnam and Dave LaFontaine. Highlighted workshops: Task Force on Water Quality Update, Challenges to Groundwater Quality & Quantity, Wisconsin Extension Committees Update and County Fair: Developing Young Talent.
5. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the September 17, 2019 CEED meeting, 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension and 3) staff activity reports from Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, Jeff Brewbaker, Stevana Hamus, Kim Keech, Victoria Wilson, Shane Wucherpennig, Adam Groshek, Rod Mayer, Emily Salvinski, Lori Ruess, Matt Lippert, Nancy Turyk, Jackie Carattini, Janell Wehr, Kelly Hammond and Laura Huber.
 - A. Minutes of September 17, 2019. No additions or corrections needed.
 - B. Department Bills. No additions or corrections needed.
 - C. Staff Activity Reports. No additions or corrections needed.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve and accept the September 17, 2019 CEED minutes, bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension, and staff activity reports as presented. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Risk and Injury Report.** None.
7. **Land & Water Conservation Department.**
 - A. Open bids and approve low bid for Pankratz Farms LLC Waste Storage Facility Adam Groshek shared that two bids were received for the Pankratz Farms LLC Waste Storage Facility. Bids

were mailed to eight contractors. Estimated cost of the manure waste storage facility to be \$40,000-\$50,000. Paul Bugar Trucking of Loyal sealed bid was the low bid for \$34,534.99.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to accept the low bid in the amount of \$34,534.99 from Paul Bugar Trucking of Loyal to base the cost sharing on. Second by Harvey Petersen. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Update on countywide well testing Shane Wucherpennig shared that the Health Department has been processing the water tests through the nitrate lab for a much reduced cost of \$10 per sample. There has been two rounds of sampling meeting 40% of the countywide well testing target of 822 water samples. Water sample testing for nitrates have been collected and tested throughout the county. Well testing will continue until the end of the year. Nitrate problem is throughout the county not just Port Edwards, Armenia or the Central Sands. \$8,500 has been budgeted for 2019. The more data that you have the more accurate the results.
- C. Discuss Portage County Siting resolution Bill Leichtnam explained the Portage County Siting Resolution that was passed by Portage County Board on September 25, 2019. There are unique geographic features throughout Wisconsin. ATCP 51 was created in 2004. DATCP convened the first Technical Committees in 2010, 2014 and 2018 making no changes to ATCP 51. Portage County has suggested local governments be allowed to pass more stringent standards to protect surface water, groundwater and protect public health or safety. Technical Committee must make a recommendation to DATCP in writing and the Board of DATCP present a scope statement to the Wisconsin Secretary of Agriculture and schedule for a public hearing.

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board held a public hearing in Wausau on September 25th. Public hearings are to be expanded to three cities including Fond du Lac, Hancock Research Center and Blackhawk Technical College in Janesville after November 1st.

Discussion followed regarding the Portage County Siting resolution.

Motion by Bill Leichtnam to direct the Land Conservationist with Corporation Counsel to write a resolution to support the development of NR151 rules specific to sensitive soils and geology. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Committee Reports

- i. Citizen's Groundwater Group meeting Bill Leichtnam commented that the Citizen's Groundwater Committee meeting was held on September 16th. The speaker was Seth Hofmeister of League of Conservation Voters. Bill Leichtnam shared that six counties including Wood County have passed a resolution to support the Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative. Kewaunee County recently had a manure spill which will be a first test of their new ordinance. Report on progress of DATCP/DNR Hearings on Livestock Siting. The possibility of the first project for the Natural Resources Educator might be an outreach into rural parts of Wood County. All meetings are the third Monday of the month at 2:00 p.m. at the Wood County Riverblock Building, Room #206. Senator Patrick Testin will be the speaker at the October 21st meeting.
- ii. Health Committee Report None

Nancy Turyk gave an update on the County Regional Groundwater Committee. The official name is the Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative committee. County resolutions to support the regional committee passed unanimously in all six counties. Counties have been requested to submit a list of which legislators they sent letters to in case anyone wanted that information. Nancy Turyk shared that she has scheduled a meeting for the Communications Group to meet the week of October 7th.

Bill Leichtnam expressed if anyone should be represented from the CEED Committee to attend the NR151 Public Hearing after November 1st. Shane Wucherpennig plans to attend.

Motion by Kenneth Curry to approve to pay per diem and mileage for one person from the CEED Committee to attend the public hearing on NR151 to be held after November 1st. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Private Sewage. None

9. Land Records.

- A. Introduction of Paul Bernard, Land Records Coordinator/GIS Specialist Jason Grueneberg introduced Paul Bernard as the new Land Records Coordinator/GIS Specialist. He was the Wood County Real Property Tax Lister for less than a year in 2015. Paul graduated from UW-La Crosse in 2015. He worked for Lincoln County as the GIS Specialist for the last four years. Paul Bernard shared that Wood County is a better fit for him.

10. County Surveyor. None

11. Economic Development.

- A. Regional Economic Development Initiative update Jason Grueneberg gave an update on the REDI grant. The corp group met a few weeks ago and looked at developing a team to work on the REDI project. The team will be made up of approximately 12-15 people. The team has not been selected but the corp group has an idea of who should serve. There is a training session scheduled for December 18th and 19th. Meetings are open to the public which will also be videotaped for viewing at a later time.
- B. Review 2020 economic development grant requests in budgets Chairman Curry commented that the Executive Committee had questions regarding the North Central Regional Plan Commission funding. The 2020 Economic Development is \$10,000 over the 2019 budget. Jason Grueneberg shared that he wants to use the \$30,000 not used in the 2019 budget to pay North Central Regional Plan Commission this year with the remaining amount paid in 2020. Jason Grueneberg will contact the North Central Regional Plan Commission to confirm.

12. Planning.

- A. Discussion/Action on Request for Zoning Map Amendment Approval – Town of Grand Rapids Adam DeKleyn explained the request to approve a Zoning Map Amendment to rezone a parcel of land located in the Town of Grand Rapids (S19, T22N, R6E). The Planning & Zoning Department received the request on August 20th. The Town of Grand Rapids adopted and administers their own town zoning ordinance. Wood County adopted the Wood County Zoning Ordinance #700 many years ago. In counties having a county zoning ordinance, no town zoning ordinance or amendment or a zoning ordinance may be adopted unless approved by the County Board of Supervisors which also include town zoning map amendments. Planning & Zoning staff has reviewed the request and recommends forwarding the resolution to the County Board of Supervisors approving the zoning amendment to the Town of Grand Rapids zoning map.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve the resolution approving a zoning amendment to the Town of Grand Rapids Zoning Map. Second by Kenneth Curry. Motion carried unanimously.

13. UW Extension.

- A. Presentation by Kevin Masarik Kevin Masarik, UWSP Groundwater Education Specialist gave a presentation on nitrate loss to groundwater. The challenges are keeping nutrients in top foot of the soil, current agriculture systems allow for significant nitrate losses to groundwater and seasonal losses. Future priorities and challenges are to encourage but also need to better quantify nitrate reduction and climate change. Groundwater is not an underground lake or river it just occupies empty space in the soil of the rock and is always moving to low spots. Water quality is a function of the soils or the rock it moves through. Wisconsin geology is diverse. Groundwater issues in eastern Wisconsin may be different than Central Wisconsin. Nitrates in the soils are the

best indicator of land use impacts. Nitrates less than 1 mg/L is expected. Nitrates greater than 1 mg/L are land use impacts. Nitrates over 10 mg/L is considered unsuitable and unsafe to drink. Land use plus soils/geology equals nitrate groundwater quality. Nitrates is an inexpensive water test. All new wells are required to test for nitrates. UWSP Interactive Well Water Quality viewer: https://gissrv3.uwsp.edu/webapps/gwc/pri_wells/. Best long-term nitrogen reduction strategy for agriculture is to extend crop rotations at least two years of alfalfa or other perennial crop in a 4-5 year rotation. Short-term strategy to reduce nitrates for municipal wells is water treatment, new well or blending and private wells is bottled water, water treatment or a new well. Discussion followed.

- B. Educational Presentation by Jackie Carattini Jackie Carattini shared that aging and changing demographics has been discussed in the community. Aging & Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin (ADRC) is multi-county. This was a State of Wisconsin aging program decision to do evidenced based programs in-house so they could control their own education and knew what the outcomes were. The aging population has been rising so much across the state that there is no way they can have the impacts they need to reach that population. ADRC has now partnered with community partners to provide evidenced based programs to better serve the needs of the aging population. UW-Extension will be partnering with ADRC in 2020 to provide evidence based programming of "Living Well with Chronic Pain" and "Taking Care of You". Marshfield Public Library and McMillan Public Library will be offering a 4 week class of "Taking Care of You" to outreach to the older population in November.

Jackie Carattini of UW-Extension partnered with the Financial Stability Coalition of South Wood and Adams County to provide financial education. This is a mandated needs group through United Way. Needs assessment showed a need for youth financial education.

Youth Financial Education:

- i. Boys & Girls Club – Provided 6 interactive lessons for 80 students on youth financial education. Youth were split into three age groups (1st-2nd graders, 3rd-4th graders, 5th graders and older). Partnered with area financial institutions. Topics discussed: needs vs wants, chores to save money, deposits in a bank account and budgeting. Positive feedback from parents received. There will be a Parents Night in November 2019 to provide financial education to the parent and child.
- ii. Assets Builders – A non-profit organization teaching financial education to low and moderate income youth and families. Finance and Investment Challenge Bowl is an interactive education game designed to help promote financial literacy and awareness using a quiz show format among high school students. The Wisconsin Rapids tournament will be at MSTC on February 27, 2020 from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

14. Schedule Next Regular Committee Meeting.

The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Wood County Courthouse in Conference Room #115.

15. Agenda items for next meeting.

- A. Kevin Masarik presentation to County Board.
- B. Regional County Committee should be included under committee reports.

16. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary. None

17. Adjourn. Chairman Curry declared the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Minutes by Kim Keech, Planning & Zoning Office