

MINUTES  
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, JULY 5, 2018  
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #115, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

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

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn & Kim Keech.  
Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpfennig, Tracy Arnold & Alex Delaney.  
UW Extension Staff: Jason Hausler.

Others Present: Dist. #12 Supervisor Douglas Machon, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendening, Jen McNelly (Water Resource Specialist, Portage County Planning & Zoning), Nancy Eggleston (Wood County Health Department) and Peter Kastenholz (Wood County Corporation Counsel).

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Curry called the CEED Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Public Comment.** None
3. **Review Correspondence.**
  - A. Shane Wucherpfennig stated that the State of Wisconsin NR151 was effective July 1st. This is a new administrative state rule designed to address land spreading of manure on soils in sensitive areas of the state where depth to bedrock is shallow and the bedrock is fractured. This new rule would affect CAFO's more than small farms with no sunset.
  - B. Jason Hausler shared that the UWEX Dean Director has contacted Wood County Board Chairman Douglas Machon and Wood County Chairperson Kenneth Curry explaining the statewide needs assessment and formal process happening in every county regarding the Area 7 Situational Analysis.
4. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the June 6, 2018 CEED meeting, 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension and 3) staff activity reports from Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, Justin Conner, Jeff Brewbaker, Stevana Skinner, Kim Keech, Victoria Wilson, Shane Wucherpfennig, Tracy Arnold, Adam Groshek, Emily Salvinski, Lori Ruess, Alex Delaney, Matt Lippert, Jodi Friday, Chris Viau, Laura Huber, Jackie Carattini and Jeremy Erickson.
  - A. Minutes of Wednesday, June 6, 2018. No additions or corrections needed.
  - B. Department Bills. No additions or corrections needed.
  - C. Staff Activity Reports. No additions or corrections needed.

*Motion by Bill Leichtnam to approve and accept the June 6, 2018 CEED minutes, bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension, and staff activity reports as presented. Second by Robert Ashbeck. Motion carried unanimously.*

5. **Risk and Injury Report.** None.
6. **Land & Water Conservation Department.**
  - A. Presentation by the Portage County Citizen Groundwater Advisory Committee (GCAC) from Jen McNelly of Portage County Groundwater issue discussion. Jen McNelly the Water Resource Specialist from the Portage County Planning & Zoning Office shared the history and purpose of

the Portage County Citizen Groundwater Advisory Committee. The Groundwater Counsel was formed in 1984 with the purpose to write a Groundwater Plan in 1985. Eventually, the Groundwater Counsel became the Portage County Citizen Groundwater Advisory Committee. The committee is approved by the County Board and pays no per diem from the county. The Portage County Planning & Zoning Office oversees the 27 citizen member representatives with representation from every town, village and city in Portage County. The committee's primary task is developing a strategy and policy for addressing public concerns on groundwater protection and management. The Groundwater Council has made recommendations to the Portage County Board. The Council meets every other month in one location. The Portage County Water Resource Specialist provides assistance and facilitation serving as the liaison between the committee and the County Board. Administrative assistance is provided by the Portage County Planning & Zoning Departments Administrative Assistant. Discussion and questions followed.

Nancy Eggleston the Environmental Health Supervisor for the Wood County Health Department shared the preliminary results of the Juneau and Wood County Groundwater survey that was conducted on May 30th in northern Juneau and southern Wood County. The goal of this survey was to ensure that all citizens have a source of safe and clean drinking water. The results of this survey will be shared at an educational session at the Necedah Town Hall on July 17th from 6:00-8:00 pm. Survey participants as well as residents of Armenia Township and southern Wood County are encouraged to attend.

- B. Truck replacement discussion. Shane Wucherpennig shared that one of the two trucks shared by the whole department is 14 years old and is scheduled to be replaced in 2019. V&H Ford has offered the county \$500 as a trade-in value of the 14 year old truck. Shane Wucherpennig feels that the county can sell the truck outright for a few bucks more versus a trade-in and recommends donating the sale proceeds of the truck to the no-till drill fund. Peter Kastenholz commented that County Board rule #43 states that if the personal property has sufficient value it may be transferred to the Emergency Management Department for disposition with proceeds deposited in the general fund, turned over to a vendor for a credit on the new acquisition or transferred to a different county department. The oversight committee and the Executive Committee have to approve the sale proceeds going to another account. Discussion followed.

*Motion by Chairman Curry to allow Land & Water Conservation Department to privately sell the existing truck and receipt of that truck to be applied to the no-till drill fund. Second by Mark Holbrook. Motion carried 4-2. Harvey Petersen and Robert Ashbeck feel that the money should be applied to the new truck.*

*Motion by Chairman Curry to ask the Executive Committee to allow the action to privately sell the existing truck with sale proceeds of that truck to go into another account within the department. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.*

- C. Conservation Tour discussion. Shane Wucherpennig shared that the joint tour with Land & Water Conservation Department, University Extension and Planning & Zoning will be in September. The yearly tour highlights conservation practices of all three departments. Tentative tour dates are Friday, September 14th or Friday, September 21st. In the past, the tour has highlighted septic systems, cranberry farms and master gardeners. Shane Wucherpennig is looking for committee suggestions for the tour. Discussion followed of possible tour destinations. Chairman Curry would like a top 5 list of sites from each department for the August CEED Committee meeting. Jason Grueneberg mentioned that the committee should keep in mind that the route and schedule may not accommodate all suggested sites and that private tours of sites can always be scheduled. The consensus of the committee is to have the Conservation Tour on Friday, September 21st.
- D. Discuss conflict with August 1st CEED Meeting (Badger Sandstone/Joan Arnold hearing) and discuss options. Chairman Curry shared that Shane Wucherpennig and Tracy Arnold will be involved in the Badger Sandstone/Joan Arnold hearing on August 1st. Peter Kastenholz shared

that the hearing is expensive for county staff, court system and hearing officer. Peter Kastenholz commented that the Land & Water Conservation Department staff has done a great job. Tracy Arnold shared that the site is 11.7 acres handing out before, during and after pictures of the site to the committee. Robert Ashbeck asked if a motion can be made to pay for expenses. Chairman Curry commented that the case isn't concluded and total cost hasn't been determined. Discussion followed changing the CEED Committee meeting date. The committee decided that the next CEED Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 15th.

- E. Update on no-till donations. Shane Wucherpfennig gave a brief update that donations for the no-drill fund have reached \$9,200 from a variety of sources. The cost of a no-till drill is in the range of \$15,000-\$16,000. Wood County Board Chairman Machon suggested the difference to be added as a CIP request for 2019.

*Motion by Bill Leichtnam to approve not to exceed \$7,000 in the 2019 CIP Budget for a no-till drill. Second by Mark Holbrook. Motion carried unanimously.*

- F. Wild Parsnip update with discussion of potential funding for contracted services. Shane Wucherpfennig updated the committee as to the progress of containing Wild Parsnip in the county. Land & Water Conservation Department main focus has been educating the public, private contracted mowers for the towns, townships and the Highway Department. Shane Wucherpfennig shared the importance of mowing the entire right away before July 4th and again when flowering to eliminate Wild Parsnip. Wild Parsnip is a biennial plant. The problem is when townships only mow the first 5' and not the rest of the right away. Shane Wucherpfennig has been looking for grants and hoping to find a private certified licensed business to spray a chemical on the Wild Parsnip in the problem areas in the county. Shane Wucherpfennig also stated that you can't pay someone if there are no funds available. The chemical treatment is good for 2 years. Bill Leichtnam feels the county should contribute funds for the project. Mark Holbrook shared that educating the public is part of solution to landowners and posting information about Wild Parsnip on town websites. Chairman Curry shared that the department should continue what we are currently doing keeping the committee informed of the progress.
- G. Discuss the draft Wood County Nonferrous Metallic Mining Ordinance & possible action. This agenda item has been tabled since the last meeting to monitor the draft ordinance in Taylor County. No changes to the Wood County ordinance has been made since the last CEED Committee meeting and can always be revised or changed.
- H. Discuss Joan Arnold hearing expenses. Chairman Curry commented that the hearing expenses will be discussed once the hearing has been concluded with a discussion how to pay for the expenses.

The Wood County Land & Water Department will have a booth at Farm Technology Day July 10-12 with 2 staff working per day.

## **7. Economic Development.**

- A. Wood County ATV Trail committee update. Jason Grueneberg gave an update on the Wood County ATV Trail committee sharing that primary and secondary destinations have been identified. Primary destinations are primarily lodging, loading/unloading, food, fuel and restroom locations. Secondary destinations include bar and restaurant locations. Inventory for routes on roads have been identified. Off road trails are in the process of being identified. There are conflicting uses such as the Sand Hill Wildlife area which is fenced in and access crossing the Wisconsin River in Nekoosa. Snowmobile bridges in the county are being identified. The next meeting is Monday, July 16th with the Park & Forestry, Highway and Planning & Zoning Departments. The focus of that meeting will be on off road trails. Mark Holbrook shared that he attended the last meeting and feels multiple use trails are beneficial to connecting trails.

**8. Private Sewage.**

- A. Harvey Petersen asked how often does a septic system need to be pumped. Jason Grueneberg commented that an inspection or pumping is required every 3 years but a pumping is dependent on a variety of factors including, size of tank, type of system and number of people in the household.

**9. County Surveyor.**

- A. Jason Grueneberg explained that the County Surveyor maintains the Public Land Survey System (PLSS). Maintenance of the PLSS allows surveys for property owners to be completed more efficiently and at a lower cost. The County Surveyor budget is approximately \$45,000. The county has money available to the towns for any surveying work.

**10. Planning.**

- A. Information on planning activities can be found in the Planning & Zoning Department staff report.

**11. UW Extension.**

- A. Situational Analysis. Jason Hausler shared the Situational Analysis will be discussed at the special CEED Committee meeting on Wednesday, July 18th @ 9:00 am at the Wood County Courthouse in Room #115. The office will also be presenting at the Wood County Board meeting on July 17th.

Jason Haulser shared that Nancy Turyk has been selected as the new Wood County Community Development Educator starting on July 16th. The Wood County Extension Office will remain open during Farm Technology Day July 10-12 and may only be closed the morning of July 10th.

**12. Schedule next regular committee meeting.**

The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 15th at 9:00 a.m. at Wood County River Block Building in Auditorium Room #206.

**13. Agenda items for next meeting.**

- A. Wood County Health Department presentation regarding water issues.
- B. Wood County ATV Trail Committee update.
- C. How do we get Wood County Board members to understand groundwater issues?
- D. Groundwater issues.

**14. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary.**

A special CEED Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 18, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the Wood County Courthouse in Room #115.

**15. Adjourn.**

*Motion by Harvey Petersen to adjourn at 11:35 am. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,



Mark L. Holbrook, Secretary

Minutes by Kim Keech, Planning & Zoning Office

Review for submittal to County Board by Mark L. Holbrook (approved on Wednesday, July 11, 2018.)