

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 2018

WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #115, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

NOTE: DUE TO INTERNET CONNECTION PROBLEMS THE MEETING WAS MOVED TO ROOM #114

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

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg.
Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpennig, and Lori Ruess.
UW Extension Staff: Jason Hausler

Others Present: Dist. #12 Supervisor Douglas Machon, Dist. # 15 Supervisor Bill Clendenning, Marla Cumming, Finance Director, Josh Miller, City of Marshfield, Justin Casperson, City of Marshfield, Scott Larson Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MACCI), Rick Bakovka, Regional Economic Growth Initiative (REGI), Adam Tegan, City of Wisconsin Rapids, Jeremy Sickler, Alexander Field Airport Manager.

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Kenneth Curry called the CEED meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Public Comment.** None
3. **Review Correspondence.** None
4. **Land & Water Conservation Department.**
 - A. **Review/Approve 2019 Land & Water Conservation Department Budgets.** Shane Wucherpennig reported the Land & Water Conservation Department will have three new budgets in 2019, and will be closing out the Don Aron Memorial budget and rolling over the tree and shrub into the Land & Water Conservation Admin budget. The new budgets include Multi-Discharger Variance program, Mill Creek (9-Key Element) and 14-Mile Creek (9-Key Element). Wucherpennig stated that the only tax levy budget in the Land & Water Conservation Department is the Land & Water Conservation Admin Budget. The DATCP Grant, Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims, Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation, Permits & Fines, Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV), Mill Creek and 14-Mile Creek budgets are all non-levied budgets. He reviewed the budget summary and stated that overall the LWCD 2019 budget is at a 7.43% decrease in tax levy. The decrease is due to the \$20,000 grant for writing the Mill Creek 9-Key Element Plan and the additional Soil and Water Management Grant dollars for staff and support, which allowed for transferring of some staff hours from the Land & Water Conservation Admin budget to non-levied budgets. Following his review of the budgets, Wucherpennig asked if there were any questions. Bill Leichtnam asked if there were plans in the future to write 9-Key Element plans for 7-mile and 10-mile creeks. Shane explained the ranking process for selecting creeks for the 9-Key Element plan writing and stated they must be on the 303d list to be considered.

Chairperson Curry passed around a copy of the 2019 budget parameters letter from County Board Chairperson Doug Machon. In the letter Chairperson Machon asked all departments for a 1% reduction in operational levy supports.

Motion by Harvey Petersen to approve the 2019 Land & Water Conservation Admin, DATCP Grant, Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims, Nonmetallic Mining, MDV, Permits & Fines, Mill Creek and 14-Mile Creek budgets as presented. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.

5. UW Extension

- A. Review/Approve 2019 UW Extension Department Budgets.** Jason Hausler stated he only included the 2019 UWEX budget summary in the CEED packet and apologized for the confusion. He handed out copies of the complete UWEX budget. He explained the increases including reallocation of wages and the spike in PC replacement line item. He also explained the decreases which included a reduction of \$10,000 in Clean Sweep and the removal of Farm Technology expenses from the budget. He added that he was planning ahead to 2020; therefore the proposed 2019 budget does not reflect the \$10,000 discount for contractual services as that discount will sunset in 2020. He hasn't seen anything confirming the 2019 discount, but heard there will be one. In summary, if approved as presented the UWEX budget would be a .79% reduction (without discount included) or a -2.5% reduction if the discount is included in the budget.

Chairperson Curry commented that budgets should reflect actual numbers, but he did appreciate the notice of the discount ending in 2020.

Mark Holbrook added that he was fine with the proposed budget as presented if it reflects the true cost of running the program in 2020 and beyond.

Marla Cummings explained the options the Committee had with approving the budget. Discussion followed.

Motion by Ken Curry to approve the UWEX budget as presented. Second by Mark Holbrook. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Horticulture Position Discussion.** Jason Hausler reported that Jeremy Erickson, Horticulture Educator has resigned. His last day will be the end of the week. Jason will be traveling to Madison to discuss the future Horticulture position and would like guidance from the Committee on the direction they would like to take with the position. He explained the position is currently a part-time (50%) position funded 100% by the county but there has been some discussion about combining with other counties (including Adams, Jackson and Juneau) to make this a full time Horticulture Specialist position. There are a lot of vegetables and cranberries in the Central Sands area and combining dollar for a commercial horticulture position could be beneficial. Discussion followed.

Bob Ashbeck expressed concern with filling a full-time position for commercial horticulture. He preferred a part-time position that would help individuals and small farmers.

Bill Leichtnam was in favor of the commercial horticulture position especially if Wood County could partner with surrounding counties.

It was the consensus of the Committee for Jason Hausler to explore the options of changing the dynamics of the current horticulture position.

- C. Staffing & Programming Update.** Jason Hausler shared that Nancy Turyk, Community Development Extension Educator has been on staff for a little over a month and she has been receiving a lot of water quality questions. Jason asked for guidance from the Committee on how they would like her to handle those questions as she was hired for community development. Nancy has a wealth of knowledge and experience in water quality/research, but she should not be working outside her position description as that could lead to reclassification and reposting of the position. Jason has been working with her on how she can utilize her skills outside her water resources background and change her role in water resources to facilitator. Discussion followed.

6. Planning & Zoning.

- A. **Review/Approve 2019 Planning & Zoning Department Budgets.** Jason Grueneberg stated the Committee received the Economic Development budget along with the proposed 2019 Economic Development Grant Requests in the CEED packet. Jason summarized all the requests that came in and explained he doesn't withhold any applications.

The proposed grant requests included in the budget are:

Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry - \$19,500
Marshfield Economic Development Board - \$30,500
Marshfield Residential Incentive (MRI) Program - \$31,250
Wildwood Park & Zoo Welcome Center Project - \$50,000
Heart of Wisconsin Chamber - \$19,500
Regional Economic Growth Initiative - \$30,500
Wisconsin Rapids Residential Incentive Program - \$40,000
State Fair Booth - \$2,500
Alexander Field - \$10,000
Roy Shwery Field - \$7,500

The 2019 total budgeted operating expense for Economic Development Grants is \$241,250, a 58.76% increase in tax levy. It should be noted that the Economic Development budget also includes Planning & Zoning Departmental expenses in the amount of \$7,325 for county marketing and tourism promotion, dues, and mileage for a total tax levy increase of 65.51% in the Economic Development budget. Lengthy discussion followed.

Scott Larsen, MACCI explained how the funding that comes from the County is run through the Chamber Foundation and that they try to do programming and training that benefits other areas of the County too.

Adam Tegan explained the new Wisconsin Rapids Residential Incentive Program. The program, in infancy stage, is designed to give \$5,000 incentive payments to developers to offset development of single family homes in under-utilized or undeveloped city lots.

Justin Casperson shared information on the Wildwood Park & Zoo Welcome Center Project. The main focus for the proposed \$50,000 grant request is the educational exhibit on groundwater which will be in the Welcome Center along with a small reptile display. \$150,000 has already been committed to the Welcome Center; just looking for an additional \$50,000.

Jason Grueneberg stated the county doesn't have a lot of staff resources to put to Economic Development and depends on collaborative players for Economic Development.

Several committee members expressed concerns including the tax levy increase and tax incentive programs going to cities, but not rural areas,

Bill Clendenning, as a representative from the Town of Grand Rapids, was opposed to the Wisconsin Rapids Residential Incentive Program.

Following lengthy discussion the following motions were made.

Motion by Ken Curry to approve the Economic Development Grants & Contribution expenditures in the 2019 Economic Development budget in the amount of \$151,250, (same as 2018) with the same designations as 2018. Second by Bob Ashbeck. Discussion followed.

Motion by Mark Holbrook to amend the previous motion, made by Ken Curry, to approve the Economic Development Grants & Contribution expenditures in the 2019 Economic Development budget in the amount of \$151,250 with no designation as to who gets the money at this time. Second by Bill Leichtnam. Discussion followed.

Voting Aye: Mark Holbrook and Bill Leichtnam

Voting Nay:

Ken Curry – The money needs to be allocated at this time; can review each application in the future.

Bob Ashbeck

Dave LaFontaine

Motion failed. *Therefore, the original motion was still active and Chairperson Curry called for a vote on the motion he made to approve the Economic Development Grants & Contributions expenditures in the 2019 Economic Development budget in the amount of \$151,250, (same as 2018) with the same designations as 2018.*

Voting Aye: Ken Curry and Robert Ashbeck

Voting Nay: Bill Leichtnam, Dave LaFontaine, and Mark Holbrook

Motion failed. Discussion followed.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve the proposed 2019 Economic Development Grants & Contribution expenditures in the Economic Development budget as presented. There was no second. **Motion failed.***

*Motion by Mark Holbrook to approve the proposed 2019 Economic Development Grants & Contribution expenditures in the Economic Development budget minus the \$50,000 for the Wildwood Park & Zoo Welcome Center Project. There was no second. **Motion failed.***

Motion by Dave Lafontaine to approve the Economic Development Grants & Contribution expenditures in the Economic Development budget for all past year projects as well as ½ of the requested amount for Wildwood Park & Zoo Welcome Center Project (\$25,000) and ½ of the requested amount for Wisconsin Rapids Residential Incent Program (\$20,000). Second by Robert Ashbeck.

Voting Aye: Dave LaFontaine and Robert Ashbeck

Voting Nay: Ken Curry, Mark Holbrook, and Bill Leichtnam

Motion failed.

Motion by Bill Leichtnam to add 10% to the 2018 Economic Development Grant allocation amount of \$151,250; unobligated to any group. Second by Mark Holbrook. Motion passed unanimously.

Ken curry stated the committee will make a decision what if anything will be done with the 10% increase. Jason Grueneberg asked for clarification on the motion. He asked if the unobligated amount was the full amount or just the 10% (\$15,000). Bill Leichtnam stated his intention was the full amount and Mark Holbrook agreed that is how he understood the motion he seconded.

Ken Curry made a motion to reconsider the previous motion as he understood it as the 10% would be unobligated; not the full amount. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion passed with Bill Leichtnam voting nay.

Motion by Mark Holbrook to increase the 2018 Economic Development Grant allocation amount of \$151,250 by 10% and all 2019 applicants receive a pro-rated portion of the total. Second by Dave LaFontaine.

Voting Aye: Dave LaFontaine, Mark Holbrook, and Robert Ashbeck

Voting Nay: Ken Curry and Bill Leichnetm

Motion passed.

The Committee recessed for a short break at 11:43 a.m.

The Committee reconvened at 11:52 a.m.

Jason Grueneberg explained the CDBG is part of the Transportation and Economic Development budget and stated he also needed approval on the \$5,000 expense in Contractual Services and \$2,325 expense in Supplies and Expenses in the Economic Development budget.

Motion by Bill Leichnetm to approve the CDBG budgeted amount and the \$5,000 for Contractual Services and \$2,325 in Supplies and Expenses in the 2019 Transportation and Economic Development Budget. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

Jason gave the Committee a copy of the July 2018 Alexander Field report as Jeremy Sickler had to leave the meeting.

Jason Grueneberg presented the, Private Sewage, Census Redistricting, Land Records, Surveyor and Planning & Zoning budgets. He reviewed each budget and explained which ones were levied budgets and the approach that was taken to meet the requested 1% tax levy decrease. (Increase revenue by taking on one new program - Well Delegation and fee increases.) The proposed Surveyor budget meets the 1% tax levy decrease and the proposed Planning & Zoning Budget is at a -0.62% in tax levy. Both the Land Records and Private Sewage budgets have carryover which is allocated as operating expense.

Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve the Planning & Zoning, Private Sewage, Census Redistricting, Land Records, and Surveyor budgets as presented. Second by Mark Holbrook. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Schedule any Additional Meetings if Necessary.

The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 5, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the Wood County Courthouse in Room 115.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting.

- A. Presentation by Cathy Lotzer on the Marshfield Utilities Groundwater Guardian Program.
- B. Non-ferrous Metallic Mining Ordinance.
- C. Groundwater Discussion
- D. Economic Development Discussion

8. Adjourn.

Chairperson Kenneth Curry declared the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth Curry, Acting Secretary

Minutes by Lori Ruess, Land & Water Conservation Department

Review for submittal to County Board by Kenneth Curry (approved on 9-12-18 @ 8:55 a.m.)