

MINUTES  
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 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 and Kim Keech.  
Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpennig and Tracy Arnold.  
UW Extension Staff: Jason Hausler and Matt Lippert.

Others Present: Dist. #12 Supervisor Douglas Machon, Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendening, Nancy Eggleston (Wood County Health Department), and Cathy Lotzer (Marshfield Utilities/Groundwater Guardian Program).

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Curry called the CEED Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Public Comment.** None
3. **Review Correspondence.** None
4. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the August 15, 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 Wucherpennig, Tracy Arnold, Adam Groshek, Emily Salvinski, Lori Ruess, Alex Delaney, Matt Lippert, Jodi Friday, Chris Viau, Laura Huber, Nancy Turyk and Jackie Carattini.
  - A. Minutes of Wednesday, August 15, 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 Dave LaFontaine to approve and accept the August 15, 2018 CEED minutes, bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension, and staff activity reports as presented. Second by Mark Holbrook. Motion carried unanimously.*

5. **Risk and Injury Report.** None.
6. **Presentation by Cathy Lotzer on the Marshfield Utilities Groundwater Guardian Program.**

Cathy Lotzer gave a presentation on the Marshfield Utilities Groundwater Guardian Program and Groundwater Guardian Green Site programs. The Groundwater Guardian Green Site program recognizes green spaces for their groundwater and environmental resources. Green spaces consist of large green spaces such as golf courses, parks, nature areas, ballfields and campuses adding recreation, beauty and livability to communities. The Groundwater Guardian Program was started in 1996. The goal of the Groundwater Guardian Program is to encourage people to protect groundwater by educating the community. The program encourages a strong local team with a clear framework for action to benefit the people and water of a community. There are five Groundwater Guardian teams in the State of Wisconsin. The reason that the Groundwater Guardian Program hasn't caught on state-wide is due to a downturn in the economy and lack of funding. The program is difficult to maintain because a designated person is needed to do the job. Some of the Groundwater Guardian Programs

community projects have been water festivals, clean sweep, pharmaceutical collection of medicines (12,529 pounds collected), Girl Scout groundwater patches and rain gardens. Discussion followed.

## 7. Land & Water Conservation Department.

- A. Report and possible action on the Non-Ferrous Metallic Mining Ordinance Shane Wucherpennig explained that the county has been in a waiting pattern to see what Taylor County plans to do with their Non-Ferrous Metallic Mining Ordinance. The intent was to model Taylor County ordinance but Taylor County has decided not to update or amend their proposed ordinance. Shane Wucherpennig shared that the Wood County Non-Ferrous Metallic Mining Ordinance was in the position to be acted on if the CEED Committee was ready. Chairman Curry expressed that the Non-Ferrous Metallic Mining Ordinance to be reviewed at the October CEED Committee meeting.

*Motion by Bill Leichtnam to review the draft of the Wood County Non-Ferrous Metallic Mining Ordinance at the October CEED Committee Meeting and if approved to hold a public hearing prior to sending it to County Board. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.*

### B. Wood County Water

- i. Report to Committee: Purposed county water testing/sampling plans status Shane Wucherpennig and Nancy Eggleston (Health Department) updated the committee regarding the status of the 104 wells that were tested for nitrate levels in Armenia and Southern Wood County. EPA and DNR are aware of the water testing results and the 42% contamination of the 104 wells.

Shane Wucherpennig shared that Wood County and Juneau County have been involved in reviewing a draft of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which was drafted by the Armenia Growers Coalition and would outline a voluntary agreement with Wood County and Juneau County to work with well owners with nitrate levels above 10 ppm to provide them with safe drinking water short term and long term. The MOU draft has been reviewed by the EPA and DNR. EPA feels that the language of the MOU isn't strong enough. The MOU will be updated and completed within 30 days with the EPA recommendations. Shane Wucherpennig had Emily Salvinski create a central sands area map based on soils outlining the cropland corridor which is similar to Exhibit A in the MOU, but not the same. EPA can impose ACT 1431 without a MOU in place to the Armenia Growers Coalition. EPA Act 1431 would outline 6 key compliance requirements that the Armenia Growers Coalition would have to comply with. The preference for Wood County and Juneau County would be to have a voluntary MOU agreement in place versus EPA imposing Act 1431. Three growers of the Armenia Growers Coalition need to sign the MOU if approved by the EPA. EPA will explain results to the public of the wells they tested and found contamination in Armenia and Southern Wood County which will be released by the end of September.

Armenia Growers Coalition plans to assist landowners who have a well that tested high in nitrate levels but only offers to provide bottled water, a treatment system and maintenance for one year.

Lengthy discussion followed with several committee members expressing concerns.

- ii. Groundwater Discussion: Supervisor Leichtnam shared his request to the committee and the County Board Chair Doug Machon to form an ad hoc committee composed of members of each committee appointed by the Chair to bring policy and revision to the County Board as a whole. County Board Chair Machon commented that he won't

form an ad hoc committee because he feels that the issues belong at the committee level and if an ad hoc committee is formed it may become political in nature on county board floor. Supervisor Holbrook feels that an ad hoc committee would help educate the county board. County Board Chair Machon feels an alternative to an ad hoc committee would be a presentation to county board regarding the implications on groundwater. Supervisor Ashbeck shared that he feels that Wood County should have a Groundwater Guardian Program. Shane Wucherpfennig and Nancy Eggleston expressed that they would be willing to give a presentation on groundwater to the county board.

*Motion by Bill Leichnetz for the Land & Water Conservation Department and Health Department to give a groundwater presentation to the county board. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.*

- C. Open bids for David Brehm (Highlander Cranberry) woven wire fence Tracy Arnold shared that two bids were received for the 5,155 feet of 8 feet high woven wire fence for David Brehm of Highlander Cranberry. The DNR has approved 75% cost sharing of the woven wire fence with 25% cost sharing from the landowner. There will be no fiscal impact to Wood County towards the woven wire project. Land & Water Conservation Department has estimated the project to cost approximately \$25,000.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve the low bid from Real Fence LLC in the amount of \$22,890 for the purpose of the David Brehm (Highlander Cranberry) woven fence project. Second by Bill Leichnetz. Motion carried unanimously.*

- D. Open bids for Pankratz Farms waste storage facility closure Shane Wucherpfennig shared that two bids were received for the Pankratz Farms waste storage facility closure. LWCD staff will inspect the waste storage facility closure once the project is completed. Cost sharing will consist of 50% from Land & Water Conservation Department and 50% from landowner. Land & Water Conservation Department has estimated the waste storage facility closure to cost approximately \$17,300.

*Motion by Robert Ashbeck to approve the low bid to base cost sharing on from Steve Pankratz in the amount of \$31,100 for the purpose of Pankratz Farms waste storage facility closure. Second by Harvey Petersen. Motion carried unanimously.*

- E. Consider/take action on resolution to amend the 2018 Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program (WDACP) budget. Shane Wucherpfennig presented the resolution to amend the 2018 Wood County Wildlife Abatement & Claims (WDACP) budget for unanticipated state aid monies and appropriate those monies to Wildlife Damage expenditures. The Executive Committee has signed the resolution on September 4th. The project is for the David Brehm (Highlander Cranberry) woven wire fence project which has no fiscal impact to the county. Shane Wucherpfennig shared that the resolution needs CEED Committee approval.

*Motion by Bill Leichnetz to approve the resolution to seek County Board approval to amend the 2018 Wood County Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) budget for unanticipated state aid monies and to appropriate those monies to Wildlife Damage expenditures. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.*

## **8. Economic Development.**

- A. Wood County ATV Trail Committee update Jason Grueneberg updated the committee regarding the ATV trail progress with Park & Forestry and Highway Departments. The next ATV Trail meeting will be on September 20th. ATV field work has been tentatively scheduled (weather permitting) on site in the county forests to determine trail accessibility and location. Jason Grueneberg shared that he has met with the Ho-Chunk Nation to outline approach of ATV trails in

regards to the Nekoosa Casino location. Jason Grueneberg commented that the southwest side of the county has unique obstacles such as the fenced area of the Sandhill Wildlife area and that the Town of Remington is not onboard having ATV trails in the town. Jason Grueneberg mentioned that Roland Hawk of the Highway Department will contact the City of Nekoosa and Town of Saratoga regarding the bridge crossing for ATV trails in Nekoosa. Highway Department is researching signage for ATV trails deciding who will absorb costs. Sandra Green from Park & Forestry is researching grant funding. Discussion followed.

A short break was called by Chairman Curry at 11:12 a.m. Chairman Curry reconvened the CEED Committee meeting at 11:20 a.m.

- B. Presentation and discussion on Wood County Economic Development Efforts Jason Grueneberg gave a PowerPoint presentation on Economic Development in Wood County. Jason shared the mission statement, 2018 Economic Development Budget, collaborative efforts with other agencies, coordinating updates to CEED Committee, leveraging grant opportunities and maintaining connections with Economic Development stakeholders. Jason summarized other agencies and programs including; UW-Extension Community Development Educator-Nancy Turyk, Central Wisconsin Economic Development, Central Housing Region, Wood County Housing Repair Program, Marshfield Economic Development Board, REGI, PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy), tourism based support, project based support and Wood County economic investments.

**9. Private Sewage.** None

**10. County Surveyor.** None

**11. Planning.**

- A. Jason Grueneberg has shared that the Town of Grand Rapids has contacted the Planning & Zoning Department to update the comprehensive plan for the town. The town has requested a proposal for cost and timeline for the comprehensive plans completion.

**12. UW Extension.**

- A. 2019 Contract Update Jason Hausler presented the draft of the 2019 contract between Wood County and the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System. Jason shared that a change in the contract is that educational services are aligned to county priorities and are provided after the contract is signed. The contract needs to be signed after the Wood County budget is approved and by the end of year.
- B. Presentation – UW Extension Agriculture Agent, Matt Lippert Matt Lippert shared that the 2018 Farm Technology Days held in Wood County in July was a successful event with great weather and location. Donations from area businesses, individuals and in-kind volunteering made the event a success. There were almost 2,000 volunteers for the event. Hotels were full in the Marshfield area and in Wisconsin Rapids. Attendance is estimated to be approximately 43,000 for the three day event. The main draw of Farm Technology Days is for farm families. Matt Lippert thanked the committee for their commitment and support to host 2018 Farm Technology Days. Wood County invested approximately \$60,000 for the event. Popular attractions at Farm Technology Days included a cranberry marsh where princesses and politicians wanted to be photographed, creative activities in the youth tent, Farm Medicine Center creating YouTube videos of Farm Technology Days, Farm Medicine Center staff providing health screening and a \$500,000 combine. Financial Report is not yet available.

**13. Schedule Next Meeting.**

The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at Wood County Courthouse in Conference Room #114.

**14. Agenda items for next meeting.**

- A. Review and possible action on the Non-Ferrous Metallic Mining Ordinance.
- B. Well presentation.
- C. 3D Groundwater Model

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

A special CEED Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 7, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at the Wood County Courthouse in Room #114 to discuss the 2019 Economic Development Budget.

A special CEED Committee tour is scheduled for Friday, September 21, 2018 at 7:45 a.m. with the bus leaving the Wood County Courthouse at 8:00 a.m.

**16. Adjourn.**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Holbrook, Secretary  
Minutes by Kim Keech, Planning & Zoning Office  
Review for submittal to County Board by Mark Holbrook (approved on September 11, 2018 at 8:17 p.m.)