

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, September 6, 2023

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: Courthouse – Room 114

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Leichtnam, Dave LaFontaine, Laura Valenstein, Jake Hahn,
Tom Buttke, Carmen Good

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. There was no public comment.
3. Correspondence included the CEED Tour, scheduled for Friday, September 29th. Let Planning & Zoning know by September 22nd if attending. Legislation dealing with the FSA member on the Land Conservation Committees, as well as a resolution from Clark County on foreign owned farm land.
4. Motion by LaFontaine/Buttke to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Grueneberg introduced the new County Planner, Emily Arndt, and the new Code Technician, Bradley Cook.
6. Grueneberg reviewed the open records request sent to municipalities requesting assessor information to be included on our GIS site. Because this information is housed with a third party entity, they will only provide the information for a charge. Other avenues are being explored.
7. Grueneberg presented six 2024 Planning & Zoning Dept. budgets, reviewed variances, and answered questions. Motion by LaFontaine/Buttke to approve the Planning & Zoning budgets as presented and forward to the Operations Committee. Motion carried unanimously.
8. The South Wood County Airport is requesting the release of the 2023 Economic Development grant funds totaling \$15,000. Airport Manager Jeremy Sickler provided and update and fielded questions. Motion by LaFontaine/Valenstein to approve the release of \$15,000 Economic Development grant funding to the South Wood County Airport. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Grueneberg provided an update on broadband in the county and informed the committee about an upcoming special order of business at county board from Bug Tussel outlining their progress.
10. Grueneberg updated the committee on the Uniquely Wisconsin broadcast featuring Wood County. Filming was done at the water ski show recently. A draft of the program should be available around the time of the WCA Conference.
11. The Economic Development budget was presented and discussed. Motion by Valenstein/LaFontaine to approve the Economic Development budget as presented and forward to the Operations Committee. Motion carried unanimously.
12. Wucherpennig invited the committee to attend a Grazing Tour, being held in Wood County. Anyone attending needs to inform the County Clerk's office so it can be posted as a meeting in compliance with the Open Meetings Law.
13. Wucherpennig presented a resolution for unanticipated revenue from DATCP. Motion by Hahn/Valenstein to approve the resolution and forward to the county board for their consideration. Motion carried unanimously.
14. The DNR requires a standard authorizing resolution, approved by the committee and signed by the chair, for the 2024 Surface Waters grant. Motion by LaFontaine/Hahn to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
15. Wucherpennig presented the 2024 Land & Water Conservation Dept. budgets, reviewed variances, and answered questions. Motion by Buttke/LaFontaine to approve the Land & Water Conservation budgets as presented and forward to the Operations Committee. Motion carried unanimously.
16. Solin reminded the committee of the upcoming Clean Sweep occurring September 9th at the Town of Saratoga. Funding for next year's Clean Sweep has been approved.
17. Solin presented the 2024 Extension budget, reviewed variances, and answered questions. Motion by LaFontaine/Hahn to approve the Extension budget as presented and forward to the Operations Committee. Motion carried unanimously.
18. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 4th at 9:00 AM.
19. Agenda items for next meeting:
 - a. Farm Service Agenda representative legislation
 - b. Clark County resolution, re: foreign ownership of farm land
 - c. Discussion of Economic Development carryover funds
 - d. Economic Development definitions
20. Motion by Buttke/LaFontaine to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously at 10:47 AM.

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

