

MINUTES

CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, July 2, 2025
TIME: 9:00 AM
PLACE: Courthouse – Conference Rm #302

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Leichtnam, Tom Buttke, Tim Hovendick, Russ Perlock, George Gilbertson

MEMBER EXCUSED Wayne Schulz

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. The minutes of the previous meeting were presented. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Motion by Hovendick/Perlock to approve the vouchers, monthly department reports and committee reports. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Staci Kivi from the Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce presented an update from her organization. She is requesting the economic development grant funding be released. Motion by Hovendick/Buttke to approve the release of \$25,000 of budgeted economic development grant funding to the Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Denise Sonnemann from the Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry presented an update from her organization. She is requesting release of the \$25,000 budgeted economic development grant funding. Motion by Buttke/Perlock to approve the release of \$25,000 of budgeted economic development grant funding to MACCI. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Pittsville City Clerk Renee Losievski reviewed the current status of homes and businesses being built in the City and is requesting the \$50,000 of budgeted economic development grant funding be released to them. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve the release of \$50,000 of budgeted economic development grant funding to the City of Pittsville. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Jen McNelly from Extension gave a presentation on her position of Groundwater Educator and reviewed the funding sources of it and how her position fits within the Extension structure. She reviewed her job duties and projects she was involved with.
9. Wucherpfennig introduced Eric Hummel of the Nepco Lake District to discuss wake boats and their negative effects on the lake. Hummel reviewed actions of the Lake District and associated municipalities on how to limit wake boats on Nepco Lake. The authority to do so lies with those municipalities and the DNR. As actions are taken, this will be reported to the committee

10. Wucherpfennig announced some upcoming tours showing different land practices. These were included in the packet.
11. Wucherpfennig updated the committee on the status of the nitrate testing and showed the committee the new mapping website that zeros in on all the testing and results that have been conducted in the past 10 years by various entities. The new website is not yet live as they work through the build-out, however will be soon.
12. The committee reviewed the dues paid to Golden Sands RC&D. Wood County currently pays 75% (\$1,425) of the total requested amount. The committee weighed the benefits received from the organization versus the costs. Motion by Leichtnam/Perlock to increase our dues donation to 90% (\$1,710) starting in 2026. Motion carried 4-1. Voting no was Buttke.
13. Wucherpfennig reported of meeting with the new Portage County Conservationist, Tracy Arnold, to discuss the Mill Creek Watershed and the Marshfield chloride issues and the commitment to continue to work together on these projects.
14. Wucherpfennig reviewed the status of the two violations. They are still working on the stipulation with Earth Inc. with their attorneys.
15. County Surveyor Boyer presented bids for the CTH F Transportation Project Plats. There are two projects, a total of 4 miles, along this corridor that would be surveyed to survey the correct right-of-way. Both low bids came in below the estimated amount. The following motions came from this discussion:
 - PROJECT 1 – Motion by Leichtnam/Buttke to accept the low bid of \$30,700 from Quest Civil Engineers to complete the work outlined. Motion carried unanimously.
 - PROJECT 2 – Motion by Leichtnam/Buttke to accept the low bid of \$17,000 from Quest Civil Engineers to complete the work outlined. Motion carried unanimously.
16. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 6th, at 9:00 AM. A special meeting to review the economic development grant applications will be Thursday, July 24th at 8:30 AM.
17. Chairman Leichtnam declared the meeting adjourned at 11:18 AM.

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

Conservation, Education, & Economic Development Committee
July 2, 2025

NAME	REPRESENTING
Staci Kivi	How Chamber
Bill Cleland	WCB #15
Barb Peeters	LWCD
Kendra Wilhelm	LWCD
Jen McNelly	UV - Extension
DENNIS POLLOCK	WCB - 14
Russ Petluck	WCB #4
Meg Domroese	UV Extension
Eric Hummel	NEPCO Lake District
Shane Wucherpfennig	LWCD
Jason Gruenberg	P-3
Patrick Gatterman	Extension
Denise Sonnemann	MACC1
Victoria Wilson (Web Ex)	P-3
Renee Losievski (Web Ex)	City of Pittsville
Kevin Boyer (Web Ex)	Surveyor
Lance Pliml (Web Ex)	CB Chair
Julie Marel (Web Ex)	P-3
Darrin Steinbach (Web Ex)	Finance
Paul Bernard (Web Ex)	P-3
Sue Smith (Web Ex)	Health Dept
Ben Jeffrey (Web Ex)	Health Dept