

MINUTES

CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, October 7, 2026

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: Courthouse – Room 300

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Wayne Schulz, George Gilbertson

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 were no public comments.
3. The minutes of the September 2, 2026, meeting were presented. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Motion Hovendick/Buttke to approve the vouchers, monthly department reports and committee reports. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Jeremy Sickler from Alexander Field requested release of \$15,000 of economic development grant funding. Motion by Buttke/Perlock to approve the release of \$15,000 of economic development grant funding to the South Wood County Airport Commission. Motion carried unanimously.
6. City Administrator Barg and Main Street Marshfield Executive Director Howe gave a report of the status of the building revitalization projects, with all of them due to be completed by the end of October. They are requesting the release of \$8,000 of economic development grant funding. Motion by Hovendick/Perlock to approve the release of \$8,000 of economic development grant funding to the City of Marshfield. Motion carried unanimously.
7. County Planner Simkowski provided background of the Comprehensive Plan update that will be occurring of the next year. The first part of the update will be the public participation plan, which will need to be acted on at the next meeting. Following that, work will continue by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission to complete the plan by the end of 2027. Updates to the committee will be forthcoming.
8. Simkowski presented a resolution to amend the Town of Lincoln Zoning Ordinance, noting that none of the amendments conflict with county zoning. Motion by Perlock/Buttke to approve the resolution and forward it to the county board for their consideration. Motion carried unanimously.
9. County Conservationist Wucherpennig noted they have around \$40,000 left of ARPA funding left to expend. He discussed trying to find a Nitrogen Bio Reactor but has been unable to locate anyone willing to allow this practice. He is still reaching out to possibilities. The committee may need to reallocate excess funds at their next meeting in order to comply with the spend down requirements of the APRA funding.

10. Area Extension Director McNelly introduced Rainna Simone, a recent hire in the Associate 4H Educator position. Simone provided her background to the committee. McNelly also reviewed items from within her report.
11. The committee will be meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 8:30 AM for a roundtable discussion on economic development with other county stakeholders.
12. The next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, at 9:00 AM.
13. Department head evaluation will be on the next agenda.
14. Motion by Hovendick/Buttke to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously at 10:11 AM.

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

Conservation, Education, & Economic Development Committee

October 7, 2026

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