

MINUTES

CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, September 2, 2026

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: Courthouse – Room 300

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Leichtnam, Tom Buttke, Russ Perlock, Tim Hovendick, 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 August 5, 2026, meeting were presented. Motion by Buttke/Schulz 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. Jason Sachs, from the Aqua Skiers, requested REDI Grant funds to move forward with design on revised plans for an addition on the pavilion, instead of a standalone building. After reevaluating the needs, they determined this was a more realistic and more usable space. Motion by Schulz/Hovendick to approve the release of \$3,813 of REDI Grant funds for the above purpose. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Jeff Gaier from the Marshfield Airport gave a report on the activities of the airport and requested the release of economic development grant funding. It was noted that one of the meeting rooms at the airport will be named in memory of former County Board Vice Chair Ed Wagner. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve the release of \$15,000 of economic development grant funding to the Marshfield Airport. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Extension Educator Scott provided an update on the Bike Share program and how it is taking this year to re-group and decide a new direction, now with the advent of e-bikes and such. More information will follow as plans are developed.
8. Extension Area Director McNelly reviewed the current status of the Health & Well Being Educator position and how the funding mechanism that made it a full-time position runs out October 1st. There is funding available, due to vacancies, to continue this position at full time, instead of the 0.80 FTE, through the end of the year with no additional cost to the county. Motion by Hovendick/Perlock to approve the funding to continue this position at full time through the end of 2026. Motion carried unanimously.
9. McNelly presented the 2027 budgets to the committee and reviewed the components therein. Motion by Hovendick/Schulz to tentatively approve the 2027 Extension budgets and forward onto the Finance Dept. Motion carried unanimously.

10. County Surveyor Boyer presented quotes for the transportation project plat on CTH F between CTH HH & CTH C. He reviewed the process and the rationale behind these projects. The quotes were: MSA = \$49,950; Gremmer = \$36,375; Quest = \$25,800. Quest has done the previous plats and there have been no issues. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve the quote from Quest in the amount of \$25,800 for the above-mentioned transportation project plat. Motion carried unanimously.
11. Planning & Zoning Director presented the 2027 Planning & Zoning proposed budgets and highlighted areas of interest. Motion by Schulz/Perlock to tentatively approve the budgets as presented and forward onto the Finance Dept. Motion carried unanimously.
12. Simkowski presented a resolution for a zoning amendment for the Town of Saratoga. It does not conflict with any county zoning. Motion by Buttke/Leichtnam to approve the resolution and forward onto the county board for their consideration. Motion carried unanimously.
13. Grueneberg presented the proposed 2027 Transportation & Economic Development budget to the committee for review. Motion by Hovendick/Schulz to tentatively approve the budget as presented and forward onto the Finance Dept. Motion carried unanimously.
14. County Conservationist Wucherpfennig presented the various 2027 Land & Water Conservation Dept. budgets for review and highlighted areas of interest. Motion by Hovendick/Perlock to tentatively approve the budgets as presented and forward onto the Finance Dept. Motion carried unanimously.
15. Wucherpfennig reviewed the new bidding standards that were approved last month.
16. Wucherpfennig provided a high-level overview of the UW-Stevens Point well water study on 30 hot spot areas in the Grand Rapids & Nekoosa areas, and compared it studies previously done. A final report from UWSP will be forthcoming.
17. The annual North Central Land & Water Conservation Association summer tour is coming up on September 10th in Marathon County.
18. Leichtnam requested per diem and mileage for a meeting held with Extension concerning position vacancies and other matters. Motion by Buttke/Perlock to approve this expense. Motion carried unanimously.
19. The next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 9:00 AM.
20. Chair Leichtnam declared the meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

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

Conservation, Education, & Economic Development Committee
September 2, 2026

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