

## MINUTES

### CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**DATE:** Wednesday, July 3, 2024

**TIME:** 9:00 AM

**PLACE:** Courthouse – Room 114

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bill Leichtnam, Tom Buttke, Tim Hovendick, Russ Perlock, Wayne Schulz, Joe Behlen

**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. Miner asked the minute approval to reflect a correction to the date of the meeting, which was June 5, 2024. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2024 meeting, as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Motion by Schulz/Buttke to approve the vouchers, monthly department reports and committee reports. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Planning & Zoning Director Grueneberg stated that Discover Mediaworks is looking to do a show dedicated to the Wood County Parks 90th Anniversary next year. The cost of a production such as this is \$50,000. There is some unused funding from the Economic Development Grant budget that could absorb this cost. This has been unanimously supported the Highway Infrastructure & Recreation Committee at their previous meeting. Motion by Schulz/Buttke to reallocate unused economic development grant funding to move forward with this project. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Staci Kivi presented a report of the actions of her organization the past year and requested release of the economic development grant funding allocated to them. Motion by Hovendick/Schulz to approve the release of \$25,000 of economic development grant dollars to the Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry Executive Director Denise Sonnemann presented a report of the actions of her organization the past year and requested release of the economic development grant funding allocated to them. Motion by Buttke/Perlock to approve the release of \$25,000 of economic development grant dollars to MACCI. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Area Extension Director Solin reviewed the current 0.5 FTE 4H Associate Educator position that is vacant. He is looking at an early August interview with a start date thereafter.
9. Solin informed the committee of the state Civil Rights review coming up this fall and the preparation currently being done in that regard.
10. Wucherpennig presented bids for the Ruess streambank project. Motion by Behlen/Schulz to approve the low bid of \$2,400 from Dvoran, LLC for the basis of cost share. Motion carried unanimously.
11. Wucherpennig presented an update on the progress of the LWRM Plan update. A Citizen Advisory Committee meeting was held with information gathered from those participants which will be incorporated into the plan update.
12. Wucherpennig updated the committee on the substantial non-compliance Non-metallic mine operation in the Town of Dexter. Fines have been assessed by the DNR and work continues to bring them into compliance. He also updated a manure pit overflow situation that turned into 4 actual overflow scenarios, which are ongoing. The committee asked to be kept updated on these violations.
13. Wucherpennig requested that a committee member be appointed as a representative to the North Central Land & Water Conservation Association. Schulz has offered to serve as Wood County's representative with Behlen serving as alternate. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to appoint Schulz as North Central Land & Water Conservation representative for Wood County and Behlen as alternate. Motion carried unanimously.
14. Grueneberg presented a possible CIP request for aerial photo of the county in 2025 and, along with Finance Director Newton, reviewed different funding scenarios. Motion by Leichtnam/Hovendick to instruct the Planning & Zoning Director to work with the Finance Director and Operations Committee on funding this project, to include CIP funding. Motion carried unanimously.
15. Grueneberg introduced the new Program Assistant in the Planning & Zoning office, Pang Yong Khang to the committee.
16. Grueneberg presented a resolution to the committee to approve the changes to the Town of Dexter zoning ordinance. The town has not had the county approval of their ordinance in the past and were unable to enforce it due to this oversight. Motion by Hovendick/Buttke to approve the resolution and forward onto the county board for their consideration. Motion carried unanimously.
17. Grueneberg provided a department overview of his department and what each employee is responsible for.

18. The committee reviewed the upcoming economic development grant application process and parameters. A meeting was set for Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 AM for review of the applications.
19. Leichtnam requested committee approval of his attendance at the Land & Water Citizens Advisory Committee meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Motion by Buttke/Schulz to approve the request. Motion carried unanimously.
20. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.
21. Chairman Leichtnam declared the meeting adjourned at 11:21 AM.

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

