

MINUTES  
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2022  
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #114, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Bill Leichtnam, Dave LaFontaine, Tom Buttke, Jake Hahn, Carmen Good

Members Excused: Laura Valenstein

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn (via WebEx & In person), Scott Custer (via WebEx) Victoria Wilson and Paul Bernard (for part of meeting)  
Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpennig  
UW Extension Staff: None  
Health Department: Ben Jeffrey & Susan Smith  
Finance: Ed Newton

Others Present (for part or all of the meeting): Shannon Rhode-Project Coordinator Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership, Dennis Polach, Jeff Penzkover, Bill Clendenning, Lance Pliml

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Leichtnam called the CEED Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Declaration of Quorum.** Chairperson Leichtnam declared a quorum.
3. **Public Comment.** None.
4. **Review Correspondence.** Jason Grueneberg shared that the C2 Makerspace had a ribbon cutting on November 30. The event was well attended with state and local representatives and speakers. The C2 Makerspace also wished to express their gratitude for Wood County’s support on this project.

Shane Wucherpennig advised the committee that LWCD will need to take a budget resolution to County Board to cover some unexpected expenses and revenues. LWCD had a phenomenal year as far as practice installation, of which they have the grant to fund those practices; however, they did not physically have those funds in the budget. Shane further stated that LWCD had applied for and received a TMDL- 9 Key Element grant for the Mill Creek Watershed project in 2019. The grant award was \$650,000 from the WDNR and EPA. They are in the third year of implementation and moving into the tail end of phase 1. At the end of 2023, they will be concluding the first phase of the \$650,000 grant. In April of 2023, Shane will need to re-apply for the grant so they can move into phase 2 of the project.

5. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the November 2 CEED meeting, 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension and 3) staff activity reports from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension offices.
  - a. Approve minutes of previous meeting. No additions or corrections needed.
  - b. Approve bills. No additions or corrections needed.
  - c. Receive Staff Activity Reports. No additions or corrections needed.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve and accept the November 2, 2022 CEED minutes, bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension, and staff activity reports as presented. Second by Jake Hahn. Motion carried unanimously.*

6. **Review items, if any, pulled from Consent Agenda.** None.

7. **Risk and Injury Report.** None.

8. **Land & Water Conservation Department**

a. ARPA Funding Updates

Shane included the revised/prioritized ARPA funding request in the packet. As there has not been a recent ARPA funding meeting, he has nothing new to report. The next ARPA funding meeting will take place mid-December.

b. \*\*Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership

Shannon Rhode, Project Coordinator for Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group, gave an overview of the program. The program works with farmers and land owners all around Central Wisconsin to help to control wind erosion. Shannon is based out of the Hancock Research Station and has been in this position for twenty years. The position is housed through Portage County and Wood County partners with Portage County on this program. More information on this program can be found at this link: <https://www.co.portage.wi.us/department/planning-zoning/central-wisconsin-windshed-partnership-group>

c. Committee Reports:

i. Citizens Groundwater Group

Bill Leichtnam gave an overview of the CGG meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup>. (Notes are included in the packet for this meeting.) Next meeting is Monday December 12, 2022 at 2:00pm in the Auditorium of the Riverblock Building.

ii. Health Committee report

There will be a meeting with the Armenia Growers Coalition regarding the MOU on January 10, at 1:00pm.

The Juneau County Health officer, Amanda Dederich, has resigned her position. Juneau County will be recruiting for someone to fill her position and then partner with us on water issues.

iii. Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative (CSGWCC) committee report

Bill Leichtnam shared that this group has been meeting monthly due to the amount of work they have. The Land & Water and Health Departments give updates on what they are doing as far as groundwater protection. Discussions have taken place on “next steps” for the collaborative. The first big step was a gap analysis, which is largely complete. The thirty to forty years of information from this analysis will be revealed on Thursday February 23 at Tri-County High School in Plainfield. Following that, there will be a Groundwater Resource Guide, a one and a half year study involving climate change and finally a panel discussion at UWSP in the summer of 2023 called Groundwater Protection Science and Solutions.

iv. Golden Sands RC&D report

Bill Leichtnam gave an overview of the November 17 meeting. The next meeting will be in January. Forestry, Ag and Wildlife have three new projects they are working on.

9. **Private Sewage**

The staff report for Private Sewage is detailed in the packet.

10. **Land Records**

a. ARPA Funding Updates

Paul updated the committee on his ARPA funding requests which he had discussed at the last meeting.

He stated that the facility-mapping project he has been trying to garner interest on, has had little interest due to lack of funding and staff time. Due to this, he is taking this request off the table. The project will have to be done in-house sometime in the future. Paul answered questions from the committee. Paul continues to work on getting quotes from outside contractors for LiDAR digitizing of impervious surfaces in Wood County. He may have to do an RFP to get quotes as the quotes he has gotten thus far have been rather expensive.

b. Department Funding Request

Paul would like to have a process in place for the Land Records budget regarding funding requests from another department. Paul read the statute that states what role the Land Information Council has concerning Land Records, whether they are advisory or have the power of approving such requests. Wisconsin State Legislative Code 59.72 (3)(b) "The land information council shall review the priorities, needs, policies, and expenditures of a land information office established by the board under sub. (3) and advise the county on matters affecting the land information office." The statute can be found by following this link:

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/59/vii/72>

Recently, a Wood County department head approached Paul to ask if the Land Records budget could pay for equipment needs for their department. The request comes after the 2023 budgets were approved by County Board. The request was also made asking that although the Land Information Council is to "discuss/approve" such requests, the department head did not "want to waste anyone's time". The total expense of the request was \$2,088 per year for five years or a one-time lump sum payment. Generally, there is \$10,000 in capital outlay to pay for equipment for the Land Records Department should it be needed. Discussion took place and committee members agreed that the CEED committee is the oversight committee for the Land Records budget and is responsible for approving any funding requests. Land Information Council is advisory, and does not have authority to approve/deny funding requests. The next Land Information Council meeting is December 20 at 11:00am in room 115. The CEED Committee members are invited to attend that meeting.

Further discussion took place on if there are already written policies in place for situations such as this. Lance Pliml stated that Paul's position should not have neither the authority nor the responsibility to make these decisions on his own. Further, he should not be chastised for not making these decisions as this is a committee decision. It needs to be expressly outlined to the Land Information Council *who* has authority on funds that are not budgeted for. There is a county board rule already in place. No individual, Lance included, has the right to release \$10,000 without committee approval.

**11. County Surveyor-no update**

**12. Planning and Zoning**

a. Approve amendments to the Town of Marshfield Zoning Map and Zoning Ordinance.

Adam has been working with the Town of Marshfield to update their zoning map and zoning ordinance over the past several months. Many updates were initiated as a result of a recent review of their town planning and zoning program that Adam completed earlier this year. Because of that review, the Town of Marshfield is implementing many of the professional recommendations made by our office. This will make their town zoning ordinance and zoning map more effective and more useful in meeting the needs of the town and community. Further information is included in the packet.

*Motion by Tom Buttke to approve the Town of Marshfield Zoning Map and Zoning Ordinance. Second by Dave LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.*

**13. Economic Development.**

a. North Central Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission Update

Jason Grueneberg is working with Dennis Lawrence on a work program for next year.

**14. Extension.**

- a. General Office Update  
Jason Hausler was unable to attend today's meeting. Bill Leichtnam updated the committee on Jason's replacement. That person has been selected and during the course of the month of December, Jason will be working through that transition.
- b. 2023 Extension Contract  
Bill Leichtnam went over the contract that was included in the packet between Wood County and the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve the 2023 Extension Contract. Second by Jake Hahn. Motion carried unanimously.*

15. **Requests for per diem for meeting attendants.** None.
16. **Schedule next regular committee meeting.**  
Wednesday January 4, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.
17. **Agenda items for next meeting.**
  - a. Resolution for Land & Water Conservation for budget amendment
  - b. Resolutions for unused REDI funds and Village of Port Edwards economic development funds being carried over to 2023.
18. **Schedule any additional meetings if necessary.**  
None
19. **Adjourn**  
Chair Bill Leichtnam declared the CEED Meeting adjourned @10:46 a.m.

Minutes by Victoria Wilson, Planning & Zoning Office and in draft form until approved at next meeting.