

MINUTES

CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, November 5, 2025
TIME: 9:00 AM
PLACE: Courthouse – County Board Room #300

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Leichtnam, Tom Buttke, Wayne Schulz, Russ Perlock, Tim Hovendick, 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. Under public comment, Chair Leichtnam noted of a timeline needed to be adhered to in order for Corp Counsel Flanagan to be able to participate in the meeting before he was due in court. As such, one person spoke in opposition to the Hub City Wind Farm proposal being considered.
3. Representatives from Invenergy (Saratoga Solar Project) reviewed a possible amendment to the developer's agreement in place with the county to allow for the burning of cleared vegetation from the site. The committee had questions related to air quality and safety that they would like answered before any approval be considered. Motion by Schulz/Buttke to table this item until the questions that are proposed can be answered, in person, by Invenergy. Motion carried unanimously. Chair Leichtnam instructed the committee to get those questions County Clerk Miner and he will forward to the representatives of Invenergy.
4. Planning & Zoning Director Grueneberg presented the actions taken to date on the Hub City Wind Farm (Alliant Energy) on their request to possibly place a wind turbine on land owned by Wood County in Marathon County. The question before the committee was whether to continue to proceed towards the drafting of a Wind Lease & Easement agreement. Chair Leichtnam opened the floor for continued public comment, whereby several Marathon County residents spoke against wind turbines. Consensus of the committee was to hold this item over until the representative from Alliant Energy could be in person (December CEED meeting) to answer questions.
5. A 3-minute recess was called.
6. Chair Leichtnam reconvened the meeting. Justin Casperson from the City of Marshfield presented an update to work done at Braem Park in Marshfield. This project was approved for economic development grant funding. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve the release of \$20,000 economic development grant funding to the City of Marshfield for the Bream Park project. Motion carried unanimously.
7. The CEED Committee previously had approved the Building Revitalization project for economic grant dollars in the amount of \$8,000. The City had, at the time, stated they were going to put \$25,000 into that project as well, however, budget constraints will only allow a match of \$8,000. The committee is being asked to approve the project with this lower match amount. Motion by

Schulz/Perlock to approve the Building Revitalization project for 2026 with the lower match of \$8,000 from the City of Marshfield. Motion carried unanimously.

8. The minutes of the October 1, 2025, meeting were presented. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
9. Motion by Hovendick/Schulz to approve the vouchers, monthly department reports and committee reports. Motion carried unanimously.
10. Associate Extension Dean Hausler reported that he expects a new Area Extension Director to be in place, possibly by the end of January, depending on budgetary issues at the state.
11. Hausler and the interim Area Extension Director McGivern presented the 2026 Extension Contract. In the past, Wood County has not signed an MOU with Extension, but there is a document that will be shared with the committee. The committee, by consensus, decided to review both documents for the next meeting.
12. County Conservationist Wucherpennig shared a handout as it relates to the chloride testing conducted along Mill Creek and in the City of Marshfield. There are higher concentrations along and behind 14th Street in the city. Wucherpennig will reach out to the plumbing inspector in Marshfield on possible issues from certain properties along 14th Street.
13. Wucherpennig reviewed the current status of the Nitrate Well Testing and the funding of reverse osmosis systems as well as the number of systems currently being used. He reported on the Mill Creek Phosphorus testing recently completed, as well as an update on current violations in the county. He informed the group that Engineering Technician Andrae was featured in the publication "THE FIELD NOTE" for his role in the mentoring program. He announced the upcoming WI Land + Water Annual Conference in March of 2026.
14. Planning & Zoning Director Grueneberg presented a subdivision plat for Saratoga Commons in the Town of Saratoga. The town has reviewed and approved the plat. Motion by Buttke/Schulz to approve the plat as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
15. Grueneberg informed the committee of the approximate \$25,000 left in the REDI Implementation fund budget for 2025, and that the committee could reallocate some of those dollars to other projects, if desired. Motion by Buttke/Perlock to return any remaining REDI Implementation funding to the county general fund. Motion carried unanimously.
16. Supervisor Hovendick attended the Citizen Water Group meeting at the request of Chairman Leichtnam and is requesting per diem and mileage for attendance. Motion by Buttke/Schulz to approve the per diem and mileage for Supervisor Hovendick for the aforementioned meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
17. The committee set a date of Thursday, November 13th at 9:00 AM to complete the department head evaluations.
18. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

19. Motion by Buttke/Schulz for the committee to move into closed session pursuant to Wis Stats 19.85 (1)(c) to conduct performance evaluations of the department heads the committee oversees. Motion carried unanimously.
20. Motion by Schulz/Hovendick to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously.
21. Chair Leichtnam declared the meeting adjourned at 12:14 PM.

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

Conservation, Education, & Economic Development Committee

November 5, 2025

NAME	REPRESENTING
Bill Cleodrenning	WCB 15
Wayne [Signature]	WCB 1
Jason Grueneberg	P&Z
Megory Zygarlicka	Town of McMillan
Barb Peeters	LWCD
Wendy Rogowski	me
George Gilbertson	L & LWCD Rep.
Gachie Dillinger	Town of Day
Kristine Seehafer	Town of McMillan
Alidi Pestie	Town of McMillan
Carolyn Opatz	Town of McMillan
Pamela Braun	Town of McMillan
Shane Wecherpfenning	LWCD
JUSTIN CASPERSON	CITY OF MARSHFIELD
DENNIS POLACH	WCB-14
SCOTT BREHM	WCB #9
Victoria Wilson	P&Z
Kim McGrath	HR
Katie DeKleyn (Web Ex)	County Clerk
Jason Hauster (Web Ex)	Extension
Steve Bary (Web Ex)	City of Marshfield
Kimberly McGrath (Web Ex)	HR
Darrin Steinbach (Web Ex)	Finance
Sefal Dhindsa (Web Ex)	Invenergy
Jutic Manel (Web Ex)	P&Z
Chris Logbach (Web Ex)	
Henry Petrash (Web Ex)	Invenergy