

MINUTES

CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, October 1, 2025
TIME: 9:00 AM
PLACE: Courthouse – Conference Rm #302

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Leichtnam, Wayne Schulz, Russ Perlock, Tim Hovendick, George Gilbertson

MEMBER EXCUSED: Tom Buttke

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. The minutes of the September 3, 2025, meeting were presented. Motion by Hovendick/Schulz to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Motion by Schulz/Perlock to approve the vouchers, monthly department reports and committee reports. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Under the risk & injury report, Land & Water Conservation Director Wucherpennig reported a motor vehicle accident involving himself in the county vehicle. As it just happened, they are waiting for insurance to decide whether it will be totaled or able to be fixed.
6. Amy Golding from C2 Makerspace in Marshfield gave a presentation on the activities of the various clubs working out of the space at UWSP and Marshfield. She noted the equipment purchased with the economic development grant funds and is requesting the release of those funds. Motion by Perlock/Hovendick to approve the release of \$1,750 of economic development grant funds to C2 Makerspace. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Jeremy Sickler from the South Wood County Airport Commission highlighted the committee on various projects and ventures of the airport and is requesting the release of \$15,000 of economic development grant funding. Motion by Schulz/Hovendick to approve the release of \$15,000 of economic development grant funding to the airport. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Meredith Kleker from the Wisconsin Rapids Convention & Visitors Bureau requested REDI Implementation Funds to help fund a feasibility study being conducted for an indoor sports facility in Wisconsin Rapids. They are requesting \$5,000 of REDI Implementation Funds to be able to add to the other donations to be able to complete the study. Motion by Schulz/Hovendick to approve the release of \$5,000 of REDI Implementation Funds for the feasibility study. Motion carried unanimously.
9. Extension Associate Dean Jason Hausler introduced Mallory McGivern as the interim area extension director. She will be in place for the next few months. They reviewed that the current

funding for the Food Wise educator was ending, and until the county decides what to do with this position, Hausler proposed using unspent funds from the budget from vacancies during the year to fund its continuance until the end of the year. Motion by Leichtnam/Schulz to approve the use of unused Extension funding to fund the Food Wise educator position until the end of the year. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Wucherpfennig 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 reviewed various measurements along Mill Creek Water Shed and action being taken along the watershed. He also discussed current violations and their respective status.
11. A field day is coming up highlighting various land conservation practices will be held at Albert Acres' in Junction City on October 7th. The committee was advised that if they plan to attend to let the Land & Water Conservation Dept. and the County Clerk's office know so that it can be noticed in accordance with the Open Meetings Law.
12. Planning & Zoning Director Grueneberg, along with Extension Educator Rombalski reviewed a draft of the economic development grant request with the committee. Some adjustments were made to the document, which will be brought back next month for final approval.
13. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 5th, at 9:00 AM, and will contain a possible closed session.
14. Motion by Schulz/Hovendick to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously at 11:07 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 1, 2025

NAME	REPRESENTING
Jeff Furkan	WCB #11
Bill Cledemizing	WCB #15
Russ Perlock	WCB #4
Jason Grunberg	P+2
Barb Peeters	LWCD
George Gilbertson	LWCD Rep
Andy Guidry	C2 makerspace
Dennis Polach	wcb-14
Wayne Schmitz	WCB-1
Meredith K. Baker	WCB Rapids Area CCB/WCB
Kayla Rombalski	Extension
Jason Hausler	Extension
Mallory McGivern	Extension
Jeremy Sickler (Web Ex)	Alexander Field
Victoria Wilson (Web Ex)	Po3
Darrin Steinbach (Web Ex)	Finance
Katie DeKleyn (Web Ex)	County Clerk
Lance Pliml (Web Ex)	CB Chair
Ben Jeffrey (Web Ex)	Health Dept
Kayla Rombalski (Web Ex)	Extension
Pakya Yang (Web Ex)	Finance