

MINUTES

CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, August 5, 2026

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: Courthouse – Room 300

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Leichtnam, Tom Buttke, Russ Perlock, Tim Hovendick (arrived 8:04 AM), 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 July 1 & 29, 2026, meetings were presented. Motion by Buttke/Perlock to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Motion Perlock/Buttke to approve the vouchers, monthly department reports and committee reports. Motion carried unanimously.
5. As a continuation of the economic development grant process, Ben Jennings from Indulto provided a more detailed budget for his application that was reviewed at the July 29th meeting and discussed the project more in depth. Motion by Buttke/Schulz to deny this application. Motion carried unanimously.
6. As it relates to the economic development grant application process, Planning & Zoning Director Grueneberg reviewed the Cran City Corner request and was able to confirm that this project will not be in a TIF district in Pittsville, so the original grant award remains.
7. County Planner Simkowski reviewed the Town of Rock comprehensive plan update and new zoning ordinance. He presented a resolution to approve the new zoning ordinance. Motion by Buttke/Perlock to approve the resolution and forward onto the county board for their consideration. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Simkowski presented a resolution amending the Town of Saratoga zoning ordinance. This is due to a new subdivision that will be discussed next. The amendment does not conflict with any county ordinance. Motion by Buttke/Schulz to approve the resolution and forward onto the county board for their consideration. Motion carried unanimously.
9. Simkowski reviewed a new preliminary subdivision located in the Town of Saratoga. After review, motion by Hovendick/Buttke to approve the plan as presented, pending passage of the zoning amendment resolution by the county board. Motion carried unanimously.
10. Grueneberg, along with Pittsville City Clerk Renee Losievski, reviewed activity related to the housing economic development grant application. Motion by Buttke/Perlock to approve the

release of \$25,500 of economic development grant funding to the City of Pittsville. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Angel Laidlaw from Centergy provided an update to the Target Industry and Site Readiness Evaluation Plan being conducted right now. This plan was a part of the economic development grant process last year. Motion by Hovendick/Perlock to approve the release of \$5,000 of economic grant funding to Centergy. Motion carried unanimously.
12. There were no bids received for the Wilke manure pit closure.
13. County Conservationist Wucherpfennig reviewed the new bidding standards that was in the updated ATCP 50 rule. This would allow for direct contracting of projects under \$25,000 as well as email submission of bids. Motion by Leichtnam/Buttke to adopt the following guideline from ATCP 50: The committee may require competitive bidding and may determine a cost-share grant amount based on low bid cost, regardless of whether the contracting landowner selects the low bidder. The committee may specify bidding procedures that it considers appropriate. The committee shall require competitive bidding if the cost-share contract may exceed \$25,000. In addition the committee will allow for email submission of those bids. Motion carried unanimously.
14. County Conservationist Wucherpfennig informed the committee that no bids were received for the Lippert stream crossing project so this will be coming back next month. Wucherpfennig reported that some rules for bidding have changed, and he would like to discuss the streamlining of the bidding process to be more inline with DATCP rules. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.
15. Wucherpfennig presented a non-metallic mine fee structure. Motion by Gilbertson/Hovendick to approve the new fee schedule as presented, effective January 1, 2027. Motion carried unanimously.
16. The annual North Central Land & Water Conservation Association summer tour is coming up on September 10th.
17. Extension Area Director McNelly reviewed the Director's Report.
18. McNelly reviewed the Health & Well-being position and that the funding for this position had been cut with the federal SNAP funding. She was able to remain employed due to the county stepping in. She stated that the department can continue to fund this position at least through January 2027 at a full time rate. After that, funding dependent, the position would go to an 80% position.
19. Leichtnam requested per diem and mileage for a meeting held at McMillan Library for the scoping meeting put on by Extension. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve this expense. Motion carried unanimously.
20. The next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at 9:00 AM.
21. Motion by Hovendick/Buttke to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously at 10:28 AM.

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