

MINUTES

CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 4, 2026

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: Courthouse – Room 302

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Leichtnam, Tom Buttke, Wayne Schulz, Russ Perlock, Tim Hovendick (via WebEx, arriving at 9:09 AM)

MEMBER EXCUSED: 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 January 7, 2026, meeting were presented. Motion by Buttke/Perlock 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. Emily Oetzman from the Health Department reviewed the economic development grant application for the Catch-A-Ride program and explained that the match dollars had been changed to eliminate the donation of vehicles to the leasing of vehicles, which they believe in the long term is a more viable option. Motion by Buttke/Perlock to approve the changes in the grant application as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Julie Strenn from Cran City Corner in Pittsville provided an update on their project and the timeline for construction to hopefully begin later this year. They are requesting the release of previously approved economic development grant funding. Motion by Schulz/Buttke to approve the release of \$20,000 of economic development grant funding as requested. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Interim Area Extension Director McGivern provided a current timeline of when a new Area Director will be on board, a document of the various educators either housed in or shared with other counties, and a monthly report of various activities of the department.
8. County Conservationist Wucherpfennig reported on the recently held Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo held in Marshfield recently.
9. Wucherpfennig presented a resolution amending the 2025 DATCP budget for the expenses they incurred that was covered by additional state revenue. Motion by Buttke/Perlock to approve the resolution and forward onto the county board for their consideration.

10. Wucherpfennig reviewed the current status of the Mill Creek chloride issue and noted that the City of Marshfield has not moved forward in their inspection of the property in question. The committee instructed Wucherpfennig to encourage them to take action.
11. Wucherpfennig brought the committee up to date on the current violations and discussed an out-of-compliance mine operator that has Corporation Counsel involved.
12. Planning & Zoning Director Grueneberg presented a resolution amending the 2025 Land Records budget for the additional revenue and expense of LiDAR project funded with ARPA dollars. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve the resolution and forward onto the county board for their consideration. Motion carried unanimously.
13. A referral resolution from Marathon County relating to local control in the regulation of large scale wind and solar projects was reviewed by the committee. Motion by Schulz/Perlock to direct staff to draft a similar resolution for Wood County and have it ready for the February County Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
14. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 9:00 AM.
15. Motion by Buttke/Schulz to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously at 10:43 AM.

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

Conservation, Education, & Economic Development Committee

February 4, 2026

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