

MINUTES

CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, October 14, 2026

TIME: 8:30 AM

PLACE: Courthouse – Room 300

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Leichtnam, Tom Buttke, Tim Hovendick, Russ Perlock, Wayne Schulz

OTHERS PRESENT: Trent Miner, County Clerk

1. Chairman Leichtnam called the special CEED meeting dealing with economic development to order at 8:30 AM and declared a quorum present.
2. Chair Leichtnam welcomed everyone and gave opening remarks to the group.
3. Planning & Zoning Director Grueneberg and Extension Educator Rombalski provided comments and background, as did other County Board Supervisors in attendance.
4. The CEED Committee shared their perspectives on challenges and opportunities they see in economic development in Wood County.
5. The following people/organizations spoke on their current projects in their respective organizations as well as their perceived challenges and opportunities in their sphere of economic development:
 - a. Kelly Borchardt – Childcaring, Inc.
 - b. Kate Taylor – UWSP Small Business Development Center
 - c. Dr. Tony Andrews – Campus Administrator – UWSP at Marshfield
 - d. James Lieven – City of Marshfield Planner
 - e. Carter Howe – Executive Director, Main Street Marshfield
 - f. Denise Sonnemann – Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry
 - g. MaryAnn Lippert – Various Pittsville Area entities
 - h. Staci Kivi – Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce
 - i. Meredith Klecker – Convention & Visitors Bureau, Wisconsin Rapids
 - j. Kristie Egge – Wood County Health Department
 - k. Emmett Simkowski – Wood County Planner
 - l. Jason Grueneberg – Wood County Planning & Zoning Director
6. The group participated in a question and answer period and reviewed next steps
7. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously at 10:46 AM.

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

Conservation, Education, & Economic Development Committee

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