

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 7, 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 9:35 AM), 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. Under correspondence, County Conservationist Wucherpfennig announced the upcoming Wisconsin Land + Water Annual Conference.
4. The minutes of the December 3, 2025, meeting were presented. Motion by Buttke/Perlock to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Motion by Schulz/Buttke to approve the vouchers, monthly department reports and committee reports. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Interim Area Extension Director McGivern provided an updated timeline on when a new Area Director would be in place with the final interviews occurring at the end of this month. The hope is to have them on the job by March.
7. Wucherpfennig highlighted the upcoming Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo being held in Marshfield on January 27, 2026.
8. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Coordinator, Shannon Roedhe, provided a yearly update of activities completed over the past year, including planted and maintained windbreaks and snow fence.
9. Wucherpfennig reviewed the current status of the Mill Creek chloride issue and noted that not much has transpired in this regard due to the holidays. More information will be forthcoming.
10. Wucherpfennig brought the committee up to date on the current violations.
11. County Planner Simkowski presented a resolution amending the Town of Saratoga Zoning Ordinance, highlighting the various changes. Motion by Buttke/Schulz to approve the resolution and forward onto the county board for their consideration. Motion carried unanimously.
12. Planning & Zoning Director Grueneberg reviewed the current status of the Broadband Equity Access Deployment (BEAD) around the Marshfield area. Two companies received funding to

ensure this area of the county has broadband access. Wood County should be completely covered by the end of 2028.

13. Grueneberg & Extension Educator Rombalski reviewed the proposed economic development grant application. The committee noted a couple of changes and then, by consensus, instructed staff that this version was ready to be distributed.
14. Motion by Leichtnam/Buttke to approve per diem and mileage to one member of the CEED Committee to attend the Citizens Water Group each month. Motion carried unanimously.
15. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 9:00 AM.
16. Motion by Buttke/Perlock to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously at 10:17 AM.

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

Conservation, Education, & Economic Development Committee

January 7, 2026

NAME	REPRESENTING
Dennis Poelach	WC-B-14
Bill Pendleton (2)	WC-D-15
Shane Wychert/Kennig	LWCD
George Gilbertson	LWCD Rep
Shannon Rohde	CWWP
Kayla Rombalski	Extension
Lance Pliml	CB Chair
Barb Peeters (WebEx)	LWCD
Julie Mancl (WebEx)	P-3
Victoria Wilson (WebEx)	P-3
Katie DeKlyn (WebEx)	County Clerk