

AGENDA

CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, November 4, 2026
TIME: 9:00 AM
LOCATION: Courthouse – Room 300

Join by phone

+1-408-418-9388 United States Toll
Access code: 2483 556 9397

Join by WebEx App or website

<https://woodcountywi.webex.com/woodcountywi/j.php?MTID=m7bc3a0ba0108ee8b0fd08417d0dc7067>

Webinar number: 2483 556 9397

Webinar password: 110426

1. Call meeting to order
2. Declaration of Quorum
3. Public Comments (*brief comments/statement regarding committee business*)
4. Approve minutes of October 7 & 14, 2026, meetings
5. Approve vouchers, staff reports, & committee reports
6. Risk and Injury Report
7. Resolution – State Water Quality Request
8. Extension
 - a. Upcoming Annual Contract for Services
 - b. Hiring Updates on Cranberry Specialist and NRE Positions
9. Private Sewage
10. Land Records
11. County Surveyor
12. Planning & Zoning
 - a. Wood County Comprehensive Plan Public Participation Plan and Community Survey.
 - b. Town of Grand Rapids Zoning Map Amendment.
13. Economic Development
 - a. Consider release of 2026 economic development grant funds for Wisconsin Rapids Convention & Visitor's Bureau and Visit Marshfield for Wood County trail maps in the amount of \$5,000.
 - b. Consider release of REDI Implementation funds for survey work for the Central Wisconsin State Fairgrounds
 - c. Consider release of REDI Implementation funds to Mainstreet Marshfield to develop a downtown master plan
14. Land & Water Conservation Department
 - a. Review and approve barnyard project (bids) (J. Gilbertson)
 - b. Update on ARPA projects
 - c. Mark your calendars: Central WI Farm Profitability Expo on Thurs., Jan. 7, 2027 (in Marshfield) and the North Central Land Water Conservation Association Winter Meeting (area poster and speaking contests) on Thurs., Jan. 28, 2027 (Riverblock)
15. Committee requests for per diem for meeting attendance
16. Schedule next regular committee meeting – Wednesday, December 2, 2026
17. Agenda items for next meeting
18. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary
19. The committee may go into closed session pursuant to Wis Stats 19.85(1)(c) to conduct performance evaluations for the department heads they oversee.
20. Return to open session.
21. Adjourn

MINUTES

CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, October 7, 2026

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: Courthouse – Room 300

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED: 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 September 2, 2026, meeting were presented. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Motion Hovendick/Buttke to approve the vouchers, monthly department reports and committee reports. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Jeremy Sickler from Alexander Field requested release of \$15,000 of economic development grant funding. Motion by Buttke/Perlock to approve the release of \$15,000 of economic development grant funding to the South Wood County Airport Commission. Motion carried unanimously.
6. City Administrator Barg and Main Street Marshfield Executive Director Howe gave a report of the status of the building revitalization projects, with all of them due to be completed by the end of October. They are requesting the release of \$8,000 of economic development grant funding. Motion by Hovendick/Perlock to approve the release of \$8,000 of economic development grant funding to the City of Marshfield. Motion carried unanimously.
7. County Planner Simkowski provided background of the Comprehensive Plan update that will be occurring of the next year. The first part of the update will be the public participation plan, which will need to be acted on at the next meeting. Following that, work will continue by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission to complete the plan by the end of 2027. Updates to the committee will be forthcoming.
8. Simkowski presented a resolution to amend the Town of Lincoln Zoning Ordinance, noting that none of the amendments conflict with county zoning. Motion by Perlock/Buttke to approve the resolution and forward it to the county board for their consideration. Motion carried unanimously.
9. County Conservationist Wucherpennig noted they have around \$40,000 left of ARPA funding left to expend. He discussed trying to find a Nitrogen Bio Reactor but has been unable to locate anyone willing to allow this practice. He is still reaching out to possibilities. The committee may need to reallocate excess funds at their next meeting in order to comply with the spend down requirements of the APRA funding.

10. Area Extension Director McNelly introduced Rainna Simone, a recent hire in the Associate 4H Educator position. Simone provided her background to the committee. McNelly also reviewed items from within her report.
11. The committee will be meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 8:30 AM for a roundtable discussion on economic development with other county stakeholders.
12. The next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, at 9:00 AM.
13. Department head evaluation will be on the next agenda.
14. Motion by Hovendick/Buttke to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously at 10:11 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 7, 2026

[illegible]

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
October 14, 2026

NAME	REPRESENTING
Jeff Furkawa	WCBH
Staci Kivi	How Chamber
Denise Sonnenmann	MACCI
Emmett Simkowski	P+Z
Carter Howe	Main Street Marshfield
Bill O'Leary	
Lance Plim	WCB
Kayla Kumbalski	Extension
Meredith Kleker	Wis Rapids Area CUB
Kristi Egge	Wood Co Health
Anthony Andrews	UWSP - Marshfield
Margie Lippert	Pittsville Area
James Lieven	City of Marshfield
Katie Kleyn (Web Ex)	County Clerk
Kate Taylor (Web Ex)	UWSP
Kelly Boschardt (Web Ex)	Childcare, Inc
Niki Lucht (Web Ex)	Health Dept
Julie Munch (Web Ex)	P+Z
Paul Bernard (Web Ex)	P+Z

Committee Report

County of Wood

Report of claims for: EXTENSION

For the period of: OCTOBER

For the range of vouchers: 30260100 - 30260114

Voucher	Vendor Name	Nature of Claim	Doc Date	Amount	Paid
30260100	SIMONE RAINNA	SEPTEMBER EXPENSES	10/07/2026	\$272.20	P
30260101	OPPORTUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER	STRONGBODIES T-SHIRTS	09/28/2026	\$117.00	P
30260102	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	OFFICE SUPPLIES	09/25/2026	\$74.73	P
30260103	VEOLIA ES TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS	WR CLEAN SWEEP COLLECT FEES-AG	09/29/2026	\$4,495.97	P
30260104	VEOLIA ES TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS	WR CLEAN SWEEP COLLECT FEE-HHW	09/26/2026	\$24,040.20	P
30260105	US BANK	October Statement	10/21/2026	\$1,799.72	
30260106	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	OFFICE SUPPLIES	10/21/2026	\$44.44	P
30260107	UW MADISON EXTENSION	CWF REGISTRATION FEE - GALVAN	10/21/2026	\$750.00	P
30260108	EBERLEIN BENJAMIN	EBERLEIN OCTOBER EXPENSES	10/28/2026	\$82.13	
30260109	HUBER LAURA	HUBER OCTOBER EXPENSES	10/28/2026	\$1,046.97	
30260110	ROMBALSKI KAYLA-ROSE	ROMBALSKI OCTOBER EXPENSES	10/28/2026	\$440.41	
30260111	SCOTT HANNAH	SCOTT OCTOBER EXPENSES	10/28/2026	\$202.92	
30260112	SIMONE RAINNA	SIMONE OCTOBER EXPENSES	10/28/2026	\$155.04	
30260113	THAO KA ZOUA	THAO OCTOBER EXPENSES	10/28/2026	\$162.00	
30260114	WAE4-HYDP	2026 PROF DUES - R.SIMONE	10/28/2026	\$100.00	
Grand Total:				\$33,783.73	

Signatures

Committee Chair: _____

Committee Member: _____

Committee Member: _____

Committee Member: _____

Committee Member: _____

Committee Member: _____

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Committee Member: _____

Committee Member: _____

Committee Report

County of Wood

Report of claims for: Land & Water Conservation Dept.

For the period of: October 2026

For the range of vouchers: 18260113 - 18260138

Voucher	Vendor Name	Nature of Claim	Doc Date	Amount	Paid
18260113	KNUTH RONALD	Year 2 Incentive Payment	10/01/2025	\$2,362.50	P
18260114	KNUTH RONALD	Year 2 Incentive Payment	09/30/2025	\$2,497.50	P
18260115	KNUTH RONALD	Year 2 Incentive Payment	09/30/2025	\$540.00	P
18260116	ROTH GOLDEN ACRES LLC	Year 2 Incentive Payment	10/01/2026	\$5,467.50	P
18260117	ROTH GOLDEN ACRES LLC	Year 2 Incentive Payment	10/01/2026	\$16,245.00	P
18260118	ROTH GOLDEN ACRES LLC	Year 2 Incentive Payment	10/01/2026	\$13,537.50	P
18260119	TRACTOR SUPPLY CREDIT PLAN	Parts for no-till drill	09/30/2026	\$23.97	P
18260120	WATER AND ENVIROMENTAL ANALYSIS LAB	Water tests Fourmile Watershed	10/01/2026	\$163.00	P
18260121	WATER AND ENVIROMENTAL ANALYSIS LAB	Water tests Nepco/Wazeecha	10/01/2026	\$326.00	P
18260122	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Mileage logs, Poster Contest	10/13/2026	\$28.83	P
18260123	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	ARPA mailing; LMPN supplies	10/13/2026	\$90.86	P
18260124	WATER AND ENVIROMENTAL ANALYSIS LAB	Water tests-Nepco/Wazeecha	10/09/2026	\$652.00	P
18260125	WATER AND ENVIROMENTAL ANALYSIS LAB	Water tests-Fourmile Watershed	10/19/2026	\$652.00	P
18260126	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Office & field supplies	10/19/2026	\$29.18	P
18260127	US BANK	Supplies, tree sale, testing	10/19/2026	\$2,282.35	
18260128	DORSHORST CHARLES	Cost-share cover crops	10/21/2026	\$5,978.00	
18260129	FLAIG CARL	Cost-share nutrient management	04/29/2026	\$2,888.00	
18260130	FLAIG CARL	Cost-share nutrient management	10/21/2026	\$2,936.00	
18260131	JAGODZINSKI JAMES & LESLIE	Cost-share cover crops	10/21/2026	\$1,841.00	
18260132	RAIKOWSKI JAMES M	Cost-share cover crops	10/13/2026	\$1,023.40	
18260133	PHEASANTS FOREVER	Customer seed order (MG)	10/12/2026	\$255.60	
18260134	PORTCO CORPORATION	Pallet of kraft bags/tree sale	09/08/2026	\$2,251.29	
18260135	WATER AND ENVIROMENTAL ANALYSIS LAB	Water tests Fourmile Watershed	10/20/2026	\$489.00	
18260136	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Supplies for field event	10/24/2026	\$9.79	
18260137	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Supplies for educ. event	10/23/2026	\$17.76	
18260138	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Poster contest awards	10/26/2026	\$56.20	
Grand Total:				\$62,644.23	

Signatures

Committee Chair: _____
Committee Member: _____
Committee Member: _____
Committee Member: _____
Committee Member: _____

Committee Member: _____
Committee Member: _____
Committee Member: _____
Committee Member: _____

Committee Report

County of Wood

Report of claims for: Planning & Zoning

For the period of: October 2026

For the range of vouchers: 22260072 - 22260078 38260020 - 38260020

Voucher	Vendor Name	Nature of Claim	Doc Date	Amount	Paid
22260072	BOYER KEVIN	SU-Prof Serv	09/30/2026	\$1,126.66	P
22260073	INDUSTRY SERVICES DIVISION	PS-SANITARY PERMIT FEES	10/01/2026	\$2,300.00	P
22260074	OPPORTUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER	PS-PROF SERV/POSTAGE	09/16/2026	\$553.87	P
22260075	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	PL-OFFICE SUPPLIES	10/02/2026	\$44.52	P
22260076	CLOUDPOINT GEOSPATIAL INC	LR-Prof Serv Other	09/30/2026	\$21,000.00	P
22260077	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	PL-Office Supplies	10/14/2026	\$71.05	P
22260078	US BANK	LR/ED/PS Credit Card Charges	10/19/2026	\$681.63	P
38260020	SOUTH WOOD CO AIRPORT COMM	ED-Grants & Donations	10/08/2026	\$15,000.00	P
Grand Total:				\$40,777.73	

Signatures

Committee Chair: _____

Committee Member: _____

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Committee Member: _____

Committee Member: _____

Extension Wood County staff led, delivered, planned or collaborated on all of the following activities:

4-H POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Laura Huber, 4-H Program Educator

Rainna Simone, Associate 4-H Educator

- A review of all 4-H club/group charter renewal applications and annual financial reports to ensure clubs and groups are meeting the requirements as set forth by Wisconsin 4-H. Data received from the charter applications was entered into the state 4-H database.
- An in-person table event at Science by the River for Wisconsin Science Festival in which youth learned about DNA and the scientific method with hands-on activities. This event was also used to promote Wood County 4-H.
 - **Total Reach:** Approximately 50 youth and their parent/guardians
- The Learning Journeys Washington, D.C. trip is an educational travel experience for youth in grades 7–12, where participants explore our nation’s history, government, and civic engagement through visits to significant historical landmarks, memorials, and the U.S. Capitol to build leadership skills, broaden their perspectives, strengthen their understanding of civic responsibility, and help youth become Beyond Ready to be informed, engaged citizens and future leaders in their communities.
 - **Total Reach:** 40 Youth, 4 4-H Educators, 1 Adult Volunteer Chaperone
- An in-person orientation for youth travelers and their families where we reviewed the upcoming Herb Kohl Learning Journeys travel experience to Washington DC. Youth and their families learned about our schedule, behavior expectations, what's needed, and more. As a result, youth will be more prepared to successfully engage in this 4-day, 3-night trip.
 - **Total Reach:** 40 Youth Travelers, 4 4-H Educators, 1 4-H Volunteer Chaperone, 42 Parents



4-H youth lead a hand-on station on DNA extraction at Science by the River.

AGRICULTURE

Matt Lippert, Agriculture Educator

- A pasture walk was held on October 7. The focus was organic dairy production. Evaluations indicated over a one point Likert Scale increase of knowledge for the following topics: Legumes for forage improving forage protein and quality, pasture fertility, interseeding annuals into established alfalfa to improve yield and quality. Other presentations included: The organic certification process; Organic market opportunities; the Organic standard for dairy.
 - **Total Reach:** 62 participants
- On October 24 Save a Calf, Save a Cow was held near Wausau. Attendees participated in a program that featured practice calf obstetrics with a model cow and calf, presentations on beef and dairy



transition cow and calf feeding. General herd health practices prior to calving. Respondents rated all of the presentations favorable with an increase of knowledge for all topics presented.

- **Total Reach:** 15 attendees
- Matt Lippert has presented at multiple conferences locally and recently a presentation in Canada about the value of high oleic soybeans in dairy diets. This has also included print materials, online zoom presentations and combination of classroom and field events where the participants also observed roasting of soybeans, a critical step in the process. The field days included 3 events in the state with about 140 participants in total. High oleic soybeans are a new type of soybean with a different fatty acid profile that was developed for the food industry but has been found to have significant benefits for reducing the cost of dairy diets and improving cattle performance. They typical will be grown locally on the dairy producer's farm.
 - **Total Reach:** Canadian conference: 400+ (300 in-person; remainder virtual); Field days: 140 participants

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Kayla Rombalski, Community Development Educator

- Basic grant writing workshop for local government, businesses, and nonprofit organization members and staff. The goal of this effort is for people to learn how to find, write, and apply for grants to carry out the activities of their organization, business, or government unit.
 - **Total Reach:** 127 workshop participants
- Partnering on a Wisconsin Partnership Program - Community Impact Grant (2025-2027) with CAP Services, Inc. and the UW Center for Community and Non-Profit Studies to grow and improve CAP Services' housing repairs programming. A goal of this project is to improve the accessibility and timeliness of their services in order to improve housing conditions for low to moderate income individuals and improve health equity in housing.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Ka Zoua Thao, Bilingual (Hmong) Community Health Worker
Hannah Wendels Scott, Health and Well-Being Educator

Behavioral Health

- A bi-weekly meeting for high school students to engage in open conversations, cultural storytelling, and guided activities to learn about mental health, domestic violence, and sexual assault within the community. They gain tools to recognize signs of trauma, understand healthy boundaries, and access support systems - all in a safe, judgement-free environment. Through this effort, we are fostering a generation of informed, compassionate youth who feel seen, heard, and empowered to break cycles of silence and advocate for healing and change in their families and communities.
 - **Total Reach:** 19 students in grades 9-12



- A bi-monthly support group for elementary students in grades four and five, where they learn about feelings, safety, and respect through storytelling, art, and guided conversations. Using age appropriate terms, basic concepts of mental health, personal boundaries, and trusted adults while honoring traditions and values will be introduced. Through this program, students will feel safe, heard, and confident to lay the foundation for lifelong emotional well-being and opening the door to healthier conversations in their families and communities.
 - **Total Reach:** 4 registered students in grades four and five at Washington Elementary School; 3 registered students in grades four and five at Howe Elementary School
- A bi-weekly meeting for middle school students to engage in open conversations, cultural storytelling, and guided activities to learn about mental health, domestic violence, and sexual assault within the community. They gain tools to recognize signs of trauma, understand healthy boundaries, and access support systems – all in a safe, judgement-free environment. Through this effort, we are fostering a generation of informed, compassionate youth who feel seen, heard, and empowered to break cycles of silence and advocate for healing and change in their families and communities.
 - **Total Reach:** 18 students in grades 6-8
- A Tai Chi class for older adults and individuals with arthritis, where participants learn gentle, low-impact movements designed to improve balance, flexibility, and joint health. Through this activity, the program help reduce the risk of falls and empower participants to lead healthier, more active lives, fostering independence and confidence in their daily routines.
 - **Total Reach:** 13 participants in Basic class; 10 participants in Advanced class
- A six-week WeCOPE series for Wood County Health Department employees, where participants are learning practical strategies for resilience, stress management, and healthy coping. Facilitated by UW-Madison Extension staff Hannah Wendels Scott and Ka Zoua, the series also provides participants with the opportunity to earn a 300-point wellness program incentive. Through this program, employees are building skills to support their mental well-being, enhance resilience in the workplace, and promote a healthier workforce.
 - **Total Reach:** 16 participants
- A six-week WeCOPE series for Wood County Health and Human Services employees, where participants are learning practical strategies for resilience, stress management, and healthy coping. Facilitated by UW-Madison Extension staff Hannah Wendels Scott and Ka Zoua, the series also provides participants with the opportunity to earn a 300-point wellness program incentive. Through this program, employees are building skills to support their mental well-being, enhance resilience in the workplace, and promote a healthier workforce.
 - **Total Reach:** 48 participants
- A monthly gathering for participants where they connect with one another and learn ways to care for their mental and social well-being. Through this effort, they will strengthen community bonds and build healthier habits.



- **Total Reach:** 10 participants
- Building and maintaining relationships and engaging with partners to address health needs with the community of Wood County.
- An as needed meeting with community members, where I met one-on-one with them to listen to their needs, offer support, and help them identify and access local health and community resources. Through this effort, participants will gain personalized support, clearer pathways to services, and greater confidence navigating systems.
 - **Total Reach:** 10 one-on-one clients
- A monthly food pantry pick-up for community members in Wood County, where I support families in choosing foods that their household needs and share information about additional local resources. Through this effort, residents gain reliable access to healthier food options and feel better connected to community supports.
 - **Total Reach:** 12 families
- The support group serves as a monthly gathering for women and allies of women to engage in discussions about often overlooked topics within their community. This initiative aims to foster relationships among participants and empower them to advocate for the recognition of their voices.
 - **Total Reach:** 7 participants

HEAL (Healthy Eating and Active Living)

- A meeting with Pittsville and McMillan Memorial Library staff, where opportunities to establish Little Free Pantry locations at community libraries were explored as a strategy identified through local food security conversations. Discussions resulted in Pittsville Library seeking board input on the project and McMillan Memorial Library advancing to implementation planning following administrative approval. Through this effort, community partners are working to expand access to food and essential items through trusted, accessible locations, helping address food insecurity and strengthen community support systems.
- A series of after-school lessons for elementary and middle school students at Pittsville Elementary School, where students learn about the five food groups, how they benefit their overall health and well-being, and how to make healthy food and physical activity choices both at home and at school.
- An ongoing series of strength training sessions (StrongBodies) for older adults/adults in the Pittsville community, where participants engage in regular, progressive strength training and health education to improve their physical and mental health and enhance social connectedness. This series is led by three Extension StrongBodies volunteers.
- A series of lessons for adults who are incarcerated participating in the STRONG Recovery Pod Program in the Wood County Jail. Through this series, participants will participate in the StrongBodies program that improves their physical and mental health and provides them with another connection during their recovery journey.



- A six-week WeCOPE series for Wood County Health Department employees, where participants are learning practical strategies for resilience, stress management, and healthy coping. Facilitated by UW-Madison Extension staff Hannah Wendels Scott and Ka Zoua, the series also provides participants with the opportunity to earn a 300-point wellness program incentive. Through this program, employees are building skills to support their mental well-being, enhance resilience in the workplace, and promote a healthier workforce.
 - **Total Reach:** 16 participants
- A six-week WeCOPE series for Wood County Health and Human Services employees, where participants are learning practical strategies for resilience, stress management, and healthy coping. Facilitated by UW-Madison Extension staff Hannah Wendels Scott and Ka Zoua, the series also provides participants with the opportunity to earn a 300-point wellness program incentive. Through this program, employees are building skills to support their mental well-being, enhance resilience in the workplace, and promote a healthier workforce.
 - **Total Reach:** 48 participants
- A partnership with United Way/Hunger Coalition, FOCUS Food Pantry, and the Housing Authority of Wisconsin Rapids that provides "Stockboxes for Seniors", a monthly food box service where low-income seniors can receive around 25-30 pounds of nutritious foods to stock their pantry with. The goal of this partnership is to promote the boxes with community partners with the overall goal to improve food security.
- An ongoing series of strength training sessions (StrongBodies) for older adults/adults in the Nekoosa community, where participants engage in regular, progressive strength training and health education to improve their physical and mental health and enhance social connectedness. This series is led by two Extension StrongBodies volunteers.
- An ongoing series of strength training sessions (StrongBodies) for older adults/adults in the Wisconsin Rapids community, where participants engage in regular, progressive strength training and health education to improve their physical and mental health and enhance social connectedness. This series is led by one Extension StrongBodies volunteer.
- A Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Farm to School site visit for statewide and local partners, where UW-Madison Extension shared examples of collaboration with the Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools Food Service Department to support Farm to School efforts. Discussions highlighted partnerships around nutrition education, local food promotion, school wellness initiatives, and student engagement activities that connect youth to healthy, local foods. Through this visit, Extension helped showcase successful community partnerships and highlighted opportunities to strengthen local food systems while supporting student health and learning.



HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS & DEVELOPMENT

Ben Eberlein, Human Development & Relationships Educator

- A 7-session course that helps adults of all ages to make end-of-life financial, healthcare, and final wishes decisions in order to reduce the stress experienced by survivors and to ensure that their wishes are honored.
 - **Total Reach:** 4 registered participants
- A 6-session course for renters where participants learn how to find and apply for rental housing, understand their responsibilities as a renter, how to communicate effectively with their landlords, and manage housing expenses. Through this, those with negative rental records and those new to renting are able to increase their ability to find and keep safe affordable housing, thereby increasing their stability and decreasing their reliance on public supports.
 - **Total Reach:** 12 registered participants
- An on-demand lesson on topics such as budgeting, credit/debt, record keeping, saving on groceries, goal setting, preventing fraud and scams, and finding affordable housing for groups such as residents at a homeless shelter, recent immigrants, a group of young parents, etc. where they learn effective strategies to manage their money. Through this, participants set and create a plan for achieving their financial goals, can create a spending plan that allows them to manage their monthly income and expenses, and can make a plan to become debt-free.
 - **Total Reach:** 20 participants
- A coaching program for families and individuals, where participants learn how to create financial goals and gain money management skills. The goal of this program is to enable participants to prepare for and take charge of household financial situations that occur due to changes in income or unforeseen hardships.
 - **Total Reach:** 2 participants
- A 6-session workshop series on topics including budgeting, saving, credit, debt, housing, and scams & fraud, where participants learn basic personal finance skills and effective strategies for long-term money management.
 - **Total Reach:** 5 participants



LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

STAFF REPORTS – OCTOBER 2026

Barb Peeters

Conservation Administrative Specialist

- Processed year 2 harvestable buffer incentive payments to landowner utilizing ARPA grant funds (\$21,712.50) and Surface Water Grant funds (\$13,537.50). (Roth Golden Acres)
- Purchased snack items for the CEED tour and attended CEED tour on October 2, 2026.
- Worked on logistics for NCLWCA Winter Meeting and speaking/poster contests that we are hosting in January; drafted slide deck and program, lined up volunteers to serve as judges/back-up judges for speaking contest, etc.
- Generated mailing to landowners for nitrate testing of private wells utilizing ARPA grant funds earmarked for groundwater testing. Letters and nitrate brochures printed & mailed out to 283 landowners on October 5, 2026.
- Served as a judge for the 2026 “Road-eo” at the Wood County Highway Department on October 6, 2026 (judging the mailbox station gave me a new appreciation on the skills of our county snowplow drivers).
- Attended the October 7, 2026 CEED meeting virtually.
- Generated cost-share contract for a manure pit closure utilizing SWRM bond funds totaling \$13,290.50 (J. Wilke).
- Viewed DATCP Monthly Report for October 2026 and shared with LWCD staff.
- Processed year two harvestable buffer incentive payments utilizing ARPA grant funds (\$4,860.00) and Surface Water Grant funds (\$540.00). (R. Knuth)
- Attended Open Enrollment meeting in Riverblock auditorium.
- Worked with Heather Gehrt, County Treasurer to supply reports/data to set up Point & Pay which will give our customers the ability to submit credit card payments. It will be a customer satisfier once in place.
- Created spreadsheet to track pick up/drop off of water tests for ARPA nitrate testing of private wells.
- Updated nitrate test collection instructions and compiled nitrate test kits.
- Worked on pricing for awards for the area NCLWCA contest that we’re hosting in January as well as potential catering options for the lunch.
- Processed cost-share contracts for cover crops utilizing SWRM grant funds (C. Dorshorst & A. Weiler).
- Processed invoices from UWSP Water & Environmental Analysis Lab (WEAL) for testing of Fourmile Watershed and Nepco/Wazeecha utilizing DNR Surface Water grant funds.
- Reviewed proposed 2027 LWCD budgets to calculate any changes in 2027 revenue as a result of the annualized wage increase approved by the Operations Committee. Reviewed with County Conservationist and notified Finance of changes needed to 2027 budgets for Wildlife, DATCP and NMM programs.
- Generated cost-share contracts for cover crops utilizing SWRM grant funds totaling \$5,025.00 (K. Eastling).
- Verified wildlife damage general ledger and assembled all invoices and attachments for third quarter 2026 Wildlife Damage and Claims Abatement Program reimbursement request to the WiDNR.
- Researched catering options for NCLWCA Winter Meeting that we are hosting in January 2027; participated in virtual call with caterer to discuss event details and with NCLWCA Treasurer to arrange for payment of deposit.
- Processed cost-share contract for cover crops utilizing Mill Cr. TMDL grant funds totaling \$1,023.40 (J. Raikowski).
- Worked with I.T. to have nonmetallic mining permit fees updated in program (approved by CEED 8/5/26).
- Assisted in researching options for catering for Central WI Farm Profitability Expo on Jan. 7, 2027. Attended meeting with Kendra Wilhelm and County Conservationist on Oct. 14th to begin planning and logistics for event.
- Generated bid letters for a barnyard runoff control system project and scheduled bid opening. (J. Gilbertson)
- Processed DATCP reimbursement payment for 4 cost-share contracts totaling \$3,626.90.
- Processed landowner cost-share payments for nutrient management utilizing MDV and SWRM grant funds totaling \$5,824.00 (C. Flaig/Portage County).
- Attended LWCD staff meeting on October 21st to review cost share funds status/balances/allocations for 2026.

- Processed landowner cost-share payments for cover crops utilizing Mill Creek TMDL grant funds totaling \$1,023.40 (J. Raikowski) and MDV funds totaling \$2,888.00 (L. Jagodzinski).
- Set agenda, attended and took meeting minutes at staff meeting on October 22, 2026.
- Reviewed the 2027 Final Joint Allocation Plan approved by the Land and Water Resources Board at their October meeting. Wood County LWCD will receive a DATCP Staffing & Support Allocation of \$214,026.00 (an increase of \$11,175.00), Structural Cost-Sharing of \$55,000.00 (an increase of \$200.00), SEG Cost-Sharing of \$54,000.00 and a DNR TRM Allocation (targeted runoff management) Phase III Grant of \$361,659.00 (reduced from \$600,000.00 request to account for 2026 extended funds in Phase II) for total DATCP/DNR Allocations of \$684,685.00.
- Suggested the Health Dept. process water testing invoices on a monthly basis vs. quarterly basis for the remainder of 2026 due to ARPA grant funds to spend by the end of 2026. County Conservationist reached out to Health Dept.
- Calculated 2025-2026 CREP salaries and hours for submission with the CREP Annual Report to DATCP.
- Attended meeting with Heather Gerhart/Treasurer and Point & Pay Implementation Specialist at courthouse on Oct. 27, 2026 (to give customers the ability to pay with credit/debit cards).
- Processed landowner cost-share payment for cover crops utilizing Mill Creek TMDL grant funds totaling \$5,978.00 (C. Dorshorst).
- Generated a reimbursement request for Mill Creek TRM grant totaling \$25,002.76, compiled supporting documents and submitted to County Conservationist for submission to WIDNR.
- Assisted Conservation Program Coordinator/Rod Mayer with annual permit letters for 2026-2027 for 49 mine sites.
- Finalized tree sale order forms, tree/seed descriptions and fall newsletter. Created fillable order forms.
- Attended DATCP's virtual "Year-end processes, insights and best practices brownbag webinar" on Oct. 28th.
- Processed payments for the no-till drill, Plantskydd and AWO permits as received.
- Completed LWCD payroll percentages and forwarded to Finance prior to the October 1st, 15th and 29^h payrolls.
- Reviewed payroll reports and verified distribution by accounts/department.
- Organized CEED packet and County Board packet materials and electronically submitted to County Clerk's office.
- Served as point of contact for LWCD staff as needed.
- Processed department invoices/vouchers and deposits weekly for submission to Finance/Treasurer.
- Responded to customer inquiries by email and phone regarding the upcoming tree sale.
- Handed out 22 nitrate test kits to landowners and delivered 9 water samples to the health dept as received.

Emily Salvinski

Conservation Specialist

- **Thursday, October 1.** Worked on mailing list using GIS and past well testing locations. Worked on multiple contracts for nutrient management cost-share.
- **Friday, October 2.** Attended CEED committee tour.
- **Wednesday, October 7.** Collected samples from the Mill creek to be analyzed for TSS and TP. Finished up contracts for nutrient management cost-share.
- **Thursday, October 8.** Met with agronomist looking to work with counties. Prepared for the following days water sampling.
- **Friday, October 9.** Calibrated meter. Took samples and streamflow measurements. Worked on contract for cover crop cost-share.
- **Tuesday, October 13.** Worked with farmer to get contract completed. Entered streamflow data into SWIMS and our files. Finished and reviewed contracts.
- **Wednesday, October 14.** Added information in contracts to GIS database.
- **Thursday, October 15.** Added information in contracts to GIS database. Gathered numbers for DATCP from GIS regarding nutrient management planning.
- **Wednesday, October 21.** Attended staff meeting on cost-share funds. Field checked multiple farmer's cover crops. Organized photos of cover crops.

- **Thursday, October 22.** Attended staff meeting. Completed annual safety training. Field checked cover crops. Organized photos.
- **Monday, October 26.** Used snapplus to get reduction numbers for multiple cost-share contracts and added to database.
- **Tuesday, October 27.** Mapped fields in cost-share contracts for record keeping. Used snapplus to get reduction numbers and added to database. Looked into version 3 NMP that was submitted for cost-share.

Kendra Wilhelm

Conservation Specialist

- Answered various emails regarding the 2026-2027 Conservation Poster Contest including setting up presentation dates and times.
- Verified harvestable buffers.
- Answered questions via phone and email regarding the no-till drill.
- Transported the no-till drill to 1 farmer.
- Continued planning for the North Central Land and Water Area regional meeting we are hosting in January.
 - This meeting includes the speaking and poster contests.
 - Participated in phone calls and emails with potential caterers and reviewed paperwork.
 - Assisted with speaker and poster contest winner awards.
- Began planning for the 2027 Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo. Participated in a planning meeting on October 14th.
 - Created “Save the Date” flyer.
 - Compiled potential lunch catering options and reached out to caterers.
 - Created a draft agenda.
 - Secured venue.
- Continued working on the management plan implementation surface water grant through DNR.
- Submitted the 2027 Lake Monitoring and Protection Network grant application to DNR.
- Provided technical assistance to the Nepco Lake District regarding the Clean Boats Clean Waters program.
- Assisted Wood County Highway Department as a judge for their Rodeo.
- Read new invasive species guidance documents created by the DNR.
- Participated in a meeting with a local agronomist/nutrient management planner per their request to discuss our nutrient management and other cost-share programs.
- Completed streamflow and water quality sampling efforts with Emily.
- Attended the benefits open enrollment meeting.
- Healthy Lakes & Rivers grant technical assistance to Nepco Lake District and landowners. Assistance with native plantings, rain gardens, rock diversions, infiltration pits, and fish sticks to decrease nutrient and sediment runoff and create wildlife habitat.
- Created information documents needed to compile cost-share contracts for three farmers.
- Created seven cost-share contracts for cover crops.
- Answered questions via phone and email regarding our cost-share programs.
- Attended a webinar about invasive species hosted by the North American Invasive Species Management Association.
- Assisted citizens with picking up and dropping off their free nitrate test kits.
- Created presentations for 1st, 2nd, and 5th grade students to introduce the 2027 conservation poster contest. The theme of this year’s contest is “From Source to Sea. Every Drop has a Journey.”
- Began working on the reimbursement request for the harvestable buffer DNR grant.
- Participated in the October 22nd staff meeting.

- Participated in the 2027 nutrient management farmer education kickoff meeting.
- Completed aquatic invasive species “prevent the spread” signage checks at boat landings as part of the Lake Monitoring and Protection Network grant program.
- Hosted a student from River Cities High School who is interested in a career in conservation. Made introductions and led conversations with staff in the office about what each of our jobs entail.
- Attended the fall aquatic invasive species partnership meeting on October 27th and 28th as part of the Lake Monitoring and Protection Network grant program.

Kyle Andreae

Engineer Technician

- October 1 – Drone Software Research
- October 2 – CEED Tour
- October 5 – Wilke Site Visit, Wieler Site Visit
- October 6 – Wieler Data Processing, Wilke Permitting
- October 7 – Wilke Contractor Coordination
- October 8 – State Technical Tour
- October 9 – Denitrifying Bioreactor Research for Design
- October 12 – Denitrifying Bioreactor Siting and Design
- October 13 – Denitrifying Bioreactor Siting and Design
- October 14 – Miller Survey and Design
- October 15 – Miller Design
- October 16 – Gilbertson Site Visit and Re-Design
- October 19 – CREP Annual Report, Wilke Site Visit
- October 20 – Gilbertson Site Visit, Denitrifying Bioreactor Design
- October 21 – Heckel Site Visit, Gilbertson Bid Out
- October 22 – Staff Meeting, Denitrifying Bioreactor Vessel Sourcing, Steffen Site Investigation
- October 23 – Gilbertson Site Visit, Steffen Site Visit
- October 26 – Steffen Design, Ourada Preliminary Design
- October 27 – Wilke Construction Inspection, Ourada Site Visit, Lewis Site Visit
- October 28 – Level Logger Data Collection
- October 29 – Wilke Construction Inspection
- October 30 – Wilke Construction Inspection, Gilbertson Site Visit, Steffen Site Visit

Rodney Mayer

Conservation Program Manager

- Knuth soybean damage calculations.
- Researched 6M cranberry elk damage. Contact with biologist & crop owner.
- Reviewed amended map for Weichelt Bouma site – sent comments.
- NMM Mine site inspections of Forty-nine sites. Monitored active acres, GPSed disturbed areas, pictures taken of issues, multiple Pic documents created, etc. (2 ½ weeks to complete)
- Site meeting with landowner Gebert and Mathy foreman on mine site.
- Contact for wildlife tags – explained missed deadline and rules to crop owner.

- Completed Know Be4 Training.
- Sent multiple emails with pic documents/maps to DNR for their jurisdiction on mine site issues (including run off, wetlands, etc.) Sites including Tork, Kolo, 2 for Earth, Nikolai, Weichelt, etc.
- Began processing mine site inspections for each site. Load GPS measurements, import into GIS, map active areas, calculate acres for fees and financial assurance, check on road exemptions. Draft letters with fee amounts, financial assurance amounts, current financial assurance holdings and needs, inspection notes, etc. Update spreadsheet – inspection date, letter drafted, fee acres, FA acres, FA needed. Update NMM software with inspection dates, acres, FA needed, etc. Organize pics into digital files. Copies into inspection binder and site folders. Mailed letters and inspection maps.
- Multiple Corporation Counsel phone meetings for Brehm Financial Assurance deadline. Drafted email and phoned Brehm for due date to have FA updated. Was not updated – worked with Corporation Counsel for a violation - extension letter for updated financial assurance with deadline. Updated file timeline summary.
- Attended staff meeting on October 22nd.
- Follow up site inspection for DNR with a wetland concern – sent findings.
- Completed 3rd quarter wildlife damage and abatement reimbursement report to DNR (24 pages) – updated database.
- Worked with JE Engineering to obtain digital layers of proposed amended permit boundary on Weichelt Hwy T site. Updated to GIS activity map. Issues with boundary sent to Weichelt and engineer.

Shane Wucherpennig

County Conservationist

- Continued contacting landowners on N Bioreactor installations in the Fourmile Watershed. Had many discussions with Partners on the projects and was still trying to secure site for installation. Have had conversations with DNR about placing one on their properties in the Fourmile.
- Met with Landowner near Nekoosa to propose a N Bioreactor project on his property in early October.
- I have confirmed a site in Nekoosa that has agreed to host a N Bioreactor project.
- Attended CEED tour in Southern & Northern Wood County.
- Attended Wisconsin Drought Task Force – virtually.
- NMP meeting with Josh Johnson – Private agronomist writing plans for producers in Wood
- Attended the benefits open enrollment meeting.
- Attended Oct. 7th CEED meeting.
- Approved LWCD staff time sheets for Oct. 1st, 15th & 29th payrolls.
- Reached out to Landowners who installed whole house Ion Exchange treatment systems for Nitrates to submit their annual water test results to LWCD.
- Attended Health and Conservation Committee meeting Virtually.
- Reviewed/approved staff activity reports for November CEED/County Board packet
- Reviewed November 4th CEED meeting packet for CEED review/approval.
- Discussed Cover Crop funding & resources with several landowners/producers in October.
- Attended CWG meeting.
- Met with Landowner to discuss NM plan, drop off contracts for cost-sharing and discussed Harvestable Buffers.
- Bid opening for Joe Wilke Waste Storage Facility Abandonment in LWCD office.
- Attended PACRS meeting at Monroe Center Town Hall.
- Met with staff to discuss Nitrates & Water Testing campaign & do a mail out to landowners in areas surrounding our two county hot spots. A mailing went out to 300 landowners.

- Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo Planning Meeting with Kendra & Barb to set a date & figure out the logistics for the event.
 - Met with Barb & Kendra to plan for North Central Land and Water Area regional meeting we are hosting in January.
 - Had a N Bioreactor Discussion with Kevin Masarik from UWSP Groundwater Center.
 - Attended Cost-Share Funds Status Meeting with Barb, Kendra & Emily to discuss funding & projects.
 - Monthly Staff Report.
 - Attended - LWCD Staff Meeting
 - Met with Rod for NMM sites & compliance on several mine sites in October.
 - Attended Fall Legislative Breakfast at the Biron Community Hall.
 - NMFE kick off meeting in Spencer at NTC to discuss 2027 classes
 - Visited Nekoosa site for N Bioreactor to meet with landowner to site the project and discuss logistics of the project.
 - Pulled and collected data and redeployed all 17 stream Leveloggers & 2 Barologgers in the Fourmile Watershed. This is the first data collection for season one & will continue for 3 yrs.
 - Answered questions via phone and email regarding the no-till drill.
-



Wood County WISCONSIN

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ZONING

TO: Conservation, Education & Economic Development Committee

FR: Jason Grueneberg, Planning & Zoning Director
Emmett Simkowski, County Planner
Paul Bernard, Land Records Coordinator
Brad Cook, Code Administrator
Kayla Koziczowski, Code Technician
Victoria Wilson, Program Assistant
Julie Mancl, Program Assistant

RE: Staff Report for November 4, 2026

1. Economic Development (Jason Grueneberg)

Helen Connor Laird Fine Arts Building Renovation – The renovation process for the Laird Fine Arts Building is progressing as scheduled. The Advisory Committee has been meeting weekly with Sommerville, the design consultant. In the past few weeks, we have been working on establishing priorities and defining the scope of the project. Somerville has also begun some of the design work on the theater as well as the building entrance, lobby, box office, concessions, and gallery area. Tentatively, approval of a contract with Somerville will take place on 11-4-2026.

Special CEED Committee Meeting – On October 14th, the CEED Committee held a special meeting focused on economic development. The meeting was very well attended and was an opportunity to provide updates on economic development projects and initiatives by all attendees and kick off the update of the Wood County economic development strategy also known as the “REDI Plan”. Based on the positive feedback from attendees, meetings like this will be held at least twice a year in the future.

Central Wisconsin Economic Development (CWED) Fund – On October 21st I participated in the CWED Board of Directors’ meeting. At the meeting the 2026-2027 budget was approved, there was an administrative service provider update, review of the loan portfolio and pipeline, and approval of 2 loan requests.

Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC) – On October 27th I attended the WMC Business Day in Madison along with other Central Wisconsin representatives. This was a great opportunity to learn more about the 2027 economic outlook and geopolitical overview, gain a clearer understanding of issues facing manufacturers and businesses in the state, and better understand 2027 federal priorities and potential impacts of the midterm elections.

North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) - On October 28th I participated in the NCWRPC meeting. Some of the agenda items included state and federal updates, adoption of a Limited English Proficiency Plan, Adoption of the 2027 Annual Budget, and a presentation on Act 173 “Truth in Planning”.

2. Planning & Zoning (Emmett Simkowski)

- a. Wisconsin County Code Administrators and Wood County Sponsored Soil Tester Training – On October 8th, myself, Brad and Kayla hosted a county staff soil tester training at Powers Bluff. Attendees came from Lincoln, Portage, Oneida, Sauk and Jackson Counties. I would like to give a big thanks to our Parks Department for digging the soil pits and allowing us to use the park.
- b. UWSP CLUE Zoning Board and Plan Commission Workshop in Pittsville – On October 13th, myself, UWEX and UWSP hosted a zoning board of appeals and plan commission workshop in Pittsville. 75 participants attended with the majority being from Wood County municipalities. As always, Lynn with UWSP did an excellent job presenting and these workshops are extremely valuable to Town's with local zoning.
- c. Wisconsin County Code Administrators Conference – On October 22nd and 23rd I attended the WCCA Fall Conference. These conferences host many valuable topics related to what our department handles daily relating to POWTS, shoreland, floodplain and general zoning. Notably, WCA, the PSC and an alternative energy developer had presentations on data centers, alternative energy and battery energy storage systems that are becoming a common topic in Wisconsin.
- d. Office Activity and Survey Review - Survey review continues to be steady and looks to be on par or slightly more than last year. I have been continuing to work with townships on planning/zoning related topics and amendments to their ordinances. Along with this packet you will also find the public participation plan for the Wood County Comprehensive Plan Update that I have been working on with the North Central Regional Plan Commission.

3. Land Records (Paul Bernard)

- Land Information Council Meeting on 10/21
- Parcel Mapping
- Address Mapping
- Trails Project – GPS-ing and map creation
- Programming automated workflows

4. Code Administrator (Brad Cook)

10-01-2026-(1) Reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for new conv system Tn: 20; (1) SL permit reviewed and issued TN: 07, gather information for phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

10-02-2026-(1) Reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for rep con system, (1) mound inspections; <24, abs. cell, tanks TN" 15, (1) mound inspections; <24, abs. cell TN: 12, (1) POWTS Onsite TN: 20, answer, review, and gather information for phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

10-05-2026-(1) Reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for rep con system TN: 18, (1) SF letter reviewed and sent TN18, (1) mound inspections; <24, abs. cell, mound plow TN:12, (1) (1) mound inspections; <24, abs. cell, mound plow TN:12, answer, review, and gather information

for phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

10-06-2026-(1) mound inspections; <24, abs. cell TN: 12, (1) HT insp TN: 02, answer, review, and gather information for phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

10-07-2026- (1) mound inspections; <24, abs. cell TN, mound plow TN:06, (1) HT insp TN: 02, (1) soils onsite for Central District Soil training TN: 01, answer, review, and gather information for phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

10-08-2026- (2) Reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for rep & rec mound TN: 11,17, (1) soils eval TN: 22, (1) SF letter reviewed and sent TN: 22, (2) well permits reviewed and issued TN: 07, 18, Central District Soils Training TN: 01 answer, review, and gather information for phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

10-09-2026-(1) SF letter reviewed and issued Tn: 04, (1) mound inspections; <24, abs. cell, tanks TN: 22, answer, review, and gather information for phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

10-12-2026-(1) mound inspections; <24, abs. cell, mound plow TN: 15, answer, review, and gather information for phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

10-13-2026- (3) Reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for new mound, rep conv, & HT TN: 07, 10, (1) mound inspections; <24, abs. cell TN, mound plow TN 03, answer, review, and gather information for phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

10-14-2026(2) mound inspections; <24, abs. cell TN, 03, 06, answer, review, and gather information for phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

10-15-2026-(1) mound inspections; <24, abs. cell, mound plow TN: 15, answer, and gather information for phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

10-16-2026- (1) well permit letter written and issued TN: 17, (1) mound inspections; <24, abs. cell, tanks, TN:15, answer, review, and gather information for phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

10-19-2026- (1) conv system insp TN:18, (1) mound inspections; <24, abs. cell TN, tanks TN:03, (1) rec mound insp abs cell, piping TN:09, answer, review, and gather information for phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

10-20-2026-(4) well permits reviewed and issued TN: 18, 21, (1) rec mound inspections; <24, abs. cell TN 15, (1) rep conv system insp TN:18, answer, review, and gather information for phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

10-21-2026-(1) mound inspections; <24, abs. cell, mound plow TN:08, (1) new HT insp TN: 22, answer, review, and gather information for phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

10-22-2026- WCCA Conference

10-23-2026- WCCA Conference

10-26-2026- Vacation

10-27-2026- (1) SL permit reviewed and issued TN: 07, (1) rec mound inspections; <24, abs. cell TN: 11, answer, review, and gather information for phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

5. Code Technician (Kayla Koziczkowski)

A. Reviewed and approved POWTS & well permit applications

B. Reviewed and approved soils evaluations

C. Completed inspection reports

D. Assisted with daily phone calls/emails/office questions

E. Inspections/Investigations:

- 10-1-26: Holding tank inspection TN: 10; Well inspection TN: 10
- 10-7-26: Mound plow inspection TN: 12; Holding tank inspection TN: 02; Mound reinspection TN: 12; Reconnect inspection TN: 02
- 10-8-26: Mound plow inspection TN: 22; Mound tanks inspection TN: 12
- 10-9-26: Conventional inspection TN: 18
- 10-12-26: Mound plow inspection TN: 15; Mound reinspection TN: 15
- 10-15-26: Conventional inspection TN: 07; Well inspection TN: 07
- 10-16-26: Mound plow inspection TN: 17; Conventional inspection TN: 18; Mound reinspection TN: 17
- 10-19-26: Conventional inspection TN: 07
- 10-21-26: Mound plow inspection TN: 21; Holding tank inspection TN: 21; Mound reinspection TN: 21
- 10-26-26: Conventional inspection TN: 07; Well inspection TN: 07
- 10-28-26: Holding tank inspection TN: 08

F. Attended Meetings/Trainings/Etc.

- 10-1-26: Password security training
- 10-2-26: CEED tour
- 10-6-26: Open enrollment meeting
- 10-8-26: WCCA Central District soils training at Powers Bluff
- 10-13-26: DSPS POWTS chat update
- 10-22-26 & 10-23-26: WCCA fall conference – Lacrosse, WI

6. Office Activity (Victoria Wilson & Julie Mancl)

- a. Monthly Sanitary and Well Permit Activity – There were 28 sanitary permits, 4 shoreland permits and 13 well permits issued in October 2026.
- b. ArcGIS Pro Software Project – Julie & Victoria continue to assist Paul with various mapping projects as time permits.

- c. Triennial Program Fee Notices – 4,847 notices were mailed to property owners on Monday October 19th. Call volume and walk in traffic has increased due to this fee notice. Julie and Victoria are processing many payments by phone, mail and online for those property owners that are due to pay the fee this year.
- d. Attended the following meetings/trainings & activities:
 - i. October 6th Open enrollment meeting (VW)
 - ii. October 8th Open enrollment meeting (JM)
 - iii. October 7th CEED meeting (VW & JM)
 - iv. 2026 Annual Safety Training (VW & JM)
 - v. October 21st Land Information Council meeting (VW)
 - vi. October 26th Rapids Ford-truck oil change (VW)

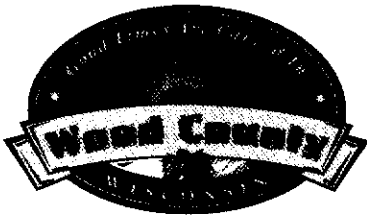


Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2026, 2:00 PM, Riverblock Auditorium Room 206

- 1.) The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Leichtnam at 2:00 pm.
- 2.) Public Comments: Chairman Leichtnam shared the news of the passing of Gordon “Gordy” Gottbeheut. Roundtable introductions. Bruce Demick shared the information on the \$245K DOJ ruling regarding the Central State Dairy.
- 3.) Motion to approve September 20th minutes: Buttke/Perlock
- 4.) New Business-Of the numerous items on the October 19th agenda, CWG decided to move forward with the following:
 - a) Creation of a 3 member CWG Planning Group
 - b) Recurring information booths at community-based events
 - c) Additional handouts/Additional booth banners
 - d) Invitations extended to subject matter experts to attend monthly meetings
 - e) Solicitation options for donations
 - f) Increase and improve CWG social media presence
 - g) Exploring student-lead marketing interships at Mid-State and UW for CWG promotion
 - h) Fees to be charged using coupons for Nitrate well water testing
 - i) Identifying next steps beyond education to remediate nitrate pollution
 - j) Next steps to Include:
 - WCA Advocacy, and a county resolution
- 5) Next meeting November 16th, 2:00 pm, River Block Auditorium
- 6) Meeting adjourned at 3:58-Motion by Clendenning/Casper

Present at the meeting: Bill Leichtnam, Susan Ettner, Bill Clendenning, Tom Buttke, Sandy Cain, Russ Perlock, Shane Wucherpennig, Tim Hovendick, Sue Smith, Linda Casper, Lance Pliml, Bruce Dimick.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Ettner on October 21, 2026



Wood County WISCONSIN

LAND AND WATER
CONSERVATION
DEPARTMENT

CWG Mtg. Attendance (Oct. 19, '26)

1. Jon Beebe
2. Bill Clendinning WCB.
3. Bill Cleburnham WCB.
4. Shane Wicker/Ferry LWCD
5. Russ Perlock WCB #4
6. DAVE MANTHEY
7. Sandy Cain
8. Bruce Dimick
9. Linda Casper - WBB #13
10. Lance Fume WCB
11. T. Howard WCB #5
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.

VIRTUAL

1. Sue Smith
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



RESOLUTION#

DATE November 10, 2026
Effective
Date Upon passage & posting

Page 1 of 2

Introduced by Citizens Water Group & CEED Committee

Motion:	Adopted:	☐
1 st	Lost:	☐
2 nd	Tabled:	☐
No: _____	Yes: _____	Absent: _____
Number of votes required:		
☒ Majority ☐ Two-thirds		
Reviewed by: _____, Corp Counsel		
Reviewed by: _____, Finance Dir.		

INTENT & SYNOPSIS: To urge the Wisconsin Governor and State Legislature to support programs and funding to allow counties to protect surface and groundwater.

FISCAL NOTE: None

WHEREAS, clean water is essential to life, health, and the well-being of families, ecosystems and lands, and is the foundation of a vibrant community, economy, and high-quality life; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous issues regarding surface and ground water that the citizens of Wood County are concerned with, including, but not limited to: contamination from nitrates, bacteria, PFAS, lead in drinking water, toxic algae blooms, flooding, and an excess sediment and nutrients; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of protection of water and natural resources through demonstrated water stewardship, Wood County designated the Citizen's Water Group of Wood County (CWG) an Advisory Subcommittee of the Conservation, Education & Economic Development Committee, helping in investigation, education and advocacy on proactive management of clean water; and

WHEREAS, the Wood County Land & Water Conservation Department and Wood County Health Department are directly involved in local and regional surface and groundwater protection efforts and partners with various state and federal agencies who are statutorily charged with issues related to these topics; and

WHEREAS, absent sustainable state funding, local governments throughout Wisconsin continue to struggle to implement enhanced programming or make needed investments in sustainable, public-focused initiatives to increase awareness of local surface and groundwater issues and promote testing and outreach efforts.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wood County Board of Supervisors supports the right to clean water to protect human health, the environment and the cultural and natural heritage of Wisconsin for the citizens of Wood County.

Adopted by the County Board of Wood County, November 10, 2026

County Clerk

County Board Chairman

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wood County Board of Supervisors strongly urges the Governor of the State of Wisconsin and the members of the Wisconsin State Legislature to enact a comprehensive, sustainable solution that support programs and staff funding to allow Wood County to protect surface and groundwater for current and future citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wood County Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Governor's office, all members of the Wisconsin State Legislature representing districts within Wood County, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
WOOD COUNTY

Oct. 28, 2026

To: Wood County CEED Committee

RE: Annual Contract for Services

In your packet is the annual contract for services between Wood County and UW-Extension. This contract is being shared with you at this time for informational purposes, no formal action is needed at this time. We will look for formal approval of the contract after the 2027 budget is adopted.

Each year Wood County signs an annual contract for services with UW-Madison Division of Extension. The contract outlines the roles and responsibilities for each of the parties and lists the rates of contracted services. The rates listed in the contract align with those proposed in the 2027 Marathon County Budget.

We would like the EEEDC committee to have an opportunity to view the contract and be aware of the roles, responsibilities, and rates for contracted services prior to signing. The contract has been reviewed by both UW-Madison Division of Extension and Wood County Corporation Counsel.

Please feel free to reach out to me at any time with any additional questions you might have. I look forward to discussing this item with you at the Nov. CEED Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Jen McNelly

Area 7 Extension Director

UW-Madison Division of Extension

jennifer.mcnelly@wisc.edu Work Cell Phone: 715-214-8913

Extension Wood County

400 Market St. PO Box 8095 Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54494
715-421-8440 (phone) <https://wood.extension.wisc.edu>

**Contract Between Wood County
and
Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System**

This contract is by and between Wood County, State of Wisconsin (**County**), and Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, on behalf of the University of Wisconsin - Madison, Division of Extension (**Extension**) and is entered into pursuant to the authority vested in the County Committee on Agriculture and Extension Education by sections 59.22(2)(d) and 59.56(3) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Whereas, Extension is organized both around geography, as Extension educators deliver programs in communities throughout the state, and around academic disciplines including Agriculture, Natural Resources, Community Development, Youth, Human Development & Relationships, and Health;

Whereas, Extension is committed to maintaining an office in every county willing to commit to continued funding and space for Extension staff. Extension recognizes the value in keeping a local presence in every county and keeping the shortest distance possible between the people of Wisconsin and the Extension staff delivering programming to them;

Whereas, Extension provides opportunities to additional resources such as statewide specialists and UW-System campus resources to address specific local issues in core areas of expertise;

Whereas, the County is a critical partner in developing and implementing key educational priorities for county residents. In collaboration with Extension leadership, counties will identify local services of priority to their communities. County will agree to co-fund Extension educators based upon annually established flat fees for positions as defined below; and

Whereas, the parties need to define their respective rights and responsibilities;

Now therefore, the parties agree as follows:

1. Term, Amendment & Termination.

- a. The term of this contract is one (1) year. The term shall run from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027, unless amended or terminated as set forth below.
- b. Any additions, changes, modifications or renewals of this contract are subject to the mutual agreement and written consent of authorized representatives of both parties.
- c. Either the County or Extension may cancel this entire Agreement with or without cause upon sixty (60) days' written notice delivered by mail or in person; provided, however, the County shall be responsible for paying a prorated amount of fees under Section 3.1.a. through the notice period. In addition, if the contract is

cancelled before the end of the term, the discount identified in Section 3.1.a. shall be prorated (i.e. the discount amounts to roughly \$834 per month).

2. **Extension Responsibilities.** Extension agrees to:

- a. Hire local Extension staff who will deliver educational services aligned to County priorities. As vacancies occur, and if the County and Extension agree to continue to support the desired program and position, Extension will seek County input when filling vacant positions.
- b. Provide an Area Extension Director (AED) to serve as County department head and supervise Extension staff at no cost to the County.
- c. Invoice the County semi-annually, in May and November for amounts due under this agreement.

3. **County Responsibilities**

3.1 In consideration of the programs that Extension provides to the County under this contract, the County agrees to:

- a. Pay to Extension the County share of up to \$429,003 or the period of January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027 as allocated below.

Co-Funded Positions	Fee	FTE	Total
4-H Educator	\$50,045	1	\$50,045
Agriculture Educator - Cranberry	\$50,045	.5	\$25,023
Human Development and Relationships Educator	\$50,045	1	\$50,045
Community Development Educator	\$50,045	1	\$50,045
Agriculture Educator - Dairy	\$50,045	.5	\$25,023
First Educator Discount			(\$10,000)
Subtotal			\$ 190,181
Proposed or fully-county funded positions and other county contributions	Fee	FTE	Total
Horticulture Educator	\$89,186	.3	\$26,756
Natural Resources Educator - Water	\$86,500	1	\$86,500
Health and Well Being Educator	\$90,362	1	\$90,362
Associate 4-H Educator	\$65,407	.5	\$32,704

Summer 4-H AmeriCorps Position	\$2,500		\$2,500
Final Total			\$ 429,003

- b. Provide travel funds, office facilities (for Wood County located at:400 Market St, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495), information technology equipment (such as computers, printer, and phones) and internet connectivity, access to Extension supported technology resources, office supplies, and educational programming materials to the Extension educators identified in 3.1(a),
 - c. Provide salary and fringe benefits for the County clerical support staff who support the Extension educators identified in 3.1(a),
 - d. Provide other supporting budgetary items through regular County budgetary procedures in which funds are appropriated for such purposes under applicable Wisconsin law.
- 3.2 Consider and assess opportunities to provide office space with a desk and chair for fully state funded Extension employees who serve in a regional or statewide capacity. These regional and statewide educators will be provided state-purchased technology and IT support. The opportunity for these positions to access the internet through the county may also be discussed.
- 4. **Delegation of Financial Budget Authority.** The parties hereby acknowledge that Extension will employ an Area Extension Director (AED), whose responsibilities may include certain budget-related functions as set forth in the Delegation of Financial Budget Authority Form (DFBA Form) attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. County may authorize the AED to carry out such functions on its behalf, but only to the extent specified in in the DFBA Form, which must be signed by an authorized representative of County in order to be effective. The County may rescind such authorization at any time by providing written notice to Extension. In the event that the parties execute a new agreement governing the subject matter of this agreement such that the term of this agreement and the term of the new agreement run consecutively, the parties agree that the delegations set forth in a duly signed DFBA Form shall remain in effect upon execution of the new agreement unless the County rescinds such authorization by providing written notice to Extension.
- 5. **General Conditions** This contract is established under the following conditions:
 - a. **Notices.** Any notice or demand which must be given or made by a party to this Agreement or any statute or ordinance shall be in writing, and shall be sent via e-mail and certified mail. Notices to the County shall be sent to County Representative(s). Notice to the Extension shall be sent to Area Extension Director.
 - b. **Employer, Personnel Rules, Volunteers and Liability.** Any employees hired by Extension under Section 2.a. of this contract are employees of Extension, and are subject to the personnel rules, policies, and procedures for faculty, academic staff or University staff, as appropriate to the respective appointment in Extension as established by Wisconsin statute, and, or administrative rules; and, or, by policies

or procedures adopted by the Board of Regents and the University of Wisconsin - Division of Extension. Any individual who meets Extension's definition of a volunteer and completes all registration requirements will be considered an Extension volunteer. Extension will be responsible for ensuring that its employees and volunteers take affirmative steps to make clear, when entering into relationships with third parties, that they are employees or volunteers of Extension. Extension shall be liable for the acts and omissions of its employees while acting within the scope of such employment. To the extent they are acting as agents of Extension, Extension shall be liable for the acts and omissions of its volunteers while acting within the scope of such agency.

Any individuals who are employed by the County in order to satisfy obligations under Section 3.1 of this contract (fully county funded) are County employees and are subject to applicable County personnel rules, policies and procedures. Any volunteer engaged by County to further the purposes of this contract will be considered a volunteer of County. County will be responsible for ensuring that its employees and volunteers take affirmative steps to make clear, when entering into relationships with third parties, that they are employees or volunteers of County. County shall be liable for the acts and omissions of its employees while acting within the scope of such employment. To the extent they are acting as agents of County, County shall be liable for the acts and omissions of its volunteers while acting within the scope of such agency.

- c. **Billing.** For the period January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027, Extension shall bill the County for the total amount under Section 3.1.a. of this contract. The County will be billed for the first half of the total contract by May 31st and the second half of the total contract by November 30th. If services are not rendered or excess services are provided to the County by Extension during the contract period, the parties will use good faith efforts to adjust the total contract amount and update future bills to coincide with the new agreed upon amount. The County shall pay the amount billed within 30 days of the billing.
- d. **Cybersecurity Provisions.** Each party shall be responsible for the response to, remediation of, and any resulting notification requirements related to cybersecurity breaches of their own information technology systems or those of any third parties hired on their behalf. This responsibility includes the financial costs of any breaches, e.g., forensics, remediation, notifications, etc. The County and Extension shall determine their individual need for cyber liability insurance coverage. Any breaches that could impact Extension data classified as moderate or high risk must be reported to Extension staff, via the Area Extension Director, and the University of Wisconsin - Madison Cybersecurity Operation Center (CSOC) Help Desk, 608-264-4357 following the risk-based timelines outline in the UWSA System Policy 1033 and associated Incident Response Plan. Following a reported breach event, the County will provide a primary staff contact and periodic response updates to Extension and the CSOC until event closure. Any breaches that could impact County data will be reported to the County immediately upon learning of the breach. The County shall provide the Area Director with the expressed point person or position for which to report a breach.

- e. **Insurance.** The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System as an agency of the State, and consequently, Extension, is self-funded for liability (both public and property) under ss. 893.82 and 895.46(1), Wis. Stats. As a result, such protection as is afforded under respective Wisconsin Statutes is applicable to officers, employees, and agents while acting within the scope of their employment or agency. Since this is statutory insurance, there is no liability policy as such that can extend protection to any others.

County agrees to maintain appropriate insurance to cover the potential liability of its officers, employees and agents while acting within the scope of their employment or agency. Such insurance may be provided through a self-insurance program. To the extent that an Extension employee is allowed to use a County vehicle, the responsibility for insuring that vehicle lies with the County.

- f. **Nondiscrimination Statement.** The County and Extension will comply with all applicable state and federal laws and rules prohibiting unlawful discrimination. The University of Wisconsin–Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law..

By: _____
County Representative

Date: _____

By: _____
County Representative

Date: _____

By: _____
County Representative

Date: _____

By: _____
County Representative

Date: _____

By: _____
Area Extension Director
UW-Madison, Division of Extension

Date: _____

By: _____
County Representative

Date: _____

By: _____
Director of Financial Services
UW-Madison, Division of Extension

Date: _____

By: _____
On Behalf of Board of Regents of
The University of Wisconsin System

Date: _____

Exhibit A

Delegation of Financial Budget Authority Form

Area Extension Directors play an important part in county Extension offices as they manage the faculty and staff within that county, and many times, that includes the county support staff. Area Extension Directors also work with county partners to develop a departmental budget and provide oversight to that budget on an annual basis in cooperation with corresponding county financial departments and county board committees. The Delegation of Financial Budget Authority allows Area Extension Directors, hired, and managed by Extension as state employees, to manage county fiscal resources in service to the people of those counties.

To be completed by the county administrator or county official delegating signature/budget authority.

County hereby delegates to the Area Extension Director for Wood County and _____ (no other person, if blank) authority to approve/authorize the following financial budget matters on behalf of County, provided, however, that such delegation is limited to the extent that such matters are directly related to County's authority under section 59.22(2)(d) and 59.56(3) of the Wisconsin Statutes and subject to any conditions/limitations indicated by County below.

Invoices	Travel Reimbursements	Supply & Expense Reimbursements
Time/Leave Approvals	Purchase Requisitions	Internal Budget Transfers
Inter- departmental transfers	County specific space agreements for educational programs	Bank account signatory
Other items:		
Conditions:		

This authorization is effective until either party (UW-Madison Extension or Wood County) requests a change to the document

Budget Authority signature: I am aware this constitutes a delegation of budget authority allowing the Area Extension Director, and any other position mentioned above, to manage county fiscal resources in service to the Extension office and residents of Wood County. I understand that delegating authority does not release Wood County, from full responsibility as Budget Authority.

County Administrator/County Official(s):

Name: _____
Title: _____

Signature: _____
Date: _____



Wood County WISCONSIN

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ZONING

DATE: November 4th, 2026
TO: Conservation, Education & Economic Development Committee (CEED)
FROM: Emmett Simkowski, County Planner
RE: Public Participation Plan for the Wood County Comprehensive Plan Update

STAFF MEMORANDUM

Introduction:

Wisconsin State Statutes require local governmental units to adopt written procedures to foster public participation during a Comprehensive Plan update. Per Wis. Stat. § 66.1001(4)(a), these procedures must be formally adopted by the governing body before any substantive updates to the plan begin. This memorandum outlines our statutory obligations and presents a draft Public Participation Plan (PPP) for your review and recommended approval to the County Board of Supervisors.

Statutory Authority and Requirements:

Under the Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning Law, specifically Wis. Stat. § 66.1001(4), our county must comply with the following mandates to legally execute a plan update:

- **Early and Continuous Engagement:** Written procedures must be designed to foster public participation, including open discussion, communication programs, information services, and public meetings at every stage of the preparation of the plan.
- **Wide Distribution:** The procedures must provide for the wide distribution of proposed, alternative, or amended elements of the comprehensive plan.
- **Written Comment Provision:** There must be a formal mechanism allowing the public to submit written comments, alongside a requirement for the governing body to respond to those comments.

The proposed Public Participation Plan and Resolution are attached to this memo.

Community Survey and Public Engagement

A public survey is the most legally and operationally defensive method to establish a data-driven baseline for a County's Comprehensive Plan update. While not mandated by statute, it translates the requirement for "early and continuous public participation" into measurable, quantitative evidence that justifies future county policy and zoning decisions.

Attached to this memo you will find survey questions configured by myself and North Central Regional Plan Commission to address topics within the Plan update. The questions in the survey are designed to gauge data on housing, land use, and infrastructure priorities within Wood County. The survey will be available online and physically available at the Planning and Zoning Department in late 2026 and early 2027.

Conclusion & Recommendation

Approval of the Public Participation Plan by the municipality is required by Statute and staff will be looking for a recommendation of the plan for approval by County Board. No approval is required on the survey questions, although we are open to and looking for any input the CEED Committee may have.

Emmett Simkowski

County Planner
Wood County Planning and Zoning Department



RESOLUTION#

DATE November 10, 2026
Effective
Date November 10, 2026

Page 1 of 2

Introduced by Conservation, Education, and Economic Development Committee

Motion:	Adopted:	☐
1 st	Lost:	☐
2 nd	Tabled:	☐
No: ☐	Yes: ☐	Absent: ☐
Number of votes required:		
☒ Majority ☐ Two-thirds		
Reviewed by: <u>N.F.</u> , Corp Counsel		
Reviewed by: <u>P.Y.</u> , Finance Dir.		

INTENT & SYNOPSIS: Approve a Public Participation Plan for updating the Wood County Comprehensive Plan

FISCAL NOTE: No cost to Wood County.

WHEREAS, the County is updating its Comprehensive Plan as outlined in Wisconsin Statutes; and

WHEREAS, public participation is critical for the development of a plan; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the County Board to approve a process to involve the public in the planning effort; and

WHEREAS, the Wood County Department of Planning and Zoning finds no conflict with any county planning and zoning programs and ordinances; and

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2026, the Conservation, Education and Economic Development Committee (CEED) reviewed the request and recommended approval; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wood County Board of Supervisors does approve and authorize the Public Participation Plan as attached to this resolution.

		NO	YES	A
1	Schulz, W			
2	Rozar, D			
3	Buttke, T			
4	Perlock, R			
5	Hovendick, T			
6	Breu, A			
7	Voight, W			
8	Hahn, J			
9	Goldberg, P			
10	Thao, L			
11	Penzkover, J			
12	Valenstein, L			
13	Casper, L			
14	Polach, D			
15	Clendenning, B			
16	Pliml, L			
17	Zurfluh, J			
18	Hamilton, B			
19	Leichtnam, B			

Adopted by the County Board of Wood County, November 10, 2026

County Clerk

County Board Chairman

Wood County Comprehensive Plan Update Public Participation Plan (PPP)

Wood County recognizes the importance of public participation in the planning process. As such, a goal during the comprehensive planning process will be to inform and involve the public in the planning process.

I. Plan Development

Throughout the plan process, the Conservation, Education & Economic Development (CEED) Committee will provide oversight for the update of the Comprehensive Plan.

This Public Participation Plan (PPP) incorporates the following:

1. All meetings for the planning process will be posted and open to the public.
2. All local units of government in the County will be contacted periodically throughout the process.
3. An advisory committee will be formed to review the Plan's draft chapters and maps.
4. The Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Roundtable members will be assembled to guide and review the Plan's Economic Development chapter, which will serve as the five-year update to the County's 2021 REDI Plan.
5. Plan-related materials will be available at the Wood County Planning & Zoning Office for review.
6. A public survey (online and hard copy) will be conducted to gain input from the public.
7. The draft plan and maps will be available on a website for public review.
8. A public hearing will be held to solicit comments from the public.
9. The Comprehensive Plan will be distributed as outlined in state statute.

Following the advisory committee's review and update of the Plan's draft chapters and maps, the CEED Committee will review and recommend adoption of the Comprehensive Plan Resolution. The County Board will adopt the Comprehensive Plan by Ordinance.

II. Implementation, Evaluation, & Update:

The Comprehensive Plan will be used as a general guideline for future development in the County. The plan will support the existing zoning and other regulations that are in place. As with all plans, it is critical for the Comprehensive Plan to be maintained and updated on a regular basis to keep it current as things change.

Any planning process is subject to change, and this public participation plan is no different. Over the planning period, the process may vary from that presented.

Demographic Questions

• 1. Residence Status

- *Question:* What is your residency status in Wood County? You may select more than one.
- ☐ I live in Wood County
- ☐ I work in Wood County
- ☐ I live and work in Wood County
- ☐ I visit Wood County regularly
- ☐ I have a second home or property in Wood County

• 2. Municipality, (Optional)

- *Question:* In which Wood County municipality do you live or own your primary property?
 - ☐ I do not live in Wood County
- **Cities:**
 - ☐ City of Marshfield (Wood County portion)
 - ☐ City of Nekoosa
 - ☐ City of Pittsville
 - ☐ City of Wisconsin Rapids
- **Villages:**
 - ☐ Village of Arpin
 - ☐ Village of Auburndale
 - ☐ Village of Biron
 - ☐ Village of Hewitt
 - ☐ Village of Milladore (Wood County portion)
 - ☐ Village of Port Edwards
 - ☐ Village of Rudolph
 - ☐ Village of Vesper
- **Towns (Rural / Unincorporated Areas):**

- ☐ Town of Arpin
- ☐ Town of Auburndale
- ☐ Town of Cameron
- ☐ Town of Cary
- ☐ Town of Cranmoor
- ☐ Town of Dexter
- ☐ Town of Grand Rapids
- ☐ Town of Hansen
- ☐ Town of Hiles
- ☐ Town of Lincoln
- ☐ Town of Marshfield
- ☐ Town of Milladore
- ☐ Town of Port Edwards
- ☐ Town of Remington
- ☐ Town of Rock
- ☐ Town of Rudolph
- ☐ Town of Saratoga
- ☐ Town of Seneca
- ☐ Town of Sherry
- ☐ Town of Sigel
- ☐ Town of Wood

• **3. Home Ownership (Housing Tenure)**

- *Question:* Do you own or rent your current primary residence?
- ☐ Own (with or without a mortgage)
- ☐ Rent
- ☐ Currently staying with family/friends (do not pay rent or own)
- ☐ Other / Prefer not to say

- **4. Age Range**

- *Question:* Which of the following categories includes your current age?
- () Under 18
- () 18 to 24
- () 25 to 34
- () 35 to 44
- () 45 to 54
- () 55 to 64
- () 65 to 74
- () 75 or older

- **5. Length of Residency**

- *Question:* How many years have you lived or owned property in Wood County?
- () Less than 2 years
- () 2 to 5 years
- () 6 to 10 years
- () 11 to 20 years
- () More than 20 years

Plan Questions

- **1. Overall Satisfaction / Quality of Life**

- *Question:* How would you rate the overall quality of life in our county?
- *Scale:* **5** (Excellent) | **4** (Good) | **3** (Average) | **2** (Poor) | **1** (Very Poor)

- **2. Housing Supply & Affordability**

- *Question:* How would you rate the availability of affordable housing options for young families and seniors in your community?
- *Scale:* **5** (Very Adequate) | **4** (Adequate) | **3** (Neutral) | **2** (Inadequate) | **1** (Very Inadequate)

- **3. Job Opportunities**

- *Question:* How would you rate the availability of good-paying, local employment opportunities?
- *Scale:* **5** (Excellent) | **4** (Good) | **3** (Fair) | **2** (Poor) | **1** (Very Poor)
- **4. Transportation & Road Conditions**
 - *Question:* How satisfied are you with the overall maintenance, safety, and winter plowing of county roads and highways?
 - *Scale:* **5** (Very Satisfied) | **4** (Satisfied) | **3** (Neutral) | **2** (Dissatisfied) | **1** (Very Dissatisfied)
- **5. Agricultural & Farmland Preservation**
 - *Question:* How important is it for the county to actively protect productive farmland from being converted into housing or commercial developments?
 - *Scale:* **5** (Critically Important) | **4** (Important) | **3** (Somewhat Important) | **2** (Not Very Important) | **1** (Not Important at All)
- **6. Natural Resources & Water Quality**
 - *Question:* How important is it for local planning policies to focus heavily on protecting groundwater, lakes, rivers, and wildlife habitat?
 - *Scale:* **5** (Critically Important) | **4** (Important) | **3** (Somewhat Important) | **2** (Not Very Important) | **1** (Not Important at All)
- **7. Reasons for Residing Here** (*Select your top 2 reasons*)
 - Proximity to family and roots
 - Rural character, peace, and quiet
 - Proximity to job/employment
 - Quality of local schools
 - Natural beauty and outdoor recreation opportunities
 - Lower cost of living/affordable taxes
 - Other _____
- **8. Housing Types**
 - *Question:* Which type of residential development is most needed in your immediate area?
 - () Single-family detached homes

- ☐ Duplexes, townhomes, or condominiums
- ☐ Dedicated senior living facilities or retirement communities
- ☐ Multi-family apartment complexes
- ☐ Hobby farms or farmettes
- **9. Economic Development Priorities**
 - *Question:* What sector should the county focus its primary business attraction and retention efforts on?
 - ☐ Light manufacturing and industrial parks
 - ☐ Small, locally owned retail and service businesses
 - ☐ Technology, remote work hubs, and professional services
 - ☐ Agricultural businesses and food processing
 - ☐ Tourism, hospitality, and outdoor recreation
- **10. Alternative / Active Transportation**
 - *Question:* Where should the county direct future transportation funding outside of standard vehicle roads?
 - ☐ Expanding recreational bike paths and walking trails
 - ☐ Creating safe on-road bike lanes for commuters
 - ☐ Developing shared transit or vanpool systems
 - ☐ No additional funding; resources should only go to road paving
- **11. Community Facilities & Services**
 - *Question:* Which county service is in the most urgent need of infrastructure upgrades or expanded staffing?
 - ☐ Law enforcement and sheriff patrols
 - ☐ Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
 - ☐ County parks, boat launches, and trail maintenance
 - ☐ Public libraries and community centers
 - ☐ County recycling, waste management, and landfills
- **12. Land Use & Development Control**

- *Question:* Where should major new development (including commercial, industrial, large-scale energy, and intensive residential projects) be directed over the next 20 years?
- () Concentrated strictly inside existing city, village, or sanitary district limits where municipal utilities already exist
- () Guided along major highways and transit corridors, even if it extends into rural town areas
- () Distributed across the county based on individual private property owner choices and market demand
- () Restricted or heavily discouraged to preserve rural character, agriculture, and natural landscapes
- () Undecided / No opinion
- **13. Level of Government Attention / Spending**
 - *Question:* If county tax revenues increase, where would you most support allocating the extra funds?
 - () Property tax relief / lowering the tax levy
 - () Repairing aging roads, bridges, and infrastructure
 - () Expanding high-speed broadband internet access to rural areas
 - () Enhancing healthcare/social services and human services
 - () Expanding county parks and recreational trail networks
 - () Funding Schools
 - () Other _____
- **14. Miscellaneous**
 - Is there anything else you would like to share about Wood County?
 - _____



PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

DATE: November 4th, 2026
TO: Conservation, Education & Economic Development Committee (CEED)
County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Emmett Simkowski, County Planner
RE: Town of Grand Rapids, Zoning Map Amendment

STAFF MEMORANDUM

Introduction:

The Town of Grand Rapids adopted and administers their own town zoning ordinance. In October, the Town submitted a zoning text amendment to the Wood County Planning and Zoning Department for review and approval. The request includes rezoning a property located at 1721 48th St. South (Parcel: 0700677A) from an agricultural district to a residential district. The request is discussed further in this memo.

Background:

Wood County adopted the Wood County Zoning Ordinance #700. This ordinance is in effect in all 22 towns within its jurisdiction. In counties having a county zoning ordinance, no town zoning ordinance or amendment of a zoning ordinance may be adopted unless approved by the County Board of Supervisors Wis. Stat. §60.62(3)(a). This rule also applies to town zoning map amendments, and text amendments.

The subject property is currently zoned agriculture under the Town's Zoning Ordinance. The proposed owner is intending to have the property rezoned to R-2, One and Two Family Residential to allow them to split the parcel. The Town of Grand Rapids' Plan Commission minutes indicate that the owner desires to divide the property into three parcels, one to sell to an owner, one to develop and one for the existing home.

Conclusion & Recommendation

County review and decision concerning approval or disapproval of a Town's Zoning Ordinance is limited to cases of abuse of discretion, excess of power, or error of law. Based on the information submitted to the Planning and Zoning Department, the Town of Grand Rapids adhered to the process for zoning amendments as outlined in Wis. Stats. The Town Board has acted on the items above and approval was unanimous. Additionally, I find no conflict with any existing county planning documents and zoning programs or ordinances.

Attachments

1. Town of Grand Rapids Staff Report
2. Location Map
3. Resolution



Town of Grand Rapids

Building and Zoning

Re-Zoning

Applicant/Property Owner	Michelle VanErt
Site Address	1721 48 th Street South
Parcel #	0700677A
Lot Area	307,272 / 7.054 acres
Current Zoning	Agricultural
Future Zoning	Higher Density Residential
Adjacent Zoning	Residential, One and Two Family (R-2) & Commercial
Shoreland	Not Present
Attachments/Exhibits	1. Re-Zoning Application 2. Parcel Map and Vicinity Map

Request

Parcel 0700677A, a 7.054 acre agricultural (A) zoned property owned by Michelle R. Van Ert, is proposed for a rezoning. The owner intends to subdivide the parcel into 3 lots at a later date if the rezone is approved.

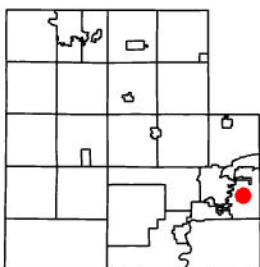
To allow for the rezoning from Agricultural (A) to Residential, One and Two Family (R-2) is requested. This rezoning aligns with the existing R-2 zoning of all surrounding properties and is consistent with the current land use plan for the area.

Recommendation: PC 9/14

5. Discussion and Possible Recommendation to Town Board for rezoning the 7.054-acre parcel of land identified as parcel number 0700677A (property address 1721 48th St S.) from A Agriculture to R-2 Residential One- and Two-Family owned by Michelle VanErt. Joe Winkelman was present on behalf of Michelle VanErt. Attorney Abst advised that this proposal would be consistent with the Comprehensive Future Land Use Map. Winkelman explained what his plan is if the rezone is approved, which would be to split the parcel into 3, selling one to a neighbor and retaining one with the possibility of building a single-family home. Member Lumby had questions regarding the proposed lot sizes to verify if any would still qualify for agricultural zoning. Winkelman stated that they would all be under 5-acres. Member Keisling wanted to clarify the number of accessory structures currently on the property. Winkelman explained that he intends to only have one accessory building and a home. *Motion* (Lumby/Heiser) to recommend to the Town Board for rezoning the 7.054-acre parcel identified as parcel number 0700677A (property address 1721 48th St S.) from A Agriculture to R-2 Residential One- and Two- Family owned by Michelle VanErt. *Motion* 7-0.



Location Map **Town of Grand Rapids, Wood County Wisconsin**



 Subject Parcel to Rezone



0 0 0.1 0.1 Miles



RESOLUTION#

DATE November 10, 2026
Effective
Date November 10, 2026

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Introduced by Conservation, Education, and Economic Development Committee

Motion:	Adopted:	☐
1 st	Lost:	☐
2 nd	Tabled:	☐
No: ☐	Yes: ☐	Absent: ☐
Number of votes required: ☒ Majority ☐ Two-thirds		
Reviewed by: <u>N.F.</u> , Corp Counsel		
Reviewed by: <u>P.Y.</u> , Finance Dir.		

INTENT & SYNOPSIS: Approve an amendment to the Town of Grand Rapids Official Zoning Ordinance.

FISCAL NOTE: No cost to Wood County.

WHEREAS, the Town of Grand Rapids adopted and administers a zoning ordinance to promote the health, safety, aesthetics, prosperity, and general welfare of the town; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 60.62(3)(a) Wis. Stats., in counties having a county zoning ordinance, no town zoning ordinance or amendment of a zoning ordinance may be adopted unless approved by the County Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, on October 16, 2026, the Town of Grand Rapids submitted a zoning ordinance map amendment to the Wood County Department of Planning and Zoning for review and approval pursuant to the Wis. Stats.; and

WHEREAS, county review and decision concerning approval or disapproval of a town zoning amendment is limited to cases of abuse of discretion, excess of power, or error of law; and

WHEREAS, the Wood County Department of Planning and Zoning reviewed the information submitted by the Town of Grand Rapids and finds the Town adhered to the process for zoning amendments as outlined in the Wis. Stats.; and

WHEREAS, the Wood County Department of Planning and Zoning finds no conflict with any county planning and zoning programs

and ordinances; and

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2026, the Conservation, Education and Economic Development Committee (CEED) reviewed the request and recommended approval; and

Adopted by the County Board of Wood County, November 10, 2026

County Clerk

County Board Chairman

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wood County Board of Supervisors, pursuant to § 60.62(3)(a) Wis. Stats., hereby approves the following amendments to the Town of Grand Rapids Official Zoning Ordinance:

1. Rezoning of parcel 0700677A from Agriculture (A) to One and Two Family Residential (R-2) per the Town of Grand Rapids Zoning Ordinance.



**Wood County Economic Development
(Planning & Zoning/Extension)**

400 Market Street/ P.O. Box 8095, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
Phone: 715-421-8466

2026 Wood County (WI) Economic Development Funding Request

Proposal Title: Trails Map for Wood County

Applicant Organization: Wisconsin Rapids Area Convention & Visitors Bureau / Visit Marshfield

Website: <https://www.visitwisrapids.com/> or <https://visitmarshfield.com/>

Mailing Address: c/o Wis Rapids Area CVB, 160 2nd Street N., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Street Address: (if different)

Contact Name & Title: Meredith Kleker, Executive Director Wis Rapids Area CVB; Matt McLean, E

Phone: 715-422-4651 and 715-384-4314

Email: mkleker@VisitWisRapids.com and mclean.matt@visitmarshfield

Proposal Narrative

1. REDI Alignment (select one) Recreational Mapping

If selected other, please describe:

2. Please provide a summary of your proposal. Explain how it is consistent with and supports the Wood County REDI (Rural Economic Development Initiative) Plan.

Wood County does not have a map dedicated to trails on land or water. One map that shows all trails will increase our ability to attract visitors and demonstrate the depth and quality of life Wood County offers to those seeking employment, to grow a business, or build a home. REDI plan goals addressed include Recreational Mapping - Develop a Comprehensive County Wide Outdoor Recreational Trail/ Boat Access / Beach Map to increase use and attract tourists and new residents (strategy 3.1 and map formats 3.1.2 and 3.1.5) and elements of Asset Based Branding to Let Others Know that Wood County is a Vibrant and Diverse Community to Live, Grow, Play and Work (1 - 1.7). We are also exploring vendors that provide both printed and digital versions of the map(s) to appeal to a wide audience.

3. Have you received funds through this grant in the past? (if yes, check box) ☒

Have you applied in the past? (if yes, check box) ☒

If yes, in which years did you receive funds and in which years did you apply?

We previously collaborated to man a booth for Central Wisconsin Tourism Association at the annual Wisconsin State Fair. The last year was 2022.



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4. Describe the timeline for this proposal. Note this grant requires the funding recipient to complete work on the proposal/project within one calendar year (2026).

Using data from the recent Wood County Bike Ped Plan and consulting with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Wisconsin Department of Transportation and Travel Wisconsin Office of Outdoor Recreation, we would like to have a trail map created for Wood County to be completed in 2026.

We will research and request proposals from map making companies by January 31, 2026; choose the vendor and proceed to printing to have maps ready for distribution May 2026.

5. Explain how this proposal will provide a Return on Investment (ROI) to Wood County. Please be as specific as possible. E.g. The housing incentive we offered with County Economic Development funds will lead to an annual tax levy increase of \$X.

Well designed and distributed printed maps encourage exploration, enhance the visitor experience, promote local attractions and businesses, and contribute revenue.

In 2024 visitors to Wood County spent over \$115 million dollars, contributed 12.8% in local and state taxes, and made an economic impact of \$218 million. All three areas increased from 2023. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) reported that Outdoor Recreation value contributed 2.6% to Wisconsin's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2023. The same study noted top outdoor recreation activities contributing include: accessories and apparel, \$1.3 billion, motorcycling/ATVing, \$1.1 billion, boating/ fishing \$928 million, RVing \$464 million, Golf and game areas \$499 million, hunting/ shooting, \$320 million and bicycling \$157 million.

In 2024 the Wis Rapids Area received over 675 requests for information on outdoor recreation.

6. Describe the match for this proposal. Note that a 1:1 match is preferred. E.g. For a \$5,000 grant award, the grantee must provide \$5,000 of in-kind or financial match. The match must occur within the calendar year (2026) the funds are awarded for.

The Wisconsin Rapids Area CVB and Visit Marshfield will each contribute \$2,500. in cash for a total of \$5,000. Additionally, we estimate the in-kind value of staff time to be between \$750 and \$1500.

While we will use an RFP process to determine the best fit, we estimate the design to cost \$3,500. and the printing to cost \$6,500 for a total of \$10,000.



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Funding Considerations/Request Summary

(provide separate spreadsheet/budget if needed)

Budget Summary		Budget Detail	
Total Organization Budget	\$ 10,000.	Revenue/Income	
Total Proposal Cost	\$ est.	Funding Source A	\$ 5,000.
Total Amount Requested	\$ 5,000.	Funding Source B	\$ 5,000.
Total Match *	\$ 5,000.	Total Revenue/Income	\$ 10000.
* Please provide a match explanation in question 6.		Expenses	
		Expense A	\$ 3500.
		Expense B	\$ 6500.
		Expense C	\$
		Total Expense	\$ 10000.

Project Reporting Requirement

As a reporting requirement of receiving an Economic Development Grant, a one-page summary project report will be prepared and presented to the CEED Committee. **This report must be submitted no later than Tuesday, October 1, 2026.** Funding will not be released to the applicant prior to the reporting requirement being met. Please also note that funds are not able to be carried over into the following year.

Signatures

I attest that the information in this application submitted to Wood County is true and correct.

Applicant

<i>M. Kleker on behalf of WRACVB</i>	M. Kleker on behalf of WRACVB	7/11/25
Signature	Printed Name	Date

Highest Organization Elected Official/Board Chair

Signature	Printed Name	Date