

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, November 6, 2024

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: Courthouse – Room 114

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Wayne Schulz

OTHERS PRESENT: Victoria Wilson, Planning & Zoning; See attached sign-in list

1. Chairman Leichtnam called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and declared a quorum present.
2. Chairman Leichtnam opened the public hearing for 2025-2034 Land & Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan at 9:00 AM. There was no public comment. Chair Leichtnam closed the public hearing at 9:01 AM
3. There was no public comment.
4. The minutes of October 2, 2024, were presented. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Motion by Hovendick/Perlock to approve the vouchers, monthly department reports and committee reports. Motion carried unanimously.
6. County Conservationist Wucherpfennig reported that one staff person suffered a knee injury during the month of October.
7. Extension Area Director Solin gave staff updates to include that he has accepted a position as Assistant Dean starting Monday November 11th. He will cover both positions until his position at Wood County is filled. Solin shared that staff member Jackie Carattini passed away unexpectedly. She was with UW Extension for 25 years and had a large impact on Wood County.
8. Solin gave an overview of the 2025 Extension Educator contract. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve the contract. Motion carried unanimously.
9. Wucherpfennig gave an overview of the 2025-2034 LWRM plan. Motion by Buttke/Perlock to approve the plan and move it on to the County Board in December. All ayes-motion carried unanimously.

10. Wucherpfennig discussed the 2024 State Land and Water Conservation Board fall election and voting process. With approval from the committee Wucherpfennig will act as proxy for Wood County during the voting process.
11. Wucherpfennig provided the committee with information on crop prices for the Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program.
12. Wucherpfennig updated the committee and ongoing nonmetallic mining and manure violations. The manure violations at Hoffman Dairy LLC's two properties are ongoing. The property owner has retained an attorney. There is a pre-trial set for January 9th, 2025. The nonmetallic mining violation is also ongoing. There is still no resolution.
13. Wucherpfennig revised the ARPA request from LWCD to address the nitrate reduction systems component which he will present at the November 8, 2024 ARPA meeting.
14. Planning & Zoning Director Grueneberg introduced new Program Assistant, Julie Mancl who started on September 30th.
15. County Planner Emily Arndt presented the Town of Rudolph zoning amendment resolution to the committee. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve the resolution and forward onto the county board for their consideration. Motion carried unanimously.
16. Grueneberg stated the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) update will take place in January as Director Melinda Osterberg was unavailable for this meeting.
17. Grueneberg requested the early release of Economic Development grant funds for Aqua Skiers, Inc./Wood County Parks 2025 grant project in the amount of \$31,000. Motion by Buttke/Perlock to release the funds in 2024. All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.
18. Grueneberg requested the release of \$10,000 in REDI funding to help promote Wood County Parks and Forestry 90th anniversary/promotional media. Motion Hovendick/Buttke to release the funding with the stipulation that a plan be in place and Grueneberg report back on that plan next month. All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.
19. Grueneberg requested the release of \$5,000 in REDI funding to market the Certified Yellowstone Industrial Park site. Motion Buttke/Hovendick. All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

20. Grueneberg presented a resolution to endorse Frontier Communications to apply for Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) grant funding. Motion by Hovendick/Perlock to approve the resolution and move onto the County Board for their consideration. All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.
21. Grueneberg updated the committee on the upcoming screening of the Discover Wisconsin 90 years of Wood County Parks production. This will tentatively take place in Pittsville in April 2025.
22. Grueneberg requested the release of REDI funding up to \$200 to sponsor a Founder's Entrepreneur event in the City of Marshfield. Motion Leichtnam/Buttke. All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.
23. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday December 4th at 9:00 AM.
24. Agenda items for the next meeting were discussed.
25. Chairman Leichtnam declared the meeting adjourned at 11:02 AM.

Minutes taken by Victoria Wilson, Planning & Zoning/Program Assistant and in draft form until approved at the next meeting.

