

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 6, 2024

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: Courthouse – Room 114

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Leichtnam, Dave LaFontaine, Jake Hahn (WebEx), Tom Buttke

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Laura Valenstein, Joe Behlen

OTHERS PRESENT: Katie DeKleyn, Deputy County Clerk/Program Assistant; See attached sign-in list

1. Chairman Leichtnam called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM and declared a quorum present.
2. There was no public comment.
3. The minutes of the previous February 7th, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Motion by LaFontaine/Buttke to approve them as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Motion by LaFontaine/Buttke to approve the vouchers, monthly department reports and committee reports. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Jeffrey Gaier, from the Marshfield Municipal Airport provided an update. Motion by LaFontaine/Buttke to release \$15,000 of funds from the 2024 Economic Development Grant to the Marshfield Municipal Airport. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Grueneberg discussed the resolution to authorize staff to apply for Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Idle Sites Redevelopment grant funding for the former Vesper Elementary School. Sherry Stompa answered questions pertaining to the project. Motion by Buttke/LaFontaine to authorize staff to apply for Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Idle Sites Redevelopment grant funding, for the former Vesper Elementary School, as well as development agreement. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Grueneberg discussed an expected audit fee for the former Vesper Elementary School project. Motion by LaFontaine/Buttke to cover the audit fees from the REDI Implementation Funds. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Solin provided an Extension office update:
 - a. The Bilingual Community Health Educator position has been filled with an expected start date of April 1st, 2024.
 - b. Office space updates were reviewed.
 - c. The 2023 Annual Report was reviewed.

9. Wucherpennig provided an update, through Chairman Leichtnam, due to his absence from the meeting and will be discussed at a future meeting: A re-write of the Land and Water Plan is coming due this year. This re-write is due every ten years. A re-write of the Farmland Preservation Plan will also be coming due in 2025. A \$28,000 grant will be requested for this.
10. Grueneberg provided a staffing update: Bradley Cook, the former Code Technician, is now the Code Administrator.
11. Grueneberg reviewed the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, and encouraged those in attendance to view the goals and objectives, as they align well with the REDI Implementation Plan.
12. The committee, along with Grueneberg and Rombalski, reviewed the application for economic development grants for 2025. Suggestions were made to staff for improvements to the application form. They will be incorporated into a final document and will be presented at the next meeting.
13. Discussion was held for a per diem request for CEED Committee Supervisors to attend the Future of Clean Drinking Water on March 18th, at McMillan Library. Motion by LaFontaine/Buttke to approve the per diem and attendance. Motion carried unanimously.
14. Motion by LaFontaine/Buttke to approve per diem requests for CEED Committee Supervisors to attend the Wood County Housing Summit at Mid-State Technical College on March 7th. Motion carried unanimously.
15. Future agenda items:
 - a. Final vote on the application for the Economic Development Grants.
16. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 3rd, 2024 at 9:00 AM.
17. Chairman Leichtnam declared the meeting adjourned at 10:27 AM.

Minutes taken by Katie DeKleyn, Deputy County Clerk/Program Assistant, and are in draft form until approved at the next meeting.

Conservation, Education, & Economic Development Committee

March 6, 2024

NAME	REPRESENTING
Jeff Parkers	WCB # 11
Jason Gruenberg	P+2
Jeremy Solin	Extension
Dennis Polach	WCB - 14
Jeffrey Gaier	Marshfield Airport
SHERI STOMPA	VESPER APARTMENT Project
Sydnie Strub	VESPER Apartment Project
Kayla Rombalcki	Extension Wood co.
Angel Laidlaw	Webex - extension
Victoria Wilson	Webex - Planning & Zoning
Lance Pliml	WOODCOUNTY BOARD - WEBEX
Katie Beckeyn	County Clerks