



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
WAUSHARA COUNTY

Monthly Report – January 20, 2018
Land, Water, & Education Committee Meeting
Patrick Nehring, Community Development Professor

From correspondence and materials that Nehring created the Town of Aurora Clerk learned about the process to update the town's comprehensive plan. Using what she learned she will provide the Town Board and Plan Commission with a notice for a public hearing to review updates for the comprehensive plan and she will be able to provide the Plan Commission and Town Board with options for a resolution and ordinance to approve and adopt the updates to the town's comprehensive plan.

The Town of Dakota will be updating its comprehensive plan soon. Nehring provided the Plan Commission Chair with additional documents to update the comprehensive plan. The plan commission chair learned the process being used in the county to change the county zoning to implement the town's comprehensive plan. The approach municipalities in the county have taken is to change zoning designations as people apply for a zone change rather than proactively.

Nehring hosted a statewide teleconference about recent changes in planning and zoning laws that was attend by the county zoning staff. As part of hosting this teleconference, Nehring participated in discussions of how the changes affect Waushara County. Nehring hosted a statewide teleconference for county department heads on innovative ways to attract, retain, and engage current and potential employees, particularly those of the Millennial and Gen Z generations.

From an additional program Nehring taught at their meeting, the Vision 2020 Committee learned about economic security issues in Waushara County. Nehring updated Economic Security Profile for Waushara County that will be used and distributed by Vision 2020 and other partners. Nehring will be presenting the county economic security information to the Human Services Board at their February meeting. The information will also be shared with the Wautoma Kiwanis.

From Nehring, members of the Waushara Count Economic Development Corporation (WCEDC) learned about the historic activities and formation of the WCEDC. At the request of the WCEDC President, Nehring initiated a discussion of the roles and responsibilities of the WCEDC officers. Some of those treasurer and secretary responsibilities were turned over to the County Administration Department when the former County Administrative Coordinator volunteered to take on these responsibilities for the WCEDC. The WCEDC will further discuss their board officer roles and responsibilities at their next meeting in April. Nehring provided the WCEDC with a copy of his co-authored article "Dollar Stores in Small Communities." Nehring provided the WCEDC with information on the business and industry in the county and projections for the future. Nehring arranged for the representative from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to talk about the services of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and how they interact with the local economic development organizations, communities, and county.

Nehring explained some organization structure options to the Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (CWIP). CWIP is looking at forming a Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) that would include Waushara County. There are CISMA in other parts of Wisconsin and grant funding is available to address terrestrial and aquatic invasive species. Nehring will be providing further educational assistance to CWIP as they continue to look at different organizational structures, determine their goals, and plan for their future activities.

Informed individuals about snow fleas, business assistance options, and nonprofit filing requirements.

As part of the Transition Workgroup of the UW-Madison and UW-Extension University Committees, Nehring is working with UW-Madison and UW-Extension faculty on how UW-Extension will be structured within UW-Madison. Nehring participated in discussion about the restructuring of the Wisconsin Extension Environmental & Community Development mentoring program and in Vice-Chairs meeting with the Youth, Family, & Community Development Associate Dean.