

From Community Development Agent Patrick Nehring's August 2019 Report to the Land, Water, & Education Committee

All 26 municipalities in Waushara County and the County have received information and instruction on comprehensive planning allowing them to create and have a current comprehensive in compliance with state laws. The Town of Warren made an informed decision based on information provided by Nehring not to have a comprehensive plan because they do not have zoning regulations. The City of Berlin currently has planning staff. Nehring provides the volunteers and municipal officials from the remaining 24 municipalities with the instruction and information they need to maintain and update their comprehensive plans. Nehring works with the county Land Conservation & Zoning Department and the municipalities to maintain and update the county comprehensive plan to reflect the municipal plans. Within the last year Nehring has provided instruction and information to the Towns of Dakota, Mt Morris, Richford, Plainfield, Saxeville, Aurora, Bloomfield, Marion, Wautoma, and Poy Sippi, and Villages of Wild Rose and Redgranite, City of Wautoma and Berlin, and Waushara County.

Nehring has provided education on organization structure, operation, mission/purpose development, strategic planning, funding options, grants, board roles and responsibilities, and volunteer management to over 150 organizations. Within the past year, the Wild Rose Community Band and the Wild Rose Support Tones learned of organization options and liability. HCE Clubs from over a dozen counties including Waushara County learned of nonprofit organizations structures and operation from Nehring. Using what they learned from Nehring, the We ARE in Christ organized and established themselves as a partnership of the churches in the county to address poverty issues. The Fox Valley Technical College Regional Center opened, Nehring provided some of the data used in the decision to build the new center with expanded course offerings. Nehring provide instruction and education to the Waushara County Economic Development Corporation to empower them to address some of their organizational issues and business development needs in the county. From Nehring, the Redgranite Fire District Auxiliary learned of ways to continue operating in the community in partnership with the fire district. Grace United Methodist of Wautoma learned from Nehring of ways to be more inviting to their members and potential members. Nehring provided instruction to the Central Wisconsin Invasive Partnership enabling them to complete their bylaws and organization structure and plan for a future structure. The Waushara Tourism Resource Commission learned from Nehring about operational requirements as a municipal government commission. Tree House will use what they learned from Nehring to find funding to provide activities for teenagers in the Wautoma area. From Nehring, the Pine Lake Management District and Waushara County learned the processes for annexing property into the lake district. Big Hills Lake Management District learned from Nehring about lake district membership. Staff from multiple county departments and the general public learned from Nehring about ways of tailoring customer service to meet the expectations of people they work with and how to write a grant proposal.

Nehring provided assistance to over 100 businesses and entrepreneurs with business operations, financial options, business structure, and market information. Within the past year, Nehring assisted an existing business explore funding options for equipment needed. Nehring assisted a representative of an entrepreneur with identifying financial options for a project that would enable them to open. Nehring assisted three entrepreneurs with narrowing down their business idea and accessing local partners that will assist them with developing a business plan.

In addition to readers of articles and publications created by Nehring, over 4,000 individuals and organizations learned directly from Nehring about local market conditions, demographics, and economic statistics enabling them to make business, organization, governmental, and funding decisions. Within the past year, Nehring created an economic security profile for the Vision 2020 Committee of the Waushara County Prevention Council that has been distributed to its members and We ARE in Christ member churches. Nehring provide market area research to Coloma, Wautoma, and Redgranite that has been used to encourage business development. Staff from multiple county departments and the general public learned from Nehring about county demographic and economic conditions. From Nehring, members of the Waushara County Board, TRIAD, We ARE in Christ, and Vision 2020 and individuals who contacted the Extension Office learned about the 2020 Census. Tourism market research Nehring Waushara County created was provided to the Waushara County Watershed Lakes Council, Waushara Tourism Resource Commission and distributed at the premier of the Discover Wisconsin television program about Waushara County.

In addition to readers of articles written by Nehring, over 8,000 people have learned from Nehring about groundwater and lake water quality, quantity, and ecosystems. Within the past year, all of the fifth grade students in Waushara County learn from Nehring about groundwater quantity at Waushara Conservation Field Days. Seventh grade students at Wautoma learn from Nehring about lake issues. Residents of Waushara County have learned from Nehring about their well water at multiple workshops. Individuals learn about their well water, what tests to take, and what options they have to address well water quality issues. As part of a countywide study, Nehring has sent well water information to over 300 residents of Waushara County.

Assisted the over 35 lake district and associations in the county with their organization structure and lake issues. Within the past year, the Pine Lake Management District, Pearl Lake Management District, and Waushara County learned from Nehring the processes for annexing property into the lake district. Big Hills Lake Management District learned from Nehring about lake district membership. Nehring has taught individuals about high and low lake levels and the dynamics of lakes in the county. From Nehring, representatives at the Waushara County Watershed Lakes Council have learned about water quality in the county, tourism, and other lake related issues.