

# Agenda Item Report



**Winnebago County**

*The Wave of the Future*

DATE: *February 14, 2022*

TO: *Industrial Development Board (for February 25, 2022 meeting)*

FROM: *Jerry Bougie, Director of Planning and Zoning*

RE: *Conduct Citizen Participation Public Hearing on Winnebago County's CDBG-Close Project (Public Hearing #2).*

## **Background:**

Approximately 20 years ago, Winnebago County was the recipient of Community Development Block Grant – Economic Development (CDBG-ED) Funding from the Wisconsin Department of Administration (WisDOA) Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources (DEHCR), and Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The funds were provided to the County for the purposes of funding business and industrial projects in the County that provided job opportunities for low-and-moderate income individuals. The program required the County to establish a low interest Revolving Loan fund for eligible businesses in the County. Because of its mission, the CDBG-ED funding was allocated to and managed by the County Industrial Development Board (IDB). Over the years the IDB's CDBG Revolving Loan Fund grew to approximately \$940,000. However, due to the stringent criteria for use of the funds established by HUD and WisDOA, only a small number of businesses qualified for loans from the program leaving a significant portion of the funds unused. This was also happening in many other communities throughout the state. This led the state to decide in 2019 to petition HUD to "close out" the program in the State of Wisconsin. HUD granted the state's request to close-out the program effective February 1, 2019. HUD also allowed the state and its local revolving loan programs, including Winnebago County, the opportunity to expend its available on hand loan funds for a one-time project within a 2-year period, provided the project was located in the unincorporated area of the County and located within a Low-and-Moderate Income census tract. After study and review, it was determined that Winnebago County was able to utilize its available funds for reconstruction of a one-mile segment of County Road Y between I-41 and County Road T in the Town of Oshkosh, saving the County from having to expend its own dollars for the roadway project. The roadway project was budgeted at \$807,000. On August 4, 2020, the Winnebago County Board adopted a resolution authorizing the Winnebago County Industrial Development Board to apply for the CDBG funding from the WisDOA. The IDB subsequently made application to the WisDOA for this project and they approved of the application for the project. Furthermore, WisDOA and HUD agreed to allow the remaining balance (approximately \$130,000) to be allocated to the City of Omro for an already planned and applied for wellhouse and well water system infrastructure project located in a low-and-moderate Income area of the City of Omro. Also, to manage the complex application process and ongoing project reporting requirements, the Winnebago County IDB retained Mid State Associates (MSA) to manage and administer the project for the County.

## **Policy Discussion:**

HUD requires Winnebago County to conduct two Public Hearings on the status of the project as part of its required ongoing project reporting. The first Public Hearing was conducted by the Winnebago

County IDB at its meeting on July 23, 2020. The County Road Y project has now reached a point where it is necessary to conduct the required 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing for the public's benefit. A notification was published in the Oshkosh Northwestern on February 9, 2022 to inform the public that the County IDB is conducting a public hearing on the project for Friday, February 25, 2022 at 10:30 am. The hearing notification will allow the public to participate in the meeting in person or virtually. MSA Consulting will report on the project during the hearing. The hearing will include an update on the status of the County's CDBG project, project activities to date, and activities yet to be completed. In addition, the public will be offered an opportunity to provide input on the CDBG project activities.

**Requested Action:**

No action will be taken by the IDB. This also is not a County Board item.

**Committee Action:**

No action will be taken by the IDB.

**Attachments:** Copy of the Published Public Hearing Notice and the DEHCR Citizen Participation Certification form for Public Hearing #2.



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK  
GRANT-PUBLIC FACILITIES  
SECOND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION  
MEETING

Winnebago County  
Winnebago County Administration  
Building  
112 Otter Ave  
Oshkosh, WI  
February 25, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.

Public Notice is hereby given that Winnebago County will hold a public hearing on February 25, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. at the Winnebago County Administration Building, 112 Otter Ave, Room 120, Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The purpose of the public hearing is to inform the public on the progress on the CTH Y Reconstruction project in Winnebago County, and to request citizen input on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which has partially funded the project. Discussion items will include a review of the current CDBG program activities, the project progress and construction activities, and CDBG program goals. At the public hearing, interested parties will be given a reasonable opportunity to provide questions or suggestions on the CDBG program.\*

Residents of Winnebago County are encouraged to attend especially residents of low-to-moderate incomes. The meeting room is handicapped accessible. Persons needing additional accessibility accommodations should contact the County Clerk's Office at 920-232-3433.

\*All interested persons wishing to be heard at the public hearing may appear in person or via Zoom using the meeting information below. A direct link to the Zoom Meeting is available on the Winnebago County Meetings and Agenda calendar on the above indicated date.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82197747318?pwd=SUI4c1JKd3BkU3NCZFJVTTTRWNTg3Zz09>

Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799  
US (Chicago)

• Meeting ID: 821 9774 7318

• Passcode: 787300

Additional Instructions can be found at: <https://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/planning-and-zoning>

Run: February 9, 2022 WNAXLP

## Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources

Community Development Block Grant – Citizen Participation Certification (Public Hearing #2)

# CITIZEN PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATION for Public Hearing #2

I, Susan Ertmer, for the County of Winnebago, hereby  
(Typed Name) (City, Town, Village, or County) (Grantee / UGLG / Community Name)

certify that the following checked topics were discussed at the Community Development Block Grant  
(CDBG) Citizen Participation Public Hearing held at 10:30 a.m. on February 25, 2022 :  
(Time: 00:00 am/pm) (Date: Month, Day, Year)

Items Discussed at the Public Hearing	Agenda Items / Topics Covered
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. An update on the status of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project was provided, including an overview of project activities completed to date, and activities remaining to be completed. <i>[Required]</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. An update on the status of residential and/or business displacement and relocation assistance activities required as a result of the CDBG project was provided. <i>[Required if displacement occurred as part of the CDBG project]</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Housing needs identified in the community were discussed. <i>[Required if the UGLG did not cover this in Citizen Participation Public Hearing #1 prior to the UGLG's CDBG Application Submission]</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. The public attending this meeting were offered an opportunity to provide input and feedback on the CDBG project activities. <i>[Required]</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Add Additional Topic If Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Add Additional Topic If Applicable

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of UGLG Official or Public Hearing Facilitator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

Winnebago County

\_\_\_\_\_  
UGLG/Organization Name for Signatory Person Above

**\*\* This Certification (verifying the topics described above were discussed) may be provided to DEHCR with the minutes from Public Hearing #2, along with the hearing notice documents, which must be submitted as part of the UGLG's Semi-Annual Report after the public hearing has been held. \*\***