



**Marathon County  
Environmental Resources Committee Minutes  
Tuesday, September 5, 2023  
500 Forest Street, Wausau WI**

<b>Attendance:</b>	<b><u>Member</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Not present</u></b>	
<i>Chair</i>	Jacob Langenhahn.....	X		} Via in person, Webex Or phone
<i>Vice-Chair</i>	Allen Drabek.....	X		
	Rick Seefeldt . . . . .	X.		
	Dave Oberbeck . . . . .	X		
	Andrew Venzke.....		X (excused)	
	Tony Sherfinski.....	X		
	Kim Ungerer . . . . .	X		
	Mike Ritter . . . . .	X		
	Marilyn Bhend.....	X		
	Rodney Roskopf.....		X (excused)	

Also present via Webex, phone or in person: ; Laurie Miskimins, Shad Harvey, Garrett Pagel, Jeff Pritchard, Nicole Delonay, Kirk Langfoss & Kirstie Heidenreich– Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ); Jamie Polley – Parks Department, Chris Holman – Deputy Administrator; Mike Puermer – Corporation Counsel, Dave Hagenbucher – Solid Waste Department; Larry Lang,

1. **Call to order** – Called to order by Chair Langenhahn at 3:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
3. **Public Comment** –
4. **Approval of August 1, 2023, Committee minutes**  
**Motion /** second by Seefeldt/ Ritter to approve of the August 1, 2023, Environmental Resources Committee minutes.  
 Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.
5. **Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution:**
  - A. **Public Hearings, Review, Possible Actions, and Possible Recommendations to the County Board for its Consideration (County Zoning changes)**
    1. Ryan Gordon Lynn – C Commercial to R-R Rural Residential -Town of Brighton

Discussion: Pagel was sworn in and noted the staff report and decision sheet had been included in the packet. Pagel reviewed the rezone request shown on the Preliminary Certified Survey Map (CSM) that was submitted with the petition. Pagel additionally reviewed the reasoning behind why Conservation Planning and Zoning (CPZ) staff are recommending approval of the rezone request, citing the rezone standards, requirements, and pertinent site characteristics. The Town Brighton has reviewed the application and recommends approval without any concerns or additional comments.

There was no additional testimony in favor or opposed to this rezone request virtually or in person. The testimony portion of the hearing was closed at 3:07 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.



**Marathon County**  
**Environmental Resources Committee Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 5, 2023**  
**500 Forest Street, Wausau WI**

Action: **Motion** / second by Seefeldt/ Sherfinski to recommend approval to County Board, of the Ryan Gordon Lynn rezone request. Noting the reasoning provided in the staff report and conclusions of law, the Committee determined the rezone is consistent with the Marathon County and Town comprehensive plans. Adequate facilities are present or will be provided and providing any necessary public facilities will not burden local government. Based on the proposed land division and existing land uses onsite the rezone should not result in any adverse effect on natural areas. The committee made their recommendation of approval based on the information, findings of fact, and conclusions of law as described in the CPZ staff report included in the ERC packet.

Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Follow through: Forward to County Board for action at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

2. Larry & Patricia Lang – R-E Rural Estate to G-A General Agriculture - Town of Spencer

Discussion: Pagel was sworn in and noted the staff report and decision sheet had been included in the packet. Pagel reviewed the rezone request shown on the Preliminary Certified Survey Map (CSM) that was submitted with the petition. Pagel additionally reviewed the reasoning behind why Conservation Planning and Zoning (CPZ) staff are recommending approval of the rezone request, citing the rezone standards, requirements, and pertinent site characteristics. The Town Spencer has reviewed the application and recommends approval without any concerns or additional comments.

There was no additional testimony in favor or opposed to this rezone request virtually or in person. The testimony portion of the hearing was closed at 3:12 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Seefeldt/Drabek to recommend approval to County Board, of the Larry and Patricia Lang rezone request. Noting the reasoning provided in the staff report and conclusions of law, the Committee determined the rezone is consistent with the Marathon County and Town comprehensive plans and is not located in the Farmland Preservation Zoning District. Adequate facilities are present or will be provided and providing any necessary public facilities will not burden local government. Based on the proposed land division and existing land uses onsite the rezone should not result in any adverse effect on natural areas. The committee made their recommendation of approval based on the information, findings of fact, and conclusions of law as described in the CPZ staff report included in the ERC packet.

Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Follow through: Forward to County Board for action at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

3. Town of Knowlton for text amendment changes to the General Code of Ordinances for Marathon County Chapters 17 - <https://www.marathoncounty.gov/services/zoning>

Discussion: Harvey was sworn in and discussed the text amendment changes related the town of Knowlton's Petition to amend Marathon County's Chapter 17 chicken ordinance. Town outreach was done again and the only town to respond was the Town of McMillan.



**Marathon County  
Environmental Resources Committee Minutes  
Tuesday, September 5, 2023  
500 Forest Street, Wausau WI**

The Town of McMillan gave their input in defining fowl.  
The definition of residential fowl has been clarified.

There was no additional testimony in favor or opposed to the text amendment changes to the General Code of Ordinances for the text amendment changes related to the Town of Knowlton's petition to amend Marathon County's Chapter 17 chicken ordinance virtually or in person. The testimony portion of the hearing was closed at 3:25 p.m.

Action: **Motion** / second by Ritter/Sherfinski to recommend approval to County Board, of the text amendment changes to the General Code of Ordinances for Marathon County Chapter 17 request.

Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Follow through: Forward to County Board for action at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

- B. Review and Possible Recommendation to County Board for its Consideration (Town Zoning changes pursuant to §60.62(3) Wis. Stats.) – None.
- C. Review and Possible Recommendations to County Board for its Consideration – None.
- D. Review and Possible Action - None.

**6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports and Committee Discussion**

A. Department Updates: Conservation, Planning and Zoning (CPZ), Parks Recreation and Forestry (PRF), Solid Waste

1. Update on POWTS Replacement Funding Opportunities

Director Miskimins provided a brief update on the MCDEVCO Loan Program and the State's Wisconsin Fund. CPZ has sent information to about 200 homeowners that have the County knows to have failed systems. The first four applications are being examined by CPZ and MCDEVCO for potential to give them a loan. Miskimins also mentioned that the application fee, which is currently \$150, may be waived if the homeowner falls within a certain income bracket. An update on the State's revived Wisconsin Fund was also provided. The State has encouraged the County to prepare eligible landowners to apply, however official confirmation of funding for the program may not come until much later this year.

2. WI Land & Water Survey for Member to Inform Strategic Plan – Heidenreich gave an update from the WI Land and Water regarding the survey they just released to provide feedback about certain projects.

**7. Policy Issues Discussion and Committee Determination to the County Board for its Consideration**

A. Overview of the Farmland Preservation Plan Update and Review of Public Participation Plan

Discussion: Heidenreich and Langfoss gave an update on the Farmland Preservation Plan. The Farmland Preservation Plan is an appendix of the Marathon County Comprehensive Plan and is a requirement of the State of WI for county and landowners to participate in other aspects of farmland Preservation. Langfoss reiterated that the local vision for agricultural preservation, agricultural development, and the development of agricultural enterprises at the County level. They are asking the ERC committee to provide input.



**Marathon County  
Environmental Resources Committee Minutes  
Tuesday, September 5, 2023  
500 Forest Street, Wausau WI**

- B. Continue discussion regarding 2024 Annual Budget and Policy Recommendations from the Committee
  - 1. Review Summary Memos from CPZ, Parks, & Solid Waste

Discussion: Each department was instructed to summarize their budget improvements for the forthcoming years. Each department summarized the evaluations of their budgets and improvement actions identified were discussed that have been conducted over the last few months and created them into a memo for ERC and County Board.

The Committee asked some clarifying questions related to fleets and asked CPZ and Parks to make a few minor edits to their memos. Deputy Administrator Holman gave an update on the fleet vehicle programs.

Action: **Motion** / Second Sherfinski/ Oberbeck to forward the memos to Human Resources, Finance, & Property with the revisions requested.

Follow-through: Forward to Human Resources, Finance, & Property with the revisions as stated.

**8. Next meeting date, time & location, and future agenda items:**

**Tuesday, October 3, 2023, 3:00 p.m. Marathon County Courthouse, Assembly Room  
500 Forest Street Wausau WI**

- A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion.
- B. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence
  - 1. Miskimins presented draft 2024 ERC dates and will bring to the October ERC meeting for finalization.

**9. Adjourn – **Motion/** second by Drabek/ Ungerer to **adjourn** at 4:23 p.m.**

Laurie Miskimins, CPZ Director

For Jacob Langenhahn, Chair

cc: (via email/web site) ERC members; County Administrator; Corporation Counsel; County Clerk

LM/nd