



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

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

MEETING RECORDING

Also present via Webex, phone or in person: Laurie Miskimins, Shad Harvey, Kirstie Heidenreich, Nicole Delonay, Garrett Pagel, Diane Hanson, Matt Repking, & Jeff Prichard - Conservation Planning and Zoning; Jamie Polley & Tom Lovlien – Parks and Department;; Ann Lemmer – County Board Supervisor, Lance Leonard – County Administrator, Rich Grefe, Betty Hoenisch – Village of Maine, Adam Freihoefer, Mark Kaczorowski, Bernard Michaud – Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Tim Vreeland, Mitch Gumz, Carrie Simonis

1. **Call to order** – Called to order by Chair Langenhahn at 3:05 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
3. **Public Comment** – None.
4. **Approval of October 31, 2023, Committee minutes**
Motion / second by Ritter/ Sherfinski to approve of the October 31, 2023, Environmental Resources Committee minutes. (0:01)
 Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.
5. **Special Education**
 - A. DNR Information Related to Digestors in Marathon County (0:01)
6. **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. Tim Vreeland on behalf of Paul and Carrie Simonis – G-A General Agriculture and R-R Rural Residential – Town of Guenther (1:03)

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 Guenther has reviewed the application and recommends approval



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

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 4:14 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Ritter/Sherfinski to recommend approval to County Board, of the Paul & Carrie Simonis 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. Tim Vreeland on behalf of Mitch Gumz -- from G-A General Agriculture and F-P Farmland Preservation to R-R Rural Residential, F-P Farmland Preservation to G-A General Agriculture, and G-A General Agriculture to R-R Rural Residential – Town of Hull (1:09)

Discussion: Pagel 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 Hull has reviewed the application and recommends approval without any concerns or additional comments.

Tim Vreeland was sworn in and stated he is the surveyor for this property and gave the reasoning for the rezone.

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 4:20 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Ungerer/ Venzke to recommend approval to County Board, of the Mitch Gumz 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



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

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. Tim Vreeland on behalf of Gladys Martin - F-P Farmland Preservation to R-R Rural Residential - Town of Brighton (1:18)

Discussion: Pagel 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 4:26 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Drabek/Ritter to recommend approval to County Board, of the Gladys Martin 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 plan. 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.

- ~~4. Chris Fieri on behalf of Seehafer Farms LLC Tyler Seehafer - F-P Farmland Preservation to R-R Rural Residential - Town of Marathon (1:22)~~
5. Keith Baxter on behalf of Clara Miller - G-A General Agriculture to R-R Rural Residential - Town of Green Valley (1:22)

Discussion: Pagel 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 refraining from a recommendation until the town of Green Valley gets the opportunity to discuss this rezone request. The Town Green Valley has reviewed the application and recommends an extension at this time.



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

The testimony portion of the hearing was closed at 4:30 p.m.

Follow through: Will discuss when more information is received from the town.

B. Review and Possible Recommendation to County Board for its Consideration (Town Zoning changes pursuant to §60.62(3) Wis. Stats.)

1. Texas – Town Zoning Ordinance (1:25)

Action: **Motion** / Second by Sherfinski/Drabek to approve the Town of Ringle Zoning update.

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

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

2. Ringle – Town Zoning Ordinance Update on Kennels (1:26)

Action: **Motion** / Second by Ritter/Sherfinski to approve the Town of Ringle Zoning Ordinance update.

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

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

C. Review and Possible Recommendations to County Board for its Consideration

1. Approval of Annual County Forest Work Plan (1:28)

Action: **Motion**/Second by Drabek/Venzke to forward to the County Board of Supervisors for approval.

2. Application for County Forest Acreage Share Loan Payment (1:30)

Action: **Motion**/Second by Venzke/ Ritter to forward to the County Board of Supervisors for approval.

3. County Fish and Game Projects (1:33)

Action: **Motion**/ Second by Sherfinski/Venzke to forward to the County Board of Supervisors for approval.

4. Amending the Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan (1:35)

Action: **Motion**/ Second by Venzke/Ungerer to forward to the County Board of Supervisors for approval.

~~5. Amendments to Chapter 19 of Marathon County General Code (Parks)~~

6. Consideration of Initial Resolutions for Proposed Digester Projects (1:44)

Action: **Motion**/ Second by Sherfinski/Venzke to forward the initial resolution to the County Board of Supervisors for their consideration.

D. Review and Possible Action

1. Stormwater Cooperative Agreement 2024-2028(CPZ) (2:10)

Action: **Motion**/ Second by Ritter/Sherfinski

2. Agreement with DNR on the Lakes States Forest Management Bat Habitat Conservation Plan (Parks) (1:40)

Action: **Motion**/ Second by Ritter/ Venzke to approve the agreement with the DNR on the Lakes States Forest Management Bat Habitat Conservation Plan.



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

7. Educational Presentations/ Outcome Monitoring Reports and Committee Discussion

- A. Department Updates: Conservation Planning and Zoning (CPZ), Parks Recreation and Forestry (PRF), Solid Waste –
 - 1. Chapter 15, 21 & 22 Updates (CPZ) (2:14)

8. Policy Issues Discussion and Committee Determination to the County Board for its Consideration -None

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

Friday, January 5, 2023, 1:00 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 (2:21)

10. Adjourn – Motion/ second by Venzke/Sherfinski to **adjourn at 5:27 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