



**Marathon County  
Environmental Resources Committee Minutes  
Tuesday, March 5, 2024  
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		
<i>Vice-Chair</i>	Allen Drabek.....X		
	Rick Seefeldt.....X		
	Dave Oberbeck.....X		
	Andrew Venzke.....X		
	Tony Sherfinski.....X		
	Kim Ungerer.....X		
	Mike Ritter.....X		
	Marilyn Bhend.....X(excused)		

Via in person,  
Webex  
Or phone

**MEETING RECORDING**

Also present via Webex, phone or in person: Laurie Miskimins, Shad Harvey, Nicole Delonay, and Garrett Pagel- Conservation Planning and Zoning; Valerie Parker, Jody Easker, Dale Leffel, Pat Leffel, Jeffrey Gunderson

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**  
 Valerie Parker - Town of Plover (0:03)  
 Jody Easker – Town of Plover (0:05)  
 Dale & Pat Leffel – Town of McMillan (0:07)  
 Jeffrey Gunderson – Town of Plover (0:08)
4. **Public Comment for Farmland Preservation Plan Draft** – None.
5. **Approval of January 30, 2024, Committee minutes** (0:11)  
**Motion / second** by Ungerer/Sherfinski to approve of the January 30, 2024, Environmental Resources Committee minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.
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 Norman and Margaret Borntrager - G-A General Agriculture to R-E Rural Estate -Town of Wien (0:14)

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 Wien has reviewed the application and recommends approval without any concerns or additional comments.



**Marathon County**  
**Environmental Resources Committee Minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 5, 2024**  
**500 Forest Street, Wausau WI**

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 3:21 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Seefeldt/Sherfinski to recommend approval to County Board, of the Borntreger 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 Dennis and Deborah Janz - R-E Rural Estate and G-A General Agriculture to G-A General Agriculture and R-E Rural Estate - Town of Spencer (0:21)

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 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 3:25 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Sherfinski/Drabek to recommend approval to County Board, of the Janz 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.



**Marathon County  
Environmental Resources Committee Minutes  
Tuesday, March 5, 2024  
500 Forest Street, Wausau WI**

3. Town of Plover – Text Amendment Changes to Chapter 17 (0:25)

Discussion: Pagel discussed the Town of Plover to petition part of text amendment changes to Chapter 17.

Shad Harvey was sworn in and gave a history of the Conditional Use process.

Dale Leffel – Town of McMillan was sworn in. (0:57)

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 4:00 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Sherfinski/ Ungerer to postpone approval to County Board  
Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

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

4. Shad Harvey – Text Amendment Change to Chapter 15 – Private Sewage Systems (1:17)

Discussion: Harvey discussed the text amendment changes to Chapter 15.

Action: **Motion** / second by Sherfinski/Ritter to recommend approval to County Board  
Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Follow though: None.

5. Shad Harvey – Text Amendment Change to Chapter 21 – Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Code (1:34)

Discussion: Harvey discussed the text amendment changes to Chapter 21.

There was no additional testimony in favor or opposed to the text amendment changes to chapter 21 virtually or in person. The testimony portion of the hearing was closed at 4:40 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Ritter/Ungerer to recommend approval to County Board  
Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

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

The committee went back to 6. (A.4) Text Amendment Change to Chapter 15 – Private Sewage Systems - recognizing that the public hearing component still needed to be completed. (1:39)

There was no additional testimony in favor or opposed to the text amendment changes to Chapter 15 request virtually or in person. The testimony portion of the hearing was closed at 4:50 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Sherfinski/Ungerer to recommend approval to County Board  
Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent. (the pervious motion for 6 A4 was nulled)



**Marathon County**  
**Environmental Resources Committee Minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 5, 2024**  
**500 Forest Street, Wausau WI**

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.)

1. Town of Wausau – Chapter 17 Amendment Update – Sec. 17.44 AT-1/40 Agriculture Transition District (1:40)

Discussion: Pagel discussed this is a town zoned town and a petition to updated Chapter 17 amendment updated, Section 17.44 -1/40 Agriculture Transition District.

Action: **Motion** / second by Drabek/Ritter to approve the Town of Wausau Chapter 17 Amendment Update.

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

1. Budget transfer request to accept Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Surface Water Grant funds in the amount of \$99,760 for the aerator and monitoring at the Big Eau Pleine (1:42)

2. Budget transfer request to accept Nature Conservancy Challenge Grant in the amount of \$10,000 for incentives to farmers in the Big Eau Pleine watershed for implementation of conservation practices (1:47)

3. Budget transfer request to accept Department of Agriculture and Consumer Trade Protection Nutrient Management Grant in the amount of \$1,350 for incentives for farmers to implement practices related to nutrient management (1:49)

4. Budget transfer request to accept the Good Idea Mini-Grant in the amount of \$ 8,000 to implement phosphorus-reducing filter strips (1:50)

**Motion** / second by Sherfinski/Oberbeck to approve all four budget transfers outlined and move to HRFC and County Board for Approval.

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

D. Review and Possible Action – None.

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. General Brief Aerator Update (1:55)

2. Groundwater Plan Update: Sampling, Eastern Groundwater Meeting, & Potential for Marathon County ARPA funds for well mitigation efforts (1:56)

3. Brief Update on Farmland Preservation Plan (2:22)

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:**

**Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 3:00 p.m. Marathon County Courthouse, Assembly Room 500 Forest Street Wausau WI**



**Marathon County  
Environmental Resources Committee Minutes  
Tuesday, March 5, 2024  
500 Forest Street, Wausau WI**

- A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion.
- B. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence

**10. Adjourn – Motion/** second by Seefeldt/ Ritter 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