



**Marathon County
Environmental Resources Committee Minutes
Tuesday, April 30, 2024
500 Forest Street, Wausau WI**

Attendance:	<u>Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Not present</u>
<i>Chair</i>	Jacob Langenhahn.....X		
<i>Vice-Chair</i>	Mike Ritter.....X		
	Randy DeBroux.....X		
	Al Drabek.....X		
	John Kroll.....X		
	Jay Schoenborn.....X (excused)		
	Kim Ungerer.....X		
	Rick Seefeldt.....X		

Via in person,
Webex
Or phone

[MEETING RECORDING](#)

Also present via Webex, phone or in person: Laurie Miskimins, Shad Harvey, Nicole Delonay, Kirstie Heidenreich, Morgan Arnold, and Garrett Pagel- Conservation Planning and Zoning; Lance Leonard - County Administrator, Michael Puerner -Corporation Counsel; Kurt Gibbs – County Board Supervisor, Tim Sondelski, Tom Mueller, Marilyn Bhend, John Seehafer, Dylan Penny, Joe Bergen, Valerie Parker, Rob Anderson, Lyonel Wisnewski

1. **Call to order** – Called to order by Chair Langenhahn at 3:04 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
3. **Public Comment**
 1. Lyonel Wisnewski – Town of Rietbrock – Wind Energy Ordinance (0:02)
4. **Approval of April 2, 2024, Committee minutes** (0:04)
Chair Langenhahn requested that Kim Ungerer be marked excused on the April 2nd, 2024 Minutes.
Motion / second by Seehafer/ Kroll to approve of the April 2, 2024, 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. Tim Vreeland on behalf of John Seehafer and Doug Seehafer - F-P Farmland Preservation and R-R Rural Residential to G-A General Agriculture - Town of McMillan (0:24)

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 McMillan 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 3:31 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.



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Action: **Motion** / second by Drabek/Ungerer to recommend approval to County Board, of the John and Doug Seehafer 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 Doug Seehafer - F-P Farmland Preservation to G-A General Agriculture Town of McMillan (0:11)

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

Pagel clarified that Item 5A(2) was presented first.

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 3:26 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Seefeldt/Ritter to recommend approval to County Board, of the Doug Seehafer 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.

3. Rob Anderson and Matt Bayer - G-A General Agriculture to R-R Rural Residential - Town of Easton (0:29)

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 Easton 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 3:35 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.



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Action: **Motion** / second by Ritter/DeBroux to recommend approval to County Board, of the Anderson 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.

4. Town of Plover – Text Amendment Changes to Chapter 17(0:34)

Discussion: Pagel discussed the Town of Plover to petition part of text amendment changes to Chapter Shad Harvey was sworn in and provided additional information pertaining to the text amendment change.

Valerie Parker was sworn in and is the Town of Plover Clerk.

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 3:57 p.m. Committee deliberated.

Action: Postpone to the June 4th, 2024, Environmental Resources Committee Meeting.

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

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

1. Town of Rietbrock – Wind Energy System Siting Ordinance (1:05)

Discussion: Committee received further clarification from Corporation Counsel on what the State Statute says regarding County approval of Town zoned text amendments.

Action: **Motion** / second by Seefeldt/Ritter to not Approve the Town of Rietbrock – Wind Energy System Siting Ordinance.

Motion **carried** by voice vote, one dissent.

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. Review of Standing Committee related ordinances under section 2.04, including Mission, Duties and Responsibilities, and Jurisdiction (1:34)

2. Introduction and background regarding Departments and Entities that often appear before the Committee

a. Conservation, Planning, & Zoning (1:54)

b. ~~Solid Waste~~

3. Brief Overview of Last Term discussion and action (1:54)

4. Discussion regarding Potential Areas of Committee Focus during this Term (1:54)

5. Forthcoming Petition for a Text Amendment – Chapter 17 (2:14)



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7. **Policy Issues Discussion and Committee Determination to the County Board for its Consideration** -None.
8. **Next meeting date, time & location, and future agenda items:**
Tuesday, June 4, 2024, 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. Land Conservation Committee Training at Lake View Center on June 26th (2:14)
9. **Adjourn – Motion/** second by Seefeldt/ Kroll to **adjourn** at 5:22 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