

**TO:** Marathon County Municipal Officials, Non-Metallic Mine Operators, & Other Interested Stakeholders

**FROM:** Laurie Miskimins, Director, Marathon County Conservation, Planning, & Zoning

**RE:** Marathon County Comprehensive Plan 2024 Amendment

**DATE:** August 8, 2024



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In accordance with Wis. Stat. § 66.1001(4), this memorandum serves to inform you of proposed amendments to Marathon County's 2016 Comprehensive Plan.

Marathon County is amending specific areas of the *Marathon County Comprehensive Plan 2016* to meet WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) requirements for the updated *2024-2033 Marathon County Farmland Preservation Plan*. These amendments are necessary to ensure that participating landowners continue to receive program benefits through the WI Farmland Preservation Program.

The full list of amendments is provided at the end of this memo. The amendments are limited to only those strictly necessary to incorporate the *2024-2033 Marathon County Farmland Preservation Plan* into the county's Comprehensive Plan. A comprehensive update to the entire plan will commence later this year, with opportunities for public input and comments throughout 2025.

**How to Review the Amendments**

- Online at <https://www.marathoncounty.gov/about-us/comprehensive-plan>
- At the reference desk of any branch of the Marathon County Public Libraries, beginning the week of August 12<sup>th</sup>. For locations and hours, visit: <https://mcpl.us/about/locations/> or call 715-261-7200.

Additionally, we invite you to provide input and public comment on the proposed amendments through any of the opportunities listed below:

**Comprehensive Plan Open House:**

**Date:** Tuesday, September 17, 2024  
**Time:** 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
**Location:** 210 River Drive., Wausau, WI 54403

Comments may be submitted in writing or via email through September 30, 2024. All comments will be shared at the Public Hearing held on October 1, 2024.

**To submit comments in writing:**

**Mail to:**

Conservation, Planning, & Zoning  
Attn: Laurie Miskimins  
210 River Drive  
Wausau, WI 54403

**Or email:** [laurie.miskimins@co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:laurie.miskimins@co.marathon.wi.us); Please include *2024 Comprehensive Plan Amendment* in the subject.

**Environmental Resources Committee Public Hearing:**

**Date:** Tuesday, October 1, 2024

**Time:** 3:00 PM

**Location:** Marathon County Courthouse Assembly Room, 500 Forest Street, Wausau, WI 54403.

**Signing up for Public Comment:**

Anyone wishing to sign-up for Public Comment at the Tuesday, October 1, 2024, Environmental Resources Committee Public Hearing can do so by calling: Nicole Delonay @ 715-261-6022, or sign-up in person at the Courthouse no later than five minutes before the start of the meeting.

**Please Note:** Any person who wishes to address the County Board, or one of its committees, during the "Public Comment" portion of meetings, must provide his or her name and address in writing, and the topic he or she wishes to present to the Marathon County Clerk, or chair of the committee, no later than five minutes before the start of the meeting. The topic must be relevant to the committee's area of jurisdiction.

**MARATHON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2024 ADMENDMENT**  
**Necessary to Meet DATCP Requirements and**  
**Incorporate the Updated *2024-2033 Marathon County Farmland Preservation Plan***

**Page Numbers refer to document page, not PDF Page**

**Cover Page:** Revise Title: *Marathon County Comprehensive Plan 2024 Amendment*

**Second Page:**

- Add Committee Members and Staff for 2024 Amendment
- Provide explanation of what has been updated in the 2024 version and why.

**Ordinance Page:** Add 2024 Ordinance.

**Table of Contents:** Add “Appendix” and *2024-2033 Marathon County Farmland Preservation Plan*

**Throughout:** Update Footers.

**Back of Cover Page:** Update date.

**Chapter 1**

Page 1, Last Paragraph: Remove 2006 (Insert 2016). This would be a required change as the sentence refers to the adoption of our Comprehensive Plan. Essentially it is a statement of the effective date.

**Chapter 5**

Page 55, Last Paragraph: Replace 2013 with 2024

Page 56, Paragraph 5: Update dollar amounts and agreement length. The program now allows:

“Within Marathon County, eligible landowners may collect \$10.00 per acre per year if in an area planned and zoned for farmland preservation, or in an area planned for farmland preservation and also designated as an Agricultural Enterprise Area where the landowner signs a 10-year farmland preservation agreement contract. Eligible landowners may collect \$12.50 per acre per year if in an area both planned and zoned for farmland preservation and also designated as an Agricultural Enterprise Area where the landowner signs a 10-year farmland preservation agreement contract.

Page 56, Paragraph 6: Remove 1 acre – Insert 2 acres.

Page 62, Paragraph 4: Strike “eight” and insert “seven” / Remove “Day” and insert “Stettin”.

## **Chapter 6**

Page 67, Paragraph 5: Delete “2010” and Insert 2021 and Delete (2010-2020)

## **Chapter 9**

Page 107, Paragraph 5, Bullet 2: Change the date to 2024.

Page 111, Paragraph 3: Delete “2013” and insert “2024”. Revise third and second to last sentence to convey correctly what is in Map 9-4 and the FPP.

## **Plan Maps & Appendix**

Replace Map 9-4.

Insert *2024-2033 Marathon County Farmland Preservation Plan* as an Appendix A.