



**Marathon County  
Environmental Resources Committee Minutes  
Tuesday, January 4, 2022  
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>	Sara Guild .....	X	
	Rick Seefeldt.....		..... X (excused)
	Bill Conway .....	X	
	Allen Drabek.....	X	via Webex or phone
	Randy Ffrick .....	X	
	Dave Oberbeck .....	X	
	Marilyn Bhend .....	X	

Also present via Webex, phone or in person: Laurie Miskimins, Robert Hoffman, Andrew Lynch, Matt Repking, Jeff Pritchard, Nicole DeLonay and Cindy Kraeger – Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ); Meleesa Johnson – Solid Waste Department; Lance Leonhard – County Administrator; Stacy Morash, Dean Krubsack, Bonnie Krubsack and Dominique Swangstu.

1. **Call to order** – Called to order by Chair Langenhahn at 3:00 p.m. via WEBEX.
2. **Public Comment** – None.
3. **Approval of November 30, 2021 Committee minutes**

**Motion /** second by Drabek / Oberbeck to approve of the November 30, 2021 Environmental Resources Committee minutes as distributed.

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

4. **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. James Gardner on behalf of Dean Krubsack – R-E Rural Estate to R-R Rural Residential – Town of Plover

Discussion: Hoffman was sworn in and noted the staff report and decision sheet had been included in the packet. Hoffman reviewed the rezone request of 8.17 acres. The rezone request is related to the building of a single-family home. Hoffman 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 of Plover has reviewed the application and recommends approval without any concerns or additional comments.

Bonnie Krubsack was sworn in and had no additional information.

Dean Krubsack was sworn in and stated the reason for the rezone would allow his daughter to build a single-family home.

There was no additional testimony in favor or opposed to this rezone request virtually or in person. Testimony portion of the hearing was closed at 3:16 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion /** second by Ffrick / Drabek to recommend approval to County Board, of the James Gardner on behalf of Dean Krubsack 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 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.

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2. Tim Vreeland on behalf of Dale Taylor – G-A General Agriculture to R-R Rural Residential – Town of Guenther

Discussion: Hoffman was sworn in and noted the staff report and decision sheet had been included in the packet. Hoffman reviewed the rezone request of Lot #1 (2.549) shown on the Preliminary Certified Survey Map (CSM) that was submitted with the petition. The rezone request is related to creating a 2.549-acre parcel with an existing single family home. Hoffman additionally reviewed the reasoning behind why CPZ staff are recommending approval of the rezone request, citing the rezone standards, requirements, and pertinent site characteristics.

The Town of Guenther has reviewed the application and recommends approval without any concerns.

There was no additional testimony in favor or opposed to this rezone request virtually or in person. Testimony portion of the hearing was closed at 3:23 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Ffrrick / Drabek to recommend approval to County Board, of the Tim Vreeland on behalf of Dale Taylor 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. Public testimony on the text amendment changes to the General Code of Ordinances for Marathon County Chapter 11.02 Animal Waste Management Ordinance Code <https://bit.ly/3kXDjNc>

Discussion: Daigle was sworn in and briefly explained the changes related to the text updates to the Chapter 11.02 ordinance. These revisions related to adding state language for state performance standards which will assist in Marathon County's ability to secure more points in grant application rankings. Daigle stated no written comment was received from the public. Daigle stated questions and concerns have been adequately addressed. Daigle summarized the text updates through a power point presentation. The revisions are consistent with the strategic plan objectives 5.2 and 6.3. and the Land and Water Resource Management Plan for Marathon County.

There was no additional testimony in favor or opposed to the text amendment changes related to the General Code of Ordinance for Marathon County Chapter 11.02 Animal Waste Management Ordinance. The Committee closed the public hearing at 3:41 p.m. Committee deliberated.

Action: **Motion** / second by Ffrrick / Oberbeck to approve the text amendment changes to the General Code of Ordinances for Marathon County Chapter 11.02 Animal Waste Management Ordinance.

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

1. Environmental Repair Fund Status

Discussion: Langenhahn discussed the Environmental Repair Funds can only be accessed if there is a legislative change. Langenhahn will contact County Board Chair Gibbs to have discussion regarding these funds at a future meeting.

Action: None needed, for informational purposes only.

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Follow through: None.

2. Zoning & Regulatory Program Staffing Restructure

Discussion: Miskimins reviewed the memo that was included in the meeting packet. The restructure would maintain the 7 full time staff positions and 1 part time position. The Zoning Administrator title would be moved to a management level to make it more consistent with the duties of other Manager positions. The Zoning Administrator position will be part of the Land Water Resources Manager position. Removing the Analyst position and creating 3 specialist positions would give consistency to the Zoning program. This will align the job duties to be more consistent in the Zoning Regulatory program to help reduce turnover. Leonhard discussed the process of the restructure which is supported by County Administration. Should the committee support the restructure it will move forward to the Human Resources Finance Committee at their next upcoming meeting. The timing of this restructure is very good because of the vacancies within the department. Leonhard stated it is difficult to maintain individuals in the high Zoning Administrator position in which this restructuring would allow more individual and organizational growth.

Action: **Motion** / second by Oberbeck / Drabek to approve the Zoning and Regulatory Program Staffing Restructure.

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

Follow through: Forward to Human Resources Finance Committee for action at their next regularly scheduled meeting and then forward to County Board for action at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

5. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports and Committee Discussion

A. Department Updates: Conservation, Planning and Zoning (CPZ)

1. CPZ – Zoning Ordinance – Education on proposed revisions (memo)

a. Chapter 17 Zoning Code

Discussion: Miskimins provided the recommended text revisions based on the input provided by the county zoned towns (town officials and residents (as well as Conservation, Planning and Zoning staff who administer the zoning ordinance. Miskimins stated a similar memo and same summary of proposed text amendments was mailed to the Town Clerks and Town Chairs for their additional input. A summary of the text amendments was included in the meeting packet and will be available on the CPZ website when the draft ordinance is posted. Miskimins discussed the revisions to the storage shipping containers in which they would be permitted in the General Agriculture and Commercial zoning districts and would be allowed through a Conditional Use Permit in the smaller residential districts. Miskimins discussed the text amendment revision related to the Major Home Occupations in Residential districts due to the increased interest and requests in certain zoning districts through a Conditional Use Permit. Miskimins discussed the text revision to decks smaller than 100 square feet and fences less than 100 linear feet would not need a general zoning permit but would still have to meet all applicable setbacks in which this would help reduce burden on landowners. The Committee was asked to again review and provide input on the text amendments based on the summary of revisions as well as based on the full draft ordinance when it is made available online. The public hearing for these proposed amendments will be held during the February 1, 2022, ERC meeting. Langenhahn commented on the timing of the ordinance text revisions before an election cycle and it might be beneficial to figure out a different timeline/schedule going forward.

b. Open House: Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM – 4:30 PM; 210 River Drive, Large Conference Room

Discussion: Miskimins discussed an open house has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 18 so the public, town and committee members have any additional questions or recommendations prior to the public hearing in February.

Follow through: CPZ staff to continue to draft language and hold open house/public hearing in the upcoming month.

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2. Update on Fenwood Creek
  - a. Funding utilizing local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Discussion: Daigle stated the Committee supported the use of the ARPA funds for the Fenwood Creek and is still working on seeking funds for the project. A small grant of \$400,000 was submitted for additional funding on the Fenwood Creek. Daigle is seeking ARPA funds at a state level for conservation practices funding, but no updates are available.

- b. UniverCity Project results

Discussion: Daigle discussed the UniverCity projects related to conservation in targeting the engagement efforts of Fenwood Creek and receiving information from landowners regarding these projects.

Follow through: None, for informational purposes only.

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

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

**Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 2022 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

- Multi factor authentication coming on January 18, 2022, to all County Board Supervisors
- An idea was brought forth to consider researching how the pandemic and more people working from home could affect impacts to the community and needs in the Zoning Ordinance.

8. **Adjourn** – **Motion** / second by Drabek/ Oberbeck to **adjourn** at 4:15 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Laurie Miskimins, CPZ Director

For Jacob Langenhahn, Chair

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

LM/cek