



**Marathon County  
Environmental Resources Committee Minutes  
Tuesday, April 5, 2022  
500 Forest Street, Wausau WI**

**DRAFT**

<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	} via in person, Webex or phone
<i>Vice-Chair</i>	Rick Seefeldt.....	X	
	Allen Drabek .....	X	
	Dave Oberbeck .....	X	
	Andrew Venzke .....	X	
	Tony Sherfinski .....	X	
	Kim Ungerer.....	X	
	Mike Ritter.....	X	
	Marilyn Bhend .....	X	
	Rodney Roskopf.....	X	

Also present via Webex, phone or in person: Laurie Miskimins, Shad Harvey, Andrew Lynch, Garrett Pagel, Teal Fyksen, Peter Fromm Wade, Nicole Delonay, Diane Hanson, Kirstie Heidenreich – Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ); Jean Kopplin, Paul Daigle, Jeff Kussow, Gail Buchkowski, Dave Blouil, Kody Hart, Danielle Kaeding, Joel Lewis – Via Phone – Evan J Pretzer, Danielle Kaeding, Dan Barth, Brian Bushnell, Nancy Stencil, Kathy Konle- Barth, Joel A Lewis, Bill Duncanson, Ruth Wrysinski, Jamie Polley, Tom Lovlien, Meleesa Johnson

1. **Call to order** – Called to order by Chair Langenhahn at 3:04 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Public Comment** –

Rita Pachal – Concerned over proposed exploratory drilling and wants the wildlife and wetlands to be considered in the decision of the permit issuance.

Dan Barth– Discussed the importance water and potential impact to water by the proposed mining; explained there are PFAS in the drilling fluid used to bore holes.

Brian Bushnell – Village of Weston – Opposed to the drilling because the goal is sulfite mining and is concerned about possible contamination of ground water to other municipalities.

Nancy Stencil – Town of Rib Mountain – Spoke regarding the well she lives near being contaminated with PFAS.

Kathy Konle-Barth- Concerned about the impact of the mining to the local aquifers.

Joel A. Lewis – State he was a previous County Board Supervisor and participated in the adoption of the 2018 metallic mining ordinance; encouraged the Committee to consider impacts to groundwater/ wells.

Bill Duncanson – Village of Maine – Sulfite mining is not safe and can impact groundwater; stated that the Company’s name has green in the name does not mean they do everything green.

Ruth Wrysinski – No comment

4. **Approval of April 5, 2022, Committee minutes**

**Motion /** second by Seefeldt/ Drabek to approve of the April 5, 2022, Environmental Resources Committee minutes as distributed.

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. Gail Buchkowski – G-A General Agriculture to R-E Rural Estate– Town of Reid  
**Discussion:** Harvey was sworn in and noted the staff report and decision sheet had been included in the packet. Harvey reviewed the rezone request acres shown as Lot 1 of the Preliminary Certified Survey Map (CSM) submitted with the petition. Harvey additionally reviewed the reasoning behind why CPZ staff are recommending approval of the rezone request, citing the rezone standards,

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requirements, and pertinent site characteristics. Town of Reid 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. Testimony portion of the hearing was closed at 3:32 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet. Harvey was questioned as to why the Town of Reid marked yes and no under #5 on the town resolution report. Harvey noted the town approved the rezone and we will contact for clarification.

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

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

Discussion: Jeff Kussow – Cedar Corporation discussed the memo that was included in the packet explaining the process of the updated comprehensive revision and adoption of the Town Zoning Ordinance as well as recent additional changes to the ordinance.

Action: **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Ritter to approve the Town of Ringle Comprehensive Revision and Adoption of a Town Zoning Ordinance and Zoning District Map consistent with Wis. Stats., 60.62(3).

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

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

- 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  
CPZ

Chair Langenhahn moved to begin with agenda item 6.A.2 related to Metallic Mining based on the public comment at today's meeting.

### 2. Metallic Mining Update:

Miskimins told the ERC that an application for Metallic Mining Exploration was received from Green Light Metals Inc. on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022. CPZ staff are still reviewing the application for completeness. If the application is determined to include all items necessary, CPZ will then have 20 business days to review and decide on approval or denial of the permit.

Chair Langenhahn reiterated it is still very early in the process. He also proposed having a joint meeting of the Metallic Mining and ERC Committees at the May 31<sup>st</sup> meeting or another date in the near future and said he would discuss with Green Light Metals giving an educational

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presentation at this meeting; addressing some of the comments that were given at today's meeting.

1. Educational & Orientation Topics for ERC

a. Brief Overview of ERC Roles and Responsibilities

**Discussion:** Miskimins provided a brief introduction to the Committee's statutory requirements and the roles and responsibilities of the Committee from Chapter 2, including the objectives of the Strategic Plan the ERC champions.

Brief Overview of Conservation, Planning, & Zoning

**Discussion:** Miskimins provided a brief introduction of the Conservation, Planning and Zoning Department Programs and staff.

b. Brief Overview of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry.

**Discussion:** Polley provided a brief introduction of the Parks Department programs, parks and responsibilities. Lovlien gave a brief introduction on the County Forest Program.

c. Brief Overview of Solid Waste Department

**Discussion:** Johnson provided a brief introduction of the Solid Waste Department and the diverse waste management programs.

3. Introduction of new Conservation, Planning, & Zoning Staff

**Discussion:** Miskimins announced the newest staff members at CPZ, Garrett Pagel – Land Use Technician, Kirstie Heidenreich – Conservation Program Manager, Peter Fromm Wade-Land Use Specialist.

4. WI Land + Water Land Conservation Committee Handbook and Overview

**Discussion:** Heidenreich provided a brief introduction of herself and the diverse conservation programs in Marathon County. In addition, she shared some opportunities for engaging with our Land Conservation organizations and other county committee members. There will be a North Central Area Association meeting of WI Land + Water on June 3<sup>rd</sup> (via Zoom) from 9:30am-2:00pm, and all committee members are invited. There is also a North Central Area Summer Tour on August 12<sup>th</sup> in Florence County, which will highlight conservation practices and how they are designed and installed. She recommended that the new committee members visit the WI Land + Water Member Resources page at (Wisconsin Land and Water | LCC Member Resources ([wisconsinlandwater.org](http://wisconsinlandwater.org)) to better familiarize themselves with their duties.

5. Marathon County Land & Water Plan: Heidenreich briefly reviewed the Marathon County Land and Water Plan, which was updated and adopted in 2021, and how this Plan guides conservation programs/initiatives in the County. More information related to the Plan will be shared at future meetings. She recommended that committee members look through the plan on the County website, found here: [2021 Marathon County Land & Water Plan](#).

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

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

**Tuesday, May 31, 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

1. Langenhahn announced that he would like to have a joint Metallic Mining Committee and ERC meeting on May 31<sup>st</sup> to discuss the metallic mining ordinance requirements and invite Green Light LLC to discuss their application for an Exploration Permit.

2. Future idea: Request for information regarding odor control boundaries related to the landfill expansion and educational presentation on PFOS/PFAS from the Solid Waste Director

9. **Adjourn** – Motion Seefeldt/ Sherfinski second by to **adjourn** at 4:30 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

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Laurie Miskimins, CPZ Director  
For Jacob Langenhahn, Chair  
cc: (via email/web site) ERC members; County Clerk

LM/nd

**NOTE:** Regarding the follow-up on 5.A.1: Following the ERC meeting, it was confirmed with the Town of Reid on May 5, 2022, that they intended to mark “no” on question #5. There is no land use conflict.