



Marathon County
Joint Metallic Mining/ Environmental Resources Committee Minutes
Tuesday, August 2, 2022
500 Forest Street, Wausau WI

Environmental Resources Committee:		<u>Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Not present</u>	
	<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		
Metallic Mining Committee:		<u>Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Not present</u>	
	<i>Chair</i>	Jacob Langenhahn	X		} Via in person, Webex Or phone
	<i>Vice-Chair</i>	John Robinson	X		
		Alan Christiansen	X		
		Dean Beck	X		
		Kimm Weber	X		
		Jim Small	X		
		Russ Wilson	X		

Also present via Webex, phone or in person: Laurie Miskimins, Nicole DeLonay, Shad Harvey, David Decker, Teal Fyksen, Brenda Iczkowski and Garrett Pagel– Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ); Jamie Polley– Parks Department; Lance Leonhard – County Administrator; Chris Holman – Deputy Administrator; Sarah Severson – County Administration; Mike Puerner – Corporation Counsel; Dale Grosskurth – County Health Department; Molly Gardner, Roberta Walls – WI Department of Natural Resources; Bruce Grau, Dan Barth, Kathy Konte-Barth, James Botsford, Troy Young, Ron James, Wayne Kleinschmidt, Nancy Stencil, Brian Bushnell, Jean Abien, Eric Rempala, Lynn Sutherland, Bill Morris, Guy Reider, Steve Donahue, Dan Colton, Patrick Schreiner, Kelly King, Jean Maszk, Doug Seehafer, Julie Seehafer; Steve Buntin – Town of Wausau Town Supervisor

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** –
 The following individuals spoke in opposition to metallic mining in the County, and/or expressed concerns for the impacts mining could have to the area and environment.
 Bruce Grau – City of Wausau, WI
 Dan Barth – Town of Knowlton, WI
 Kathy Konte-Barth – Town of Knowlton, WI
 James Botsford – Town of Wausau, WI
 Ron James - Town of Evergreen, WI
 Wayne Kleinschmidt – Town of Wausau, WI
 Nancy Stencil – Town of Rib Mountain, WI
 Eric Rempala – Town of Irma, WI
 Lynn Sutherland – City of Wausau, WI
 Guy Reider – Menominee Co, WI
4. **Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports and Committee Discussion**
 A. **Department Updates: Conservation Planning and Zoning (CPZ), Parks and Forestry (PRF), Solid Waste**
 1. **Overview of the Marathon County Metallic Mining Exploration Permit Process**
Discussion: Harvey shared the section within the Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 17.204.542, which focuses on exploration. The zoning code has four activity levels: Exploration, Bulk Sampling, Prospecting and Metallic Mining. The permit process for Exploration was briefly reviewed for the members of the Environmental

Environmental Resources Committee Minutes

August 2, 2022

Resources Committee and the Metallic Mining Committee. The ordinance is in place to keep the regulatory agencies on the same page and if an applicant supplies and completes the required information for the permit that meet the requirements of Chapter 17.204.542, the ordinance then requires the County to issue a permit.

Roberta Walls – Non-Metallic Mining DNR – Walls indicated her involvement with Aquila Resources and Green Light Metals. She will be transitioning metallic mining duties to Molly Gardner.

Molly Gardner – Metallic Mine Coordinator DNR- Gardner indicated she will be the main point of contact moving forward with Metallic Mines.

Action: None

Follow through: This presentation is for education purposes only.

2. Informational Presentation from Green Light Metals

Discussion: Dan Colton, CEO and President of Green Light Metals introduced himself along with Steve Donahue who is a board member for Green Light Metals and thanked the committee to allow them to share their mission statement and the purpose of them being here. A detailed powerpoint was presented, highlighting the company's primary mission is to lead exploration/development of clean energy metals which are largely imported now. The timeline estimate for exploration is two 6-week drilling events starting in Fall 2022 and ending in fall/winter of 2023 designed to evaluate the structure and drill parallel to them. The end of the process there will be approximately 1,000 meters of core to be tested.

The following permits, licenses, and approvals will be needed before the drilling begins:

- Wisconsin DNR Exploration license
- Marathon County Metallic Mining Exploration Permit
- Drill work plan approval from DNR
- Environmental and Wetlands permits/approval issued by DNR
- Notice to county/city officials and landowners.

Steve Donahue introduced himself and briefly shared his background and licenses as a hydrologist. He highlighted the need for the minerals in electronics and pharmaceuticals, and the company's concern for protecting land and water. Donahue acknowledged the concern for water quality. Green Light will be doing water quality monitoring in wells near the exploration. A community advisory committee will be developed along with outreach to committees and conversations with public. The DNR has a list of approved testing products that the exploration process will use. Donahue went through a few examples of regional mining success stories in places like Marquette County, MI

ERC and Metallic Mining Committees asked follow-up questions.

Action: None.

Follow Through: For informational purposes only.

5. Adjournment of the Metallic Mining Committee –Robinson/Wilson 5:05pm

6. Approval of July 5, 2022, ERC minutes Back to order 5:10pm

Motion / second by Drabek/Sherfinski to approve of the July 5, 2022, Environmental Resources Committee minutes with the modification mentioned above.

Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent.

7. 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. Patrick Schreiner – L-I Light Industrial to N-C Neighborhood Commercial – Town of Wein

Discussion: Garrett Pagel was sworn in and noted the staff report and decision sheet had been included in the packet. Pagel reviewed the rezone request of Lot #1 shown on the Preliminary Certified Survey Map (CSM) that was submitted with the petition. Pagel 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 Wien has reviewed the application and recommends approval without any concerns.

Environmental Resources Committee Minutes
August 2, 2022

Patrick Schreiner was sworn in and stated he is the owner of the property and explained the current use of property and why the rezone is necessary.

Kelly King was sworn in and provided a written mutual agreement between neighbor Ken Reemtsma and the landowner Patrick Schreiner that was given to the town of Wein. King requested it be added to the record.

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 5:25 p.m. Committee deliberated.

Action: Motion / second by Drabek/Roskopf to recommend approval to County Board, of the Patrick Schreiner rezone request. The committee made the 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.

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

2. Doug & Julie Seehafer – L-I Light Industrial to C Commercial - Town of McMillan

Discussion: Pagel was sworn in and noted the staff report and decision sheet had been included in the packet. Pagel reviewed the rezone request. The rezone request is related to the rezoning of Lot #1. 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 of McMillan has reviewed the application and recommends approval without any concerns.

Oberbeck questioned the staff report stating Heavy Industrial. It was noted this was a typo.

Doug Seehafer informed the committee that he is the owner of the current business and his hopes to add an additional building to grow the business.

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 5:38 p.m. Committee deliberated.

Action: Motion / second by Oberbeck/ Drabek to recommend approval to County Board, of the Doug & Julie Seehafer rezone request. The committee made the 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.

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 – 236708 Jim Moore Creek Rd – 080.2908.081.0977 – A-1/80 Agricultural District to CM – Commercial/ Light Manufacturing District –

Discussion: Miskimins stated the Town of Wausau is town zoned, intended to change the zoning classification/district from -1/80 Agricultural District to CM – Commercial/ Light Manufacturing District for 080.2908.081.0977. Town of Wausau town supervisor, Steve Buntin, was present to answer questions. The zoning change was approved at their town board meeting. Although the town is town zoned, County Board approval is still needed per Wis. Stats

Action: Motion / second by Sherfinski/ Venzke to recommend approval to County Board of the Town of Wausau zone change.

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

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

2. Town of Wausau – To amend the Town Zoning Ordinance – Chapter 17

Discussion: Miskimins stated the Town of Wausau is town zoned and is amending the town zoning ordinance. Town of Wausau town supervisor, Steve Buntin, was present to answer questions.

The amended zoning Ordinance was approved at their town board meeting. Although the town is town zoned, County Board approval is still needed per Wis. Stats

Action: Motion / second by Drabek/Venzke to recommend approval to County Board of the Town of Wausau zone change.

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

8. Review and Possible Recommendations to County Board for its Consideration –

1. Marathon Park Water Service Design – Parks

Discussion: Jamie Polley explained the need for an updated Marathon Park Water Service Design. The water system currently faces the possibility of not being turned on in 2023 due to the water system not being up to code. A consultant is needed to map the utilities within the park and develop plans and specifications for the updating of the water service. The funding for the construction has been submitted as a 2023 CIP request. If the design takes place in 2022 the project can be bid in early 2023 to be completed by the fall.

Action: **Motion /** second by Drabek/ Roskopf to approve the Marathon Park Water Service Design. **Motion carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Follow through: Approval by the ERC Committee to send to the Human Resources Finance & property committee.

9. Review and Possible Action

1. Discussion: Decker discussed the details of the Royal View Preliminary County Plat.

Action: **Motion /** second by Drabek/ Sherfinski to approve the Royal View Preliminary County Plat located in the Town of Rib Mountain. **Motion carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Follow through: Approval by County Board is not required.

10. Policy Issues Discussion and Committee Determination to the County Board for its Consideration-
None

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

1. Strategic Plan

Tuesday, August 30, 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

12. Adjourn – Motion Venzke second by Drabek to **adjourn** at 5:54 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/nd