



**Marathon County  
Environmental Resources Committee Minutes  
Tuesday, August 30, 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		} 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, Nicole DeLonay, Shad Harvey, Garrett Pagel, Kirstie Heidenreich, and Jeff Prichard – Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ); Jamie Polley, and Tom Lovlien – Parks Department; Lance Leonhard – County Administrator, Chris Holmen – Deputy Administrator, Mike Puerner – Corporation Counsel, Craig McEwen, Dan Barth, Ron James, Nancy Stencil, Eric Rempala, Kathy Konte - Barth, Kevin Burt, Paul Hensch, Ervin Miller

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.

- Dan Barth – Town of Knowlton
- Ron James – Town of Evergreen
- Nancy Stencil – Town of Rib Mountain
- Eric Rempala – Town of Irma
- Kathy- Konte Barth – Town of Knowlton

4. **Approval of August 2, 2022, Committee minutes**

**Motion /** second by Seefeldt/ Sherfinski to approve of the August 2, 2022, Environmental Resources Committee minutes with the modification mentioned above.

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. Kevin Burt - G-A General Agriculture to L-D-R Low Density Residential – Town of Spencer

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 reviewed the rezone request. 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 Spencer has reviewed the application and recommends approval without any concerns or additional comments.

Kevin Burt - 104201 Mann Road - was sworn in and indicated he is present to answer any questions the committee may have regarding the rezone.

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

Action: **Motion** / second by Seefeldt/ Drabek to recommend approval to County Board, of the Kevin Burt 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.

2. Village of Spencer - R-R Rural Residential to CV/RV Conservation/Recreation - Town of Spencer

Discussion: Pagel noted the staff report and decision sheet had been included in the packet. 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. Pagel noted, The Town of Spencer has reviewed the application and recommends approval without any concerns.

Paul Hensch – Village of Spencer was sworn in and discussed the need for the proposed development.

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 3:45p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Drabek/Sherfinski to recommend approval to County Board, of the Village of Spencer 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. Tammy Wenzel – R-R Rural Residential to FP Farmland Preservation, FP Farmland Preservation to RE Rural Estate, and R-R Rural Residential to R-E Rural Estate – Town of McMillan~~

Follow through: Wenzel rezone on hold per Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection.

4. Ervin L. Miller - G-A General Agriculture to L-D-R Low Density Residential - Town of Holton

Discussion: Pagel was sworn in and noted the staff report and decision sheet had been included in the packet. Pagel reviewed the rezone request. Pagel reviewed the rezone request of Lot #1 shown on the 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 of Holton 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 3:51 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 Ervin Miller 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.

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 - 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. Update from the Administrator on the Budget Preparation Process

Discussion: Administrator Leonard discussed the preparation process for the annual budget. Leonard also explained the committee's role within the budget process.

Follow through:

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

A. Recommendation to Executive Committee for updated to the strategies, objectives, and expected outcomes found in 2018- 2022 Strategic Plan

- 1. Overview and recommendations from CPZ and Parks, Recreation and Forestry related to Strategic Plan Objectives 5.2 & 6.3
- 2. New strategies to be added to the existing Objectives in the plan.
- 3. Strategies to be prioritized within existing objectives.
- 4. Strategies or objectives from the [2016 Comprehensive Plan](#) to add to the [Strategic Plan](#)

Discussion: Staff from Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department discussed suggested revisions to Objective 5.2, Outcome Measure 3. It was recommended the suggested outcome stay the same but revise the end date to December 31, 2024.

Staff from CPZ discussed suggested revisions for Objective 5.2, Outcomes 1-2 and Objective 6.3, Outcome Measures 1-3.

For Objective 5.2, Outcome 1, it was recommended that the outcome stay the same but revise the end date to December 31, 2024. Progress toward the outcome is happening, but more time is required to achieve the 20% reduction.

For Objective 5.2, Outcome 2, it was suggested the outcome be revised to say: *By December 31, 2024, Marathon County will hold one continuing education event per year for all towns, to better educate them on sound land use development options.*

Discussion on this centered on the need being education for all regardless of the type of zoning, including more cross education between the Towns and CPZ as it related to understanding Town ordinances that may impact what a landowner can do in County Zoning too.

For Objective 6.3, Outcome 1, it was recommended that the outcome stay the same but revise the end date to December 31, 2024.

For Objective 6.3, Outcome Measure 2, it was suggested the outcome be revised to say: *By December 31, 2024, the number of failing POWTS will be reduced by 750 systems or more.* Discussion centered on a small change to the outcome to focus on all failing systems, not just surface discharge, as all failing systems could impact surface and/or groundwater.

For Objective 6.3., Outcome 3, Heidenreich proposed the ERC consider a new outcome to focus on wellhead protection. The current outcome on animal waste facilities is a moving target, and not the most efficient focus for protecting groundwater.

CPZ staff also suggested deprioritizing Strategy D in Objective 5.2.

Follow through: Motion / second by Sherfinski/Drabek: Forward Objectives 5.2 & 6.3 of the Strategic Plan Update, with the suggested revisions by staff, on to the Executive Committee and direct staff to develop a new Outcome Measure 3 for Objective 6.3 around a wellhead protection goal, replacing the current Outcome Measure 3 under Objective 6.3.

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

**Tuesday, October 4, 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. Chair Langenhahn received a resolution that will placed on October 4<sup>th</sup> ERC meeting Agenda related to Metallic Mining in the County.
  - 2. Special ERC Meeting to be held on September 1, 2022.

## **9. Adjourn – Motion** Drabek/ second by Roskopf to **adjourn** at 5:53 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