



**Marathon County
Environmental Resources Committee Minutes
Tuesday, November 1, 2022
500 Forest Street, Wausau WI**

Attendance:	<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>	Allen Drabek.....	X		
	Rick Seefeldt.....		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– Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ); Chris Holman – Deputy County Administrator, Dejan Adzic– Corporation Counsel, Jamie Polley – Parks and Recreation, Dale Grosskurth – Health Department, Kristin Kopp, Tammy Wenzel, Jean Maszk, James Murkowski, Kristine Seehafer, Dan Barth, Kathy Konte- Barth, Eric Rempala,

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, and/or spoke on the actions ERC should consider taking.

Dan Barth – Town of Knowlton

Kathy Konte -Barth – Town of Knowlton

Eric Rempala – Town of Irma

4. **Approval of October 4, 2022, Committee minutes**

Motion / second by Drabek/ Venzke to approve of the October 4, 2022, Environmental Resources Committee minutes.

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. James Murkowski – G-A General Agriculture to R-E Rural Estate – Town of Rib Falls

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 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 Rib Falls has reviewed the application and recommends approval without any concerns or additional comments.

James Murkowski was sworn in and indicated he is available for any questions.

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 Oberbeck/ Ritter to recommend approval to County Board, of the Murkowski 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 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. Joe Burnett on behalf of Randy Krause – F-P Farmland Preservation to L-I Light Industrial – Town of Brighton

Discussion: Pagel noted the staff report and decision sheet had been included in the packet. Pagel reviewed the rezone request described as lot 1 of the preliminary CSM. 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 Brighton has reviewed the application and recommends approval without any concerns. Pagel explained the process of removing property from farmland.

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 Drabek/Sherfinski to recommend approval to County Board, of the Krause 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 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. Elvin and Myron Wenger – L-D-R Low Density Residential to C Commercial and G-A General Agriculture to L-D-R Low Density Residential – Town of Wien

Discussion: Pagel noted the staff report and decision sheet had been included in the packet. Pagel reviewed the rezone request of Lot #1 & Lot #2 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.

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 3:44 p.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 Wenger 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

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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.

4. Tammy Wenzel - FP Farmland Preservation to RE Rural Estate, and R-R Rural Residential to R-E Rural Estate - Town of McMillan

Discussion: Pagel noted the staff report and decision sheet had been included in the packet. Pagel reviewed the rezone request of Lot #1 & Lot #2 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 McMillan has reviewed the application and recommends approval without any concerns.

Tammy Wenzel was sworn in indicated she resides at 204818 County Road E. She also indicated the rezone will correct the possibility of contaminating the well on the property.

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 3:56 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Ritter/ Drabek to recommend approval to County Board, of the Wenzel 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 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.) – 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. Initial Overview and Discussion on proposed 2023 updates to General Code of Ordinances for Marathon County Chapter 17 – Zoning Code – CPZ Staff

Discussion: Harvey went through an overview regarding some of the potential updates to the Marathon County Chapter 17 & Chapter 22 zoning codes. Harvey provided brief descriptions of potential updates CPZ suggests. Harvey also went through the timeline of gathering input from County Zoned Towns and bringing changes forth to the Towns and ERC for review, then to the ERC and County Board for adoption in early 2023.

Follow through: Future discussions will take place and forthcoming meetings.

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

- A. Review final recommendations to the Executive Committee for updates to the strategies, objectives, and expected outcomes found in the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan (Updated draft from CPZ staff).

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Discussion: Chair Langenhahn discussed the outcomes measures that staff has created. Miskimins provided the marked-up draft of the outcomes to forward to the Executive Committee.

Follow through: **Motion** / second by Ritter/Sherfinski: Forward Objectives 5.2 & 6.3 of the Strategic Plan Update, with the suggested revisions by staff, on to the Executive Committee.

B. Educational Presentation on Groundwater Plan Scope and possible Resolution for 2022 Contingency Funding –CPZ Staff

Discussion: Miskimins presented the Marathon County Groundwater plan overview. Miskimins indicated the two options for the funding for the well testing to get underway. Option one; comprehensive testing across the county for nitrates and coliform bacteria, with some specific sampling for atrazine or other elements as identified by the Groundwater workgroup. Option two; which is a comprehensive testing across the county to include nitrates, coliform bacteria, pesticides (including atrazine) and metals. Some additional sample from other elements as identified by the groundwater workgroup. The request before the ERC is to consider a resolution to County Board for 2022 contingency funding for the testing. Discussion continued regarding the timeline of this plan and the need for this effort. Langenhahn mentioned the possibility of using Environmental Impact Funds and would like CPZ staff to give an update on the balance of the fund and what the update loan program would do and need from this fund.

Follow through: CPZ will present information on the Environmental Impact Funds and the updated MCDEVCO Loan Program at the November 29, 2022 meeting to determine if EIF versus contingency funding may be the better option for funding well testing in the county.

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

Tuesday, November 29, 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

9. Adjourn – **Motion/ second by Venzke/ Drabek to **adjourn** at 4:46 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