



**Marathon County  
Environmental Resources Committee Minutes  
Tuesday, November 29, 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>	Allen Drabek.....	X		
	Rick Seefeldt .....	X		
	Dave Oberbeck .....	X		
	Andrew Venzke.....	X		
	Tony Sherfinski.....	X		
	Kim Ungerer .....			(Excused) 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, Lance Leonhard –County Administrator, Meleesa Johnson & Dave Hagenbucher – Solid Waste, Michael Puerner – Corporation Counsel, Jamie Polley & Tom Lovlien – Parks and Recreation, Steve Buntin – Town of Wausau, Jared Grande – Town of Rib Mountain, Melissa Freund, Carolyn Krimmer

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** – None.
4. **Approval of November 1, 2022, Committee minutes**

**Motion** / second by Sherfinski/ Drabek to approve of the November 1, 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. Terrance Marsh – 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.

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 3:12 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 - Marsh 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.

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

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

2. Dan & Carolyn Krimmer– R-R Rural Residential to G-A General Agriculture – Town of Plover

Discussion: Pagel noted the staff report and decision sheet had been included in the packet. 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.

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 3:20 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 Krimmer 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. Riverside Land Surveying – Nathan Wincentsen on behalf of Thomas and Nichole Buchkowski – G-A General Agriculture to R-E Rural Estate – Town of Reid

Discussion: Pagel 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 Reid has reviewed the application and recommends approval without any concerns.

Melissa Freund was sworn in and indicated she is available for any questions regarding the Buchkowski 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 3:30 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Seefeldt/ Roskopf to recommend approval to County Board, of the Buchkowski 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.)

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1. Town of Rib Mountain –RA-1 to MR-4 & SR-2

Action: **Motion** / second by Oberbeck/ Sherfinski to approve the Town of Rib Mountain rezone 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.

2. Town of Wausau – Commercial/ Light Manufacturing District to Agricultural Transition District

Discussion: Corporation Counsel clarified the reasoning for the independently zoned towns to come through the ERC Committee.

Action: **Motion** / second by Sherfinski/ Roskopf to approve the Town of Wausau rezone 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 –

1. Approve the Annual County Forest Work Plan

Discussion: Lovlien referred to the 2023 County Forest Work Plan that was provided in the packet, the work plan is brought to the committees for approval so Parks and Forestry can apply for grants. Lovlien provided clarification to #10 within the work plan.

Action: **Motion** / second by Seefeldt/ Drabek

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

2. Application For County Forest Acreage Share Loan Payment

Discussion: Lovlien discussed the resolution to ask the DNR to approve a roughly \$15,000 interest free loan to use towards forestry maintenance, preservation, and purchase to County Forest land. This is a paid back loan.

Action: **Motion** / second by Ritter/ Venzke

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

3. Revisions to Marathon County General Code Chapter 16

Discussion: Lovlien discussed the change within chapter 16.06(1) that will be corrected. Additional language will be added.

Action: **Motion** / second by Oberbeck/Sherfinski

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

4. Revisions to Marathon County General Code Chapter 19

Discussion: Polley discussed the updates within the Chapter 19. Proposed amendments to chapter 19 include updates to 19.04(2), 19.05(1), 19.08(4) and 19.10(2).

Action: **Motion** / second by Seefeldt/ Drabek

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

5. Adoption of the Westside Master Plan

Discussion: Polley discussed the Westside Master Plan that is being brought to the ERC Committee to be forwarded to the County Board for adoption. The Westside Master Plan covers three areas of interest which include Marathon Park, UWSP at Wausau, and a redevelopment area along West St and Pardee St. Polley indicated this is the final plan developed and is currently in draft form until adopted. This plan has previously gone to the Infrastructure Committee, which indicated the area south of the park be considered a redeveloped area. Polley discussed a few of the improvements that the plan could cover over the next few years. This is the first step in the Westside Master Plan. Adoption of the document does not mean everything in it would be implemented or implemented exactly as recommended in the plan. It is framework of recommendations for what the area could evolve to in the next 15-20 years. Funding availability, changing priorities, community input, further design and analysis could all alter recommendations in the plan and what actually gets implemented. Administrator Leonhard discussed that this is the draft master plan that will need additional evaluation and design as it proceeds forward. The funding will be discussed as the plan is implemented within the next 5 to 10 years. This version of the master plan has been presented to the Parks Commission and HR Finance Committee.

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Follow through: Requests from the committee were made that language be added indicating this is non-bidding plan, and further engagement with and acknowledgement of the recommendations from the clubs that are associated with Marathon Park is requested prior to the final submittal of the plan for adoption. Motion to forward to the County Board for the educational presentation and return to ERC Committee for final approval.

6. Amended 2022 Capital Project Request – Phase A Closure Project & Funding Sources

Discussion: Hagenbucher discussed funding status of the 2022 Capital Project Request. This project is scheduled to wrap up within the next month or so.

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

Follow through: **Motion** / second by Sherfinski/ Venzke

7. Negotiated Agreement with the Town of Ringle for siting of Phases 6-8 of Bluebird Ridge

Discussion: This agenda item will be moved to the next ERC Meeting.

D. Review and Possible Action - None.

6. **Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports and Committee Discussion**

Department Updates: Conservation, Planning and Zoning (CPZ), Parks Recreation and Forestry (PRF), Solid Waste

1. 2023 Zoning Amendment Updates: Chapter 17 & Chapter 22

Discussion: Harvey updated the committee regarding some of the potential updates to the Marathon County Chapter 17 & Chapter 22 zoning codes, schedule, and next steps. Town input is being accepted through December 16, 2022, and a draft of changes will be presented to the ERC in January. An Open House is also held in January for Towns to come and give final input.

Follow through: Future discussions will take place and forthcoming meetings with the hopes of adoption at the February or March meeting.

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

A. Review feedback from Executive Committee on Strategic Plan Updates

Discussion: Chair Langenhahn discussed feedback from the Executive Committee regarding the outcomes measures that were forwarded to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee asked for further clarification of Objective 5.2 Outcome Measure #3 and whether the outcome should be changed. Polley explained the reasoning behind the number in the outcome measure and the ERC agreed to keep it as already presented to the Executive Committee.

Follow through: Langenhahn will take original revisions for Objectives 5.2 & 6.3 back to the Executive Committee; no changes proposed.

B. Update on the Environmental Impact Funds

i. Updated MCDEVCO Loan Program

ii. Potential for funding the Groundwater Plan Efforts

iii. Other potential projects

Discussion: Miskimins presented an overview of the Environmental Impact Funds, what is in the funds, and a status on the last awarded project: the MCDEVCO/POWTS Loan Program. Miskimins also discussed potential for funding Groundwater Plan Efforts and Big Eau Pleine aerators with the remaining EIF balance. Miskimins explained the awarded EIF project of \$650,000 to the POWTS loan program should remain. The remaining \$550,000 could be allocated to other county environmental needs including the Groundwater Plan and the aerator replacement at Big Eau Pleine. Discussion continued regarding the importance behind why the aerator replacement should be considered. The committee discussed potential of using remaining funds.

Follow through: The committee directed CPZ to come back before the ERC in January with further information on the Groundwater Plan and the aerators at the Big Eau Pleine, along with resolutions to move forward to HR Finance and County Board for consideration.

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

**Tuesday, January 3, 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. Reminder of 2023 Environmental Resources Committee Meeting Dates
  - 2. This is Meleesa Johnson's last ERC meeting, as she will be retiring. Thank you for your service to Marathon County.

**9. Adjourn – Motion/ second by Venzke/ Drabek to **adjourn** at 6:09 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