



# MARATHON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AGENDA

**Date & Time of Meeting:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

**Meeting Location:** 212 River Drive, Room 5 Wausau 54403

**Committee Members:** Jacob Langenhahn - Chair ; Sara Guild, -Vice-chair; Rick Seefeldt, Allen Drabek, Bill Conway, Randy Fifrick, Arnold Schlei, Dave Oberbeck, Eric Vogel - FSA Member, Marilyn Bhend – WI Towns & Villages Association (non-voting member)

**Marathon County Mission Statement:** *Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business. (Last updated 12-20-05).*

**Environmental Resources Committee Mission Statement:** *Provide leadership for the implementation of the County Strategic Plan, monitoring outcomes, reviewing and recommending to the County Board policies related to environmental resource initiatives of Marathon County. (Revised: 04/17/12)*

*Strategic Plan Goals 2018 - 2022: Objective 5.2 - Promote sound land use decisions that conserve and preserve natural resources in decisions with economic development and growth.*

*Objective 6.3 - Protect and enhance the quantity and quality of potable groundwater and potable surface water supplies.*

The meeting site identified above will be open to the public. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health directives, Marathon County encourages (Committee/Board/Commission) members and the public to attend this meeting remotely. To this end, instead of attendance in person, (Committee/Board/Commission) members and the public may attend this meeting by telephone conference. If (Committee/Board/Commission) members or members of the public cannot attend remotely, Marathon County requests that appropriate safety measures, including adequate social distancing, be utilized by all in-person attendees.

Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the **telephone conference ten (10) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number:**

**Phone Number:** 1-408-418-9388

**Access Code/Meeting Number:** 146 270 5670

**Please Note: If you are prompted to provide an “Attendee Identification Number” enter the # sign. No other number is required to participate in the telephone conference.**

**When you enter the telephone conference, PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!**

1. Call meeting to order
2. Public Comment (15 minute limit)
3. Approval of February 2, 2021 Committee minutes
4. 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. Galen and Kathleen Schoepke – R-R Rural Residential to L-D-R Low Density Residential – Town of Plover
    2. Re-open public hearing on the Kocourek Properties LLC – F-P Farmland Preservation to L-D-R Low Density Residential – Town of Marathon
    3. Re-open public hearing on text amendment changes to the General Code of Ordinance for Marathon County Chapter 22 Shoreland, Shoreland-Wetlands & Floodplain Ordinance  
<https://bit.ly/35z5YAm>
  - B. Review and Possible Recommendations 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
5. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports and Committee Discussion
  - A. Strategic Plan Annual Update-ERC responsibilities and report-McEwen/County staff

**MARATHON COUNTY  
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
AGENDA**

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

1. 2020 County Forest Division Annual Report
2. Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association Article on County Forest Recreation

**6. Policy Issues Discussion and Committee Determination and/or referral to the County Board for its Consideration**

A. Legislative and Budget Report: current and future legislative initiatives and items related to the 2021-22 State budget

1. Parks, Recreation and Forestry
2. Conservation, Planning and Zoning
3. Solid Waste

B. Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association Legislative Priorities Discussion

**7. Next meeting March 30, 2021 3:00 pm Room 5 and future agenda items:**

- A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion
- B. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence


**8. Adjournment**

*Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 715-261-1500 at least one business day before the meeting.*

EMAILED AND/OR FAXED TO:

News Dept. at Daily Herald (715-848-9361), City Pages (715-848-5887),  
Midwest Radio Group (715-848-3158), Marshfield News (877-943-0443),  
TPP Printing (715 223-3505)

Date: February 23, 2021  
Time: 3:10 p.m.  
By: cek  
Date/Time/By: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED  \_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Officer or Designee

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. / p.m.  
By: County Clerk

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held by the Environmental Resources Committee of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 3:00 p.m., 212 River Drive, Room 5, Wausau WI 54403, at which time the Committee will consider the following:

1. The petition of Galen & Kathleen Schoepke to amend the Marathon County Zoning Ordinance to rezone lands from R-R Rural Residential to L-D-R Low Density Residential described as being part of the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 22, Township 29 North, Range 10 East, Town of Plover. The area proposed to be rezoned is described as Lot #2 (1.52 acres) on the Preliminary Certified Survey Map (CSM) submitted as a part of the rezone petition. Area to be rezoned is identified as part of Parcel PIN# 062-2910-222-0987; Address 233488 South Pole Road, Birnamwood, WI 54414.

Written testimony may be forwarded prior to the hearing to: Jacob Langenhahn – Environmental Resource Committee Chair, Conservation, Planning and Zoning Department, 210 River Drive, Wausau, WI 54403-5449. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 715-261-1500 at least one business day before the meeting.

**We are encouraging people to attend the meeting by phone. Please call into the telephone conference ten minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number:**

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Jacob Langenhahn



Jacob Langenhahn, Chairman  
Environmental Resources Committee



Paul Daigle, Land and Water Program Director  
Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department

**Publish: February 15 and February 22, 2021**

E-mailed to: Wausau Daily Herald ([WDH-Legals@wdhmedia.com](mailto:WDH-Legals@wdhmedia.com)) on February 10, 2021 at 8:15 a.m.



**Marathon County  
Environmental Resources Committee Minutes  
Tuesday, February 2, 2021  
210 River Drive, 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	
<i>Vice-Chair</i>	Sara Guild.....	X	
	Rick Seefeldt .....		X (excused)
	Bill Conway .....	X	
	Allen Drabek .....	X	
	Randy Fifrick.....	X	
	Arnold Schlei .....	X	
	Dave Oberbeck.....	X	
	Marilyn Bhend .....	X	
	Eric Vogel .....	X	

} via Webex or phone

Also present via Webex, phone or in Room 5: Paul Daigle, Dominique Swangstu, Lane Loveland, Morgan Tollard, Nicole Fehl, Jared Mader, and Cindy Kraeger – Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ); Jean Kopplin – City-County IT, Jamie Polley – Park, Recreation and Forestry (PRF), Keith Kocourek, Bob Schwei, Greg Saemborski, Ralph Merwin, Tom Radenz– REI.

1. **Call to order** – Called to order by Chair Langenhahn at 3:00 p.m. via WEBEX.
2. **Public Comment** – None.
3. **Approval of January 5, 2021 Committee minutes**

**Motion / second** by Drabek / Oberbeck to approve of the January 5, 2021 Environmental Resources Committee minutes as distributed.

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

4. **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. Kocourek Properties LLC – F-P Farmland Preservation to L-D-R Low Density Residential – Town of Marathon

Discussion: Swangstu was sworn in and noted the staff report and decision sheet had been included in the packet. Swangstu reviewed the rezone request along with the reason CPZ staff are recommending approval of the rezone request. The Town of Marathon has reviewed the application and recommends denial of the rezone request, stating there is potential for conflict but it appears to be low or minimal.

The conflict is more with allowing smaller parcel when 35 acres is required and land owner has large amount of property.

Swangstu stated the town acknowledges there is a low or minimal potential for conflict with adjacent land uses but the 35 acre minimum is in regard to the Farmland Preservation Zoning district not necessarily all parcels within the town.

The Town also stated the owner has several 40 acre properties that could be used and the applicant overlooked the options he has available.

Swangstu stated any alternatives that would be permitted without the rezone would require the parcel to be at least 35 acres, for many reasons this may not be feasible (due to wetland, easement requirements, additional cost etc.)

The Town also stated no agriculture on site for a number of years the potential was never addressed. Swangstu stated the Town agrees there is no agriculture onsite yet, the potential was not addressed during the meeting therefore they checked disagree.

The Town was stated it is in an area of the town that is more developed but all residents present were concerned about the small lot size.

Swangstu stated all the adjacent properties (in the town) are zoned LDR and are the same size or smaller than the proposed parcel (8+/- acres). There were no comments provided in the town resolution regarding specific goals or objectives in the Town Comprehensive Plan, additionally the

town's current and future land use maps were not referenced.

The Town of Marathon's desire is to retain the town's rural character and the town maintains a board of well informed and diverse members.

Swangstu stated rural character can be interpreted to mean many things, yet the town has and needs to recognize areas of the town they would allow for more development and smaller parcel sizes. The area in question is one of those areas in the town that has an existing cluster of residential parcels along a county highway as well as adjacent to the Town of Rib Mountain.

Tom Radenz was sworn in. Keith Kocourek would like to create a parcel of land for his nephew to build a single family home. Improvements have been made to the parcel and the property would not be subdivided. Radenz disagrees with the Town's disapproval.

Keith Kocourek was sworn in. He stated the property has been cleaned up; the quarry has been restored to a pond and he has no intentions of subdividing the property.

Chair Langenhahn stated the proposed rezone is to go from FP would be inconsistent with the Town Comprehensive Plan. Swangstu discussed the area proposed to be rezoned appears to be consistent with the goal of clustering residential development given the surrounding parcels and their zoning district. The rezone appears to be consistent with the Goal #2 under the Towns Comprehensive Plan Land Use Goals, Objective and Policies given the proposed rezone is consistent with adjacent land uses and zoning districts. The area in question is already consistent with the existing development patterns and is clustered along County Rd N where other Low Density Residential parcels are located. Swangstu stated the area in question has no prime farm soils from group 1 or 2.

There was no additional testimony in favor or opposed to this rezone request. Testimony portion of the hearing was closed at 3:27 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Vogel / Guild to recommend approval to County Board, of the Kocourek Properties LLC rezone request. The Committee determined the rezone is consistent with the Marathon County and Town comprehensive plans, and is 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. 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 7 yes 1-no.

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

2. The petition of Benjamin & Teri Mandli – L-D-R Low Density Residential to N-C Neighborhood Commercial – Town of Reid

Discussion: Swangstu was sworn in and noted the staff report and decision sheet had been included in the packet. Swangstu reviewed the rezone request of 1.050 acres shown as Lot 2 of the Preliminary Certified Survey Map (CSM) submitted with the petition. Swangstu 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. Oberbeck questioned how the parking standards would be addressed based on the use.

Swangstu stated the applicant will need to meet all applicable regulations set forth in Chapter 17 as well as all other applicable ordinances and codes. Swangstu also explained that the approval of a rezone does not allow for one specific use onsite, but allows for all permitted and conditionally approved uses within the district. Therefore, the owners of the property would need to meet all the applicable standards for the specific use proposed onsite when and if the rezone is approved.

There was no additional testimony in favor or opposed to this rezone request.

Testimony portion of the hearing was closed at 3:55 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Environmental Resources Committee Minutes  
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Action: **Motion** / second by Vogel / Fifrlick to recommend approval to County Board, of the Benjamin & Teri Mandli rezone request. 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. 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. Robert & Kelsey Schwei – L-D-R Low Density Residential to R-E Rural Estate Town of Knowlton

Discussion: Swangstu was sworn in and noted the staff report and decision sheet had been included in the packet. Swangstu reviewed the rezone request of 10.0340 acres shown as Lot 2 of the Certified Survey Map (Doc #1423383). Swangstu 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 Knowlton has reviewed the application and recommends approval without any concerns.

Bob Schwei was sworn in and is the owner of the property to construct a garage. The Town of Knowlton preferred to have the property rezoned versus a conditional use permit.

There was no additional testimony in favor or opposed to this rezone request.

Testimony portion of the hearing was closed at 4:13 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet

Action: **Motion** / second by Fifrlick / Drabek to recommend approval to County Board, of the Brian Robert & Kelsey Schwei rezone request. 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. 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.

4. Public testimony on text amendments changes to the General Code of Ordinance for Marathon County Chapter 17 Zoning Ordinance Code <https://bit.ly/35z5YAm>

Discussion: Swangstu was sworn in and discussed the changes related to the annual text amendments to Chapter 17 – Zoning Code. Swangstu reviewed additional proposed revisions to the draft ordinance that were not included in the draft posted on the county website, as well as discussed the other pertinent revisions. The committee had no questions regarding the summary of text revisions, yet had questions regarding some of the proposed draft language within ordinance. At the previous committee meeting on January 5, 2021 the committee asked CPZ to get additional input from the impacted towns regarding the proposed revisions and use regarding Chapter 17.204 and Chapter 17.301 Special Event and Permitted Temporary Uses and proposed text language that would apply. Staff explained what comments and recommendations they received from the towns, as well as explained the reasoning behind the proposed language set forth before the committee. Once staff were done reviewing the proposed changes they answered committee questions and provided additional input when requested.

Ralph Merwin was sworn in and discussed the history of events held annually. Mr. Merwin explained he was in favor of the proposed language and revisions associated with the special events use.

Greg Saemborski was sworn in and works with the Edgar Steam Show (annual event).

Saemborski was curious to see how the revisions would affect the Steam Show yet after review of



the proposed language at the public hearing it was indicated that the revisions will not negatively affect their event venue.

Supervisor Schlei provided some input and concerns regarding special events in his town (Town of Easton) and explained what issues the town was having with a particular property. The concerns and comments were primarily regarding noise, crowds, and traffic. Yet, staff explained the role of zoning with these events as well as stated the county has had discussions about reviewing and updating its assembly's ordinance (Chapter 12.04) which will address other aspects of these events that are not directly related to zoning. Additionally, staff explained that the towns also have the authority to adopt a town noise/nuisance ordinance if they wish to regulate noise or nuisance within the town.

There was no additional testimony in favor or opposed to the text amendment revisions to the General Code of Ordinance for Marathon County Chapter 17 Zoning Ordinance. Testimony portion of the hearing was closed at 4:50 p.m.

Action: **Motion** / second by Fifrick / Schlei to recommend approval of the text amendments discussed at the meeting and to recommend approval of the draft of the text amendment changes to the General Code of Ordinance for Marathon County Chapter 17 Zoning Ordinance Code.

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

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

5. Public testimony on text amendments changes to the General Code of Ordinance for Marathon County Chapter 22 Shoreland, Shoreland-Wetlands & Floodplain Ordinance <https://bit.ly/35z5YAm>

Discussion: Swangstu was sworn in and stated new information was recently received from the WI DNR to be incorporated into the ordinance. Swangstu recommended to have the agenda item postponed to the next committee meeting to ensure the draft ordinance set forth before the committee and County Board incorporates all the required information and updates needed.

There was no additional testimony in favor or opposed to the text amendment revisions to the General Code of Ordinance for Marathon County Chapter 22 Shoreland, Shoreland-Wetlands & Floodplain Ordinance. Testimony portion of the hearing was closed at 5:25 p.m.

Action: **Motion** / second by Drabek / Conway to postpone the text amendments changes to the General Code of Ordinance for Marathon County Chapter 22 Shoreland, Shoreland-Wetlands & Floodplain Ordinance.

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

Follow through: Staff directed to bring back the additional text amendments changes to the General Code of Ordinances for Marathon County Chapter 22 Shoreland, Shoreland-Wetlands & Floodplain Ordinance at the next 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 Rib Mountain – William Fischer PIN# 068.2807.104.0004 152307 Starling Lane

Discussion: Swangstu stated the Town of Rib Mountain is town zoned and the rezone petition submitted was intended to change the zoning classification/district from SI Suburban Industrial to UC Urban Commercial for property at 152307 Starling Lane. The zoning change was approved at the town board meeting on December 15, 2020. Although the town is town zoned, County Board approval is still needed per Wis. Stats.

Action: **Motion** / second by Conway / Guild to recommend approval to County Board, of the Town of Rib Mountain, William Fischer PIN# 068.2807.104.0004 152307 Starling Lane zone change.

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. Updates to the Marathon County Code of Ordinances Chapter 16

Discussion: Polley explained the proposed amendments and recommendations by the Recreation Deputies to clarify and enhance a number of ordinances where questions have arisen in the field over the past year.

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2. Updates to the Marathon County Code of Ordinances Chapter 19

Discussion: Polley explained the proposed amendments and recommendations will better enforce the rules and regulations and provide clarity of the ordinance. The resolution was reviewed by Corporation Counsel and approved by the Marathon County Parks Commission and the Forestry/Recreation Committee approved the revisions on January 5, 2021.

Action: **Motion** / second by Schlei / Guild to recommend approval of the revisions to the Marathon County Code of Ordinances Chapter 16 and Chapter 19 and forward to County Board.

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

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

D. Review and Possible Action – None.

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

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

1. CPZ Strategic Plan Outcomes

a. Progress reports for March

Discussion: Daigle will provide information as to where CPZ is at with the outcomes in the Strategic Plan and what resources might be needed in 2022 to meet the goals/outcomes at the next committee meeting.

2. Report on the Land and Water Plan next steps

Discussion: Daigle and Langenhahn co-presented the powerpoint of the Land and Water Resource Management Plan to the State Land and Water Conservation Board. The plan was approved and will be moving to County Board in February for approval.

3. CPZ Position reclassification request for March

Discussion: Daigle discussed the management team is working with County Board Administrator Lance Leonhard regarding a mini reorganization to dissolve the position of the Environmental Resources Specialist position – Lane Loveland's position to create a Manager position. More information will be coming in March.

Action: **None**.

6. **Policy Issues Discussion and Committee Determination to the County Board for its Consideration** – None.

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

**Tuesday, March 2, 2021 3:00 p.m. 212 River Drive Room 5 Wausau WI**

A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion

B. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence

8. **Adjourn** – **Motion** / second by Conway / Vogel to **adjourn** at 5:47 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Paul Daigle, Land and Water Program Director

For Jacob Langenhahn, Chair

cc: (via email/web site) ERC members; County Administrator; Corporation Counsel; County Clerk

PD/cek



PETITION FOR ZONE CHANGE  
BEFORE THE MARATHON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1. As authorized by §17.91 of the Marathon County Zoning Code (I) (we) (Name & Address):

KATHLEEN SCHORPKE

hereby petition to rezone property owned by (Name & Address): KATHLEEN SCHORPKE

233488 SOUTH POLE RD BIRNAMWOOD, WI 54414

from the classification RR, RURAL Residential to LDR, Low Density Residential.

2. The legal description of that part of the property to be rezoned is (include only the description of the land proposed to be rezoned. You may need to have a surveyor draft this description): Lot 2 of Proposed CSM

Parcel Identification Number (PIN): 062-2910-222-0987

3. The proposed change is to facilitate the use of the land for (be specific-list all proposed uses):

BUILDING SITE - There was A home on site which has been removed. There is electricity, driveway, well, septic tank and mound system

4. Please address the following criteria as best as you can. These are the "standards for rezoning" which will be addressed at the public hearing. (Use additional sheets if necessary).

A. In detail, explain what public facilities and services serve the proposed development at present, or how they will be provided.

All facilities are in place to accommodate home construction

B. Explain how the provision for these facilities will not be an unreasonable burden to local government.

They exist

C. What have you done to determine that the land is suitable for the development proposed?

All facets of home appurtenances are in place

D. Explain what will have to be done so the development will not cause unreasonable air and water pollution, soil erosion or adverse effects on rare or irreplaceable natural areas.

Nothing

E. Explain any potential for conflict with existing land uses in the area.

None

(OVER)

F. Demonstrate the need of the proposed development at this location. \_\_\_\_\_

Kathy Schoepke wants to gift/sell this land to her grandson for a building site

G. What is the availability of alternative locations? Be specific. \_\_\_\_\_

NONE

H. If cropland is being consumed by this Zone Change, what is the productivity of the agricultural lands involved? \_\_\_\_\_

No

I. If cropland is being consumed by this zone change, explain how the proposed development will be located to minimize the amount of agricultural land converted. \_\_\_\_\_

NO

- 5. Include on a separate sheet (no larger than 11 x 17) a drawing of the property to be rezoned, at a scale of 1"=200 ft or larger. Show additional information if required. **(If larger sheets are required to adequately portray the site, include ten (10) copies).**

All property owners within 300 feet of the parent parcel proposed for rezoning are parties in interest, and will be notified by Marathon County Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department of the public hearing notice via direct mail.

- 6. If the Environmental Resources Committee, at the public hearing for this zone change request, is unable to make a recommendation based upon the facts presented and/or request additional information, clarification or data from the petitioner, Town Board, or any other source, that information shall be supplied to the Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department 24 hours or more prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting (date and time to be announced at each regular meeting). Twenty four hour notice is required for all agenda items. If the requested information, etc. is not supplied, the zone change petition is denied and will only appear on the agenda as a report. No additional testimony will be accepted. The petitioner (applicant) may re-apply at any time to bring the matter back before the Committee. **No exceptions to this policy will be granted.**

7. Petitioner's Signature Kathleen Schaepe Phone 715-449-2353 Date 12-29-20  
 8. Owner's Signature same Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 (If different)

Date Fee Received: 1-4-2021

**RECEIVED**  
 JAN 04 2021  
 MARATHON COUNTY CONSERVATION  
 PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

Fee \$600.00 PAYABLE TO MARATHON COUNTY

**Attendance at the Public Hearing** before the Marathon County Environmental Resources (ERC) Committee is not mandatory if you have appeared before the Town Planning Commission and/or the Town Board to present your proposal. If there was opposition to your proposal at the town level, attendance at the ERC hearing is recommended.



# Certified Survey Map No. \_\_\_\_\_

OF ALL OF LOTS 1 AND 2 OF CSM NO XXXX LOCATED IN THE  
 NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 22  
 TOWNSHIP 29 NORTH, RANGE 10 EAST,  
 TOWN OF PLOVER, MARATHON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Bearings are referenced to the North-South  $\frac{1}{4}$  line  
 of Section 22 assumed to bear S 0° 24' 55" W

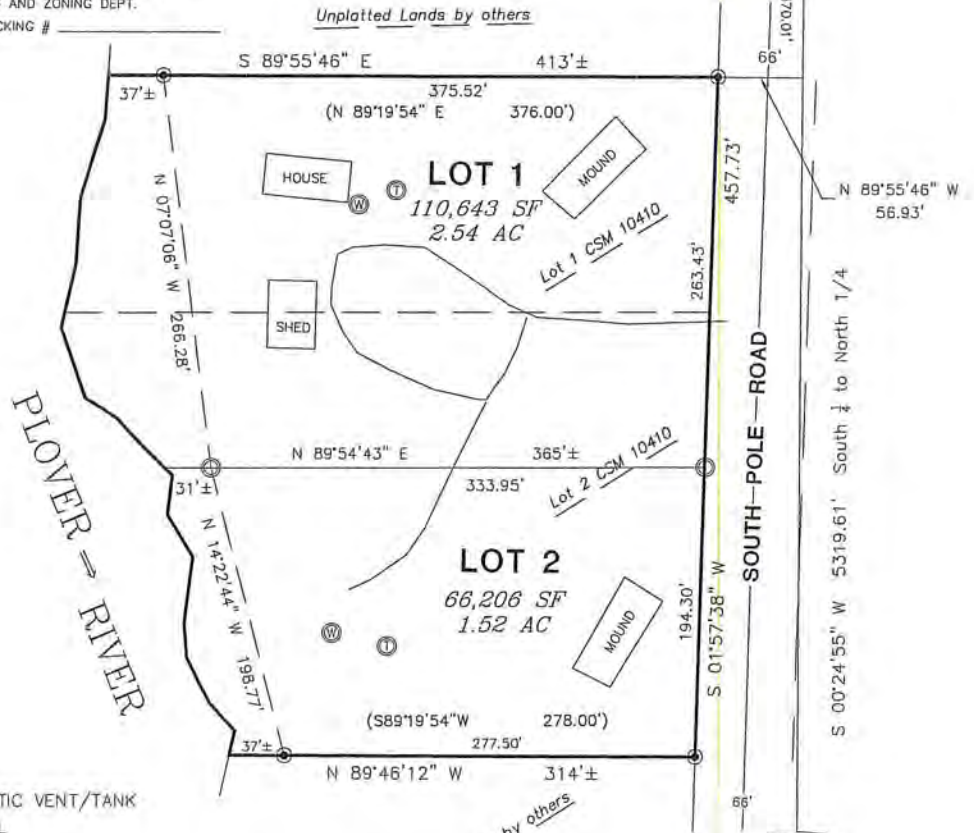
This Certified Survey Map is being recorded to  
 re-divide the existing parcels

NOTE: Recording this Certified Survey Map does  
 not transfer property rights. It is necessary to  
 subsequently record a deed to transfer ownership.

APPROVED FOR RECORDING  
 UNDER THE TERMS OF THE  
 MARATHON CO. LAND DIVISION CODE

BY \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 MARATHON COUNTY CONSERVATION  
 PLANNING AND ZONING DEPT.  
 CPZ TRACKING # \_\_\_\_\_

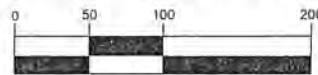
NORTH 1/4 COR SEC 22  
 SET SMP FROM TIES



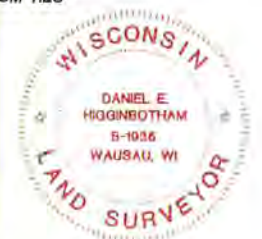
- Ⓧ Ⓧ SEPTIC VENT/TANK
- Ⓧ WELL
- X— FENCE
- ⊙ 1" X 18" OD IRON PIPE WEIGHING 1.13 LBS/LINEAL FOOT SET
- ⊙ FOUND 1" ID IRON PIPE
- ⊠ FOUND GOVT CORNER
- ( ) RECORD DATA



GRAPHIC SCALE



1 inch = 100 ft.



SHEET 1 OF 2

SURVEY PROVIDED BY:

PLOVER RIVER LAND CO. 2825 NORTHWESTERN AVENUE WAUSAU, WI 54403 (715)449-2229

MARATHON COUNTY CERTIFIED SURVEY MAP

I, Daniel E. Higginbotham, Professional Land Surveyor, hereby certify:

That I have surveyed, divided and mapped by the order of Kathleen Schoepke, a parcel of land being all of Lots 1 and 2 of Certified Survey Map No. 10410 located in the Northeast ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of Section 22, Township 29 North, Range 10 East, Town of Plover, Marathon County, Wisconsin, more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the North ¼ Corner of Section 22; thence S 00° 24' 55" W, 870.01 feet along the North-South ¼ line of the Section 22; thence N 89° 55' 46" W 56.93 to the Westerly R/W of South Pole Road and the point of beginning of the parcel herein described; thence S 01° 57' 38" W, 457.73 feet to the Southeast corner of Lot 2 Certified Survey Map No. 10410; thence N 89° 46' 12" W, 277.50 feet along the South line of said Lot 2 to a meander corner of the Plover River, said meander corner lies S 89° 46' 12" E, 37 feet more or less from the water's edge of the Plover River; thence along the following described meander lines; thence N 14° 22' 44" W, 198.77 feet; thence N 07° 07' 06" W, 266.28 feet to a meander corner of the Plover River, said meander corner lies S 89° 55' 46" E, 37 feet more or less from the water's edge of the Plover River; thence S 89° 55' 46" E, 375.52 feet to the Westerly R/W of South Pole Road and the point of beginning of the parcel herein described.

Said parcel contains 176,849 Square Feet or 4.06 Acres more or less to the water's edge of the Plover River

It is hereby intended to include, with this description, all lands lying between the meander lines as described and the water's edge of the Plover River.

Subject to all roadways and easements of record.

That this map is a true and correct representation of all exterior boundaries of the land surveyed and the subdivision thereof made to the best of my knowledge and belief;

That I have fully complied with the provisions of Chapter 236.34 of the Wisconsin Statutes and Chapter 18 of Marathon County Subdivision Regulation

Dated this 20th day of December, 2020.

---

PLS No. 1935

Prepared by:  
Plover River Land Co., Inc.  
2625 Northwestern Avenue  
Wausau, WI 54403

Prepared for:  
Kathleen Schoepke  
233488 South Pole Road  
Biramwood, WI 54414

Sheet 2 of 2 Sheets





# Land Information Mapping System



- Legend**
- Parcel Annotations
  - Parcels
  - Land Hooks
  - Section Lines/Numbers
  - Right Of Ways
  - Municipalities
  - 2015 Orthos
    - Red: Band\_1
    - Green: Band\_2
    - Blue: Band\_3

45.52 0 45.52 Feet



NAD\_1983\_HARN\_WISCRS\_Marathon\_County\_Feet

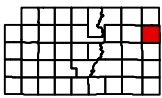
DISCLAIMER: The information and depictions herein are for informational purposes and Marathon County-City of Wausau specifically disclaims accuracy in this reproduction and specifically admonishes and advises that if specific and precise accuracy is required, the same should be determined by procurement of certified maps, surveys, plats, Flood Insurance Studies, or other official means. Marathon County-City of Wausau will not be responsible for any damages which result from third party use of the information and depictions herein or for use which ignores this warning.

THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

Notes







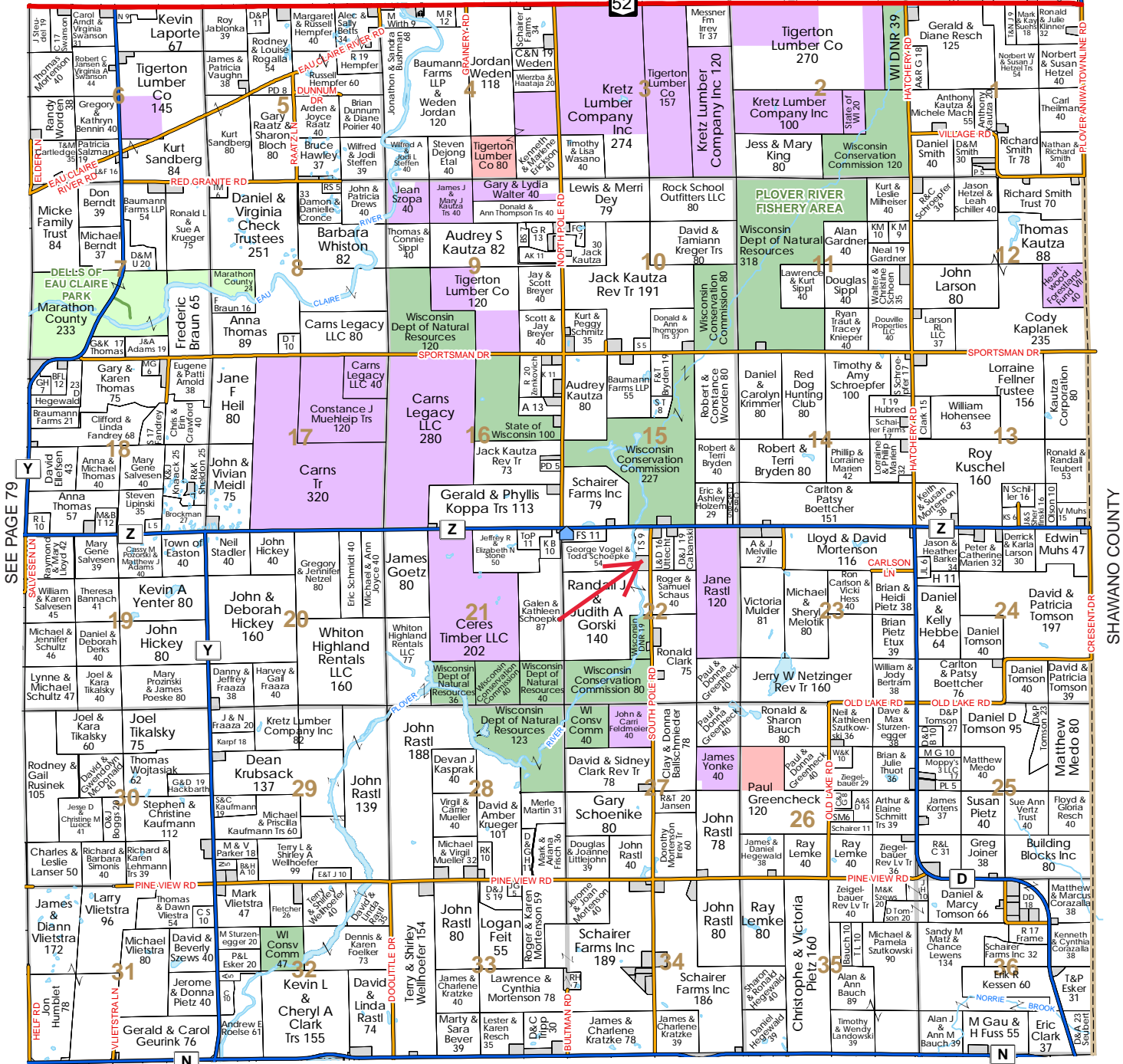
# Plover

# Township 29N - Range 10E

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SEE PAGE 97

52



SEE PAGE 63

**DISCOVER 4-H**

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STATE OF WISCONSIN )  
MARATHON COUNTY )  
TOWN OF PLOVER )

**RESOLUTION ON ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

TO THE MARATHON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

I, Valerie Parker, Clerk of the Town of Plover, Marathon County, State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Town of Plover Town Board at a meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 59.69(5)(e)3., Wisconsin Statutes, provides that if a town affected by a proposed amendment disapproves of the proposed amendment, the town board may file a certified copy of a resolution adopted by such board disapproving of the petition with the Environmental Resources Committee prior to, at or within ten (10) days after the public hearing, and

WHEREAS, if the town board of the town affected in the case of an ordinance relating to the location of boundaries of districts files such a resolution, the Environmental Resources Committee may not recommend to the County Board approval of the petition without change, but may only recommend approval with change or recommend disapproval.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Plover Town Board considered on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021, petition by Galen & Kathleen Schoepke to amend the Marathon County Zoning Ordinance to rezone lands from R-R Rural Residential to L-D-R Low Density Residential described as being part of the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 22, Township 29 North, Range 10 East, Town of Plover. The area proposed to be rezoned is described as Lot #2 (1.52 acres) on the Preliminary Certified Survey Map (CSM) submitted as a part of the rezone petition. Area to be rezoned is identified as part of Parcel PIN# 062-2910-222-0987; Address 233488 South Pole Road, Birnamwood, WI 54414.

The Town of Plover hereby has considered the following standards for rezoning above property (use additional sheets if necessary):

1) Has the applicant provided what public facilities and/or services currently serve the proposed development, what additional services may be required, and how the additional services will be provided?

No  Yes Explain: No additional services will be needed.

2) Has the applicant demonstrated how the provision of the public facilities will not be an unreasonable burden to local government?

No  Yes Explain: Will not be a burden.

3) Has the applicant determined that the land is suitable for the development proposed? Explain.

No  Yes Explain: The Board noticed there is wetland on this property, and is in floodplain, and may need flood insurance. Want to be sure

4) Has the applicant demonstrated what will have to be done so the development will not cause unreasonable air and water pollution, soil erosion, or adverse effects on rare or irreplaceable natural areas? Explain.

No  Yes Explain: See #3.

5) Is there any potential for conflict with existing land uses in the area?

No  Yes Explain: No.

→ this is noted somewhere for applicant and future builder to be aware of. Also, it appears there may be a land hook on the other side of South Pole Road to this property. (OVER)

- 6) Has the applicant demonstrated the need for the proposed development at this location? Explain.  
 No  Yes Explain: already well and spt:ce.
- 
- 7) Has the applicant demonstrated the availability of alternative locations? Be specific  
 No  Yes Explain: N/A
- 
- 8) Is cropland is being consumed by this zone change? What is the productivity of the agricultural lands involved?  
 No  Yes Explain: NO
- 
- 9) Has the applicant explained how the proposed development will be located to minimize the amount of agricultural land converted?  
 No  Yes Explain: N/A
- 
- 10) Is proposed rezone request consistent with the town's adopted Comprehensive Plan? Explain.  
 No  Yes Explain: Our Comp Plan is outdated. Previous Board had a minimum 2 acres. Current Board does not have issue with it.
- 
- 11) Is there anything else the Town wishes to present or comment on regarding this application to the Marathon County Environmental Resources (ERC) Committee?  
 No  Yes Explain: Please see #3. Sent a letter to surrounding neighbors, and did not receive any feedback or concerns.

The Town of Plover recommends:  **Approval**  **Disapproval** of the amendment and/or zone change.

OR  **Requests an Extension\*** for the following reasons: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Wis. Stats §59.69(5)(c), (3), and (3m) authorizes Towns to extend the time to disapprove a zone change for a total of thirty (30) days beyond the date of the public hearing. The extension must be by Town Board Resolution and remains in effect until the Town Board adopts a resolution rescinding the extension.

Clerk Valerie Park  
 Town Board Tommy Kouty  
Patt  
Scott Myhre

NOTE: If you recommend disapproval of this request, please make every effort to send a representative to the Environmental Resources Committee Public Hearing. Town input at the hearing is always appreciated. Please return this form before February 18, 2021 to:

Marathon County Conservation, Planning and Zoning Department  
 210 River Drive  
 Wausau, WI 54403





# Kathleen & Galen Schoepke Petition to Rezone Land Staff Report, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 Environmental Resources Committee

## Findings of Fact

### PUBLIC HEARINGS/MEETINGS:

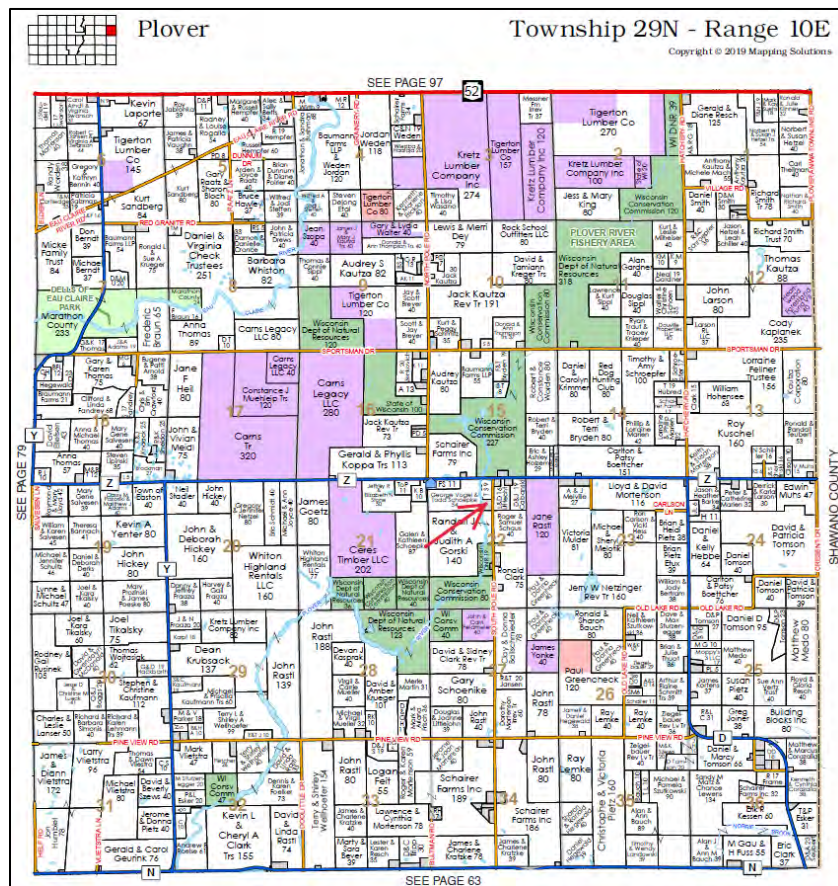
- Town of Plover Town Board Meeting (January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021)
- Marathon County Environmental Resources Committee Meeting (March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 at 3:00pm)

**PETITIONER:** Kathleen Schoepke – 233488 South Pole Rd, Birnamwood WI 54414

**PROPERTY OWNER:** (*same*) Galen & Kathleen Schoepke (LIFE EST) – 233488 South Pole Rd, Birnamwood WI 54414.

**LOCATION OF REZONE REQUEST:** Area proposed to be rezoned is located approximately 764 feet south of the intersection of County Road Z and South Pole Road (western side of South Pole Road).

*Map 1: Location of Rezone Request*



### REQUEST:

The petition of Galen & Kathleen Schoepke to amend the Marathon County Zoning Ordinance to rezone lands from R-R Rural Residential to L-D-R Low Density Residential described as being part of the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 22, Township 29 North, Range 10 East, Town of Plover. The area proposed to be rezoned is described as Lot #2 (1.52 acres) on the Preliminary Certified Survey Map (CSM) submitted as a part of the rezone petition. Area to be rezoned is identified as part of Parcel PIN# 062-2910-222-0987; Address 233488 South Pole Road, Birnamwood, WI 54414.

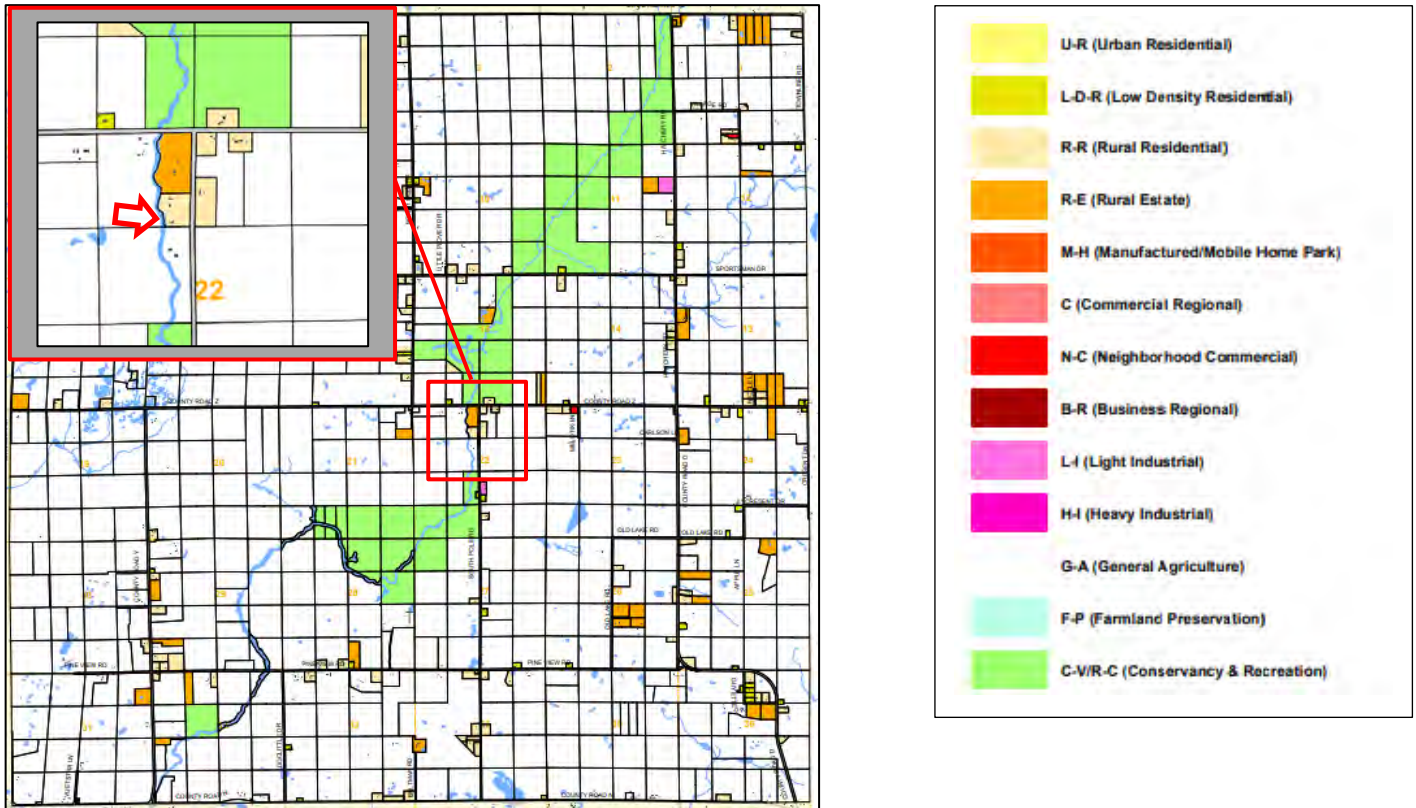
**EXISTING ZONING DISTRICT:**

**R-R: Rural Residential District.** The purpose of the R-R district is to accommodate single-family residential use along existing streets, to preserve the rural character while promoting open space single-family residential development (involving the extension of new streets), and to separate agricultural uses from other more extensive community development within the county. Limited agricultural activities are permitted in this district. These areas may or may not be serviced by municipal water and sanitary sewer.

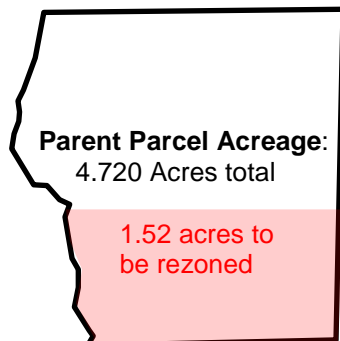
**PROPOSED ZONING DISTRICT:**

**L-D-R: Low Density Residential District.** The purpose of the L-D-R district is to accommodate single-family residential use along existing streets and to promote single-family residential development (involving the extension of new streets) where sanitary sewer and municipal water may be available. The densities are intended to provide for areas of suburban character in the community and to prevent excessive demands on sewerage and water systems, streets, schools, and other community facilities. The districts are intended to avoid overcrowding by requiring certain minimum yards, open spaces, and site area while making available a variety of dwelling types and densities to serve a wide range of individual requirements and thereby providing a more orderly and efficient extension of public facilities.

**EXISTING ZONING DISTRICT MAP:** Adjacent parcels are zoned Rural Estate (Orange) and General Agriculture (White) with some Rural Residential (Tan) and Conservancy/Recreation (Green) zoned parcels within close proximity.



Map #2 Town of Plover - Zoning District Map



**Legal Notification:**

A legal advertisement was published in the *Wausau Daily Herald*. Notice of the zoning change request was also sent by regular mail to adjacent property owners within 300 feet of the subject property.



**Existing (2000) Land Use/Land Cover Map – Town of Plover (Comprehensive Plan)** The area/parcel proposed to be rezoned is shown as Single Family Residential and Woodland land uses in the Town’s Comprehensive Plan Existing Land Use/Land Cover Map (2000). Adjacent land uses are comprised of similar land uses including, Woodland, Residential, and Other Agriculture Land Uses.

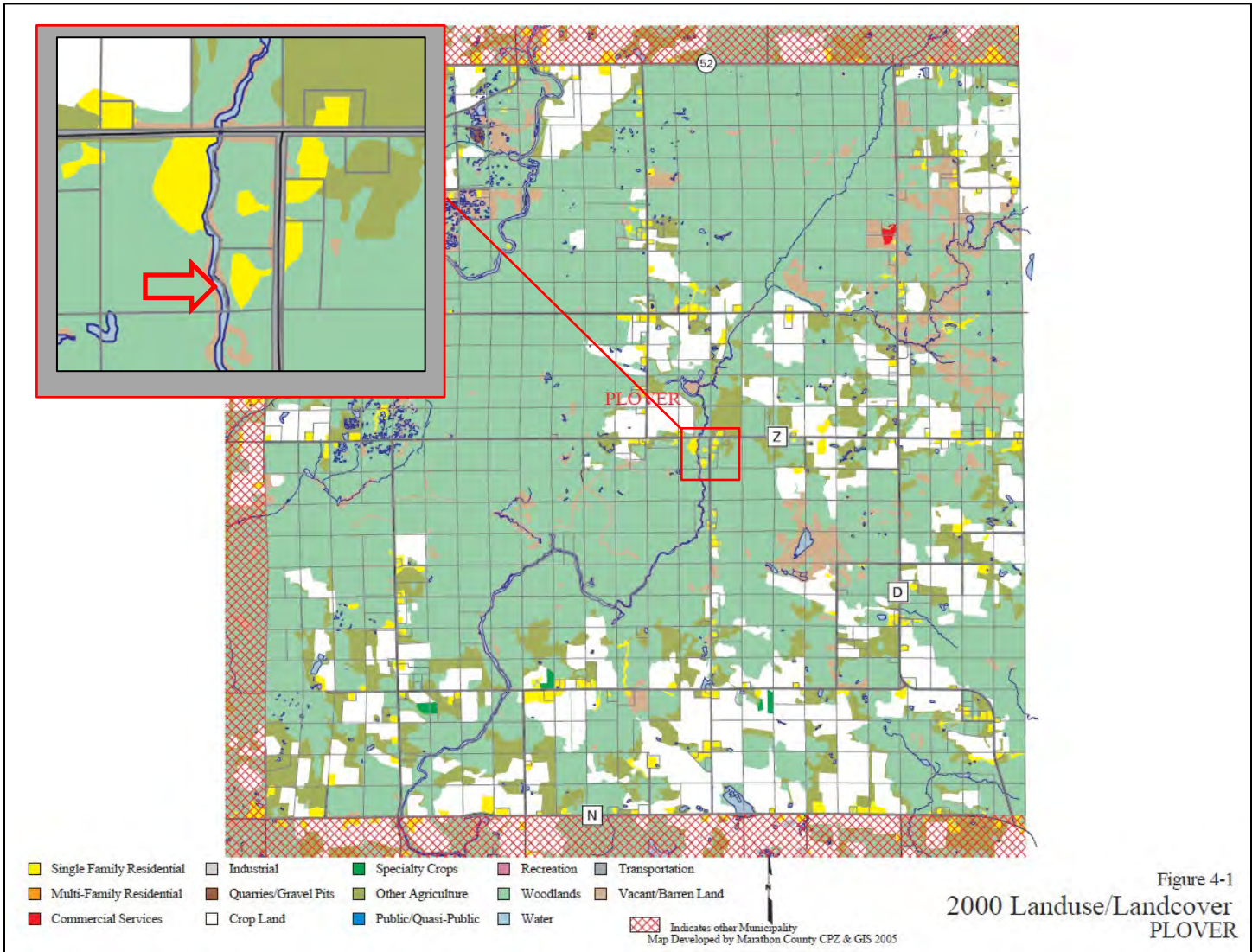
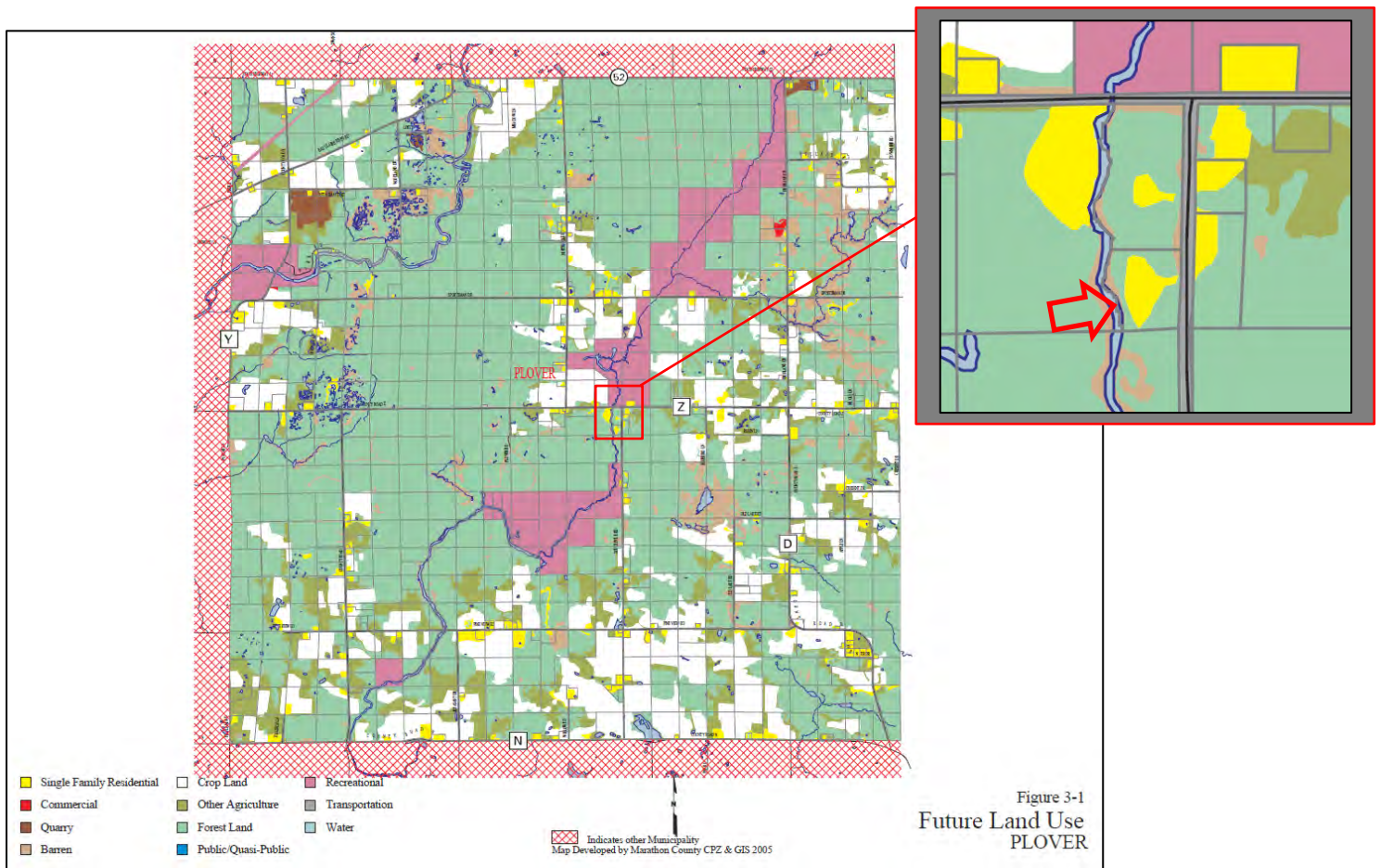
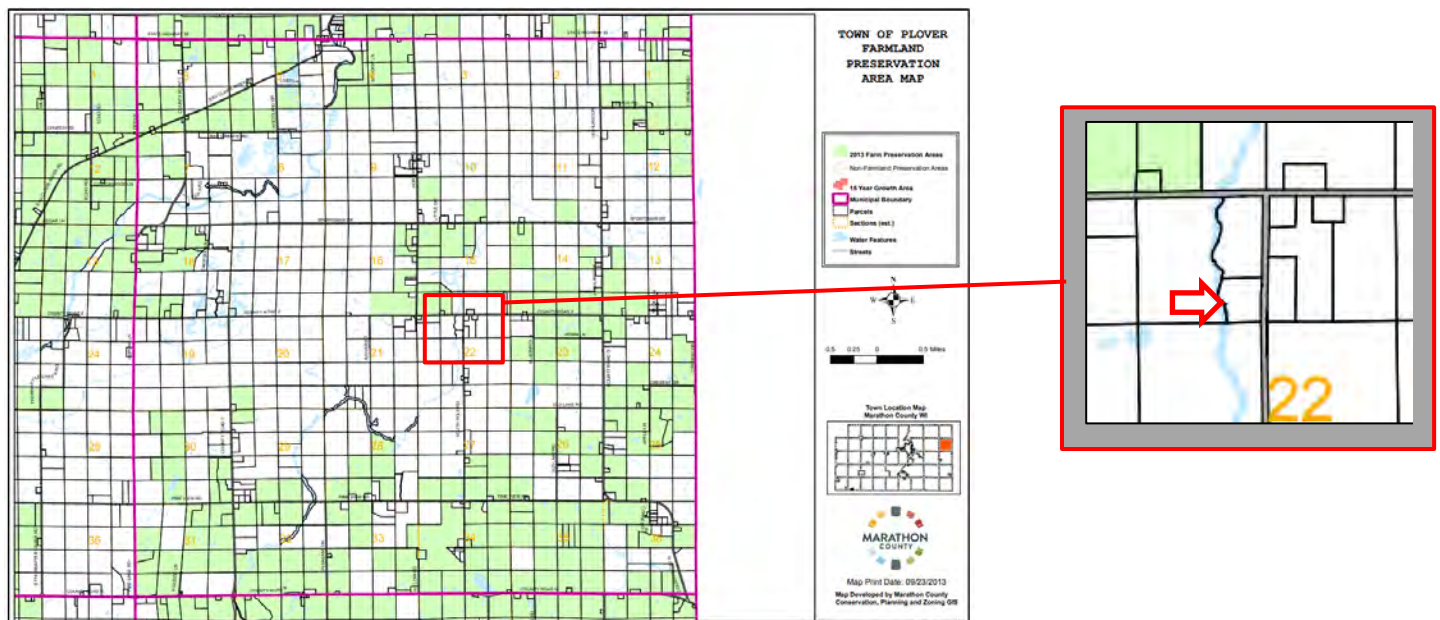


Figure 4-1  
2000 Landuse/Landcover  
PLOVER

**TOWN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUTURE LAND USE MAP:** The area/parcel proposed to be rezoned is shown as Single Family Residential and Woodland land uses in the Town's Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use/Land Cover Map. Adjacent land uses are comprised of similar land uses including, Woodland, Residential, Recreation, and Other Agriculture Land Uses.

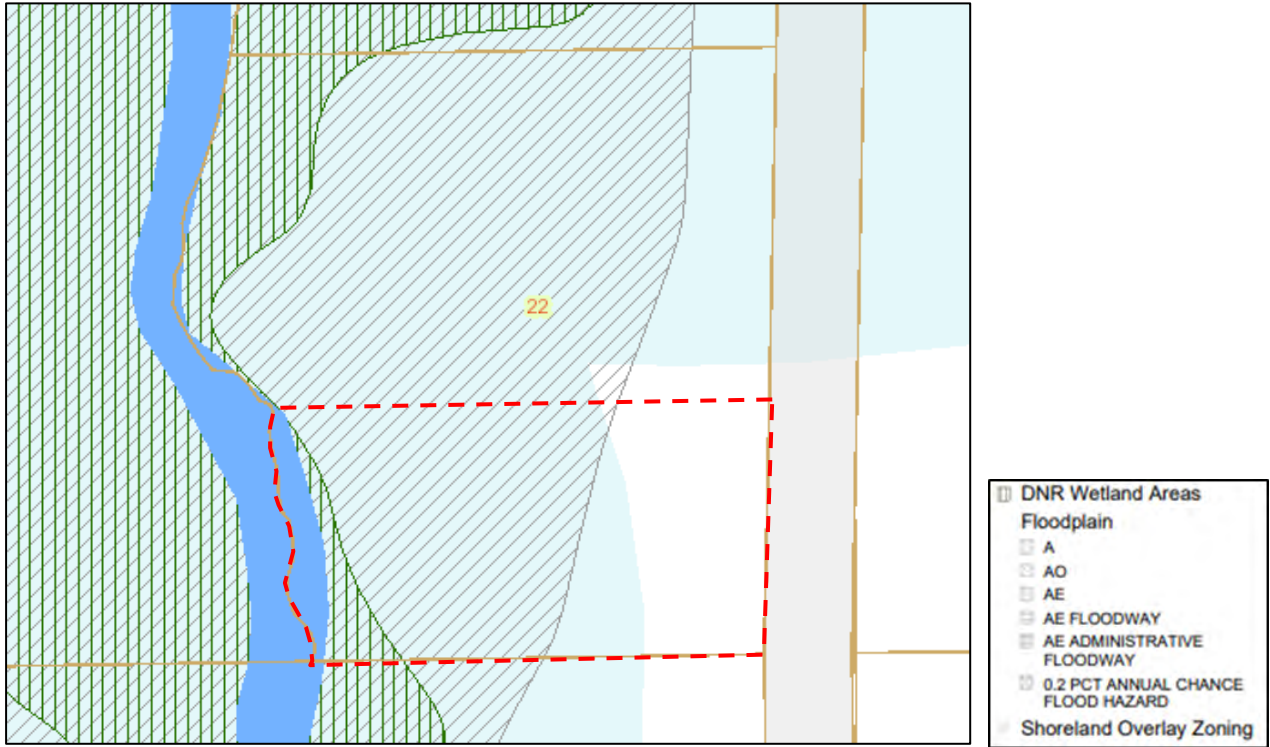


**FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN:** The parcel in question was designated as a non-farmland preservation area in the Farmland Preservation Plan. Additionally, the town does not participate in farmland preservation zoning, therefore there are no parcels within the Town of Plover that are zoned farmland preservation.





**SIGNIFICANT PARCEL LIMITATIONS OR NATURAL FEATURES:** The area proposed to be rezoned has both mapped floodplain (Zone A) and DNR mapped wetlands located on it as well as is nearly completely covered by the shoreland overlay areas from the river to the west of the parcel.



**Aerial Photo:**



Approximate location of Lot #2 (area to be rezoned) shown above in red – see preliminary CSM for more specific dimensions and details.





## TOWN RECOMMENDATION:

On January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the **Town of Plover** Town Board Recommended **Approval** to Marathon County's Environmental Resources Committee.

11) Is there anything else the Town wishes to present or comment on regarding this application to the Marathon County Environmental Resources (ERC) Committee?

No  Yes Explain: Please see #3. Sent a letter to surrounding neighbors, and did not receive any feedback or concerns.

The Town of Plover recommends:  **Approval**  **Disapproval** of the amendment and/or zone change.

OR  **Requests an Extension\*** for the following reasons: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Wis. Stats §59.69(5)(c), (3), and (3m) authorizes Towns to extend the time to disapprove a zone change for a total of thirty (30) days beyond the date of the public hearing. The extension must be by Town Board Resolution and remains in effect until the Town Board adopts a resolution rescinding the extension.

Clerk: Valerie Park

Town Board: Tom Karty  
Pat  
Scott Myhre

### Question #3-5 from the Town Resolution

3) Has the applicant determined that the land is suitable for the development proposed? Explain.

No  Yes Explain: The Board noticed there is wetland on this property, and is in floodplain, and may need flood insurance. Want to be sure

4) Has the applicant demonstrated what will have to be done so the development will not cause unreasonable air and water pollution, soil erosion, or adverse effects on rare or irreplaceable natural areas? Explain.

No  Yes Explain: See #3.

5) Is there any potential for conflict with existing land uses in the area?

No  Yes Explain: No.

→ this is noted somewhere for applicant and future builder to be aware of. Also, it appears there may be a land hook on the other side of South Pole Road (OVER) to this property.

Pg 1 of 2

### Staff Comments regarding ERC Conclusions of Law:

1. The rezoning is substantially consistent with the following plans. (note how the proposed relates to the future land use plan and the vision, goals, objectives, and policies of the plan)
  - a. [Marathon County](#) Comprehensive Plan
  - b. [Town](#) Comprehensive Plan and,
  - c. Marathon County [Farmland Preservation Plan](#).

The Marathon County Comprehensive Plan relies on the Town Comprehensive Plan regarding specific land uses and zoning districts for individual parcels. The area proposed to be rezoned is shown to be designated for single family residential and woodland land uses in the future land use map. CPZ staff rely on the towns to make these recommendations given the town board members and residents know their town and the true purpose and intent of the plan. The area proposed to be rezoned was not designated as a FP area in the FP plan and the town has recommended approval of the rezone in question as well as has stated the rezone is consistent with the Towns Comprehensive plan.

2. The location of the proposed development minimizes the amount of agricultural land converted and will not substantially impair or limit current or future agricultural use of other protected farmland.

There is no active cropland on the parcel proposed to be rezoned, area to be rezoned is adjacent to no active agricultural lands. Adjacent land uses appear to be woodlands and residential.

3. The applicant has demonstrated that...

- a. There is a need for the proposed development,
- b. Adequate public facilities are present or will be provided (*note impacts on roads, water, sewage, drainage, schools, emergency services, etc.*), and
- c. Providing public facilities will not be an unreasonable burden to the local government.

**a.** The need is related to a pending Certified Survey Map submitted to our department as well as a new proposed home on Lot #2, the current county zoning ordinance does not allow for more than one principle structure on a parcel/lot.

**b.** All necessary public facilities are anticipated to be provided (if not already provided) given any proposed development would rely of private systems such as a private well and sanitary system.

**c.** No anticipated burden on local government, all applicable building, construction, and use standards will be applied during the zoning and building permit review process.

4. The rezoning will not cause unreasonable air and water pollution, soil erosion, or adverse effects on rare or irreplaceable natural areas.

All Federal, State, and Local permits and approvals are required for any applicable development onsite. Additionally, the proposed rezone will likely not result in any unreasonable air and water pollution as all pertinent regulations apply and will need to be adhered to. Any disturbance greater than one acre would need a DNR Stormwater Management Permit.

5. The Town has approved the proposed rezone of the property.

The Town of Plover Town Board has recommended approval of this rezone petition.

6. All concerns from other agencies on the proposed rezone have been addressed? (*DNR, Highway, DOT*) What are the concerns?

The county was not made aware of any concerns from other agencies.

---

### **STAFF (CPZ) RECOMMENDATION(S):**

The rezone meets all the zoning district standards as it relates to size, frontage, access, and dimension. If approved, the Reid should update their comprehensive plan to reflect the proposed rezone to Low Density Residential from Rural Residential. The future and existing land use maps already reflect the residential uses onsite. The rezone also appears to be consistent with the purpose and intent of the Towns Comprehensive Plan as indicated by the town resolution and land use maps. There are mapped floodplain and wetland areas on the parcel in question therefore additional verification will need to be provided by the property owner prior to permit issuance for any new development onsite to ensure the proposal meets all applicable shoreland, shoreland-wetland, and floodplain standards and requirements. A LOMA was submitted and approved by FEMA 02/12/202.

Based on the information provided above, findings of fact, conclusions of law, and the town's recommendation, it appears the rezone request meets all of the rezone criteria and standards for rezoning. Therefore, CPZ staff recommend that the Environmental Resources Committee recommend **Approval** to the Marathon County Board of Supervisors.



**Case: #1**  
**Environmental Resources Committee**  
**Decision Form**

**Conclusions of Law**

Marathon County Environmental Resources Committee (ERC) must consider all of the following standards in their decision. Please review and explain how the request does or does not meet each of these standards.

To approve a rezone, ERC must answer 'agree' to each of these standards. If the ERC recommends approval, but answers 'disagree' to any of these questions, a plan/ordinance changes, and/or additional information is required to satisfy the criteria.

1. The rezoning is substantially consistent with the following plans. *(note how the proposed relates to the future land use plan and the vision, goals, objectives, and policies of the plan)*
- a. [Marathon County](#) Comprehensive Plan
  - b. [Town](#) Comprehensive Plan and,
  - c. Marathon County [Farmland Preservation Plan](#).

Agree       disagree       insufficient information

---

---

2. The location of the proposed development minimizes the amount of agricultural land converted and will not substantially impair or limit current or future agricultural use of other protected farmland.

Agree       disagree       insufficient information

---

---

3. The applicant has demonstrated that...

- a. There is a need for the proposed development,
- b. Adequate public facilities are present or will be provided *(note impacts on roads, water, sewage, drainage, schools, emergency services, etc.)*, and
- c. Providing public facilities will not be an unreasonable burden to the local government.

Agree       disagree       insufficient information

---

---

4. The rezoning will not cause unreasonable air and water pollution, soil erosion, or adverse effects on rare or irreplaceable natural areas.

Agree       disagree       insufficient information

---

---

5. The Town has approved the proposed rezone of the property.

Agree       disagree       insufficient information

---

---

6. All concerns from other agencies on the proposed rezone have been addressed? *(DNR, Highway, DOT)* What are the concerns?

Agree       disagree       insufficient information

---

---

**Environmental Resources Committee Decision**

On the basis of the above findings of fact, conclusions of law, and the record in this matter, the Marathon County Environmental Resources Committee finds that the rezoning is:

- Approved      Motion/      Second
- Denied, for the following reasons
- Tabled for further consideration

Specify reasons for denial, or additional information requested:

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- An amendment to the county comprehensive plan is needed to approve this petition.
- An amendment to the county farmland preservation plan is needed to approve this petition.

Describe recommended amendments:

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Signature:

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_





**Kocourek Properties LLC  
Petition to Rezone Land  
Revised Staff Report, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021  
Environmental Resources Committee**

**Findings of Fact**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/MEETINGS:**

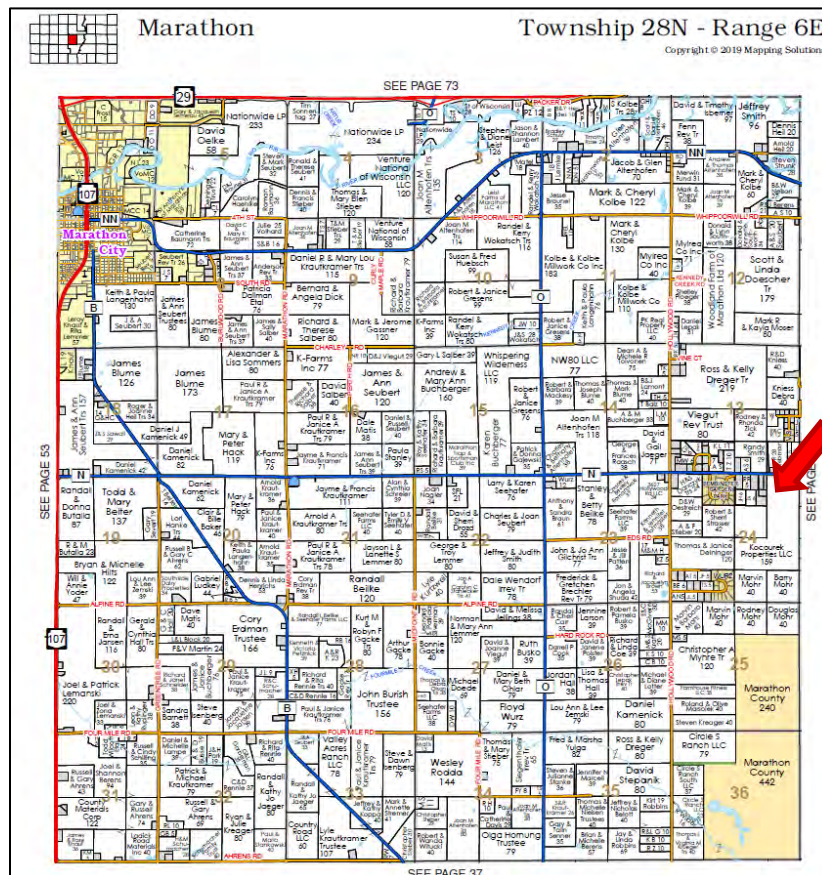
- Town of Marathon Town Board Meeting (January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021)
- Marathon County Environmental Resources Committee Meeting (February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 and March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021)
- *Pulled from 02/18/2021-02/25/2021 County Board agenda by applicant*

**PETITIONER:** Kocourek Properties LLC – 2727 N 20<sup>th</sup> Ave, Wausau WI 54401

**PROPERTY OWNER:** (Same) Kocourek Properties LLC – 2727 N 20<sup>th</sup> Ave, Wausau WI 54401

**LOCATION OF REZONE REQUEST:** Area proposed to be rezoned is located approximately along the western boundary line of the Town of Marathon (adjacent to the Town of Rib Mountain) along County Highway N. (See Map #1)

*Map 1: Location of Rezone Request*



**REQUEST:**

The petition of Kocourek Properties LLC to amend the Marathon County Zoning Ordinance to rezone lands from F-P Farmland Preservation to L-D-R Low Density Residential described as part of the NE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 24, Township 28 North, Range 06 East, Town of Marathon. The area proposed to be rezoned is described as Lot #2 (8.172 acres) on the Preliminary Certified Survey Map (CSM) submitted as a part of the rezone petition. Area to be rezoned is identified as part of Parcel PIN# 054-2806-241-0999; Address 146149 County Road N, Wausau WI 54401.



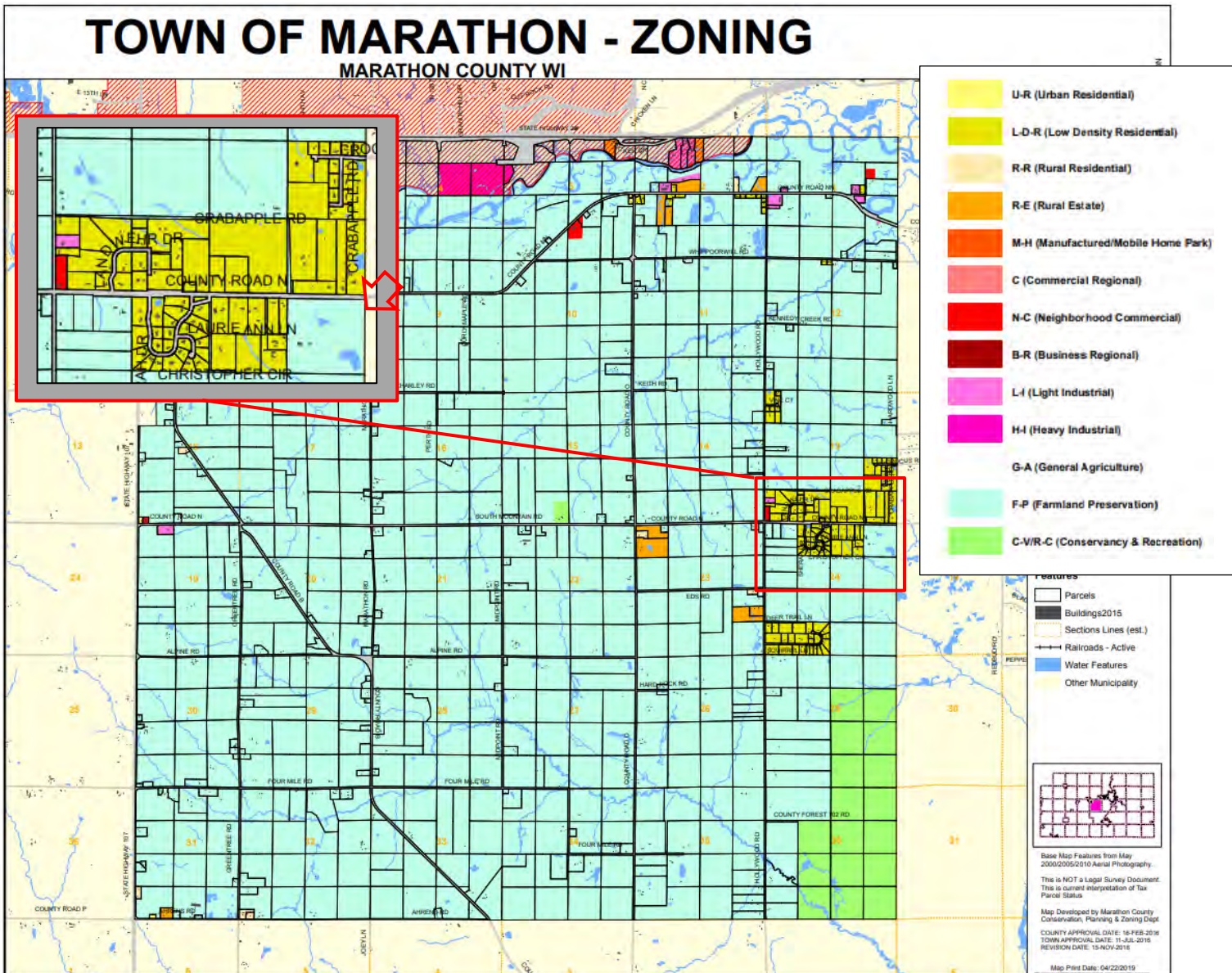
**EXISTING ZONING DISTRICT:**

**F-P: Farmland Preservation Zoning.** The intent of this district is to maintain highly productive agricultural lands in food and fiber production by effectively limiting encroachment of non-agricultural development and minimizing land use conflicts among incompatible uses. This district is not intended to accommodate non-agricultural growth.

**PROPOSED ZONING DISTRICT:**

**L-D-R Low Density Residential District.** The purpose of the L-D-R district is to accommodate single-family residential use along existing streets and to promote single-family residential development (involving the extension of new streets) where sanitary sewer and municipal water may be available. The densities are intended to provide for areas of suburban character in the community and to prevent excessive demands on sewerage and water systems, streets, schools, and other community facilities. The districts are intended to avoid overcrowding by requiring certain minimum yards, open spaces, and site area while making available a variety of dwelling types and densities to serve a wide range of individual requirements and thereby providing a more orderly and efficient extension of public facilities.

**EXISTING ZONING DISTRICT MAP:** Adjacent parcels are zoned General Agriculture (White), Low Density Residential (Yellow), and Light industrial (Pink). There are also Rural Residential and Rural Estate zoned parcels within close proximity to the area in question.

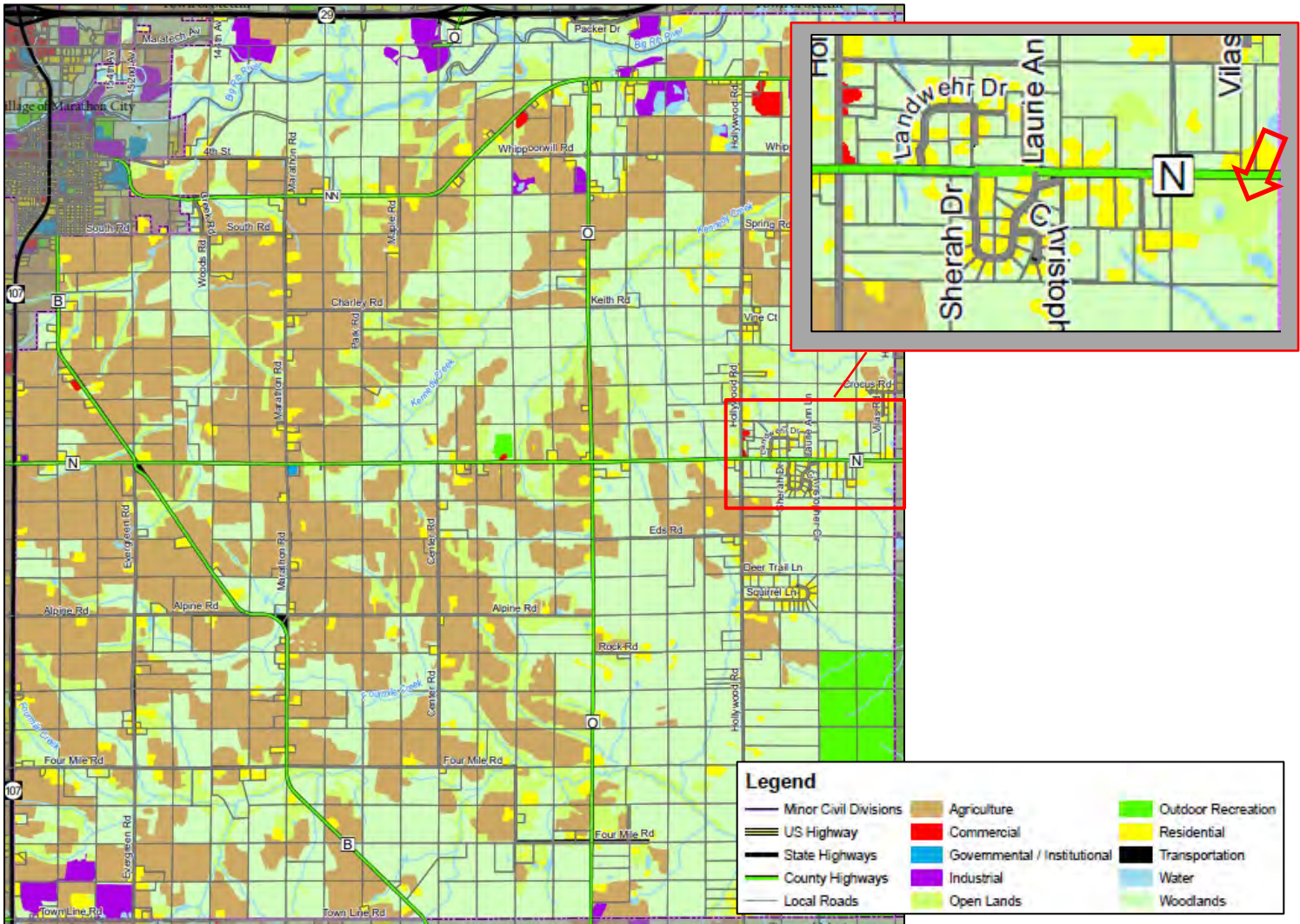




8.172 Acres

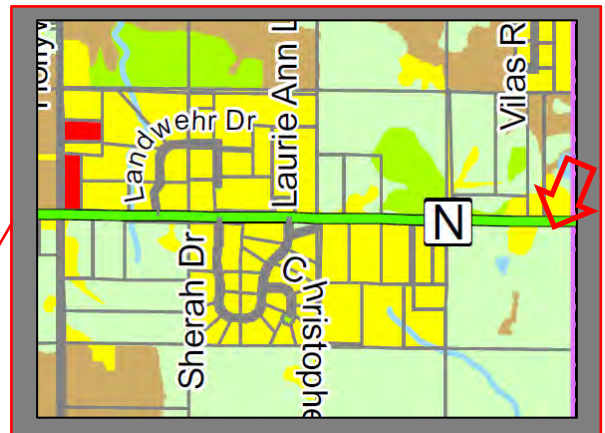
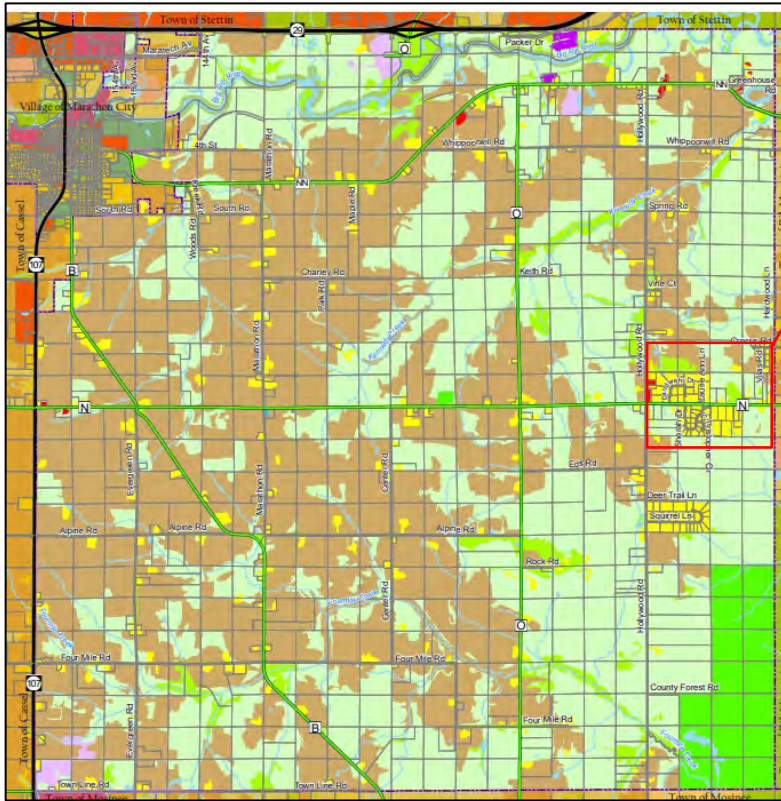
**Legal Notification:**  
A legal advertisement was published in the *Wausau Daily Herald*. Notice of the zoning change request was also sent by regular mail to adjacent property owners within 300 feet of the subject property.

**Existing (2000) Land Use/Land Cover Map – Town of Rib Falls (2017 Comprehensive Plan)** The area proposed to be rezoned is shown as Woodland and Open Land in the Town’s Comprehensive Plan Existing Land Use/Land Cover Map (2000). Whereas, adjacent land uses include Residential, Woodland, and Open Land Uses.

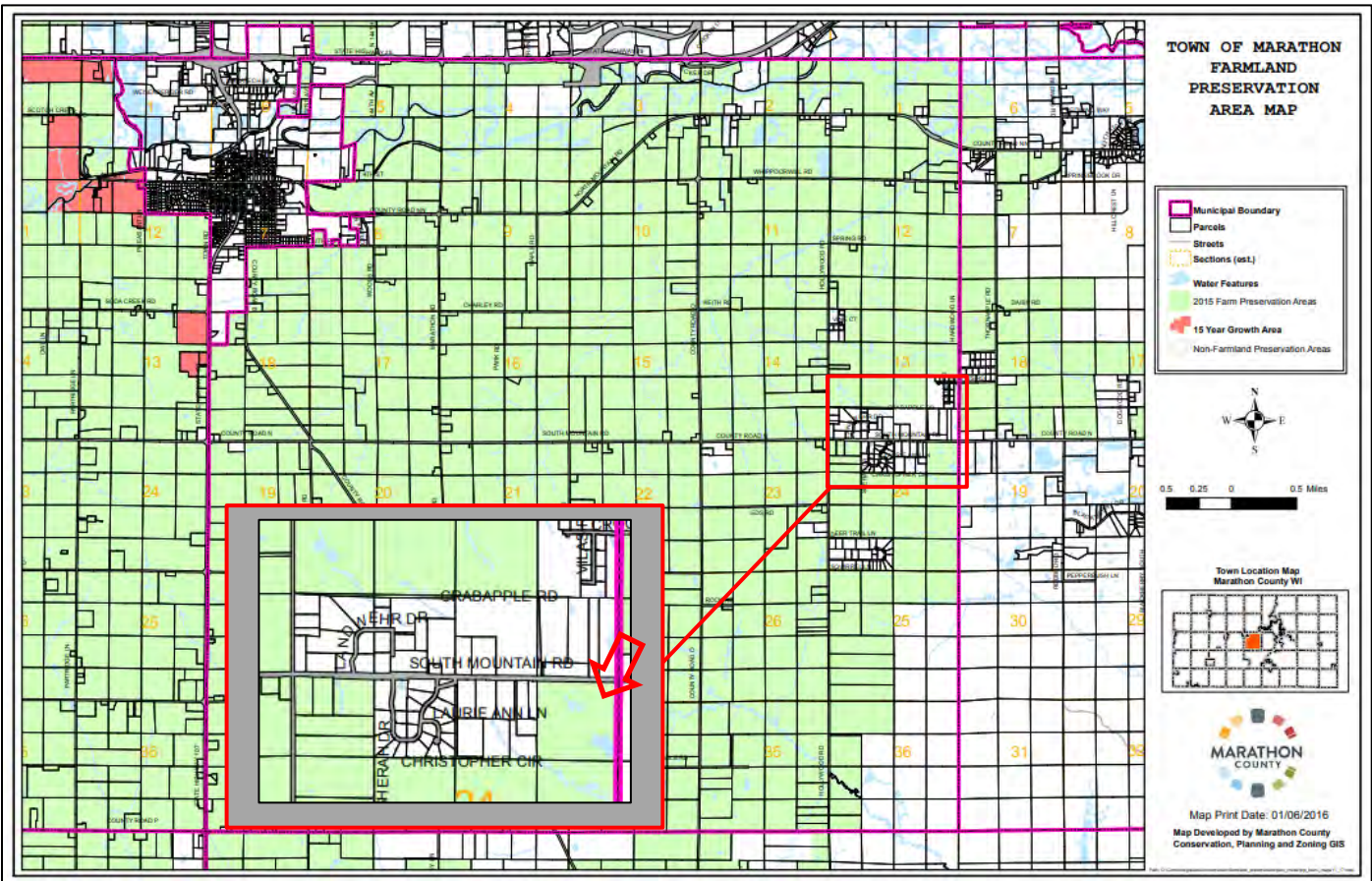




**TOWN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (2017) FUTURE LAND USE MAP (2006):** The area proposed to be rezoned is shown to be designated as Single Family Residential and Wood Land (Land Uses) in the Town's Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map. Whereas, adjacent land uses also include Woodland, Single Family Residential, and some Agricultural land uses.

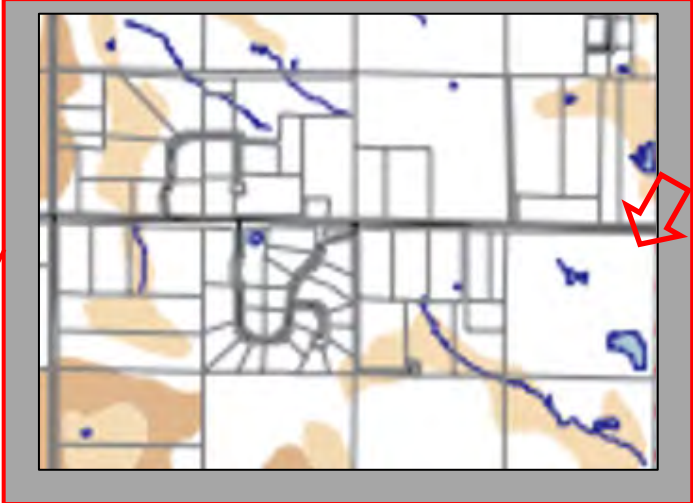
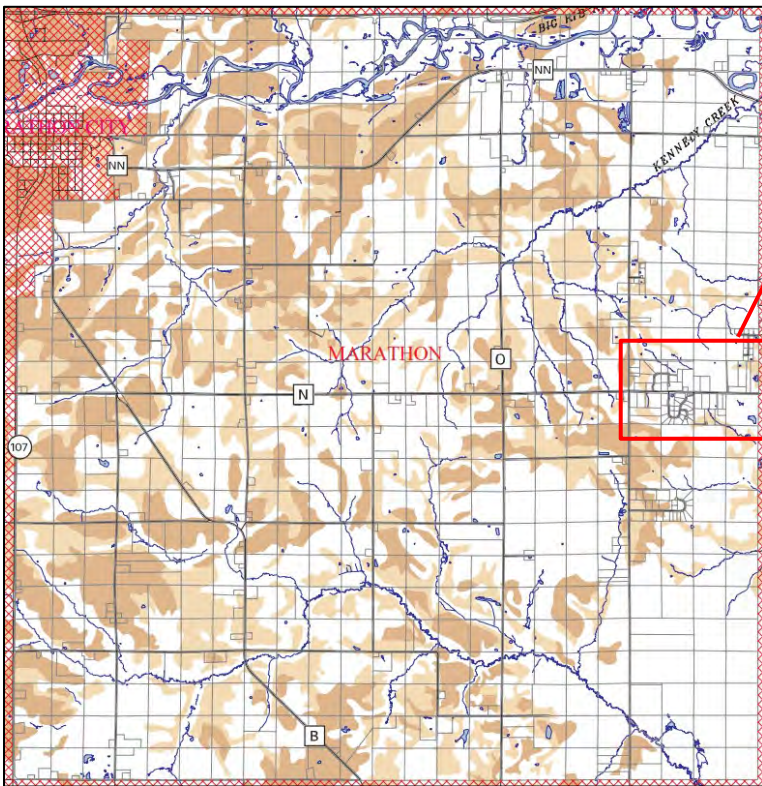


**FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN:** The area in question was designated as a farmland preservation area in the Farmland Preservation Plan



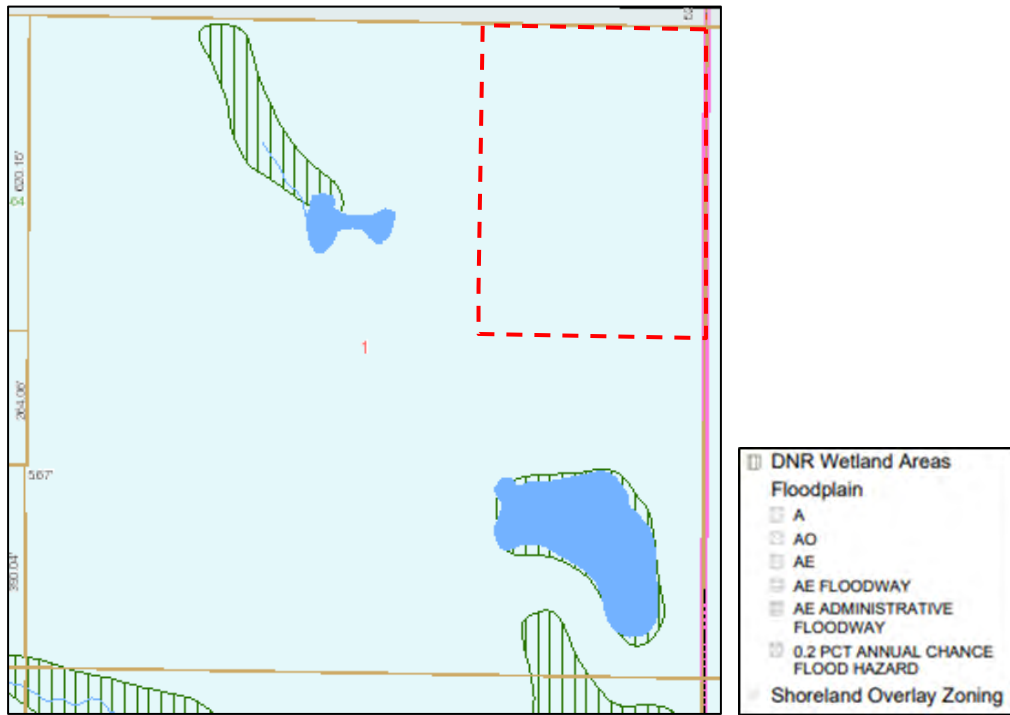


**Prime Farm Soils (Town of Marathon's Comprehensive Plan 2005):** There are no prime farm soils from either group 1 or group 2 in the area proposed to be rezoned.



- Group 1: The soils in this group are the very best in Marathon County. The USDA classification for these soils are prime farmland Class 2 due to climate and growing season length. They are well suited for growing all crops.
- Group 2: The soils in this group are very good agricultural soils. They also are designated as prime farmland Class 2. These soils differ by having restricted drainage. In wet years they are more difficult to work and crops needing well drained condition (alfalfa, ginseng) do very poorly.

**SIGNIFICANT PARCEL LIMITATIONS OR NATURAL FEATURES:** The area proposed to be rezoned has no mapped floodplain or DNR mapped wetlands. Yet the entire area proposed to be rezoned is shown to be included in the shoreland overlay from a nearby waterway.

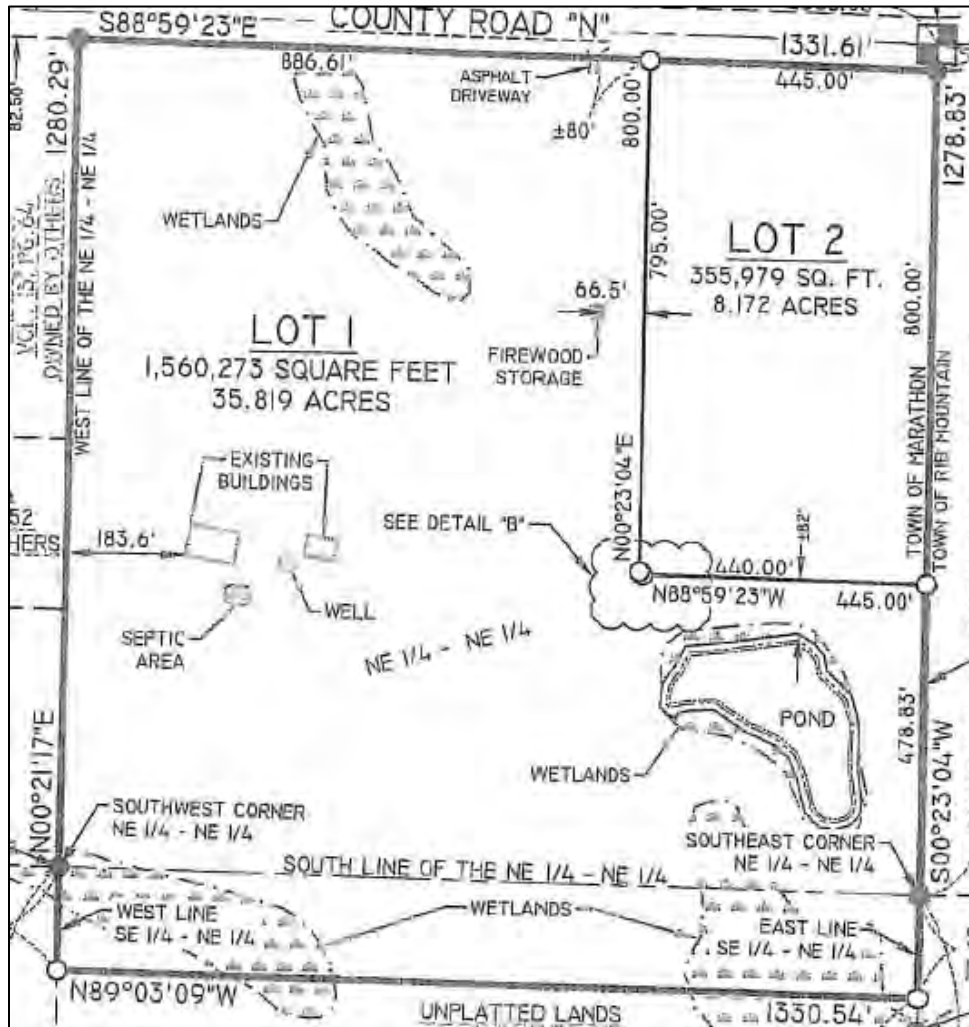


Red boundary shown above is approximate and should be used as a reference, for specific lot dimensions and location please see the preliminary CSM on the following page.

**Aerial Photo:**



**Preliminary Certified Survey Map:**



## TOWN RECOMMENDATION:

On January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 the **Town of Marathon** Town Board Recommended **Denial** to Marathon County's Environmental Resources Committee.

The Town of Marathon hereby has considered the following standards for rezoning above property (use additional sheets if necessary):

- 1) Has the applicant provided what public facilities and/or services currently serve the proposed development, what additional services may be required, and how the additional services will be provided?  
 No  Yes Explain: The Same as most rural development in the Town
- 2) Has the applicant demonstrated how the provision of the public facilities will not be an unreasonable burden to local government?  
 No  Yes Explain: The public facilities will not be adversely affected
- 3) Has the applicant determined that the land is suitable for the development proposed? Explain.  
 No  Yes Explain: It would appear there has been other development and will have little impact in the area
- 4) Has the applicant demonstrated what will have to be done so the development will not cause unreasonable air and water pollution, soil erosion, or adverse effects on rare or irreplaceable natural areas? Explain.  
 No  Yes Explain: Normal precautions would be taken
- 5) Is there any potential for conflict with existing land uses in the area?  
 No  Yes Explain: There is always potential for conflict but it appears to be low or minimal  
The conflict is more with allowing a smaller parcel when 35 acres is required and the Land owner has a large amount of property  

(OVER)
- 6) Has the applicant demonstrated the need for the proposed development at this location? Explain.  
 No  Yes Explain: The owner has several 40 acre properties that could be used
- 7) Has the applicant demonstrated the availability of alternative locations? Be specific  
 No  Yes Explain: he overlooked the options he has available
- 8) Is cropland is being consumed by this zone change? What is the productivity of the agricultural lands involved?  
 No  Yes Explain: No agriculture currently on the property but it could be use for agriculture
- 9) Has the applicant explained how the proposed development will be located to minimize the amount of agricultural land converted?  
 No  Yes Explain: No agriculture on site for a number of years the potential was not addressed
- 10) Is proposed rezone request consistent with the town's adopted Comprehensive Plan? Explain.  
 No  Yes Explain: It is in an area of the town that is more developed but all residents present were

Pg 1 of 2



11) Is there anything else the Town wishes to present or comment on regarding this application to the Marathon County Environmental Resources (ERC) Committee?

No  Yes Explain: The desire to retain the towns rural character and the town maintains a Board of will informed and diverse members

The Town of Marathon recommends:  Approval  Disapproval of the amendment and/or zone change.

OR  Requests an Extension\* for the following reasons: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Wis. Stats §59.69(5)(c), (3), and (3m) authorizes Towns to extend the time to disapprove a zone change for a total of thirty (30) days beyond the date of the public hearing. The extension must be by Town Board Resolution and remains in effect until the Town Board adopts a resolution rescinding the extension.

Clerk Kelley S Blum  
 Town Board Keith [unclear]  
David [unclear]  
Bonnie [unclear]

NOTE: If you recommend disapproval of this request, please make every effort to send a representative to the Environmental Resources Committee Public Hearing. Town input at the hearing is always appreciated.  
 Please return this form before January 13, 2021 to:

Marathon County Conservation, Planning and Zoning Department  
 210 River Drive  
 Wausau, WI 54403

RECEIVED  
 JAN 19 2021  
 MARATHON CO. CONSERVATION,  
 PLANNING & ZONING DEPT

→ CONCERNED about the small lot size

**Staff Comments regarding Town Supplied Resolution:**

1. (Yes) Agree – Noting “Same as most rural development in the Town.”
2. (Yes) Agree – Noting “The Public Facilities will not be adversely affected.”
3. (Yes) Agree – Noting “It would appear there has been other development and will have little impact in the area.”
4. (Yes) Agree – Noting “Normal precautions would be taken.”
5. (Yes) Disagree – Noting “There is always potential for conflict but it appears to be low or minimal. The conflict is more with allowing smaller parcel when 35 acres is required and land owner has large amount of property.”
  - The town acknowledges there is a low or minimal potential for conflict with adjacent land uses. The 35 acre minimum is in regard to the Farmland Preservation Zoning District not necessarily all parcels within the town.
6. (No) Disagree – Noting “The owner has several 40 acre properties that could be used.”
7. (No) Disagree – Noting “He overlooked the options he has available.”
  - Any alternatives that would be permitted without a rezone would require the parcel be at least 35 acres, for many reasons this may not be feasible (due to wetlands, easement requirements, additional cost, etc.)
8. (No) Agree – Noting “No agricultural currently on the property but it could be used for agriculture.”
9. (No) Disagree – Noting “No agriculture on site for a number of years the potential was not addressed.”
  - The Town agrees there is no agriculture onsite yet, the potential was not addressed during the meeting therefor they checked disagree.
10. (No) Disagree – Noting “It is in an area of the town that is more developed but all residents present were concerned about the small lot size.”
  - The Town acknowledges the area in question is within a more developed region of the town but the residents that were at the meeting were opposed to the smaller lot size, even though all the adjacent properties (in the town) are zoned LDR and are the same size or smaller than the proposed parcel (8 acres). There were no comments provided in the town resolution regarding specific goals or objectives the Town Comprehensive Plan, additionally the towns current and future land uses maps were not referenced.
11. Yes – Noting “The desire to retain the town’s rural character and the town maintains a board of will informed and diverse members.”
  - Rural Character can be interpreted to mean many things, yet the town has and needs to recognize areas of the town they would allow for more development and smaller parcel sizes. The area in question is one of those areas in the town that has existing cluster or residential parcels along a county highway as well as adjacent to the Town of Rib Mountain.

## Staff Comments regarding ERC Conclusions of Law:

1. The rezoning is substantially consistent with the following plans. (*note how the proposed relates to the future land use plan and the vision, goals, objectives, and policies of the plan*)
  - a. [Marathon County](#) Comprehensive Plan
  - b. [Town](#) Comprehensive Plan and,
  - c. Marathon County [Farmland Preservation Plan](#).

The Marathon County Comprehensive Plan relies on the Town Comprehensive Plan regarding specific land uses and zoning districts for individual parcels. The Town of Marathon Comprehensive Plan shows the area in question is intended to be Single Family Residential and Woodland Land Uses in their future land use map. The rezone appears to be partially consistent with the future land use map. Additionally, in Goal #2 “Encourage clustering of land uses.” within the Towns Comprehensive the town has a goal stating “To consider possible preferred areas for residential development.” The area in question is surrounded by L-D-R zoned parcels as well as parcels designated as Single Family Residential in the future land use map. Even though the area in question was designated as a farmland preservation area in the farmland preservation plan (like the majority of the town) there are no prime farm soils or active farmland on the area.

2. The location of the proposed development minimizes the amount of agricultural land converted and will not substantially impair or limit current or future agricultural use of other protected farmland.

Agricultural lands converted does appear to have been minimized as approximately 8 acres will be rezoned from Farmland Preservation and the area proposed to be rezoned is not actively being farmed. The area proposed to be rezoned is adjacent to the Town of Rib Mountain, the adjacent parcel of which is no currently being farmed and is woodland. Surrounding lands are either residentially zoned or woodland (existing quarry appears to be present east of the parcel in question within the Town of Rib Mountain). Area proposed to be rezoned will be buffered from adjacent uses and zoning districts by County Road N as well as the parent parcel which will continue to be zoned Farmland Preservation. Furthermore, and more importantly, there are not suitable soils on the parcel for agricultural production.

3. The applicant has demonstrated that...
  - a. There is a need for the proposed development,
  - b. Adequate public facilities are present or will be provided (*note impacts on roads, water, sewage, drainage, schools, emergency services, etc.*), and
  - c. Providing public facilities will not be an unreasonable burden to the local government.
- a. The need is related to creating a parcel for residential development and a pending CSM.
- b. Adequate public facilities are or will be present.
- c. No anticipated burden on local government, all applicable building, construction, and use standards will be applied during the zoning and building permit review process.

4. The rezoning will not cause unreasonable air and water pollution, soil erosion, or adverse effects on rare or irreplaceable natural areas.

All Federal, State, and Local permits and approvals are required for any applicable development onsite. Additionally, the proposed rezone will not result in any unreasonable air and water pollution as all pertinent regulations apply and will need to be adhered to. Agricultural uses onsite will not change. Any disturbance greater than one acre would need a DNR Stormwater Management Permit.

5. The Town has approved the proposed rezone of the property.

The Town of Marathon Town Board has recommended **Disproval** of this rezone petition.

6. All concerns from other agencies on the proposed rezone have been addressed? (*DNR, Highway, DOT*) What are the concerns?

The county was not made aware of any concerns from other agencies in regard to the rezone in question.



3. Except as provided under subd. 3m., if a town affected by the proposed amendment disapproves of the proposed amendment, the town board of the town may file a certified copy of the resolution adopted by the board disapproving of the petition with the agency before, at or within 10 days after the public hearing. **If the town board of the town affected in the case of an ordinance relating to the location of boundaries of districts files such a resolution, or the town boards of a majority of the towns affected in the case of all other amendatory ordinances file such resolutions, the agency may not recommend approval of the petition without change, but may only recommend approval with change or recommend disapproval.**

**3m.** A town may extend its time for disapproving any proposed amendment under subd. 3. by 20 days if the town board adopts a resolution providing for the extension and files a certified copy of the resolution with the clerk of the county in which the town is located. The 20-day extension shall remain in effect until the town board adopts a resolution rescinding the 20-day extension and files a certified copy of the resolution with the clerk of the county in which the town is located.

### **STAFF (CPZ) RECOMMENDATION(S):**

The rezone meets all the zoning district standards as it relates to size, frontage, access, and dimension. The rezone petition does appear to minimize the active agricultural lands converted as no active farmland will be converted and the remaining acreage will remain zoned Farmland Preservation. There does appear to be what looks like tree plantation/stand on the area proposed to be rezoned but there is no crop land present. If approved, the Town of Marathon should update their comprehensive plan to reflect the proposed rezone from Farmland Preservation to Low Density Residential. The future and existing land use maps should be revised to better reflect the approved rezone as well as the existing land uses on the parent parcel. The area proposed to be rezoned appears to be consistent with the goal of clustering residential developments given the surrounding parcels and their zoning district. Additionally, the rezone appears to be consistent with Goal #2 under the *Towns Comprehensive Plan Land Use Goals, Objectives, and Policies* given the proposed rezone is consistent with adjacent land uses and zoning districts. The area in question is already consistent with the existing development patterns and is clustered along a County Road (Cty Rd N) where other Low Density Residential parcels are located. Lastly the area in question has no prime farm soils from group 1 or 2.

Based on the information provided above, findings of fact, and conclusions of law it appears the rezone request meets the rezone criteria and standards for rezoning. Therefore, while taking into consideration Wis. Stat., 59.69(5)(e)(3), CPZ staff recommend that the Environmental Resources Committee either recommend **Approval with Change** to the Marathon County Board of Supervisors or **Postpone** the determination until the applicant and town have time to discuss available alternatives and options. A change in the zoning district, parcel size, parcel configuration, etc. could constitute a "Change" which could be included in a motion to recommend **Approval with Change**.

All things considered and given the town has already recommended disapproval and have filed a resolution with the County Clerk regarding this rezone, CPZ staff recommend the Environmental Resources Committee **Postpone** their determination until the next scheduled meeting to give the applicant, county, and town time to meet, discuss alternatives, options, and possible changes to the request.



**Case: #2**  
**Environmental Resources Committee**  
**Decision Form**

**Conclusions of Law**

Marathon County Environmental Resources Committee (ERC) must consider all of the following standards in their decision. Please review and explain how the request does or does not meet each of these standards.

To approve a rezone, ERC must answer 'agree' to each of these standards. If the ERC recommends approval, but answers 'disagree' to any of these questions, a plan/ordinance changes, and/or additional information is required to satisfy the criteria.

1. The rezoning is substantially consistent with the following plans. *(note how the proposed relates to the future land use plan and the vision, goals, objectives, and policies of the plan)*
- a. [Marathon County](#) Comprehensive Plan
  - b. [Town](#) Comprehensive Plan and,
  - c. Marathon County [Farmland Preservation Plan](#).

Agree       disagree       insufficient information

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2. The location of the proposed development minimizes the amount of agricultural land converted and will not substantially impair or limit current or future agricultural use of other protected farmland.

Agree       disagree       insufficient information

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3. The applicant has demonstrated that...

- a. There is a need for the proposed development,
- b. Adequate public facilities are present or will be provided *(note impacts on roads, water, sewage, drainage, schools, emergency services, etc.)*, and
- c. Providing public facilities will not be an unreasonable burden to the local government.

Agree       disagree       insufficient information

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4. The rezoning will not cause unreasonable air and water pollution, soil erosion, or adverse effects on rare or irreplaceable natural areas.

Agree       disagree       insufficient information

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5. The Town has approved the proposed rezone of the property.

Agree       disagree       insufficient information

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6. All concerns from other agencies on the proposed rezone have been addressed? *(DNR, Highway, DOT)* What are the concerns?

Agree       disagree       insufficient information

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**Environmental Resources Committee Decision**

On the basis of the above findings of fact, conclusions of law, and the record in this matter, the Marathon County Environmental Resources Committee finds that the rezoning is:

- Approved      Motion/      Second
- Denied, for the following reasons
- Tabled for further consideration

Specify reasons for denial, or additional information requested:

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- An amendment to the county comprehensive plan is needed to approve this petition.
- An amendment to the county farmland preservation plan is needed to approve this petition.

Describe recommended amendments:

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Signature:

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_



**Below is the link to the Draft Marathon County Chapter  
22 Shoreland, Shoreland- Wetland, Floodplain Code**

<https://bit.ly/35z5YAm>

**STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOMES – January – December 2020**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**NATURAL RESOURCES GOAL: The natural resources of Marathon County are managed in a balanced way so they are protected and preserved for current and future generations’ health, enjoyment, and benefit.**

**Objective 5.2: Provide sound land use decisions that conserve and preserve natural resources in decisions with economic development and growth.**

Strategy	Actionable Item	Contributors	Status	Action
A. Update existing land use policies to address sprawl and natural resource protection				
	a. Update of Land & Water Resource Management Plan	CPZ, Corp. Counsel, private surveyors	Completed	County Board approval February, 2021
	b. Annual Update of Zoning Ordinance	CPZ, Corp. Counsel	Completed	County Board approval February, 2021
	c. Petition for Zoning map amendments	CPZ, Coalition members, NCWRPC	23 petitions considered	County Board approvals Various dates
	d. Update of Animal Waste Management Ordinance	CPZ, Corp. Counsel	Completed	County Board approval June, 2020
	e. Applications for Subdivision Plat approval	CPZ, town planning committees and boards	1 application considered	ERC approval with no county board action required
	f. Adopting Marathon County Solid Waste Management Board Strategic Plan 2020-2025	Solid Waste	Completed	
	g. Update of the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2021-2035	PRF	Completed	County Board approval November 2020
B. Promote infrastructure development that protects natural resources				

**STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOMES – January – December 2020**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Actionable Item</b>	<b>Contributors</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Action</b>
	a. Developed plan modification for alternative cap for closure of Area B that would reduce need to mine local clay & use an local industrial byproduct	Solid Waste	In process	SWMB support Feb 2021; DNR determination Fall 2021
C. Identify and preserve unique regional areas for natural resources protection and environmental remediation.				
	a. Annual Update of Shoreland, Shoreland-Wetland, and Floodplain Code	CPZ, DNR	Completed	County Board Approval March, 2021
	b. Update County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan	PRF	Completed	County Board Approval November, 2020
D. Develop a land Capability Index	<b>Recommend removal from Comprehensive and Strategic Plan</b>			
E. Develop a comprehensive approach to redevelopment and revitalization of older housing stock and older buildings.	<b>Recommend removal from Comprehensive and Strategic Plan</b>			
F. Acquire land for public park and forest use to retain natural landscapes and resources				
	a. Land acquisition of 200 acres (CERES) through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant Program – County Forest use	PRF	Completed	County Board Approval March 2020
	b. 10 acres of SWD property now leased (10 year) as off-road cycling trail	Solid Waste	Completed	
	c. Ice Age Trail Alliance partnership with SWD as basecamp for trail crews	Solid Waste	Completed	



**STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOMES – January – December 2020**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

<b>Outcome Measure</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Contributors</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Outcome Measure 1</b>  By December 31, 2022, phosphorus from cropland and farmsteads in the Fenwood Creek Watershed will be reduced by 20% or 14,016 pounds.	70,080 pounds in 2018	CPZ	5,146 pounds to date (2018-2020)	Successful year in 2020 with plan & options to reach goal. ERC to discuss options for 2021 and 2022 to meet goal.
<b>Outcome Measure 2</b>  By December 31, 2022, four or more additional towns will adopt Marathon County Zoning Code.	18 of 40 towns in 2018	CPZ		Staff met with three towns (Bevent, Norrie, and Ringle) to discuss joining county zoning.
<b>Outcome Measure 3</b>  By December 31, 2022, an average of 320 acres of land per year will be acquired for the Marathon County Parks and Forest System.	4,273.91 Park acres and 30,194.79 Forest acres in 2018	PRF	Ongoing	<b>Land acquisition of 200 acres in 2020 through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant Program</b>

**STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOMES – January – December 2020**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**WATER RESOURCES GOAL: The water resources in Marathon County are of the highest quality for the safety of residents and the health of aquatic ecosystems and are protected from damaging behaviors like overuse and pollution.**

**Objective 6.3: Protect and enhance the quantity and quality of potable groundwater and potable surface water supplies**

Strategy	Actionable Item	Contributors	Status	Action
A. Update the 2001 Groundwater Protection Plan				
	a. Submitted a proposed project for the UW UniverCity Program for the Marathon County Groundwater Protection Plan	CPZ, Health, UW	Ongoing/ Covid-19 impacted	
B. Continue to develop and implement watershed management plans and Targeted Management plans to minimize the impacts on water quality				
	a. Urban Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Abatement and Stormwater Management (MS4) Grant in process	CPZ, Hwy, PRF, FCM, and CWA and consultant	Ongoing	
	b. Annual acceptance of Multi-discharger variance funds for use in the Fenwood Creek watershed	CPZ and DNR	Ongoing	ERC approval with no county board action required

**STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOMES – January – December 2020  
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Actionable Item</b>	<b>Contributors</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Action</b>
C. Evaluate the County’s role in conducting tests and analysis of contaminants in private wells and in evaluating whether such tests should be mandatory instead of voluntary				
	a. Covid-19 impacted item	CPZ, Health, UW	Delayed	
D. Explore alternative methods for snow and ice removal from hard surfaces to reduce the impacts of salt on surface water and groundwater				
	a. A proposed project has been submitted to the UW UniverCity program for “Road Salt Use”	CPZ, Highway	TBD	
E. Create new partnerships with agencies and organizations to further efforts to protect surface water and groundwater				
	a. Land and Water Resource Management Plan Advisory Committee helped develop LWRMP	CPZ	Completed	ERC, State Board, and County Board approval of LWRMP
	b. Continue to provide financial support and partner with Eau Pleine Partnership for Integrated Conservation, Golden Sands RC&D and various lake groups.			



**STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOMES – January – December 2020**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

<b>Outcome Measure</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Contributors</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>Outcome Measure 1</b></p> <p>By December 31, 2022, the Marathon County Board of Supervisors will adopt a groundwater protection plan that provides stated outcome measures of groundwater quality and quantity.</p>	<p>2001 Groundwater Protection Plan</p>	<p>CPZ, Health, UW</p>	<p>Ongoing, Covid-19 and staff vacancy impacted</p>	<p>Discussion to be held with ERC to discuss options to meet Strategy.</p> <p>Applied for UW UniverCity Program Project - 2020.</p>
<p><b>Outcome Measure 2</b></p> <p>By December 31, 2022, the number of Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) discharging sewage to the ground surface will be reduced by 750 systems or more.</p>	<p>1,250 systems in 2018</p>	<p>CPZ</p>	<p>325 of 750 of goal met</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>105 POWTS replaced in 2020 (325 Total from 2018-2020)</p>
<p><b>Outcome Measure 3</b></p> <p>By December 31, 2021, discharges of animal waste to surface and groundwater will be reduced by ensuring all idle animal waste facilities are closed in compliance with ordinance requirements.</p>	<p>40 animal waste facilities</p>	<p>CPZ</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>10 facilities closed in 2020 (25 closed since 2018)</p>



## MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

TO: Environmental Resources Committee

FROM: Paul Daigle-Land and Water Program Director

SUBJECT: Groundwater Plan

This is to inform you of the Groundwater Planning status in regards to the Strategic Plan goal of completion by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

As you are aware, CPZ staff has engaged Central Wisconsin Groundwater Center at UW-Stevens Point as well as researched Groundwater Plans in other counties within Wisconsin. There is no planning template available. In addition, the breadth and scope of the plan to be completed has not been addressed. In all honesty, this plan was set to be worked on by the Director along with CPZ staff and the Health Department staff during the year 2020, due to COVID-19 and an extended vacancy in the Director position, there simply was not time to do much work on the plan.

In 2021, CPZ staff are proposing to visit the breadth and scope of the plan to be developed, along with options for meeting the Strategic Plan goal of plan development. Health Department staff are not available to begin this task, due to COVID-19 priorities.

As a background, here is the link to the [2001 Groundwater Protection Plan](#). In addition the packet contains a spreadsheet from UW-Stevens Point illustrating all of the possibilities with the plan.

It is the intention of CPZ staff to develop the options the ERC requests and chooses to discuss and for the ERC to make a decision on the full breadth and scope of the plan by the May, 2021 meeting.



**OBJECTIVE 6.3: Protect and enhance the quantity and quality of potable groundwater and potable surface water supplies.**





## PROJECT DESCRIPTION FORM



*Complete this form for each proposed project.*

*E-mail completed forms to [gavin@cowi.org](mailto:gavin@cowi.org) by December 1, 2020*

<b>Project Title</b>	Marathon County Groundwater Protection Plan	
<b>Project Sponsor</b> <small>Authorizes project, provides resources, removes obstacles</small>	<i>Name</i>	Paul Daigle, Land and Water Program Director
	<i>Email address</i>	paul.daigle@co.marathon.wi.us
	<i>Phone number</i>	715.261.6006
	<i>Communication preference</i>	Email or phone
<b>Project Lead</b> <small>Main point of contact for faculty and students.</small>	<i>Name</i>	Jeffrey M. Pritchard, Planning Analyst
	<i>Email address</i>	jeff.pritchard@co.marathon.wi.us
	<i>Phone number</i>	715.261.6042
	<i>Communication preference</i>	Email or phone
<b>Oversight Committee</b> <small>Who else from the community or your local government should be involved?</small>	<i>Name</i>	Environmental Resource Committee
	<i>Meeting schedule</i>	Meet monthly
<b>Project Description</b> <small>What questions need answering? What goals need to be achieved? Why do this now? What has already been tried?</small>	The need for clean groundwater is both a health and economic issue. Groundwater quality and quantity, in both rural and urban areas can vary by location and by season within the county. Where groundwater becomes polluted, property values drop and a natural resource is diminished from its full potential. Local land use activities can significantly influence groundwater quality and quantity in terms	

	<p>of whether a valuable resource is protected and how all key stakeholders have an important role in its protection.</p> <p>Groundwater is the major source of 17 municipal-owned and operated water treatment facilities for public water supply for domestic, and industrial use in Marathon County. Groundwater is also the primary source for private, domestic, industrial, and agricultural water supplies not served by a municipal water source. According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), drinking water well data, wells constructed since 1987 for private homeowners, there have been approximately 11,470 new private water wells constructed in the Marathon County. The availability of groundwater varies across the county depending on the local geology. Areas along the Wisconsin and Rib Rivers provide ample water supply from alluvial aquifers; however, adequate groundwater is limited in parts of the county where dense bedrock is close to the surface.</p> <p>According to WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection website, 4,395 acres of land in west central Marathon County is located in an Atrazine Prohibited Area. The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Center for Watershed Science and Education, WI Well Water Quality Viewer indicates of 93 samples tested for atrazine, 21 samples or 23 percent detected atrazine while 4 samples or 4% exceeds the 3.0 ppb total atrazine standard. In addition, 1,256 samples were tested for Nitrate, 116 or 9% exceeds the health standard of &gt;10mg/l N. A total of 540 samples were tested for bacteria, 121 or 22% tested positive for bacteria while 81 samples were tested for E. coli, 9% of the 81 samples tested positive.</p> <p>Drinking water quality data for Marathon County is limited and requires careful consideration to determine whether a well testing program is required to make better-informed decisions regarding public health.</p> <p>The 2018-2022 Marathon County Strategic Plan identifies water quality and quantity as a priority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Objective 6.3: Protect and enhance the quantity and quality of potable groundwater and potable surface water supplies.</li> </ul> <p>Supporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strategy A – calls for the 2001 Groundwater Protection Plan to be updated by the end of 2022.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Final Deliverable(s)</b>          What should students produce?          Report? Video? Spreadsheet?          Presentation?</p>	<p>Update the existing Plan elements with 2020 data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction and recommendations</li> <li>- Groundwater recommendations for Marathon County</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The need for Groundwater Protection</li> <li>- Description of physical resources</li> <li>- Water use and land use trends</li> <li>- Contamination sources and issues</li> <li>- <i>Current water quality lab databases and water quality monitoring (Health Department/Stevens Point)</i></li> <li>- Preventative actions</li> <li>- Recommendations to existing wellhead protection plans</li> <li>- <i>Create/Revise GIS maps – groundwater flow, geology, and depth to groundwater</i></li> <li>- Identify existing gaps in terms of protecting groundwater quality and quantity</li> <li>- <i>Develop ‘General Groundwater Yield’ map</i></li> <li>- <i>Develop groundwater watershed map</i></li> <li>- <i>Develop interactive groundwater mapping website</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Project Implementation</b> What would successful implementation of this project look like in the community?</p>	TBD...
<p><b>Project Budget</b> How much could the community allocate to project implementation?</p>	Funded under the Environment Focus Area
<p><b>Data</b> What information can the community share with students? What information should students collect?</p>	Marathon County can share the 1988 Groundwater Plan and the 2001 Groundwater Protection Plan. The county can share associated GIS data related to groundwater. The county Health Department can share groundwater quality test data.



	Pre-Planning	Data Collection and Analysis	Visioning and Issue Identification	Goals, Objectives and Strategies	Plan Review and Approval	Plan Implementation
<b>Planning Tasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>x Develop planning process</li> <li>x Public participation plan</li> <li>x Timeline</li> <li>x Budget</li> <li>x Responsibilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>x Review existing plans</li> <li>x Identify data and information needs</li> <li>x Collect and analyze data</li> <li>x Develop interactive mapping website</li> <li>? <i>Conduct stakeholder analysis</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? <i>Develop vision</i></li> <li>x Identify and prioritize issues</li> <li>x Identify additional data needs</li> <li>? <i>Develop scenarios</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>x Develop goals and measurable objectives</li> <li>x Identify and prioritize policies, strategies and action</li> <li>? <i>Test public acceptance of policies</i></li> <li>x Recommend policies</li> <li>? <i>Identify indicators for long-term monitoring</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>x Present plan for review</li> <li>x Revise plan as needed</li> <li>x Adopt plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update ordinances</li> <li>Develop programs</li> <li>Track indicators</li> </ul>
<b>Public Participation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>x County board approval</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>x Review data with stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? Citizen advisory committee</li> <li>? General public outreach</li> <li>? Targeted stakeholder involvement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? Citizen advisory committee</li> <li>? General public outreach</li> <li>? Targeted stakeholder involvement</li> <li>? Public opinion survey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? Citizen advisory committee</li> <li>? General public outreach</li> <li>? Open house</li> <li>x Public hearing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Citizen advisory committee</li> <li>General public outreach</li> </ul>
<b>Deliverables</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan for Planning</li> <li>▪ Elements listed above</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#1 Groundwater Inventory</li> <li>▪ Background data</li> <li>▪ Maps</li> <li>Interactive Mapping Website</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#2 Issues and Trends Report</li> <li>▪ Groundwater vision</li> <li>▪ Issues and priorities</li> <li>▪ Possible scenarios</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#3 Recommendations Report</li> <li>▪ Goals and objectives</li> <li>▪ Policy options</li> <li>▪ Possible survey results</li> <li>Strategic Prioritization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Groundwater Plan</u> is compilation of Milestone Reports 1-3</li> <li><u>Protection Guide</u> is short, visual, action-oriented guide for stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider updates related to:</li> <li>▪ Zoning ordinance</li> <li>▪ Subdivision ordinance</li> <li>▪ Wellhead protection ordinance</li> </ul>

General public outreach	Targeted stakeholder engagement			Citizen Advisory Committee
<p>Purpose: awareness, interaction, input</p> <p>County takes lead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Newsletter/newspaper articles</li> <li>▪ Outreach to local governments</li> <li>▪ Outreach to existing groups</li>   <li>▪ Attend existing community events</li> <li>▪ Open house</li> <li>▪ Public hearing</li> <li>▪</li> <li>▪</li> <li>▪</li> <li>▪</li> <li>▪</li> </ul>	<p>Purpose: major opportunity for public input</p> <p>Facilitated by CLUE and project coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regional or watershed approach lends well to visioning and issue identification</li> <li>▪ Interest-based approach lends well to action-planning</li> </ul>			<p>Purpose: steer input and decision-making</p> <p>Supported by project coordinator</p> <p>Need to discuss role and composition</p> <p>Representatives from stakeholder groups</p>
	<p><u><i>I a. Regional approach:</i></u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Antigo Flats</li> <li>2. Heart of America</li> <li>3. Wisconsin River Influence</li> <li>4. Wisconsin Central</li> <li>5. Lumberjack</li> <li>6. Eastern Lakes</li> </ol> <p><u><i>I b. Subwatersheds:</i></u></p>	<p><u><i>II. Central, interest-based approach:</i></u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Local government</li> <li>2. Business and industry</li> <li>3. Agriculture</li> <li>4. Natural resources/environment</li> <li>5. Large forested landowners</li> </ol>	<p><u><i>III. Hybrid meeting approach:</i></u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Northwest (agriculture focus)</li> <li>2. Central (urban focus)</li> <li>3. Southeast (lakes and forests focus)</li> </ol>	

**MARATHON COUNTY GROUNDWATER PLANNING: COMPARING PROJECT CONCEPTS AND PACKAGES**

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES	COST LEVEL	PRIORITY LEVEL	PROJECT ALTERNATIVES									NOTES
			Basic	Intermediate				Advanced	Comprehensive			
				(A) Stakeholder Workshops	(B) Social Science Research	(C) Expanded Mapping	(D) Protection Guide			(A), (D)	(A), (C), (D)	
<b>Project Coordinator</b>												
- Manage planning process, connect project partners, and support citizen's advisory committee	In Kind - \$\$\$	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	An appropriate local professional will spend 25% time performing ongoing management of the planning process. They will coordinate between project partners, support the citizen's advisory committee, aid in plan writing and public engagement, and provide additional project assistance as needed.
<b>Undergraduate Students</b>												
- Assist with data collection and analysis: socioeconomic data, spatial data, and simple values/priorities survey	\$	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Undergraduates will: study existing groundwater plans and best practices; characterize current conditions including water quality, demographic, economic, and spatial trends; conduct a simple survey of stakeholder priorities; and suggest potential project goals, objectives, and implementation strategies
<b>CLUE Staff</b>												
- Create basic groundwater plan	\$	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	CLUE staff will lead plan writing and public engagement efforts. The basic plan would include a data inventory, issues and trends analysis, and recommendations report (see deliverables in the Process table). Basic public engagement would include 2-3 targeted stakeholder workshops on priority topics. Advanced public engagement would include 4-6 stakeholder workshops covering a broader range of topics or geographies (see options in Public Participation table). The optional groundwater protection guide would be a user-friendly, action-oriented guide to implementation. Potential graduate student advising opportunities are described below.
- Conduct basic public engagement (2-3 workshops)	\$	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
- Conduct advanced stakeholder engagement (4-6 workshops)	\$\$	2		x				x	x	x	x	
- Advise graduate student research	In Kind	4			x					x	x	
- Create groundwater protection guide	\$	2					x	x	x	x	x	
<b>CWSE</b>												
- Incorporate current data	\$ - \$\$	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Involvement by CWSE could fall along a wide range of duration and complexity. The simplest option is a one-time exchange and upload of historical water quality data to the CWSE well water viewer. A more intensive option is an ongoing agreement to share and upload future county data at scheduled intervals, requiring a different budget over a longer timeframe. The most complex option is graduate student advising as described below.
- MOU for ongoing data exchange	\$\$ - \$\$\$	3				x			x	x	x	
- Advise graduate student research	In Kind	5									x	
<b>CLUE Graduate Student</b>												
- Conduct advanced stakeholder analysis: expanded survey, interviews, focus groups, social network analysis, SWOT analysis, etc.	\$\$\$	4			x					x	x	The CLUE graduate student would conduct in-depth social science analysis of groundwater planning and management in Marathon County over a two year period. Key areas of research could include: What policies and strategies have the strongest support, and why? What stakeholders are the most influential, and how can they best be involved? How have other communities achieved success, and what can we learn from them?
<b>CWSE Graduate Student</b>												
- Monitor, analyze, and visualize longitudinal trends in water quality, including county-specific interactive mapping	\$\$\$	5									x	The CWSE graduate student would conduct longitudinal water quality data analysis and create county-specific interactive mapping products. Key areas of research could include: How is water quality changing over time? Are policies and planning actions achieving benchmark metrics? What are spatial patterns in water quality and quantity and their with land use, management actions, etc.?
<b>ROUGH COST RANGE*</b>			\$30k - \$70k	\$40k - \$80k	\$90k - \$130k	TBD**	\$40k - \$80k	\$50k - \$90k	TBD**	TBD (min. \$110k)	TBD (min. \$170k)	

Cost Levels:  
 In Kind = staff time credited toward project budget  
 \$ = 0 - \$10,000  
 \$\$ = \$10 - \$50,000  
 \$\$\$ = \$50,000+  
 \*Ranges depend upon availability of in-kind project coordination

Priority Levels:  
 1 = highest priority, 5 = lowest priority









Private Wells  
Groundwater Quality

Interpret Wells Datasets

Select Basemap:

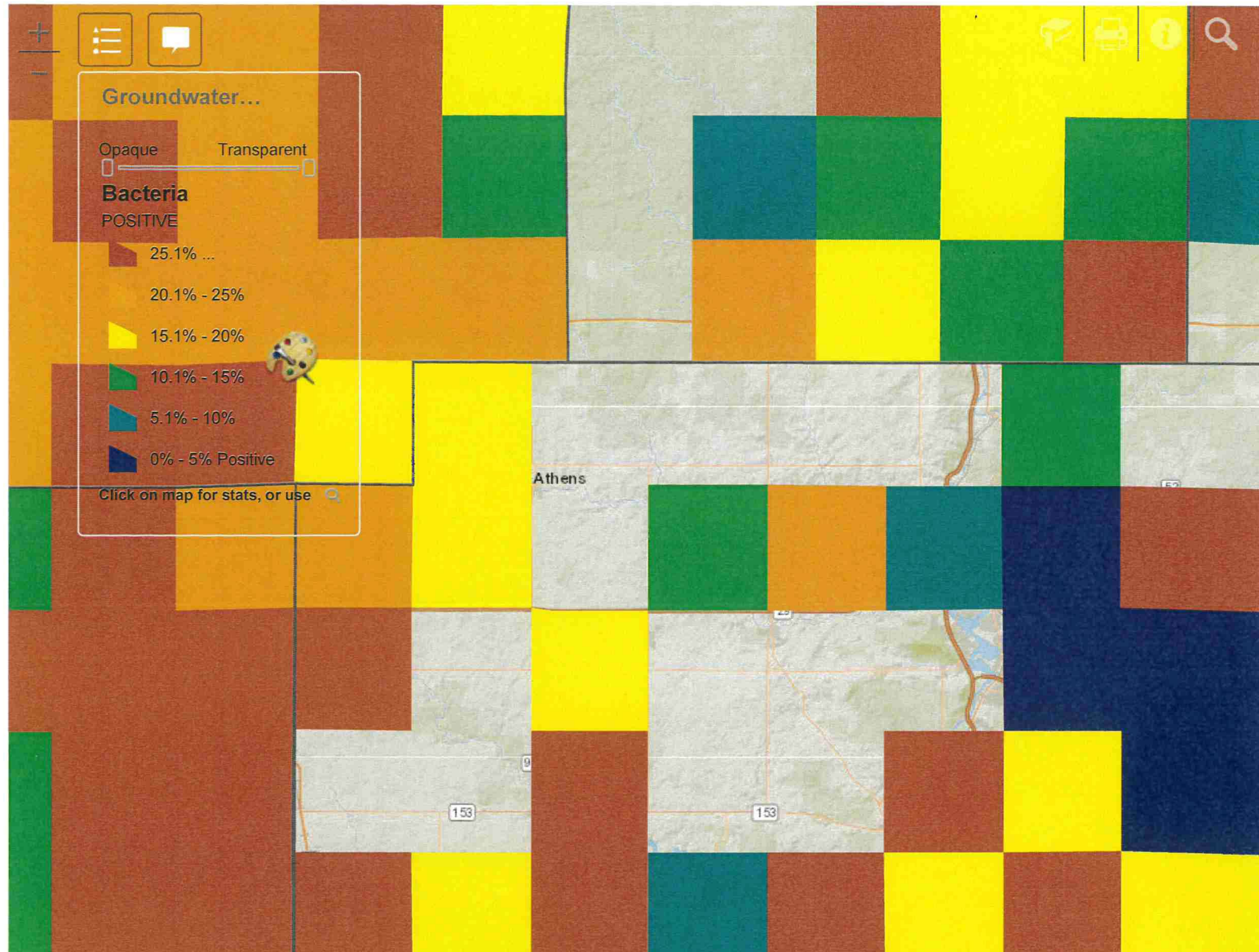
Boundary Layers:

Display by:

- County
- Township
- Section

Parameter:

- Alkalinity
- Arsenic
- Arsenic-Max
- Atrazine
- Bacteria
- Chloride
- Conductivity
- Copper
- Iron
- Lead
- Manganese
- Nitrate
- Nitrate-Exceedence
- pH
- Saturation Index
- Sulfate
- Total Hardness



**Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department**  
**2020 County Forest Division Annual Report**

January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020

**Program Highlights:**

- Net timber sale revenue to Marathon County of \$369,888.15.
- Total net revenue for the Forestry Division program was \$433,195.41 and expenses were \$359,928.74. Returned \$73,266.67 to the general fund.
- Purchased 200 acres of land in the Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit to add to the County Forest.
- Practiced sustainable forestry on 364 acres on the Marathon County Forest. This is based on closed out sales with DNR in 2020.
- Completed a third party Sustainable Forest Initiative(SFI) Certification field audit that showed County Forest management meets or exceeds all standards for the second straight year.
- Received 696 hours of WDNR technical and field assistance in completing work on the Marathon County Forest.
- Continued participation as a member of the Wisconsin County Forests Association Forest Legislative/Certification and other Committees.
- Completed the revision of the 15-year County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2021-2035 which was adopted by both the County Board and Department of Natural Resources.
- Continued participation in the County Forest Administrator grant program that funds one-half the salary and fringe benefits of the Forest Administrator position.
- Resurfaced 1.55 miles of roads and trails in LeatherCamp and Kronenwetter Forest Units adding 2322 yards of granite.
- The pandemic forced cancellations of many mountain bike, cross country ski, and competitive cross country running and relay races at Nine Mile Forest.
- The closure of the Verso Paper mills in Wisconsin Rapids and Duluth significantly reduced pulp markets, lowered stumpage prices and made it a challenge for timber producers to market their wood.
- Regulated uses at Nine Mile County Forest Recreation Area to allow all user groups to have safe and quality recreation experiences.



**Land Holdings:**

Acreeage in 2020:

County Forest - Regular County Forest Law	30,042.53
County Forest - Special County Forest Law	<u>631.77</u>
Total County Forest	30,674.30

**Other Land Holdings:**

Parking & road access	8.59
Farm Lease	80.00
McMillan Marsh Lease (DNR)	1,661.40
Under water, island & wetlands	192.74
Railroad ROW/Snowmobile Trail	<u>85.04</u>
Total Other Lands	2,027.77

**Total Lands Managed: 32,702.07 Acres**

**Timber Management, Cultural Projects, and Reforestation:**

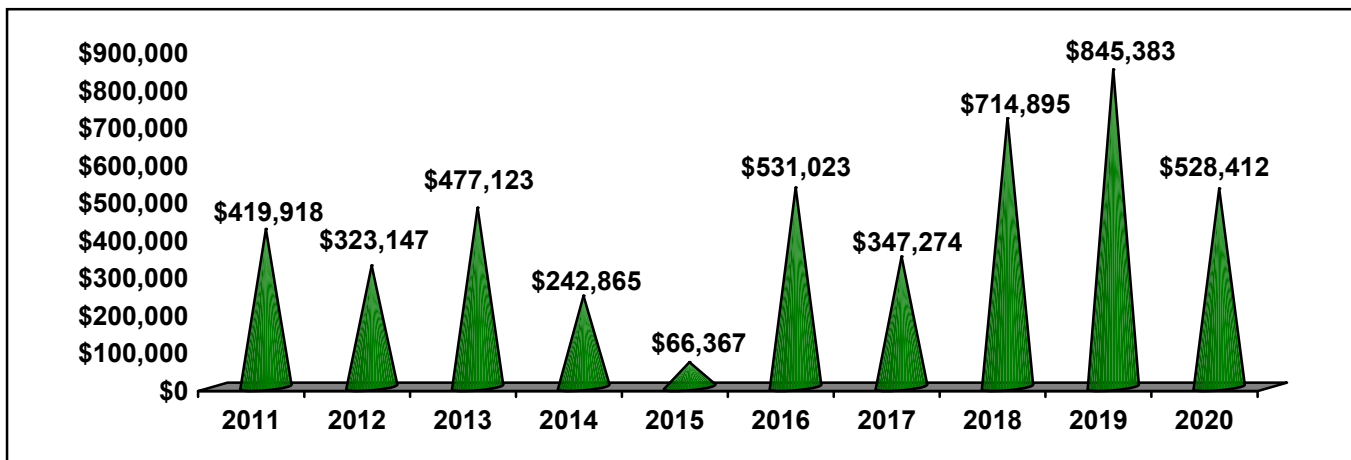
**Timber Sales:**

Timber sales generated 6496 cords of pulpwood and 108,000 board feet of logs worth \$528,411.64 (unaudited) in 2020. The following is a listing of the gross value of timber cut from the forest over the past 10 years:

2011	\$419,917.34	2016	\$531,022.66
2012	\$323,146.07	2017	\$347,274.04
2013	\$477,122.61	2018	\$714,895.21
2014	\$242,865.33	2019	\$845,383.37
2015	\$66,366.74	2020	\$528,411.64

**Marathon County Forest**

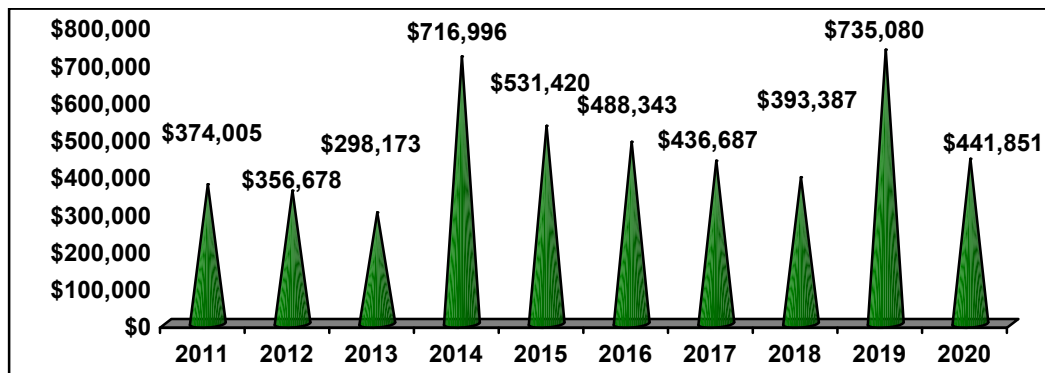
Timber Sales Annual Gross Revenue – Cut and Hauled



**Other Timber Sale Data:**

New sales – 10 were established on 662 acres with 13,935 cords appraised at \$462,687.50.

**Marathon County Forest**  
Timber Sales Annual Sold Value



1. Sold sales - 10 of 10 sales advertised were sold in 2020 for a value of \$441,850.75.
2. Uncompleted timber contracts – 30 on 2,024 acres with 34,743 cord equivalents worth \$1,281,276.40.
3. Cut volume reports filed with DNR (form 2460):
  - Final reports – 6 sales worth \$310,827.63.
  - Partial reports - 0 sales worth \$0.
4. Severance paid to DNR on interest free loans \$62,165.53.
5. Severance Tax Escrow for Town payments (10% of gross receipts) \$52,841.16.
6. Firewood permits – 7 permits were issued worth \$210.00.
7. New sale establishment – evaluated 665 acres for potential sale (established 662 acres).
8. Forest reconnaissance – updated 2547 acres.
9. Completed forest inventories at Ashley, Dells of the Eau Claire, Big Rapids and Rib Falls County Parks.
10. Administered a 23 acre timber sale at Mission Lake County Park.

**Cultural Projects:**

1. Classified forest habitat types on 155 acres for inclusion in our GIS database.
2. Monitored for additional oak wilt areas in Nine Mile and Kronenwetter Forest Units.
3. No new pockets of oak trees were identified in Nine Mile infected with the oak wilt fungus. Monitoring for new pockets will be done in 2021.
4. Utilized remaining funds of a two-year \$31,200 Sustainable Forestry grant to control invasive species and unwanted shrubs on several areas of the forest to promote hardwood and oak regeneration at the Kronenwetter and Leather Camp Forest Units. The grant treated a total of 61 acres.
5. Completed deer browse surveys at Big Eau Pleine County Park. This will continue in 2021 and beyond.
6. Completed deer browse surveys on the Marathon County Forest.

**Reforestation:**

1. Planted 500 red pine at Nine Mile and Miller Forest Units.

**Road, Trail, and Facility Construction and Maintenance:**

1. APHIS trapped 28 beaver and removed 26 dams at problem locations in the county forest. Nine dams were blown using dynamite.
2. Replaced 7 culverts at Nine Mile, Leather Camp, and Kronenwetter Forest Units and added granite in problem locations.
3. Brushed approximately 2 miles of roads and trails in the Ringle Forest Unit.
4. Placed 2622 yards of granite, road base and breaker on forest trails in the Burma Road and Elderon Forest Units.
5. Completed repairs to dikes and water control structures from muskrat and beaver damage.
6. Reconstructed several segments of Nine Mile ski trails to improve drainage and level the surface including repairs to several sections due to heavy use and erosion.
7. Performed normal maintenance on 190 miles of forest roads and trails.
8. Graded several sections of the Burma Road ATV trails to prevent erosion.
9. Inspected County Forest boundaries to control encroaching land uses.
10. Created a new parking area at the Kronenwetter Forest Unit.
11. Repaired two rock fords that included ditching to prevent water erosion at Kronenwetter Forest Unit.
12. Repaired gates on roads and trails that access the County Forest.
13. Repaired deer exclusion fences at Big Eau Pleine Park. They are installed to collect data on deer browsing.

**Administration:**

1. Continued the utilization of the DNR forestry reconnaissance program (WisFIRS).
2. Evaluated two parcels for potential land acquisition as an addition to County Forest land.
3. Applied and received an \$186,152.50 Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant to help in the purchase 200 acres of land to add to the Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit.
4. Revised the Event and Use Regulations policy for Nine Mile County Forest to minimize user conflicts and balance the competing uses.
5. Developed policy and implemented principals of Forest Certification - Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) on the Marathon County Forest.
6. Completed the revision of the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2021-2035 to reflect forest certification, language and policy changes.
7. Located and assisted in the purchase of approximately 100 cords of firewood for campers for use at the County Park campgrounds.
8. Our Recreational Safety Deputies confiscated four illegal tree stands. They monitored sites where illegal tree stands/trail cameras were placed on County Forest Land. They investigated complaints of vehicle, vandalism, illegal dumping and criminal activities issuing four ordinance violations and numerous warnings. At Nine Mile Forest Unit, Deputies conducted patrols checking for cross country ski and mountain bike passes issuing multiple warnings. Completed regular patrols at nearly every forest unit and assisted in locating three lost hiker/hunters.
9. Issued four ATV/UTV disabled person access permits to people with disabilities for County Forest access.
10. Revisions were drafted to Chapter 16 of the County Forest Ordinances and were adopted by County Board in early 2021.
11. Held quarterly meetings with the Forest Citizen's Advisory Subcommittee to discuss forestry and recreation issues.



**Wildlife and Fisheries Management:**

In cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources:

1. Maintained 17 flowages.
2. Mowed forest openings, Nine Mile and Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit flowage dikes and the Bitzke Bird Walk trail.
3. Several beaver were trapped by APHIS that were causing damage at waterfowl flowages.
4. Mowed most forest unit trails suitable for mowing.
5. Treated 13 out of 72 forest openings in the forest units by either mowing or applying herbicides. Several other openings were field checked and didn't require treatment.
6. Poor winter conditions prevented shearing of tag alder in the Leather Camp Forest Unit to create habitat for grouse, woodcock and other early successional species. Shearing will continue in 2021.
7. Seeded 1 mile of trails with a wildlife mixture in Harrison-Hewitt, Ringle and Leather Camp Forest Units.
8. Removed cattails in front of the water control structure at Bern Forest Unit utilizing Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding. Removal of additional cattail masses will continue in 2021 and beyond.
9. Seeded 109 lbs. of wild rice in flowages at the Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit.
10. Testified in favor of additional antlerless tags to the County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) in an attempt to reduce the deer population in areas of County Forests with tree regeneration problems.

**Recreation:****Nine Mile County Forest Cross Country Ski Trails:**

The ski season opened on December 16, 2019 and the chalet closed for the season on March 15, 2020.

The Wausau Nordic Ski Club offered free adult ski lessons on Tuesday evenings in January. The County assisted by allowing free ski rental and free ski passes for those taking lessons. This partnership was developed to help promote the ski area and increase the interest in cross country skiing.

The Snekkevik ski race had 380 participants and \$1072.00 in revenue. The Badger State Games had 411 participants and \$2652.75 in revenue. Special Olympics was held and netted \$729.92 in revenue. Stomp the Swamp Snowshoe race was again held in February with \$621.76 in revenue. The first ever IronBull winter triathlon event had 46 participants and \$390.50 in revenue. Total annual receipts associated with skiing and snowshoe activity was \$61,673.29.

**Ski Trail Maintenance at Nine Mile Forest Unit:**

1. Brushing of all trails is ongoing, and the efforts of the volunteers are greatly appreciated.
2. Volunteers from the Nordic Ski Club sponsored work days in October. They performed tasks such as rock picking, lifting trees and brushing trails.
3. Trail signs were inspected and damaged trail signs replaced, some new signage added, this work will continue in 2021 as the signage is evaluated and updated.

**Mountain Biking at Nine Mile Forest Unit:**

The 2020 mountain bike season opened at noon on May 1. The bike trails closed as scheduled on October 15. There were two Mountain Bike events held at Nine Mile in 2020; The Wisconsin Endurance Mountain Bike Series, and the IronBull Granite Grinder. A total of 1809 daily passes and 598 annual passes were sold in 2020. Total receipts associated with mountain biking in 2020 totaled \$23,456.21. Central Wisconsin Off-Road Cycling Coalition, (CWOCC) continues to be a great partner in maintaining the trail system. CWOCC fund raised and completed phase I of the Nine Mile Forest single track improvement project. Phase II is scheduled for the summer of 2021. Volunteers donate many hours of their time to maintain the single track trails.

**Other Recreation:**

1. Three cross country running races were held at Nine Mile in 2020.
2. Three ATV safety classes were held in the north parking lot at Nine Mile Forest Unit in 2020.
3. Issued twenty-six undesignated camping permits for county forests in 2020 resulting in \$390 in revenue.
4. The number of people using all County Forest Units continues to increase. Activities such as hiking, dog walking, berry picking and horseback riding are growing and the demand for more trails is increasing.

**Recreational GIS Mapping:**

1. Completed 80 mowing route maps for Athletic fields and County and City Parks.
2. Completed 37 snow plow route maps for County and City Parks.
3. Completed a Rib Mountain master plan connector map.
4. Completed a fairground map.
5. Completed a Sylvan Hill Park COVID entry/exit map.
6. Created 17 acquisition maps for the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use plan.
7. Completed a Nine Mile Forest Unit mountain bike harvest map.
8. Created 5 Elderon Forest Unit private access maps.
9. Created numerous maps for the SFI certification audit.
10. Completed an update of the Sylvan Hill cross country ski map.
11. Created new maps for the County website including Trappe River Dells, Brokaw and 45N-90W Geographical Marker parks.

**Snowmobile Trails:**

1. Trails were open 52 days during the 2019-20 season. Looking back 28 years, the seasonal average has been 46 days.
2. Six local snowmobile clubs contract with Marathon County to groom, sign, brush and perform other work related to maintaining the trail system on County Forest property.
3. Clubs are responsible for signing the trails to DNR specifications.
4. The Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department annually update the snowmobile trail map for the Snowmobile Council to print. This year a new map was printed. In the future, a new map will be printed each year, if circumstances allow.
5. Printed trail maps are made available at numerous locations throughout Marathon County.
6. Marathon County snowmobile clubs continue to receive financial assistance for trail maintenance from the Snowmobile and ATV Aids Programs through grants administered by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department and disbursed by the DNR.
7. The snow and trail conditions hotline has been re-established. A recording is now available as an option on the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department phone tree. This was due to numerous requests by the public and local businesses. The message will be updated by the Motorized Recreation Coordinator to keep the public up to date on conditions and any trail closures.
8. Current trail conditions are also updated by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department on the Marathon County website, on Facebook and the Travel Wisconsin website.
9. The Snowmobile Automated Reporting System (SNARS) became mandatory for all snowmobile clubs statewide with the 2017-2018 season. SNARS is a computer program that was developed to improve the accurate and timely reporting of County trail maintenance expenses and other data to the DNR.
10. A new Global Positioning System (GPS) is being phased into the snowmobile program as requested by DNR. Some clubs have chosen to participate voluntarily to learn the system prior to it being mandatory. The system is being implemented for greater accuracy of trail mileage and to track trail grooming.

**Burma Forest ATV/UTV Trails:**

1. Summer trails were maintained using \$11,274.00 of State ATV/UTV trail maintenance funds. More work will be completed this summer in the Burma Forest Unit than was done the past season.
2. The Mid-Wisconsin Trailblazers ATV Club, through a contract with Marathon County, was responsible for the routine maintenance of 11 miles of summer ATV/UTV trails.
3. Volunteers from the Mid-Wisconsin Trailblazers ATV Club continued their trail patrol to encourage safe and ethical riding. Patrol members talked to other riders about the importance of staying on the trail.

**Public Outreach/Professional Development: (Pandemic caused many cancellations in 2020)**

1. Forest Administrator served as a member of the Wisconsin County Forests Association Legislative/Certification, Personnel, DNR Budget, Dues and Bylaws and Roads Committees.
2. Attended several virtual Society of American Foresters, Wisconsin County Forests Association and Forest Certification training sessions.
3. County Forester attended a virtual training on managing for irregular shelterwoods.
4. Analyzed plant samples for insect and disease problems.
5. Interviewed by media on forestry related issues.
6. Created interpretive displays to educate the public about the benefits of sustainable forest management.

**Budget Summaries** (available upon request)**Forest Resources:**

County Forest Program  
 County Forest Administrator  
 County Forest Road Aids  
 County Conservation Aids  
 FEMA Cattail Removal  
 Sustainable Forestry  
 Segregated Land  
 Wildlife Habitat  
 Forestry State Aid  
 Knowles-Nelson Stewardship

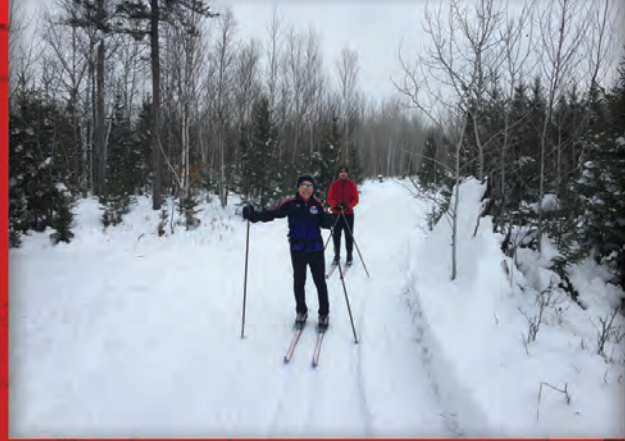
**Debt Redemption:**

General Debt - Aid to County Forest

**Recreation:**

Burma Trail ATV 19-20  
 Cross-Country Ski Trails  
 General Fund - Snowmobile Coordinator  
 Snowmobile Grant 19-20





Hollywood Rd.

County Forest Road 706

Co. Hwy.

# A Model of the Mission

## *Protecting a Multi-use Forest for Future Generations*

**BY KARYN J. POWERS, RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT AND THOMAS G. LOVLIE, MARATHON COUNTY FOREST ADMINISTRATOR**

*Nine Mile County Forest Recreation Area is a living model of the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association mission.*

Nestled in Marathon County in north-central Wisconsin, this 4,894 acre unit of mixed hardwoods, oak, pine and aspen is managed according to State Statute 28.11, County Forest Law for sustainable forest production while providing quality recreation that draws users from the tristate region. Nine Mile Bike, Horse, and Ski Trail Map

When asked to tell the story of Nine Mile’s success, County Forest Administrator Tom Lovlien had this to say.

“I’m excited to have this opportunity to show that sustainable timber harvests and intensive recreational activities can co-exist on the same land base.”

“...intensive recreation” aptly describes the impact of year-round individual and organized user groups on the property. Depending upon the time of year you’ll find hunting, trapping, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, bird-watching, trail-racing on foot, ski or wheels, and competitive high school athletes enjoying this resource.

“Each person or user group sees their activity as the most important,” said Lovlien, “and the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department has the responsibility to balance all public use with the maintenance of the forest eco-systems. The forest itself forms the framework for recreational use.”

One of the keys to balancing access with resource management lies with the County Forest Citizen Advisory Subcommittee. Created in 1998, this eleven-member body was formed with an eye to bring all of the varied forest user groups to one table. The subcommittee recommends rules and regulations that

govern the use of Nine Mile and other county forest units. This group also helped to develop the last two 15-Year County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plans. <https://www.co.marathon.wi.us/Departments/ParksRecreationForestry/PlanningandDevelopment/MarathonCountyForestComprehensiveLandUsePlan20212035.aspx>

With overlapping seasons, many dependent upon variable weather conditions, it was important to build mutual trust and respect between committee members. Quarterly meetings allow for open communication regarding seasonal use and provide opportunities to educate the members and the groups they represent on the benefits of long-term sustainable timber management that keeps forests healthy.

Revenue from the sale of trail passes and special events helps pay for trail maintenance and operations. Members of different user groups also contribute valuable volunteer hours to trail upkeep during and outside their respective seasons.

Sharing the resource has benefits beyond the forest itself. According to the Great Lakes Forest Alliance: *Historical data suggest that areas having both timber*

*and tourism industries have lower unemployment and greater stability than communities dominated by only one of these employment sectors.*

In fact, tourism is ranked #2 and the forest industry #3 as employers in Marathon County.

More than just sharing the land, timber contracts are let with specific guidelines to allow for higher tree densities on southern slopes of cross country ski trails for snow management. In addition to the usual challenges of timber harvest, contractors must work around daily users, special events, multiple trail systems and even protected species' nesting seasons.

Nine Mile delivers to both the tourism and timber industries. In 2020, Nine Mile yielded more than \$336,000 from one 76-acre timber sale. Every upland acre that grows trees has been harvested or is scheduled for a harvest. It has also hosted multiple socially distanced trail races, hunting, trapping and mountain biking seasons. Policies are in place to allow for six to ten special events over the summer and fall and four races over winter with trail closures that coincide with hunting seasons. The Nine Mile chalet, a four-season building that houses ski and snow shoe



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rental and a great room for public use, is heated by a wood boiler. Hardwood pulp harvested at Nine Mile goes to a local company, where it is turned into pellets that are purchased to heat the chalet.


While special event use was down during the pandemic, Google Community Mobility Reports show general use of parks in Marathon County was up more than 136% in July and August of last year. County forest use increased as well.

As a 3rd party Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Certified Forest, Nine Mile was chosen as part of a field verification audit on August 5, 2020. NSF Lead Auditor, Shannon Wilks said this after his inspection:



*During the field audit, it was demonstrated that various groups and clubs were contacted during the preparation of timber sales to insure the balance of forest management and recreational use. Interviews and observations confirmed Marathon County Forest personnel were dedicated to practicing sustainable forestry while protecting the recreational use of the land. Nine Mile Recreation area and the Marathon County Forest personnel are a true asset to Marathon County and the State of Wisconsin.*

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources County Forest and Public Land Specialist Doug Brown sums up how this transparent forest management serves the citizens and visitors to the area.

*Since the pandemic, there's been a significant increase in demand for recreational use of public lands and county forests. People are getting out and exploring their public lands. The aesthetics of managed timber sales are critical to showcasing these properties. Nine Mile is the crown jewel in the state's county forest system, showing how recreation and timber management can work together to serve their communities.* 



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*Updated as of February 17, 2021*

## **2021-23 WISCONSIN STATE BIENNIAL BUDGET SUMMARY**

On February 16, 2021, Governor Tony Evers released his 2021-23 Executive Budget proposal (2021 Senate Bill 111) before a joint session of the Wisconsin State Legislature. County-related highlights of the Governor's two-year spending plan include:

- 0.5% sales tax option for counties, subject to voter referendum
- 2% increase in 2021 and 2% increase in 2022 in Shared Revenue
- 2% General Transportation Aids (GTA) increase in each year of the biennium
- \$75 million for reauthorization of the Multi Modal Supplement Program (MLS Program)
- 2.5% increase in General Transit Aids
- \$3 million for county GIS grants and \$7.5 million in second year of the biennium for county 911 grants
- 10-year renewal of the stewardship program
- \$12.7 million for full funding of County Conservation Staffing and Cost Sharing Grants
- \$15 million in increased TAD funding
- \$10 million in increased funding for local health departments
- Significant investment in mental health crisis services, including emergency detention
- \$1.5 million for child welfare worker training
- \$11.8 million in additional funding for county child support agencies
- \$10 million increase in each calendar year for the Children and Family Aids appropriation
- Grant program for community based juvenile services
- Expansion of dementia care specialists statewide
- \$18.8 million increase in youth aids for elimination of the serious juvenile offender program
- \$10 million sum sufficient appropriation to counties for responsibility of 17-year old juvenile offenders.
- \$200 million broadband investment
- \$300,000 annual broadband grant to local governments

The following pages represent the Wisconsin Counties Association's (WCA) initial summary of the Governor's budget, separated by WCA issue area. As additional budget information is released, the document will be updated, and the most recent version will be available on the WCA website at [www.wicounties.org](http://www.wicounties.org).

If you have any questions about county-related items included in the budget summary, please contact the WCA Government Affairs Team.

## **AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND LAND USE**

**Stewardship Reauthorization:** The Governor's budget extends the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship 2000 Program until fiscal year 2031-32 at \$70 million per year. The proposal also provides \$700 million in bonding authority for the program.

**Tipping Fee Exemption:** The Governor's budget includes an exemption from tipping fees for up to 30% of tonnage received for Waste to Energy facilities in both Barron and La Crosse counties.

**Grants for Local Organizations that Coordinate Grazing:** The Governor's budget requires the Department of Trade Agriculture and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to promote the dairy industry by providing grants to local organizations that coordinate grazing.

**PFAS:** Provide \$1 million SEG in fiscal year 2021-22 for the collection and disposal of firefighting foam that contains PFAS.

**Soil and Water Resource Management Bond Authority and Cost Share Grants:** The Governor's budget provides \$7 million in bonding for grants to counties for implementation of land and water resource management plans, including cost-share grants to landowners through the Soil and Water Resource Management.

**Snowmobile Trails:** The Governor's budget provides \$200,000 SEG in each year for snowmobile trail mapping.

**All-Terrain Vehicles and Utility Terrain Vehicles:** The Governor's budget provides funding for all-terrain vehicle and utility terrain vehicle trail maintenance, trail development, and recreational projects by \$250,000 SEG in each year. The proposal also increases the funding for county and local all-terrain vehicle and utility terrain vehicle trail projects and support facilities by \$617,500 SEG in each year.

**Deer Carcass Disposal:** The Governor's budget provides \$1 million SEG in one-time funding in fiscal year 2021-22 to issue grants for the purchase of deer carcass disposal sites.

**Dam Repair and Removal:** The Governor's budget provides \$6 million in GPR-supported general obligation bonds for grants to be used for dam repair, reconstruction and removal projects. This is an increase of \$2 million from the 2019-21 proposal.

**Climate Change Policy:** The Governor's budget requires a comprehensive plan be developed by municipalities to address climate change, requires that local hazard mitigation plans include climate change, and requires communities throughout the state to include climate change in their community health improvement assessment and plans.

**Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO's):** The Governor's budget increases the annual fee assessed to operators of a CAFO and establishes an application fee for new operators of a CAFO.

**Sealants:** The Governor's budget prohibits the sale and use of sealants that contain coal tar, coal tar pitch, coal tar volatiles, or high concentrations of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

**County Conservation Staffing and Cost Sharing Grants:** The Governor's budget provides a \$3,708,000 annual increase in grant funding to counties for county conservation staff to support land and water conservation activities. The annual base funding allocation for the program will increase from \$8.96 million annually in the 2019-21 biennium to \$12,668,000 million annually in both years of the 2021-23 biennium.

**Climate Change:** The Governor's budget provides \$1.8 million GPR in each year for grants to counties for additional county conservation staff to support climate change resiliency efforts.

**Invasive Species:** The Governor's budget provides \$961,400 for local cooperative invasive species management areas to support the control of terrestrial invasive species.

**County Forest Acreage Share Payments:** The Governor's budget increases the County Forest Acreage share payment from \$0.30 per acre to \$0.63 per acre as a "payment in lieu of taxes."

**Pierce County Islands Wildlife Area Restoration:** The Governor's budget provides one-time funding in the amount of 3,000,000 for the Pierce County Wildlife Area restoration project.

**Private On-site Wastewater Treatment System Replacement or Rehabilitation Program (Wisconsin Fund):** The Governor's budget eliminates the sunset date (June 30, 2021) for the Private On-Site Wastewater Treatment System Replacement or Rehabilitation Program. The proposal provides for \$840,000 in both years of the biennium. The program seeks to assist residence owners and small commercial establishments meeting certain income and eligibility criteria to repair or replace eligible failing private on-site wastewater treatment systems.

**Targeted Runoff Management:** The Governor's budget authorizes \$6.5 million in bonding for grants to counties for capital projects that implement land and water resource management plans under the Targeted Runoff Management program.

**Clean Energy Projects:** The Governor's budget requires the Public Service Commission to create a model ordinance for counties to establish a property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing program. The proposal also authorizes the Focus on Energy program to allocate funds to market PACE programs across the state. In addition, the proposal also authorizes regulated utilities to offer inclusive on-bill financing for energy efficiency improvements.

## **COUNTY ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL**

**Elections:** The Governor's budget includes several provisions impacting Wisconsin elections.



- The budget includes GPR for the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) to work with the Department of Transportation to begin automatic voter registration.
- Allow a municipal clerk the option to canvass absentee ballots on the day prior to the election after working with the WEC to ensure it will be conducted fairly and appropriately (aka Monday legislation).
- Expanding voting access by eliminating the restriction of how soon a person may complete an absentee ballot in person and further recommending that a person may complete an absentee ballot in person no later than 7:00 p.m. on the Friday preceding the election.
- Modify the scheduling of special elections to ensure they are scheduled with sufficient time to comply with federal requirements for sending ballots to military and overseas voters.
- Authorizing the WEC to reimburse counties and municipalities for certain costs incurred in the administration of special primaries and special elections.
- Modifying the WEC recount appropriation to allow local units of government and petitioners to be reimbursed in a timely manner.

**Broadband:** The Governor’s budget provides a \$200 million investment in broadband. The main focus of this investment is an increase in the funding for the Broadband Expansion Grant Program at the Public Service Commission (PSC). The Governor’s budget provides \$151.7 million over the biennium comprised of GPR with the exception of the statutory requirement of \$2 million annually from the state’s Universal Service Fund.

Further, the budget eliminates restrictions that certain municipalities defined as “underserved” or “unserved” to directly invest in broadband infrastructure and provide service to residents. These communities would apply directly for broadband grants from the PSC.

Finally, a Broadband Line Extension Grant Program would be created and funded at \$1.75 million GPR in FY22 and \$3.5 million in FY23. Line extensions are often seen as cost-prohibitive and service providers have no legal obligation to provide the service. This grant would provide financial assistance to the household, with a cap of \$4,000, to help subsidize the cost of connecting to the broadband infrastructure.

**UW-Extension:** The Governor’s budget includes \$2 million and 15 county-based agriculture positions for UW-Extension.

**Equity Grants:** The Governor’s budget creates three equity grant programs to provide funding for public, private, and nonprofit entities to advance equity initiatives. The Department of Administration, Department of Children and Families, and Department of Health Services will administer \$50 million GPR in equity grants.

**Open Records Location Fee:** The Governor’s budget increases the threshold that a governmental entity may charge an open records location fee from \$50 to \$100.

**County Veterans Service Office:** The Governor’s budget includes a 5 percent increase to grants for CVSOs across Wisconsin.

**Labor Changes:** The Governor's budget makes several modifications to labor practices including:

- Repealing the prohibition on contracts between labor unions and employers that specify the employer may only hire unionized workers. Also repeal the prohibitions on the following as a condition of obtaining or continuing employment: 1) refraining or resigning from membership in a labor organization; 2) becoming or remaining a member of a labor organization; 3) paying dues to a labor organization; or 4) paying a third party amounts in place of dues to a labor organization.
- Reinstate the requirements of prevailing wage at both the state and local level.
- Establish collective bargaining rights for state and local government front-line workers and their bargaining units to provide workers the opportunity to negotiate together.
- Eliminate the annual recertification requirement for state and local government bargaining units, as well as the provision that approval by a majority of bargaining unit members is required to certify.

**Wisconsin Arts Board Grants:** The Governor's budget provides \$250,000 GPR in one-time funds to the Wisconsin Arts board for grants to businesses and local governments to provide products or services that have an artistic, cultural or aesthetic content; promote job creation; enhance economic development; promote arts education; and incorporate workforce training and development.

**Domestic Partnership:** The Governor's budget reinstates domestic partnership benefits for all state and local government employee insurance programs administered by the Department of Employee Trust Funds. These benefits were eliminated as part of the 2017-19 state budget.

**Redistricting:** The Governor's budget requires that the Legislature take up maps drawn by the People's Maps Commission and that all records on redistricting by the legislature be retained for ten years.

## **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### Department of Health Services (DHS)

**Medicaid Expansion:** The Governor's budget expands Medicaid under the federal Affordable Care Act by covering all low-income Wisconsin residents who earn incomes between 0 percent and 138 percent of the federal poverty level.

**Medicaid Investment:** The Governor's budget:

- Provides \$26 million to expand Medicaid benefits to include community health worker services, group physical therapy, doula services, a new psychosocial rehabilitation benefit (will serve medium acuity individuals and services could be provided by noncounty providers), room and board costs for residential substance use disorder treatment, and acupuncture services.
- Provides \$88 million in rate increases for speech-language pathology, audiology, Medication-Assisted Treatment (also expanding availability in areas of the state with

unmet needs through initiatives such as additional treatment centers and mobile providers), suicide treatment and prevention services, autism treatment, and emergency physicians.

**Repeal of BadgerCare Reform:** The Governor's budget recommends repealing the childless adult demonstration project under the Medicaid program. The budget also repeals work requirements, premium payments, health risk assessment, and copayments for nonemergency use of an emergency room.

**FoodShare Work Requirement Repeal:** The Governor's budget repeals the work requirement for able-bodied adults participating in the FoodShare program.

**FSET Drug Screening Requirement Repeal:** The Governor's budget repeals the drug screening, testing and treatment requirement for able-bodied adults without dependents participating in the FSET program.

**Postpartum Medicaid:** The Governor's budget seeks a waiver from the federal CMS to extend the postpartum Medicaid eligibility for women receiving coverage through CHIP up to 306 percent of the FPL. The waiver will extend eligibility from approximately two months postpartum to 12 months postpartum.

**State Administered Public Option Health Plan:** The Governor's budget invests \$1.8 million to fund the development of a state-administered public option health plan to be offered no later than 2025 or 2022 if the federal Affordable Care Act is no longer enforceable.

**Health Disparities:** The Governor's budget:

- Creates a Medicaid community health benefit that invests \$25 million for nonmedical services to reduce and prevent health disparities that result from economic and social determinants of health. Services include housing referrals, nutritional mentoring, stress management, and other services that would positively impact an individual's economic and social condition.
- Address health disparities in Wisconsin by strategically investing in health equity initiatives, including grants for community organizations and local public health departments to implement health equity action plans. The five initiatives included as part of the plan are funded with \$10,166,200 in FY22 and \$25,726,100 in FY23.

**Public Health:** The Governor's budget provides \$14 million for the following communicable disease items:

- 23.0 FTE GPR positions for DHS' Bureau of Communicable Diseases to sustain the state's COVID-19 response and be prepared to respond to future communicable disease outbreaks.
- 3.0 FTE GPR positions to create a communicable disease harm reduction strike team.
- 2.0 FTE GPR positions to create a data analytics and predictive modeling team in the Office of Health Informatics.
- Grant funding for local and tribal public health departments to support communicable disease control and prevention activities (\$5 million annually).



**Lead Poisoning:** The Governor's budget:

- Provides additional funding for lead screening and outreach grants.
- Provides ongoing funding for the Windows Plus Program.
- Provides ongoing funding for the Lead Safe Homes Program.
- Expands Birth to 3 services to additional children that are lead poisoned (lowers the blood lead level criteria).

These initiatives are funded with \$4,311,800 in FY22 and \$7,704,800 in FY23.

**Tobacco and Vapor Products:** The Governor's budget:

- Increases the age to purchase tobacco and vapor products from age 18 to 21.
- Prohibits the use of a vapor product indoors.
- Prohibits the use of a vapor product on school grounds.
- Provides \$2 million to fund a public health campaign related to tobacco and vapor product use.

**Income Maintenance:** The Governor's budget adjusts funding to reflect a reestimate of the caseload and updated program requirements for the income maintenance consortia: \$3,613,200 GPR/FED in FY22 and \$5,292,400 GPR/FED in FY23.

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**FoodShare Healthy Eating Pilot:** The Governor's budget provides \$425,000 GPR in each year to implement a Healthy Eating Incentives Pilot Program that will provide up to 2,000 FoodShare households with discounts on fresh produce and other health food options.

**Children's Long-Term Support Waiver Program:** The Governor's budget ensures every child in need of long-term supports receives the services they require.

**Mental Health Services:** The Governor's budget:

- Provides \$12.3 million GPR in FY23 to establish up to two regional crisis response centers, with each offering a crisis urgent care and observation center, a 15-bed crisis stabilization facility and at least two inpatient psychiatric beds, to improve the crisis response system, expand crisis bed access, and alleviate the need for long distance emergency detention transportation. These centers would assume custody of emergency detention cases and conduct medical clearances. The budget supports 2.0 FTE GPR human services program coordinator positions to develop and evaluate the centers on an ongoing basis.
- Provides \$5 million GPR in FY23 to establish five crisis stabilization facilities across the state for adults seeking voluntary crisis treatment. Each facility would offer up to 16 crisis stabilization beds.
- Expands bed tracking capabilities by tracking inpatient psychiatric, crisis response, and peer-respite beds and making this data openly available to all entities involved in identifying placement options.
- Provides \$1.2 million GPR in each year to support the staffing needs of county crisis programs and peer-run respite centers for their telephone services that provide aid to individuals in crisis.

- Creates a \$1.9 million GPR grant in FY23 to establish a behavioral health treatment program for those who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind.
- Creates a \$1.25 million GPR grant in each year for municipalities and counties to establish behavioral health and police collaboration programs to increase behavioral health professional involvement in emergency response situations.
- Provides \$375,000 GPR in each year for additional crisis intervention trainings to local law enforcement.
- Provides \$850,000 GPR in each year to expand Milwaukee County's Mobile Crisis Team.
- Provides funding to implement a forensic assertive community treatment program, which is intended to be an intervention that bridges the behavioral health and criminal justice systems.
- Provides 7.0 FTE GPR positions to expand the Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program.
- Provides \$100,000 annually to promote suicide prevention and awareness in veteran communities by conducting improved outreach to traditionally underserved veteran populations.
- Provides \$280,000 GPR in each year of the biennium to create a program that expands the capacity of behavioral crisis lines that provide an alternative to 911 for nonemergency behavioral health issues.
- Expands the Child Psychiatry Consultation Program statewide.

**Caregiving:** The Governor's budget:

- Provides \$40.4 million in FY22 and \$37.4 million in FY23 to fund rate increases for personal care direct care services.
- Creates a nonrefundable individual income tax caregiver credit for qualified expenses incurred by a family caregiver to assist a qualified family member.
- Establishes mandatory initial training requirements for guardians.

**Aging and Disability Resource Centers:** The Governor's budget invests in Aging and Disability Resource Centers to:

- Expand caregiver support services to address the needs of caregivers of adults with disabilities who are age 19 to 59.
- Expand the tribal aging and disability resources specialist program.
- Expand the tribal disability benefit specialist program.

The budget provides \$2,425,800 in FY22 and \$4,634,500 in FY23.

**Dementia Care Specialists:** The Governor's budget expands the dementia care specialists program to all aging and disability resource centers - \$1,175,000 in Fy22 and \$2,350,000 in FY23.

**Alzheimer's Family Caregiving Support Program:** The Governor's budget expands eligibility for the Alzheimer's Family Caregiving Support Program by increasing the income limit from \$48,000 to \$55,000 and providing \$1 million during the biennium for the program.

**Nursing Home Rate Increases:** The Governor’s budget provides \$78.3 million in FY22 (11.5 percent increase) and \$163.7 million in FY23 (11.7 percent increase) for a rate increase for nursing homes, of which \$40.4 million in FY22 and \$37.4 million in FY23 is targeted to the direct care workforce. The budget also amends the rate-setting process for acuity-specific billing rather than using resource utilization groupings. Of this rate increase, \$77.8 million over the biennium must be invested in direct care staff in nursing homes.

Department of Children and Families (DCF)

**Children and Family Aids:** The Governor’s budget increases funding for Children and Family Aids by \$10 million beginning in CY22, appropriating \$15 million GPR over the biennium to provide additional support to the child welfare system.

**Child Welfare New Worker Training:** The Governor’s budget provides \$1,000,000 in FY22 and \$500,000 in FY23 to design and support a new training program for child welfare workers to improve preparedness and reduce the time that workers are trained.

**Family First Prevention Services Act:** The Governor’s budget creates an in-home prevention services program:

- Includes \$3,870,300 GPR and \$2,084,100 federal IV-E in each fiscal year to create a full prevention-service network of evidence-based service providers statewide, including provider training, travel costs, licensing, and certification, and incentive supplements for rural areas.
- Includes an additional \$4,613,000 GPR and \$1,575,000 IV-E in each fiscal year for counties to use for direct family support services that are most directly and immediately needed to prevent children from being removed from their homes. These services will include support mentors, respite care, or rental assistance.
- Provides \$130,000 GPR and \$70,000 IV-E in each year to provide training and technical assistance to local child welfare agency staff to shift practices which currently focus on child removal toward prevention.

**Foster Care and Kinship Care Rate Increases:** The Governor’s budget increases foster care age-based rates by 2.5 percent in CY22 and an additional 2.5 percent in CY23. The budget also includes an 18 percent increase to foster care level 1 and kinship care rates from \$254 to \$300 per month, beginning in CY22.

Age Group	CY21 Base Rate	CY22 Rate	CY23 Rate
Kinship Care	\$254	\$300	\$300
Foster Care Level 1	\$254	\$300	\$300
Foster Care Ages 0-4	\$420	\$431	\$442
Foster Care Ages 5-11	\$460	\$472	\$484
Foster Care Ages 12-14	\$522	\$535	\$548
Foster Care Ages 15+	\$545	\$559	\$573



**Independent Living:** The Governor's budget extends Independent Living services to teenagers who have been in a court-ordered qualifying placement for at least six months after the age of 16, regardless of at which age and from which placement type they exit their order. The budget also increases the maximum age for services from 21 to 23.

**Driver Education for Youth in Foster Care:** The Governor's budget includes funding to help teenagers who are in the foster care system pay for driver education classes.

**Child Support:** The Governor's budget increases funding by \$4,000,000 GPR and \$7,764,700 FED in each fiscal year to child support agencies to improve collection of delinquent child support in the state.

**Child Care:** The Governor's budget:

- Creates the Child Care Strong program to increase quality, affordable, and accessible child care for all Wisconsin children by annually providing \$53,016,400 GPR and repurposing \$17,637,000 TANF by delinking YoungStar incentive payments to providers from Shares authorizations.
- Provides \$500,000 TANF in each fiscal year to expand the REWARD program.
- Includes \$1,327,200 TANF in FY22 and \$1,963,900 TANF in FY23 for early social emotional training and technical assistance.

## Youth Justice

**Youth Justice:** The Governor's budget:

- Creates a sentence adjustment procedure for youth under 18 who commit a crime.
- Eliminates the serious juvenile offender program in DOC and moves responsibility for caring for future young offenders to the counties (see funding under youth aids). Replaces the SJOP with an extended jurisdiction juvenile blended sentencing model. The new model would allow the court to sentence an individual to both a juvenile disposition and an adult disposition.
- Eliminates life without the possibility of extended supervision for juvenile offenders.
- Limits the use of detention sanctions or holds.
- Prohibits the use of restraints on anyone under the age of 18 when appearing in court in most cases.
- Eliminates automatic original adult court jurisdiction for all youth under the age of 18.
- Modifies the conditions under which a youth under the age of 18 may be waived into adult court.
- Increases the age of delinquency from 10 years of age to 12 years of age.
- Enhances youth justice services by creating 3.0 FTE GPR positions, program improvements, grants for community-based and out-of-home care services, and budgets \$417,000 GPR in FY22 and \$11,087,200 GPR in FY23 for these purposes.
- Provides statewide youth justice foundational training, (using PDS) quality assurance training, and best practice research and technical assistance that will provide a baseline of knowledge and quality for youth justice agencies throughout the state.

- Creates a new community grant program for counties to significantly elevate their case management practices and use of intensive, evidence-based treatment services.
- Creates a new residential care grant program for out-of-home care providers – one congregate care setting and one or more treatment foster home providers – to provide intensive services specifically for justice-involved youth who require treatment services in an out-of-home setting.
- Includes \$8,859,100 GPR in FY23 for a new pilot community-based services grant program whose targeted population will be moderate- and high-risk youth, as determined by the YASI risk assessment tool. Counties will select an evidence-based treatment model and partner with community clinical service providers trained in the treatment model.
- Includes funding for two types of residential services grants to provide alternatives to youth entering the deepest end of the juvenile justice system. The first is \$1,268,800 GPR in FY23 for a residential care facility to help keep kids in their community. The target population would be moderate- to high-risk delinquent male youth from anywhere in the state with aggressive behaviors and/or sexual offenses.
- Includes \$250,000 GPR in FY23 for a child placing agency grant that would help find treatment foster care placements for medium-to high-risk delinquent youth who require out-of-home care placement, but are particularly unsuited for a congregate care setting, such as those who have experienced sex trafficking. Providers would be required to provide or coordinate provision of clinical treatment services either in the home or the community.
- Eliminates state-run Type 1 facilities.
- Allows both the state and counties to operate Secured Residential Centers for Children and Youth.
- Closes Lincoln Hills and Copper lake as soon as all juveniles have been transferred to a suitable replacement facility.
- Reduces the use of detention for juvenile offenders who commit minor offenses. Eliminates placement of a juvenile offender in a juvenile detention facility as a sanction or for short-term detention unless the juvenile court finds that the juvenile poses a threat to public safety and the underlying offense would be an offense if committed by an adult.

**17-Year-Olds:** The Governor’s budget:

- Raises the age of adult jurisdiction to 18 years of age.
- Creates a new sum sufficient appropriation and provides \$10 million GPR in each fiscal year to reimburse counties for the increased cost associated with raising the age.

**Youth Aids:** The Governor’s budget:

- Modifies the youth justice statutes and appropriations to provide more flexibility in allocating youth aids funding and enhancing systems improvements.
- Authorizes DCF to distribute an additional \$5,327,500 GPR in FY22 and \$13,529,700 in FY23 to ensure counties can meet an increase in youth offender services that arise from the elimination of the Serious Juvenile Offender Program.

Other

**Workforce Development:** The Governor’s budget:

- Provides \$8 million GPR for pandemic recovery grants to local workforce development boards to fund local training programs to return workers to the labor market – funding can be subgranted to local businesses or organizations for pandemic relief.
- Provides \$200,000 GPR for local workforce development boards to hold hiring events throughout the state for health care-related careers and career exploration courses to increase interest in health care employment.

**Department of Safety and Professional Services:** The Governor’s budget provides \$900,000 PR in FY22 and \$1,269,200 PR in FY23 and 14.0 FTE permanent PR positions and 2.0 FTE project PR positions at the Department of Safety and Professional Services to investigate professional regulations violations and decreasing processing times for professional licenses. In addition, the Governor’s budget increases expenditure authority in the department’s LTE budget by \$100,000 PR in each year of the biennium.

**Equity and Opportunity:** The Governor’s budget establishes “Wisconsin for All” Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives that promote and advance equity within all of state government and state programs.

- Creates a cabinet-level chief equity officer within the Department of Administration and agency equity officers at 18 state agencies and commissions.
- Establish and provide funding for a Governor’s Fellowship Program, Governor’s Progress Summit, and a state-sponsored annual diversity, equity, and inclusion conference for state and local government employers.
- Create three equity grant programs to provide funding for public, private, and nonprofit entities to advance equity initiatives. (\$50 million to DOA, DCF, DHS; GPR funded in FY22 and funded with funds from the new Community Reinvestment Fund in FY23 and beyond).

## **JUDICIAL AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

**911 and Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs):** The Governor’s budget includes funds to support PSAPs and the need to upgrade equipment at the local level. The Department of Military Affairs originally requested \$2.5 million to support a state grant program. The Governor included in his budget \$7.5 million starting in FY23 for PSAP grants which can be used for equipment and software expenses as well as training costs.

Further, the Governor is supporting the ongoing work of DMA to create the emergency services IP network (ESInet) which is critical in the advancement of 911 from an analog system to a digital platform. The Governor provides \$1.7 million in FY22 and \$9.8 million in FY23. Also as part of the DMA request, the Governor provided \$3 million for county grants in FY23 for geographic information systems (GIS) data grants.

**WISCOM:** The Governor’s budget includes \$6.5 million GPR for the design and implementation of a new statewide interoperable communications system which is a shared land mobile radio system.

**Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD):** The Governor's budget includes an additional \$15 million GPR for TAD in FY 2022-23 for expansion of the program.

**Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS):** The Governor's budget includes \$2.2 million GPR in FY22 and \$3 million in FY23 for the expansion of the OARS program. This program was expanded in the previous budget and is currently operating in 51 counties.

**District Attorneys:** The Governor's budget includes the option for counties with a population between 200,000 and 750,000 to appoint up to four deputy district attorneys.

**Private Attorney Bar Rate:** The Governor's budget includes the recommendation to index the private bar rate to the consumer price index beginning in FY23. The rate would adjust biennially by a percentage equal to the average consumer price index over the preceding 12-month period.

**Circuit Courts:** The Governor's budget provides expenditure and position authority for four circuit court branches beginning August 1, 2021 and four branches beginning August 1, 2022. 2019 Wisconsin Act 184 provided 12 additional circuit court branches to be allocated by the director of state courts.

## **TAXATION AND FINANCE**

**Local Option Sales Tax:** The Governor's budget allows counties to increase their sales tax by 0.5% with approval from voters via referendum. The 0.5% sales tax is in addition to a county's current 0.5% sales tax authority via ordinance.

**Shared Revenue:** The Governor's budget provides successive 2 percent increases in funding for the county and municipal aid program to take effect in 2021 and again in 2022.

**Levy Limits:** The Governor's budget provides counties with a 2 percent minimum growth factor for levy limit purposes. Currently, county levy limits are tied to the change in property values due to net new construction.

**Transferred Services/Levy Limit Adjustment:** The Governor's budget eliminates the negative adjustment to county and municipal levy limits for services transferred from one local government to another local government.

**Regional Planning Commissions/Levy Limit Adjustment:** The Governor's budget exempts amounts levied for regional planning commissions from the county's applicable levy limit.

**Cross Boundary Transit Corridors:** The Governor's budget provides a levy limit exemption for cross-boundary transit corridors that meet specified statutory criteria.

**Dark Stores Assessments:** The Governor's budget implements reforms to assessment practices to close the dark store assessment loophole.



**TIF Districts:** The Governor’s budget modifies TIF law by lifting the current law limitation on what share of a mixed-use district’s area can be used for newly-platted residential developments from 35 percent to 60 percent if the additional 25 percent is comprised of workforce housing.

**Debt Issuance:** The Governor’s budget allows counties to issue debt to replace revenue lost due to a disaster or public health emergency declared by the Governor or the county board itself.

**Sales Tax Exemptions:** The Governor’s budget provides a sales tax exemption for landscape planning and counseling services that pertain to the restoration, reclamation, or revitalization of prairie, savanna, or wetlands if such services are provided under a separate fee distinct from other services (estimated tax reduction is \$500,000 over the biennium). The Governor’s budget also provides a sales tax exemption for diapers (estimated tax reduction is \$16.1 million over the biennium), property used primarily to store renewable energy (estimated tax reduction is \$8.2 million over the biennium), and sweetened dried fruit (estimated tax reduction is \$900,000 over the biennium). The Governor’s budget repeals the current law sales tax exemptions for game birds (estimated tax increase of \$350,000 over the biennium) and farm-raised deer (estimated tax increase of \$210,000 over the biennium).

**Tribal Land Transfers:** The Governor’s budget allows the sale of certain county property acquired due to delinquent taxes and the sale of county forest land be excluded from public sale requirements if the sale is to a federally recognized tribe or band.

**County Forest Acreage Share Payments:** The Governor’s budget increases the county forest acreage share payments from \$0.30 per acre to \$0.63 per acre.

### **TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS**

**General Transportation Aids (GTA):** The Governor’s budget increases county GTA from \$122,203,200 in the 2019-21 budget cycle to \$124,647,266 in FY21 and to \$127,140,211 in FY22. This amounts to a 2 percent increase in GTA payments in each year of the biennium.

**General Transportation Aids (Late Submission):** The Governor’s budget recommends reducing the penalty for the late submission of the required expenditure data for GTA calculations from the local and county governments to not more than \$100 per day.

**Routine Maintenance Agreements:** The Governor’s budget maintains funding and preserves recent increases for Routine Maintenance of the State Trunk Highway System (STH) performed by counties. The Governor’s budget increases funding within the state highway maintenance program to account for the increasing cost of road salt. An additional \$12,510,900 is provided in FY22 and 13,118,100 in FY23.

**General Transit Aids:** The Governor’s budget increases annual funding for General Transit Aids by 2.5 percent, both in the first and second year of the biennium. Mass Transit Systems with operating expenses of:

- A. Greater than \$80,000,000: Funding is increased in the first year of the biennium from \$70,613,300 to \$72,378,633 in the first year of the biennium and to \$74,188,098 in the second year of the biennium.
- B. Between \$20,000,000 and \$80,000,000: Funding is increased from \$18,554,800 to \$19,018,670 the first year of the biennium and to \$19,494,136 in the second year of the biennium.
- C. Less than \$20,000,000 and a serving population of at least 50,000: Funding is increased from \$26,935,400 to \$27,608,785 in the first year of the biennium and \$28,299,004 in the second year of the biennium.
- D. Mass Transit Systems serving an area with a population of less than 50,000: Funding is increased from \$5,707,800 to \$5,850,495 in the first year of the budget and 5,996,757 in the second year of the biennium.

**Local Bridge Improvement Assistance:** The Governor's budget maintains current funding for the Local Bridge Improvement Program, resulting in \$22.9 million in both years of the biennium.

**Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP):** The Governor's budget maintains current funding levels for the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP). Funding for the county component of LRIP, the County Highway Improvement Program (CHIP), (Discretionary Program funding) will be funded at \$5,569,400 in FY21 and \$5,688,400 in FY22.

**Majors Projects:** The Governor's budget provides \$565.6 million in total funding for the Major Highway Development Program in the 2021-23 biennium. The total funding level for the program was \$558 million in the 2019-21 biennium. This is a funding increase for the program of approximately \$7.6 million.

**State Highway Rehabilitation Funding:** The Governor's budget provides an increase in the program of approximately \$66.6 million in 2021-23. The program has been funded at \$1.7 billion.

**Project Labor Agreements (PLA):** The Governor's budget restores a local unit of government's ability to require that a bidder enter into a Project Labor Agreement (PLA).

**State Prevailing Wage Requirements:** The Governor's budget restores prevailing wage requirements for projects using state dollars.

**Local Government Use of Eminent Domain Authority for Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities:** The Governor's budget restores the ability of local governments to use eminent domain authority for the installation of bike and pedestrian paths.

**Local Multimodal Transportation Program:** The Governor's budget provides \$75 million for local multimodal transportation projects to address the significant need for supplemental

infrastructure funding as evidenced by the \$1.47 billion in projects submitted by local governments under a similar program in the 2019-21 biennium.

**Local Roads for Critical Infrastructure Pilot Program:** The Governor's budget provides \$15 million in bonding for a Local Roads for Critical Infrastructure pilot program to combat the increased frequency of roadway destruction from flooding events.

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