



**Marathon County
Environmental Resources Committee Minutes
Tuesday, June 29, 2021
500 Forest Street, Wausau WI**

Attendance:	<u>Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Not present</u>
<i>Chair</i>	Jacob Langenhahn.....	X	
<i>Vice-Chair</i>	Sara Guild.....	X	
	Rick Seefeldt	X	
	Bill Conway	X	
	Allen Drabek	X	
	Randy Fifrick.....	X	
	Arnold Schlei	X	
	Dave Oberbeck.....	X	
	Marilyn Bhend	X	
	Eric Vogel		X (excused)

Also present via Webex, phone or in person: Paul Daigle, Laurie Miskimins, Dominique Swangstu, Lane Loveland, Brooke Bambeneck and Cindy Kraeger – Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ); Jean Kopplin – City-County IT; Cody Milanowski.

1. **Call to order** – Called to order by Chair Langenhahn at 3:05 p.m. via WEBEX.
2. **Public Comment** – None.
3. **Approval of June 1, 2021 Committee minutes**

Motion / second by Drabek / Schlei to approve of the June 1, 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. Cody Milanowski on behalf of Theresa Milanowski R-R to C-V/R-C Conservancy Recreation – Town of Elderon

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 3.900 acres to correct a zoning classification error that may have happened when the town created its most recent zoning district map. The current use(s) onsite are not permitted or conditionally approved in the current zoning district. The owner would like to continue to utilize the property as it is currently being used for, the use of which is not allowed in the Rural Residential zoning district, causing the use to be non-conforming. The CV/RC zoning district more consistent with the existing uses onsite (Sportsman Club) as well as will allow for possible expansions or changes to the existing uses (as long as all applicable permits and approvals are obtained beforehand and the uses proposed are permitted or conditionally approved with the zoning district). 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 Elderon has reviewed the application and recommends approval without any concerns, as well as stated the rezone appears to be consistent with their comprehensive plan, as indicated in the town resolution.

Cody Milanowski was sworn in. Milanowski would like to continue to operate his business and promote youth gun safety programs.

There was no additional testimony in favor or opposed to this rezone request virtually or in person. Testimony portion of the hearing was closed at 3:23 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Fifrick / Schlei to recommend approval to County Board, of the Cody Milanowski on behalf of Theresa Milanowski rezone request. Noting the reasoning provided in the staff report and conclusions of law. The Committee determined the rezone is consistent with the Marathon County and Town comprehensive plans, and is not located in the Farmland Preservation

Zoning District. Adequate facilities are present or will be provided and providing any necessary public facilities will not burden local government. Based on the proposed land division and existing land uses onsite the rezone should not result in any adverse effect on natural areas. The committee made their recommendation of approval based on the information, findings of fact, and conclusions of law as described in the CPZ staff report included in the ERC packet.

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

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

B. Review and Possible Recommendation to County Board for its Consideration (Town Zoning changes pursuant to §60.62(3) Wis. Stats.)

1. Town of Wausau – Amending the Code of Ordinance creating Section 17.08 Definitions and Section 17.46(3)ae pertaining to Conditional Use Special Event Venues

Discussion: Swangstu stated the Town of Wausau is town zoned and submitted a text amendment petition amending Section 17.08 and 17.46(3) ae and by creating Section 17.08 Definitions 17.44(4)l and 17.45(3)x pertaining to Conditional Uses and Agricultural Event venues. The zoning change was approved at the town board meeting on June 14, 2021. Although the town is town zoned, County Board approval is still needed per Wis. Stats. Swangstu also stated if the committee has any specific questions or concerns the questions and concerns could only be addressed by the Town of Wausau given they are under their own general zoning jurisdiction.

Action: **Motion** / second by Guild / Drabek to recommend approval to County Board, of the Town of Wausau text amendments amending the Code of Ordinance creating Section 17.08 Definitions and Section 17.46(3)ae pertaining to Conditional Use Special Event Venues. 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 – None.

D. Review and Possible Action

1. CPZ – Conversion of Water Resources Technician from casual to full time position (grant funded)

Discussion: Daigle discussed the Water Resources Technician position request that was included in the meeting packet. This position will provide leadership and coordination of shoreland protection areas which will align the Land and Water Resources Management Plan to promote policies that conserve natural resources and protect/enhance surface and groundwater while ensuring a balance with promoting economic growth and development. This position would be funded through grant funding with secured funding of two-four years. Miskimins stated this position going full time would ensure citizen engagement on the important measures in water quality and reaching compliance.

Action: **Motion** / second by / to recommend approval of the CPZ - Conversion of Water Resources Technician from casual to full time position (grant funded) to move forward to Human Resources, Finance and Property Committee.

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

Follow through: Forward to Human Resources, Finance and Property Committee for approval and then on to County Board for action at August 2021 meeting.

5. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports and Committee Discussion

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

CPZ

1. Update of Fenwood Creek funding request

Discussion: Daigle updated the Committee on the discussion in the recent weeks with the legislators to secure state funding in this budget cycle for the Fenwood Creek pilot program. Daigle is also seeking other avenues of funding through federal and state to grants to move the pilot program forward. Chair Langenhahn thanked Daigle for all his work put into this funding request.

2. Chapter 22 - Floodplain revisions per DNR direction

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Discussion: Swangstu discussed the Draft Chapter 22 that was brought to ERC back in February and March of 2021 put on hold due to the DNR recommending changes to be incorporated in the ordinance and staff changes within the DNR. Due to some DNR transition and new direction, CPZ will only be moving forward with the required revisions to the floodplain ordinance to keep Marathon County within the Federal Flood Insurance Program as well as to ensure the ordinance is consistent with the new model ordinance provided by the W-DNR. A new draft ordinance will be coming to the Committee on August 3 which will only include floodplain regulation changes pertinent to dam failure analysis, flood studies, and new regulatory changes in order to stay within the flood insurance program and to be consistent with the model program.

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

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

1. Parks, Recreation and Forestry (PRF)

Discussion: No updates.

2. Conservation Planning and Zoning (CPZ)

Discussion: Daigle discussed the additional staff funding for conservation staff unfortunately the funds requested were half of the increase that was requested. The base level of funding has gone down over the years and will have to go back for additional funding every two years.

Swangstu also stated at the next ERC meeting there will be 6-7 rezones on the agenda therefore reviewing the packet and staff reports ahead of time will ensure the next meeting can run as efficiently as possible given the length of the agenda.

Solid Waste

Discussion: No updates

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

Tuesday, August 3, 2021 3:00 p.m. *Marathon County Courthouse, Assembly Room 500 Forest Street Wausau WI*

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

B. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence

8. **Adjourn – Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Drabek to **adjourn** at 3:50 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Laurie Miskimins, CPZ Director

For Jacob Langenhahn, Chair

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

LM/cek