



**Marathon County
Environmental Resources Committee Minutes
Tuesday, August 3, 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 (excused)
	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, Andrew Lynch, Dave Decker and Cindy Kraeger – Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ); Jean Kopplin – City-County IT, Jamie Polley – Park, Recreation and Forestry (PRF); Dustin Vreeland and Glen Brubacker.

1. **Call to order** – In the absence of Chair Langenhahn and Vice Chair Guild, Daigle recommended Fifrick as Chair pro tempore. Called to order by Vice Chair Fifrick at 3:07 p.m.

Motion / second by Drabek/ Schlei to accept Fifrick as Chair pro tempore.

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

Called to order by Chair pro tempore at 3:07 p.m. at 500 Forest Street, Assembly Room, Wausau WI.

2. **Public Comment** – None.

3. **Approval of June 1, 2021 Committee minutes**

There was a typo in the agenda item approval of June 1, 2021 Committee minutes should be listed as Approval of the June 29, 2021 Committee minutes.

Motion / second by Conway / Schlei to approve of the June 29, 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. Glen Brubacker on behalf of Leonard & Lucinda Horst – G-A General Agriculture to R-R Rural Residential – Town of Wien

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 4.001 acres shown as Lot #1 of the Certified Survey Map (CSM) that was 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 Wien has reviewed the application and recommends approval, CPZ staff additionally clarified that there was an error on the town resolution (Question #5) and staff contacted the town clerk and addressed the error prior to the ERC meeting.

There was no additional testimony in favor or opposed to this rezone request virtually or in person. Testimony portion of the hearing was closed at 3:20 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: Motion / second by Fifrick / Schlei to recommend approval to County Board, of the Glen Brubacker on behalf of Leonard & Lucinda Horst 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

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

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

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

2. Jane Kunze & James Cramer – R-E Rural Estate to R-R Rural Residential – 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 6.090 acres shown as Lot #1 of the CSM (Doc# 894452) that was submitted with the petition due to the creation of two parcels within the boundaries of the existing parcel zoned R-E (both are proposed to be less than 5 acres in size). 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.

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 3:26 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Ffrick / Conway to recommend approval to County Board, of the Jane Kunze and James Cramer rezone request. Noting the reasoning provided in the staff report and conclusions of law. The Committee determined the rezone is consistent with the Marathon County and Town comprehensive plans, and is not located in the Farmland Preservation Zoning District. Adequate facilities are present or will be provided and providing any necessary public facilities will not burden local government. Based on the proposed land division and existing land uses onsite the rezone should not result in any adverse effect on natural areas. The committee made their recommendation of approval based on the information, findings of fact, and conclusions of law as described in the CPZ staff report included in the ERC packet.

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

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

3. Blume Farms of Clark County, INC (Sharon Blume) – G-A General Agriculture to R-E Rural Estate– Town of Holton

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 5.003 acres shown as Lot #1 of the CSM that was submitted with the petition. Swangstu stated the Town Chair omitted the signatures on the Town resolution and confirmed the rezone was approved at the Town Board meeting. Swangstu stated the Town is not technically required to provide any resolution or recommendation to the county (unless they are submitting a resolution for disapproval). Given the town resolution was missing the town board signatures, CPZ staff requested the meeting minutes where the town board had recommended approval of the rezone in question.

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 Holton has reviewed the application and recommends approval without any concerns.

There was no additional testimony in favor or opposed to this rezone request virtually or in person. Testimony portion of the hearing was closed at 3:33 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Guild / Drabek to recommend approval to County Board, of the Blume Farms of Clark County, INC (Sharon Blume) 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

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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.

4. Jordan Brost on behalf of Bradley Kops – F-P Farmland Preservation to R-R Rural Residential – Town of Hull

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 2.851 acres shown as Lot #1 of the CSM that was submitted with the petition to create a parcel around an area already shown to be designated/utilized for residential land uses. 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.

Town of Hull has reviewed the application and recommends approval without any concerns.

There was no additional testimony in favor or opposed to this rezone request virtually or in person. Testimony portion of the hearing was closed at 3:36 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Guild / Conway to recommend approval to County Board, of the Jordan Brost on behalf of Bradley Kops 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 located in the Farmland Preservation Zoning District. The area proposed to be rezone was designated as farmland preservation in the Farmland Preservation Plan, yet there are no prime farm soils on the area in question. The rezone appears to meet all applicable rezone standards.

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

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

5. Tim Vreeland on behalf of Laron & Debra Hoppenworth and Jordan Weiland – G-A General Agriculture and R-R Rural Residential to R-E Rural Estate and lands from G-A General Agriculture and L-D-R Low Density Residential to R-R Rural Residential – Town of Wien

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 5.147 acres shown as Lot #1 to be rezoned from R-R Rural Residential to R-E Rural Estate and G-A General Agriculture to R-E Rural Estate. Lot #2 3.575 acres will be rezoned from G-A General Agriculture and L-D-R Low Density Residential to R-R Rural Residential. 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.

Town of Wien has reviewed the application and recommends approval without any concerns.

There was no additional testimony in favor or opposed to this rezone request virtually or in person. Testimony portion of the hearing was closed at 3:45 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Guild / Drabek to recommend approval to County Board, of the Tim Vreeland on behalf of Laron & Debra Hoppenworth and Jordan Weiland 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.

Langenhahn arrives and resumes Chair position.

6. Text amendment changes to the Marathon County General Code of Ordinances – Chapter 22 – Shoreland, Shoreland-Wetland and Floodplain

Discussion: Swangstu was sworn in and reviewed the memo that was included in the meeting packet. The draft Chapter 22 Ordinance was before the Committee on February 2, 2021 and March 2, 2021. There was transition within the WI DNR staffing and additional clarity was needed from the WI DNR before moving the ordinance forward. CPZ staff is presenting the necessary Floodplain Ordinance revisions to keep Marathon County in compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) by adopting two dam failure analysis (DFA's) and to keep the floodplain ordinance consistent with the new updated state model ordinance.

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 3:48 p.m.

Action: **Motion** / second by Langenhahn / Schlei to approve the text amendments changes with the recommended changes provided by the DNR 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: Forward to County Board for action at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

- B. Review and Possible Recommendation to County Board for its Consideration (Town Zoning changes pursuant to §60.62(3) Wis. Stats.) – None.

- C. Review and Possible Recommendations to County Board for its Consideration

1. New Positions Requests – PRF

- a. Recreation Supervisor

Discussion: Polley discussed the position and duties of the Recreation Supervisor who would work under the direction of the Recreation Superintendent and would be primarily assigned to the aquatics. The position would train and supervise the staff of the three aquatic facilities, splash pad and water aerobics programs. They would also increase the aquatic programming offered year round. More programming also increases the revenue. This position would be funded 40% by the County and 60% by the City.

- b. Maintenance Technician

Discussion: Polley discussed the position and duties of the Maintenance Technician who would work under the direction of the Operations Manager and is needed based on the added amenities, events and maintenance requirements. Hiring a maintenance technician will allow the department to enhance the services the department provides to the community and allow other staff to more efficiently manage their work load. This position would be funded 50% by the County and 50% by the City.

Action: **Motion** / second by Guild / Conway to accept and forward the new position requests from PRF - Recreation Supervisor position and Maintenance Technician position to the Human Resources and Finance & Property Committee as required.

Follow through: The request will be forwarded according to established procedures.

- D. Review and Possible Action

1. Brickyards Preliminary Plat – Town of McMillan

Discussion: Decker discussed the details of the Brickyards Preliminary Plat. Langenhahn questioned the reasoning behind the name of the Plat – “Brickyards”. Dustin Vreeland stated the area used to be a brick yard plant on the property.

Action: **Motion** / second by Ffrick / Guild to approve the Brickyards Preliminary Plat located in the Town of McMillan. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent

Follow through: The final plat will be submitted for approval at a later date for future committee action. Approval by County Board is not required.

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 informed the Committee that the DNR Targeted Runoff Management Grant Application for the Fenwood Creek Watershed was not approved. Daigle will be seeking funding through the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds.

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: Polley stated the County Forest Acreage Share Payments increased from .30 cents to .63 cents per acre which will increase benefits to the Townships.

2. Conservation Planning and Zoning (CPZ)

Discussion: Daigle informed the Committee that staffing grant money through the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has increased by approximately \$35,000. These additional funds will be used towards making the Water Resources Technician position fulltime.

3. Solid Waste

Discussion: No updates

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

Tuesday, August 31, 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

- Provide memo from ERC in support of funding for the Fenwood Creek Watershed through ARPA funds

B. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence

- Marathon County Fair in progress this week

8. **Adjourn – Motion** / second by Drabek / Schlei to **adjourn** at 4:25 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