



**Marathon County  
Environmental Resources Committee Minutes  
Tuesday, August 31, 2021  
500 Forest Street, Wausau WI**

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

Also present via Webex, phone or in person: Paul Daigle, Laurie Miskimins, Dominique Swangstu, Dave Decker, Andrew Lynch and Cindy Kraeger – Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ); Jean Kopplin – City-County IT, Carl Schilling, Patricia Schilling, Anna Judd, Daniel Judd, Dustin Vreeland and Jean Maszk

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

**Motion /** second by Drabek / Schlei to approve of the August 3, 2021 Environmental Resources Committee minutes as distributed. It was noted a clerical error in the call to order which will be corrected.

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. Tim Vreeland on behalf of Carl Schilling – G-A General Agriculture 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 19.22 acres shown as Lot #1 and Lot #2 on the preliminary Certified Survey Map (CSM) that was submitted with the petition. Swangstu stated areas of the rezone has some DNR mapped wetlands and shoreland overlay areas and there appears to be a small stream located on the western portion of the existing parcel. The navigability of the stream is currently unknown. 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.

Carl Schilling was sworn in and stated the rezone is to split the lot to his son.

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 3:15 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 Carl Schilling 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.

August 31, 2021

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

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

2. Daniel & Anna Judd – U-R Urban Residential to L-D-R Low Density 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 2.4630 acres shown as Lot #4 on an existing survey. The areas proposed to be rezoned has some DNR mapped wetlands and FEMA mapped floodplain areas, additionally the entire parcel is located within the shoreland overlay from Lake DuBay. The property owners did obtain a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) which removed additional lands for the regulatory floodplain (near the home). Guild questioned why some parcels are zoned Rural Residential and some are Low Density Residential in the surrounding area. Swangstu stated the vast majority of the parcels in the area are under 1 acre and were existing lots that were developed years ago. Yet, the parcel in questions was zoned LDR initially due to the adjacent parcels and development pattern even though the parcel is large enough to be zoned RR (2 acre minimum). The rezone is question would change the zoning classification from one residential zoning district to another.

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.

Anna Judd was sworn in and stated the reason for the rezone would be to raise chickens onsite, she also noted several other neighboring properties across Dubay Drive have chickens.

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 3:25 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Schlei to recommend approval to County Board, of the Daniel and Anna Judd 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 rezone 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. Tim Vreeland on behalf of George Harvanek – G-A General Agriculture to R-E Rural Estate and R-E Rural Estate to R-R Rural Residential– Town of Guenther

Discussion: Swangstu was sworn in and noted the staff report and decision sheet had been included in the packet. Swangstu reviewed the proposed rezone of part of Lot #1 7.472 acres of the preliminary CSM that was submitted with the petition to R-E Rural Estate and all of Lot #2 3.152 acres 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.

The Town of Guenther 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 3:32 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 George Harvanek rezone request. Noting the reasoning provided in the staff

Environmental Resources Committee Minutes

August 31, 2021

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.) – None.

C. Review and Possible Recommendations to County Board for its Consideration – None.

D. Review and Possible Action

1. The Brickyards Final County Plat – Town of McMillan

Discussion: Decker reviewed the Brickyards Final Plat with the Committee. The preliminary plat was reviewed by the Committee previously and no substantial change from the preliminary plat to the final plat has occurred.

Action: **Motion** / second by Schlei / Conway to approve the Brickyards Final Plat. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Follow through: Committee Chair will sign the Final Plat.

2. Provide a memo from ERC in support of funding the Fenwood Creek Watershed through ARPA funds

Discussion: Langenhahn discussed the memo that was included in the meeting packet regarding the funding request for the Fenwood Creek Pilot Watershed Project with ARPA funds.

Action: **Motion** / second by Guild / Seefeldt to forward the memo from ERC in support of funding the Fenwood Creek Watershed through ARPA funds to Human Resources, Finance and Property Committee for their consideration Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Follow through: Forward to Human Resources, Finance and Property Committee for action at their next regularly scheduled 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 thanked the Committee for support of the ERC memo for funding the Fenwood Creek Watershed through ARPA funds. Daigle stated that he is working on seeking funding from other agencies. Daigle commented on a \$50,000 grant received for farmers that are interested in trying new superior conservation practices on their land.

2. Observations from Fenwood farms during a recent storm

Discussion: Daigle shared a video on water quality in the Fenwood Creek Watershed area related to the different types of soil health practices being implemented and the differences in water quality.

3. Update to Animal Waste and Nutrient Management Ordinance

Discussion: Daigle discussed updating the ordinance to include the specific performance standards; tolerable soils, phosphorus index, process wastewater and tillage setbacks. These changes are being suggested by the State.

4. UW Discovery Farms Edge of Field monitoring sites coming to Marathon County

Discussion: Daigle discussed the installation of 2 agriculture edge of field monitoring stations in Marathon County which will be in operation October 1<sup>st</sup>.

5. Progress on Conservation related UniverCity projects

Environmental Resources Committee Minutes

August 31, 2021

Discussion: Daigle discussed the various projects UW students are working on within CPZ.

6. Future education series

Discussion: Daigle discussed educating the Committee on ongoing conservation practices or efforts in the county as time would allow on future ERC agendas. Committee members were supportive of future educational presentations when the agenda could accommodate a 10-15 minute presentation.

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

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

**Tuesday, October 5, 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

- Randy Fifrick was thanked for his years of service on the Committee
- Professional Dairy Producers Wisconsin Tour Sept 21, 2021 Miltrim Farms
- Swangstu stated CPZ received a petition from town zoned town regarding a possible zoning ordinance text amendment that will be brought before the committee in the coming months.

8. **Adjourn** – **Motion** / second by Drabek / Seefeldt to **adjourn** at 4:15 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