



**Marathon County
Environmental Resources Committee Minutes
Thursday, January 2, 2020
212 River Drive, Wausau WI**

Attendance:	<u>Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Not present</u>
<i>Chair</i>	Jacob Langenhahn.....	X (arrived at 4:20pm)	
<i>Vice-Chair</i>	Randy Fifrick.....	X	
	Rick Seefeldt	X	
	Jim Bove.....	X	
	Allen Drabek	X	
	Sara Guild.....	X	
	Arnold Schlei	X	
	Dave Oberbeck.....	X	
	Marilyn Bhend.....	X	
	Kelly King.....	X	

Also present: Rebecca Frisch, Dominique Swangstu, Paul Daigle, Brenda Iczkowski – Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ); Tom Lovlien – Park, Recreation, and Forestry (PRF); Nathan Wincentsen – Riverside Land Surveying, Peter Weinschenk – Record Review

1. **Call to order** – Called to order by *Vice Chair Fifrick* ~~Chair Langenhahn~~ at 3:00 p.m. at 212 River Drive Room 5, Wausau, WI.

2. **Public Comment** – None.

3. **Approval of December 5, 2019 Environmental Resources Committee (ERC) minutes.**

Motion / second by Drabek /Guild to approve of the December 5, 2019 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. **Nathan Wincentsen, Riverside Land Surveying on behalf of Richard & Gladys Heisler and Matthew Serwa – G-A General Agriculture and L-D R Low Density Residential to R-R Rural Residential – Town of Reid**

Discussion: Swangstu was sworn in, and reviewed the staff report, noting that the decision sheet had been included in the meeting packet. Proposed area to be rezoned from L-D-R described as Parcel 1 of the Certified Survey Map (CSM) Vol 55 Pg. 12 (1.837 acres) and area to be rezoned from G-A (1.377 acres) described in the Preliminary Certified Survey Map submitted to the department.

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

There was no additional testimony in favor or opposed to this rezone request. 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 Schlei /Drabek to recommend approval to County Board, of the Richard & Gladys Heisler and Matthew Serwa rezone request. Committee determined the rezone is consistent with the Marathon County and Town comprehensive plans, and is not located in the Farmland Preservation Plan. Adequate facilities are present and providing public facilities will not burden local government. The rezone should not result in any adverse effect on natural areas. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Follow through: Forward to County Board following the receipt of the Town Resolution.

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

A. **Review of Proposed Policy Revisions to Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan Chapters 400-600**

Discussion: Lovlien discussed Chapters 400 - 600 of the Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Chapter 400 outlines Forest Ownership with highlights on Financing, Legal Surveying and Tax Deed Land. Chapter 500 outlines Land Management and Use with highlights on Timber Sales, Timber Theft, Encroachments, and Special Uses. Chapter 600 outlines Protection with highlights on Fire Control, Controlling of Pest and Pathogens, Deer Browse and Invasive Species.

Action: None.

Follow through: Lovlien will plan on meeting with the Committee quarterly to discuss the future chapters.

B. Zoning Ordinance – Education on proposed revisions

Discussion: Included in the packet was the memorandum and the summary of revisions for the 2020 Text Amendments of the Marathon County General Code of Ordinances – Chapter 17 and Chapter 22. Swangstu summarized the text amendments from the prior meeting discussion and went through the Chapter 17 and 22 summary of revisions, looking for suggestions from the committee. Swangstu specifically reviewed more significant policy changes that are being proposed as the department wanted direction on certain proposed text amendments to ensure the revisions are consistent with the ERC's goals. The committee discussed the policy proposals with staff both asking and answering questions to give CPZ direction on the intended outcomes of proposed policy changes to be brought back to the ERC for the public hearing on February 6, 2020. It was noted the full draft Chapter 17 and 22 ordinances will be posted online in the following week for public and committee review prior to the open house. A reminder of the Open House for the proposed revisions was given to be held on January 16, 2020 from 10 am to 5 pm at 210 River Drive, Wausau WI.

Action: **None.**

Follow through: Staff will continue to share the Chapter 17 and 22 text amendments with the committee and finalize the draft ordinances while taking into consideration their comments, questions, and concerns.

Jacob arrives and resumes Chair position.

C. Land and Water Plan – resource assessment regarding soil loss in Marathon County

Discussion: Daigle presented the committee with a PowerPoint on the Soil Erosion Transect Survey 1999-2018. Marathon County is one of the few counties that continue to perform the survey and conducts the survey every other year. The survey has been expanded to the track land use changes and trends with the data being used for CPZ planning and development purposes. The survey is a roadside survey covering 604 miles with 1-mile stop intervals. The survey results show that soil erosion rates are increasing, tillage practice trending toward less erodible methods being used, cropping practices are trending toward more erodible types being grown, and a higher percentage of cropland is being tilled annually. Improved tillage practices are not offsetting increase in the planting of annual row crops.

Action: **None**, for informational purposes only.

D. Department Updates: Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ)

1. Legislative Update

Discussion: Daigle shared with that a bill was introduced in regards to Farmland Preservation that has bipartisan support that would increase the tax incentive if performance standards are conducted. Farmland Preservation would go to \$10 per acre, an Ag area contract would go to \$10 per acre and if they have both it would go to \$12.50 per acre. Daigle will recommend that the county weigh in support of this change, since the county has a policy in place supporting Farmland Preservation.

The POWTS loans are available for application through MCDEVCO. CPZ has information documents as well.

The WI Water Quality Task Force will present their findings and supporting documents in January 2020.

Action: **None**, for informational purposes only.

Follow through: CPZ will continue to monitor legislative actions.

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

Thursday, February 6, 2020 3:00 p.m. 212 River Drive, Room 5 Wausau WI

- A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion
 - New Farm Service Agency (FSA) Committee representative
- B. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence: Kelly King was recognized for his years of service on the committee.

7. Adjourn – Motion / second by King / Fifrick to **adjourn** at 4:55 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent. Rebecca Frisch, CPZ Director

For Jacob Langenhahn, Chair

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