



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

Attendance:	Member	Present	Not present
<i>Chair</i>	Jacob Langenhahn.....	X	
<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	
	Eric Vogel	X	

via phone

Also present via phone: Paul Daigle, Dominique Swangstu, Rebecca Frisch, Diane Hanson, Cindy Kraeger– Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ); Jamie Polley, Tom Lovlien – Park, Recreation, and Forestry (PRF); and Peter Weinschenk; and the public listed under agenda item #3 A.

1. **Call to order** – Called to order by Chair Langenhahn at 3:00 p.m. via WEBEX.
2. **Approval of March 5, 2020 Environmental Resources Committee (ERC) minutes.**

Motion / second by Fifrick / Bove to approve of the March 5, 2020 Environmental Resources Committee minutes as distributed. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

3. **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. **Paul Mundt on behalf of Mary Mundt and Delores Mundt (Life Est) G-A General Agriculture to L-D R Low Density Residential and N-C Neighborhood Commercial – Town of Green Valley**

Discussion: Swangstu was sworn in, and reviewed the staff report, noting that the decision sheet had been included in the meeting packet. It was noted the petitioner stated in the application the rezone request was to allow for the construction of storage units on the lot proposed to be rezoned to N-C, yet the rezoning to N-C and L-D-R would allow for any permitted or conditional use within each district.

The Town of Green Valley had reviewed the application and recommended approval without any concerns.

Swangstu read into the record the letters that were received from the following residents, as well as made additional comments in regard to the contents of the letters received: Swangstu first read the letter from Skip and Kathy Foster into the record. Swangstu read into the record and stated the letters/emails submitted by David & Margaret Velcheck and Keely Hillison had identical language and content, whereas Steve & Carrie Slater’s and Michael Endries’s submittal was nearly identical in regard to language and content. Richard & Carol Kjelstads submitted content which was also identical to one another. Additionally, Robert Hillison, Anne Kewer-Gingles, and Karla Johns submitted letters with similar content to all the submittals yet used different language to portray their comments and concerns. Those letters submitted that were identical in language and/or content were not read more than once to avoid repetition.

Present via phone and offered testimony: Anne Kewer-Gingles, David Velcheck, Keely Hillison, Robert Hillison, Skip & Kathy Foster, Rick & Carol Kjelstad, Margaret Velcheck, Michael Endries, Steve Slater and Carrie Slater.

The following people were sworn in and gave testimony on the rezone:

In favor of the rezone:

Paul Mundt – Mosinee WI: Storage units will be used for personal use and for public needs. Noting the areas of land proposed to be rezoned are located south of County Road C which has a buffer from any nearby residential properties or natural areas, therefore the proposal shouldn’t directly affect those whom live on Gruenwald Rd and Parkview Ln or the Mead Wildlife area.

In opposition of the rezone:

Marvin (Skip) Foster - Mosinee WI: Concerned about N-C zoning district allowing other types of businesses into the area; increase in vehicle traffic; lower property values, and increase in property taxes, letter submitted.

Kathy Foster – Mosinee WI: Chose not to speak, letter submitted.

Nathan Perkins – Mosinee WI: Concerns with vehicle traffic and N-C use of the parcel.

Shelby Perkins – Mosinee WI: Concerns about the water and effect on the environment.

David Velcheck – Mosinee WI: In opposition of the Green Valley Comprehensive Plan; stated concerns of water and drainage problems in the area; Applicant should redevelop buildings which are located on the property for personal storage, letter submitted.

Margaret Velcheck – Mosinee WI: Chose not to speak, letter submitted.

Gerald Bucholtz – Mosinee WI: Questioning the lots proposed in the rezone.

Robert Hillison – Mosinee WI: Application is not complete with details. Concerned the Town of Green Valley did not notify residents of the Town meeting. No purpose shown for the need of this in the area, letter submitted.

Keely Hillison – Mosinee WI: Agrees with the concerns stated in letters / comments. Concerns with increased vehicle traffic, water runoff into the Big Eau Pleine, letter submitted.

Steve Slater – Mosinee WI: Chose not to speak. No additional comments, letter submitted.

Carrie Slater – Mosinee WI: Chose not to speak. No additional comments, letter submitted.

Carol Kjelstad – Mosinee WI: Concerned about the appearance of multi storage buildings, letter submitted.

Rick Kjelstad - Mosinee WI: Concerned about the intention was not made clear, letter submitted.

Anne Kewer-Gingles – Mosinee WI: Concerns about the natural beauty and environment in the area and the groundwater in the area, letter submitted.

Jim Gingles – Mosinee WI: Totally appalled at how this was handled. “Do the right thing.”

Mike Endries – Mosinee WI: Concerned about the safety in the area with storage units; decrease in property value; increased vehicle traffic; does not align with Green Valley’s Community Vision Statement, letter submitted.

Laura Endries – Mosinee WI; chose not to speak.

Reanna Hanke – Chose not present to speak.

There was no additional testimony in favor or opposed to this rezone request. Testimony portion of the hearing was closed at 4:58 p.m.

The committee discussion occurred and provided clarification on the difference between the rezoning of the two proposed lots on the south side of Highway C and any use listed in the application. An approved rezone would allow for any and all uses which are permitted or conditionally approved in the district of which they were rezoned to. There was additional discussion and clarification on the two specific areas proposed to be rezoned as there appeared to be some confusion from local residents on what was being proposed and where; specifically in regard to its proximity to the Mead Wildlife Area and both Gruenwald Rd and Park View Ln. There was also discussion on how and if the Town of Green Valley notified the residents of the Town meeting, yet it was also discussed the county did receive a town resolution recommending approval as well as noted the posting and notification requirements for the county and town differ. Taking into consideration all the information provided and the town’s recommendation it was noted the committee would need to apply the standards for rezoning as set forth in the zoning code of ordinances.

Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Vogel / Fifrick to recommend approval to County Board, of the Paul Mundt on behalf of Mary Mundt and Delores Mundt (Life Est) rezone request. 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 and providing public facilities will not burden local government. The rezone should not result in any adverse effect on natural areas.

Motion **carried** by roll call vote 8 yes 1 no.

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 – None.

C. Review and Possible Action

1. Approval of Resolution to participate in State Motorized Recreation Trail Aids Programs

Discussion: Polley indicated this is a housekeeping item. It is to update a resolution that the WI DNR is requiring the County to approve each year to allow the Coordinator of Motorized Recreation to be the facilitator of the motorized recreation trail aids programs.

Action: **Motion** / second by Fifrick / Seefeldt to approve participation in the State Motorized Recreation Trail Aids Programs. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Follow through: Parks Department will forward to County Board for action at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

4. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports and Committee Discussion

A. Review of proposed Policy Revisions to Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan Chapters 700-900

Discussion: Lovlien discussed the chapters of the edits to the Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Lovlien will plan on meeting with the Committee quarterly to discuss the future chapters.

Action: **None.**

B. Animal Waste and Nutrient Management Ordinance-education on proposed revisions-public engagement

1. Discuss County Public engagement model levels of engagement (see attached fact sheet)
2. Inform committee of CPZ staff efforts to engage community stakeholders on proposed ordinance changes to date
3. Discuss what further efforts ERC recommends that should be taken to engage community stakeholders on proposed ordinance changes so committee is confident in proposed changes going forward.
4. Discuss possible dates to re-open hearing to consider further input on proposed ordinance changes

Discussion: Chair Langenhahn discussed that this was referred back to the Committee over a letter of concern of lack of input from farmers, he has heard through calls that it relates to the definition of manure stacking and how to engage the public. Daigle referred to the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation that was included in the meeting packet. Daigle discussed how the community was engaged in the proposed changes above the minimum requirements. Discussion occurred regarding how the Committee would like CPZ staff to proceed in order to engage the community.

Action: **None.**

Follow through: Bring back to Committee at a future meeting date.

C. Storm Water Municipal (MS4) Permit Annual Report

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/stormwater/municipal/overview.html>

Discussion: Frisch discussed the link that was included in the meeting packet which discusses the municipal storm water permit requirements that municipalities, including Marathon County, are required to follow in order to be in compliance with permit requirements.

Action: **None.**

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

Discussion: Daigle stated CPZ is open for business during COVID-19 crisis. There is no legislative report because the Senate did not reconvene.

Action: **None.**

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

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

Tuesday, May 5, 2020 3:00 p.m. 212 River Drive Wausau WI (Room to be determined)

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

B. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence

Discussion: Langenhahn thanked the Committee and staff for the opportunity to work with them over the past year. Fifrlick thanked the Committee and CPZ staff and complimented Swangstu about his presentation at County Board last month. Frisch complimented the work of the ERC Committee, especially conducting the public hearing virtually and assuring the public had the opportunity to be heard.

7. **Adjourn** – **Motion** / second by Fifrlick / Seefeldt to **adjourn** at 6:30 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/cek