



MARATHON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: **Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.**

Meeting Location: **210 River Drive, Wausau 54403**

Committee Members: Jacob Langenhahn - Chair ; Sara Guild-Vice-chair; Rick Seefeldt, Allen Drabek, Bill Conway, Randy Fifrick, Arnold Schlei, Dave Oberbeck, Eric Vogel - FSA Member, Marilyn Bhend – WI Towns & Villages Association (non-voting member)

Marathon County Mission Statement: *Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business.*

Environmental Resources Committee Mission Statement: *Provide leadership for the implementation of the County Strategic Plan, monitoring outcomes, reviewing and recommending to the County Board policies related to environmental resource initiatives of Marathon County.*

Strategic Plan Goals 2018 - 2022: Objective 5.2 - Promote sound land use decisions that conserve and preserve natural resources in decisions with economic development and growth.

Objective 6.3 - Protect and enhance the quantity and quality of potable groundwater and potable surface water supplies.

The meeting site identified above will be open to the public. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health directives, Marathon County encourages (Committee/Board/Commission) members and the public to attend this meeting remotely. To this end, instead of attendance in person, (Committee/Board/Commission) members and the public may attend this meeting by telephone conference. If (Committee/Board/Commission) members or members of the public cannot attend remotely, Marathon County requests that appropriate safety measures, including adequate social distancing, be utilized by all in-person attendees.

Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the **telephone conference beginning ten (10) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number:**

Phone Number: 1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 621 874 230

Attendee ID / Numeric Meeting Password: 6292020

When you enter the telephone conference, PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!

1. **Call meeting to order**
2. **The Public Comment portion of the agenda has been temporarily suspended, pursuant to Marathon County Resolution # R-29-20, dated April 21, 2020, because the technology necessary to afford the public the opportunity to address the County Board, or its subgroups, during public Comment is difficult to guarantee, if a large number of individuals have elected to call in.**
3. **Introduction of Committee members, discussion of future meeting dates, times and location and mission statement, bylaws and procedures pursuant to Chapter 2.01 (16) (a) 11.**
4. **Approval of April 2, 2020 Committee minutes**
5. **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) - None
 - B. Review and Possible Recommendations to County Board for its Consideration - None
 - C. Review and Possible Action
 1. Revisions to Land Division Fee Schedule
 - D. Consider date for reopening Animal Waste and Nutrient Management Ordinance public hearing
6. **Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports and Committee Discussion**
 - A. Committee Roles and Responsibilities: Chapter 2
 - B. Program Education: Options for Committee Member education
 - C. Land and Water Resource Management Plan
 1. Review of past meeting discussions
 2. Review of land goals and discussion of Goal #1
 - D. Department Updates: Parks, Recreation and Forestry (PRF), Conservation, Planning and Zoning (CPZ), and Solid

**MARATHON COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

Waste

- 7. Policy Issues Discussion and Committee Determination to the County Board for its Consideration**
- 8. Next meeting date, time & location and future agenda items:**
 - A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion
 - B. Set meeting times
 - C. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence

9. Adjournment

Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 715-261-1500 or e-mail infomarathon@mail.co.marathon.wi.us one business day before the meeting.

FAXED TO:
News Dept. at Daily Herald (715-848-9361), City Pages (715-848-5887),
Midwest Radio Group (715-848-3158), Marshfield News (877-943-0443),
TPP Printing (715 223-3505)
Date: April 29, 2020
Time: 2:00 p.m.
By: cek
Date/Time/By: _____

SIGNED Rebecca J. Frisch
Presiding Officer or Designee
NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE:
Date: _____
Time: _____ a.m. / p.m.
By: County Clerk



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

Attendance:	<u>Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Not present</u>
<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



LAND DIVISION FEE SCHEDULE

<u>Description</u>	<u>Fee</u>
<u>MINOR SUBDIVISION</u>	
1 Lot CSM	\$150
2 Lot CSM	\$175
3 Lot CSM	\$200
4 Lot CSM	\$225
CSM 3rd review	\$100
 <u>PLATS</u>	
Preliminary Plat 5-10 lots.....	\$400
Preliminary Plat 11-20 lots	\$450
Preliminary Plat 21-30 lots	\$550
Preliminary Plat 31-40 lots	\$650
Preliminary Plat 41 or more lots	\$750
Final Plat	\$200
Condo plat	\$500
Plat 3rd review	\$200
 <u>OTHER</u>	
Request for Modification.....	\$50
Parcel Combination.....	\$100

Subject to approval of ERC

Environmental Resources Committee
Roles, Responsibilities, and Relationships

- 1) **Introductions** - (Loveland)
 - a. Members of ERC
 - b. Marathon County Staff
- 2) **Review of Chapter 2** (2.04 Standing Committees - ERC) - (Loveland)
- 3) **Reviewing and Recommending Policy background:** Existing & Established Policies - (Daigle)
- 4) **Roles** – (Daigle)
 - a. Chair
 - b. Administration
 - c. CPZ Staff Support (Cindy Kraeger & Lane Loveland)
 - d. Parks, Recreation & Forestry
 - e. Solid Waste
- 5) **Relationships:** Core Values – (Daigle)

(2) *Environmental Resources Committee (ERC).*

- (a) *Mission/purpose:* Provide leadership for the implementation of the County's Strategic Plan, monitoring program outcomes, reviewing and recommending to the County Board policies related to environmental resource initiatives of Marathon County.
- (b) *Statutory responsibilities:* Space reserved.
- (c) *Membership:* The Environmental Resources Committee shall be comprised of eight (8) County Board Supervisors—two of which are members of the Extension, Education and Economic Development Committee appointed by the County Board Chairperson at the April meeting of the County Board in even-numbered years, one representative of the Towns Associations of Marathon County appointed by the County Board Chairperson, and one Farm Service Agency (FSA) Member. [Source: § 92.06(1)(b), Wis. Stats.].
 - 1. The representative of the Towns Association of Marathon County is empowered to offer motions, second motions, and speak when recognized by the Committee Chairperson; however, he or she is not empowered to vote and his or her presence does not count toward establishing a quorum.
- (d) *Term:* Members shall serve two-year terms concurrent with the terms of office of the County Board of Supervisors.
- (e) *Reporting relationship:* The Environmental Resources Committee is accountable to the County Board. It shall have the responsibility for outcome monitoring and annual reporting, as well as overseeing the implementation of all policies related to the environmental resources of the County. The Environmental Resources Committee shall have the primary responsibility for conferring with and providing policy guidance to the following County departments:

Conservation, Planning, and Zoning

Parks, Recreation and Forestry

- (f) *Duties and responsibilities:* The duties and responsibilities of the Environmental Resources Committee will include, but not be limited to:
 - 1. Act as Land Conservation Committee pursuant to §§ 92.06 and 92.07, Wis. Stats., and maintain the [following]:
 - a. Chapter 91 - Farmland Preservation.
 - b. Chapter 92 - Soil and Water Conservation and Animal Waste Management.
 - c. Chapter 93 (§ 93.90) - Livestock Facility Siting and Expansion.
 - 2. Act as Planning and Zoning Committee and maintain the following:
 - a. Chapter 59, § 59.69, Wis. Stats., Zoning Ordinance.
 - b. Chapter 59, § 59.692, Wis. Stats., Shoreland and Shoreland-Wetland Zoning Ordinance.
 - c. Chapter 59 and § 87.30, Wis. Stats., Floodplain Zoning.
 - d. Section 145.20, Wis. Stats., Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Ordinance.
 - e. Section 236.45, Wis. Stats., Land Division and Surveying Ordinance.
 - f. Section 59.69, Wis. Stats., Land Use, Information and Regulation, Environmental Protection, Surveys, Planning and Zoning.
 - g. Section 59.69, Wis. Stats., Uniform Citation Ordinance.
 - h. Section 59.54(4) and (4m), Wis. Stats., Uniform Addressing Ordinance.
 - i. Chapter 295, Subchapter 1, Wis. Stats., Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance.
 - j. Chapter 31, Wis. Stats., Regulation of Dams and Bridges Affecting Navigable Waters.
 - k. Sections 56.70(8), 66.0103, 92.07, 281.31, 281.35, Wis. Stats.
 - 3. Promote the implementation of the County's Comprehensive and Strategic Plans relative to environmental protection, waste management, public recreation, forestry and land use.
 - 4. Identify and recommend to the County Board, policies and long-range plans related to environmental and community resources of the County including land use, forests, soil and water, and outdoor recreation.

5. Review new programs and associated budget requirements, prior to their being considered for inclusion in the County's budget.
 6. Facilitate broad based discussion of issues and policies by encouraging involvement and communications with the public and with other standing Committees.
 7. Serve as the initial contact point for individuals and/or organizations who wish to influence County Board policy regarding County environmental and community resources.
 8. Delegate operational procedures and practices to appropriate program committees, boards and commissions which include Forestry and Recreation Solid Waste, and Park Commission. Provide policy guidance and oversight to the Conservation, Planning and Zoning; Parks, and Recreation and Forestry departments.
 9. Encourage soil and water conservation research and educational information and public service programs.
 10. Assist in development and administration of the annual and long-range plans and annual reports for the following program activities:
 - a. Land and Water Resource Management.
 - b. Lake Management.
 - c. Parks and Recreation.
 - d. County Forestry.
 - e. Public Transportation.
 - f. Farmland Preservation.
 - g. Solid Waste Management and Recycling.
 11. Administer the wildlife damage and abatement program including approving the annual budget, claims, and fence contracts.
 12. Distribute and allocate federal, state, and county funds made available to the committee for cost-sharing programs and other incentive programs for improvements and practices relating to soil and water conservation on private or public lands, and within the limits permitted under these programs, and determine the methods of allocating these funds.
 13. Additional duties as assigned by the County Board Chairperson.
- (g) *Committee relationships:* The Environmental Resources Committee shall be the committee of jurisdiction providing the leadership for interaction, communications, and policy recommendations to the County Board with respect to the following:
- Forestry/Recreation Committee
 - County Forest Citizen's Advisory Sub-Committee
- (h) *Other organization relationships:* The Environmental Resources Committee will also serve as Marathon County's liaison to the following organizations:
- Marathon County Park Commission
 - Board of Adjustment
 - Solid Waste Management Board

CHAPTER 3. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES, AND OUTCOMES

Plan Goals, Objectives, Strategies, Outcomes and Contributors/Partnerships

The overarching goal of the LWRMP is to support the county's following goal statement: **"Marathon County is the healthiest, safest, and most prosperous county in Wisconsin"**. Achieving this overarching goal will require many different small steps taken in concert in a coordinated effort across Marathon County as outlined in this chapter. The LWRMP is designed to align with Marathon County's Comprehensive and Strategic Plans to improve and protect land and water resources within the county.

The LAC reviewed and updated the goals, objectives, and strategies of the 2020-2030 LWRMP. For clarity, the goals, objectives, and strategies are defined to explain the differences among the three elements.

Goals are statements about Marathon County's aspirations in the topic area.

Objectives are vision statements which provide direction to the subtopics within the areas of each goal.

Strategies are key steps which should be taken to meeting the objective and reaching the goal.

Outcomes are measures or targets to further define success with respect to goals and objectives.

HEALTHIEST, SAFEST, MOST PROSPEROUS

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The future health and social well-being of Marathon County will be determined to a large extent by how the natural environment contribute to an individual's lifelong health and well-being. The social, economic, and physical environment in which a person lives shapes his or her individual characteristics and behaviors. And to that end, Marathon County is committed to being a strong supporter of the agriculture community while striving to achieve watershed restoration, and reducing nonpoint source pollution such as phosphorus. The reduction of phosphorus from watershed projects and practices will allow the county to assess progress toward improving water quality standards, and will align planning and decisions necessary to ensure continued progress.

Plan Goals

Goal 1: Land resources are protected and improved county wide.

Objectives:

1.1 Reduce soil erosion on all land.

Strategies:

1. Land with erosion rates lower than tolerable losses do not increase erosion rates.
2. Increase the use of cropland best management practices.
3. Establish grass waterways where gullies exist on cropland.
4. Monitoring historical and on-going erosion rates.
5. Best management practices for residential/commercial/business are implemented during and after construction to reduce erosion.

Outcome Measures:

1. 90% of land is under tolerable soil levels (current is 78%)-“T” performance standard by 2030.
2. An inventory of cropland gullies will be completed by 2023.
3. 50% of gullies will be stabilized by 2030.
4. All land (except cropland and pastureland) disturbances within 300 feet of a waterbody follow required best management practices to reduce erosion by 2030.

1.2 Improve soil health.

Strategies:

1. Ensure that organic matter levels in the county are monitored and utilize data to track trends in organic matter levels.
2. Increase organic matter levels.
3. Fully manage manure in a fashion where it benefits the health of the soil and productivity of the crops being grown.
4. Explore new soil testing methods to identify and improve soil health.
5. Increase soil health and productivity through newly adopted practices such as cover crops, small grains, reduced till and no-till farming, perennial forages, managed grazing and soil amendments.
6. Increase the number of farmers/owners utilizing new proven soil health testing methods.

Outcome Measures:

1. The acres of agricultural land under nutrient management increases from 60% to 80% to meet State Performance Standard by 2030.
2. Average organic matter levels on agricultural land in the county increase from 3.3% to 3.5% by 2030
3. The agricultural acres under reduced till and no-till farming methods increase from 21% to 40% by 2030.
4. The agricultural acres under perennial forage (hay and/or pasture) increase from 41% to 46% by 2030.

1.3 Forest management- Private and public forest lands in Marathon County are well managed to support wildlife, recreation and timber harvest goals.

Strategies:

1. Inform landowners of DNR Managed Forest Law Program and other forest management programs.
2. Provide education and best management practice options to reduce erosion during harvest.
3. Encourage forested pastures to be properly managed.
4. Encourage the establishment and/or maintenance of windbreaks for erosion control and energy conservation.
5. Private forest lands are established and maintained as a viable land use
6. Public forest lands in Marathon County are well managed to support wildlife, recreation and timber harvest goals as specified in the Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Outcome Measures:

1. There is no net loss of private forested acres.
2. By December 31, 2030, an average of 320 acres of land per year will be acquired for the Marathon County Parks and Forest System.

Baseline: 4,273 Park acres and 30,194 Forest acres, 2018

Source: Marathon County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.

1.4 Protect and preserve prime agricultural lands.

Strategies:

1. Preserve prime farm soils that are most vulnerable to conversion for non-farm land uses.
2. Expand the Farmland Preservation-Agricultural Enterprise Areas within the County.
3. Expand Farmland Preservation zoning to reduce fragmentation and protect prime agricultural soils.
4. Encourage the protection of a viable agricultural industry by continuing to advocate that towns participate in county zoning to protect land under general agricultural and farmland preservation zoning.
5. Improve funding mechanisms to provide technical assistance to farmers and landowners to develop nutrient management plans and meet basic agricultural performance standards and prohibitions.
6. Identify and financially support viable and environmentally superior farming systems.

Outcome Measures:

1. Conversion of land with prime farm soils to non-farm land uses is limited to less than 150 acres per year.
2. Farmland Preservation-Agricultural Enterprise Areas within the county are increased by 75,000 acres in the existing AEAs by 2030.
3. Farmland Preservation Zoning is adopted by two additional towns by 2030.
4. The ERC requests the Extension Education and Economic Development Committee to complete a policy discussion by December 1, 2022 on identifying viable and environmentally superior farming systems so that those systems can be supported.

Goal 2: Surface water quality is protected and improved.

Objectives:

2.1 Reduce agricultural runoff to surface water (soil sediment, organics, and nutrients).

Strategies:

Outcome Measures:

2.2 Seek targeted performance standards from the State for 303(d) impaired waters, to meet the Wisconsin River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) identified goals.

Strategies:

Outcome Measures:

2.3 Protect and enhance natural habitat areas along riparian corridors and wetlands.

Strategies:

Outcome Measures:

2.4 Reduce runoff from non-agricultural sources to improve water quality.

Strategies:

Outcomes:

2.4 Manage lake and stream resources to protect and improve the water quality and habitat.

Strategies:

Outcome Measures:

Goal 3: Groundwater is protected and improved.

Objectives:

3.1 Protect and enhance the quantity and quality of groundwater resources.

Strategies:

Outcome Measures:

Goal 4: Actively educate and engage community stakeholders to develop an understanding of land, surface water, and groundwater quality concerns.

Objectives:

4.1 Improve public awareness and provide educational opportunities to enhance agricultural practices that protect land and water quality.

Strategies:

Outcome Measures:

4.2 Conduct information and education activities as it relates to plan goals.

Strategies:

Outcome Measures:

DRAFT

Environmental Resources Committee Meeting Dates

- June 2nd
- June 30th
- August 4th
- September 1st
- September 29th
- November 3rd
- December 1st