



**Marathon County
Environmental Resources Committee Minutes
Tuesday, October 20, 2020
210 River Drive, Wausau WI**

Attendance:	Member	Present	Not present
<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

} via Webex or phone

Also present via Webex or phone: Paul Daigle, Dominique Swangstu, Lane Loveland and Cindy Kraeger– Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ); Tim Vreeland, Janice Brown and Stacey VanHoy.

1. **Call to order** – Called to order by Chair Langenhahn at 3:00 p.m. via WEBEX.
2. **Public Comment** – None.
3. **Approval of September 1, 2020 Committee minutes and September 16, 2020 Committee minutes**

Motion / second by Conway / Drabek to approve of the September 1, and September 16, 2020 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. Tim Vreeland on behalf of Perry Hinrichsen - F-P Farmland Preservation to R-E Rural Estate – Town of Brighton

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 5.0 acres shown as Lot 1 of the Preliminary Certified Map submitted with the rezone petition as well as went through the staff report. Swangstu also reviewed the reasoning behind the CPZ staff recommendation of approval, citing the rezone standards, requirements, and pertinent site characteristics. Swangstu stated the Town Resolution submitted by the Town had all the boxes checked “no” which after contacting the town clerk was identified as an error. CPZ contacted (via phone) the Town of Brighton Clerk prior to the ERC meeting to gain additional clarity on the resolution answers and were told selecting no for all the boxes was a mistake yet ultimately the Town did recommend approval of the rezone in question. For future reference and clarification any additional/supplemental written information (or revised town resolution) CPZ receives from the Town of Brighton regarding this rezone will be included the file.

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

Vreeland was sworn in and explained the rezone request for the above mentioned use.

There was no additional testimony in favor or opposed to this rezone request. Testimony portion of the hearing was closed at 3:23 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion /** second by Fifrick / Conway to recommend approval to County Board, of the Tim Vreeland on behalf of Perry Hinrichsen rezone request. The Committee determined the rezone is consistent with the Marathon County and Town comprehensive plans, and is located in the Farmland Preservation Zoning District. Yet, the area in question does not have prime farm soils and the remnant parcel will be combined with the adjacent parcel and will continue to be farmed.

Adequate facilities are present or will be provided and providing any necessary public facilities will not burden local government. 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 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. Stacey VanHoy on behalf of Janice and Larry Brown – G-A General Agriculture to R-R Rural Residential – Town of Frankfort

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 2.216 acres described as Lot 1 on the Preliminary Certified Survey Map submitted with the rezone 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. Agricultural lands converted appear to have been minimized as the area in question is adjacent to an existing tree line with less prime farm soils and a town road. Additionally, the remaining farmland (37.784 acres) will continue to be farmed.

The Town of Frankfort has reviewed the application and recommends approval without any concern identified.

Janice Brown and Stacey Van Hoy chose not to speak.

There was no additional testimony in favor or opposed to this rezone request. Testimony portion of the hearing was closed at 3:35 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Fifrick / Drabek to recommend approval to County Board, of the Stacey VanHoy on behalf of Janice and Larry Brown rezone request. 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. 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.)

1. Town of Rib Mountain – 226609 Thornapple Road

Discussion: The Town of Rib Mountain is town zoned and submitted a zoning district change on land consisting of 15.6 acres from Rural Residential (RR-35ac) to Countryside Residential (CR-5ac). The zoning change was approved at the town board meeting on September 1, 2020.

Although the town is town zoned, County Board approval is still needed.

Action: **Motion** / second by Fifrick / Schlei to recommend approval to County Board, of the Town of Rib Mountain zone change. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

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

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

D. Review and Possible Action – None.

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

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

1. Golden Sands Species (AIS) Program Update

Discussion: Daigle reviewed the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) report that was included in the meeting packet of work completed in Marathon County during the 2020 field season. The current AIS program is funded through December 31, 2021. Marathon County partners with Golden Sands to

provide planning, monitoring and control for aquatic invasive species in the county's lakes and streams.

Action: **None.**

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

A. Land and Water Resource Management Plan

1. Committee discussion in regards to Education at UW Marshfield, Chapter 3 and 4

Discussion: Chair Langenhahn asked Committee members for feedback/observations from attending the education session at UW Marshfield.

- Hands on overview very powerful
- Items being completed to put the plan in action
- Videos accessible to the public and constituents to help better understand the process of the plan

Action: **None.**

2. Committee review and discussion of Chapter 5

Discussion: Daigle discussed Chapter 5 of the Land and Water Plan with the Committee. Daigle reflected on the monitoring, tracking progress, and maintaining contact with partner communities/organizations to reflect newly opportunities, needs and gaps.

Action: **None.**

3. Public input and comment

Discussion: Daigle and the ERC further discussed implementation of the engagement plan and deadlines with the Committee and the importance of the deadlines and county board action in February. Daigle will provide a power point of the Chapters of the Land and Water Plan; Executive Summary and the Land and Water Plan available on the website along with other agreed to educational information.

Action: **None.**

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

Tuesday, November 3, 2020 3:00 p.m. 212 River Drive Room 5 Wausau WI

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

- Status of Town Comprehensive Planning (December)

B. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence

- Langenhahn thanked the members for meeting today
- Daigle announced Toshia Ranallo accepted a position in the Courthouse "Mary Palmer's position"
- Swangstu commented on the text amendments to the Zoning Code and Shoreland/Wetland Floodplain code coming in January.

9. **Adjourn – Motion** / second by Drabek / Conway to **adjourn** at 4:42 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Paul Daigle, Land and Water Program Director

For Jacob Langenhahn, Chair

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

PD/cek