



**Marathon County  
Environmental Resources Committee Minutes  
Tuesday, December 1, 2020  
210 River Drive, 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 ( <i>excused</i> )
	Bill Conway .....	X	
	Allen Drabek .....	X	
	Randy Fifrick.....	X	
	Arnold Schlei .....	X	
	Dave Oberbeck.....	X	
	Marilyn Bhend .....	X	
	Eric Vogel .....		X ( <i>excused</i> )

} via Webex or phone

Also present via Webex or phone: Paul Daigle, Dominique Swangstu, Lane Loveland, Dave Decker, Kirk Langfoss, Jeff Pritchard, Jared Mader, Jana Suriano and Cindy Kraeger– Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ); Jean Kopplin – City-County IT, Jason Hake – Deputy Administrator, Jamie Polley, Tom Lovlien – Park, Recreation and Forestry (PRF), Andrew Craig – WI DNR; Rachel Whitehair – UW Extension; Brian Kowalski – City Pages; Peter Weinschenk – Record Review.

1. **Call to order** – Called to order by Vice Chair Guild at 3:05 p.m. via WEBEX.
2. **Public Comment** – None.
3. **Approval of November 3, 2020 Committee minutes**

**Motion / second** by Schlei / Fifrick to approve of the November 3, 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. Rick Kersten (Central Wisconsin Lumber and Tie INC) on behalf of Steve Dahlke – G-A General Agriculture to L-I Light Industrial – Town of Rib Falls

**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 4.975 acres shown as part of Lot 1 of the Preliminary Certified Map submitted with the petition. The rezone request is related to the expansion of an existing lumber yard/sawmill. Swangstu additionally reviewed the reasoning behind why CPZ staff are recommending approval of the rezone request, citing the rezone standards, requirements, pertinent site characteristics, the towns input regarding its Comprehensive Plan, as well as the parcels proximity to STH 107 which minimizes the potential impact the sawmill expansion may have on town or county roads in the area. Swangstu read an email received from James Griesbach – Marathon County Highway Commissioner regarding the seasonal weight restrictions on County Hwy u from the driveway of the sawmill east to State Highway 107 allowing trucks to travel from STH 107 to the mill. If the rezone of the described parcel gong from G-A to L-I falls outside of the current posting no change will be made to the seasonal posting unless the change to the seasonal postings are approved by the Marathon County Infrastructure Committee. Swangstu noted that there doesn't appear to be any issues with the existing seasonal limits given the location of the proposed rezone. Additionally, all federal, state, and local permits and approvals are required prior to the start of construction or significant earthwork on the area proposed to be rezoned.

The Town of Rib Falls 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 3:28 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Fifrick / Schlei to recommend approval to County Board, of the Rick Kersten (Central Wisconsin Lumber and Tie INC) 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.

*Chair Langenhahn arrives and resumes Chair position.*

2. The draft Marathon County 2021-2030 Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan:  
The LWRM Plan identifies the existing land and water resource concerns related to soil erosion, surface and ground water pollution with the greatest impacts to Marathon County. The plan also outlines the goals, objectives, strategies, and defined outcomes to address the highest priorities. This includes an implementation strategy and defined accountability, monitoring and tracking efforts

Discussion: Daigle was sworn in and provided a brief overview background on the importance and development of the Plan. The ERC Committee has the ability to listen to public comment, followed by their own input and questions following the public hearing session today and the next scheduled ERC meeting where the hearing will be re-opened. Langenhahn asked for clarification on Chapter 4 page 127 Item #4 if CPZ "staff notifies landowners prior to site visits". Daigle responded that CPZ notifies property owners in advance of any property inspections and also the Castle Doctrine comes into play with employee safety. State law does allow staff access to private property for environmental issues, but staff discuss property access with corporation counsel if the landowner does not cooperate. Langenhahn also questioned landowners being notified of other compliance issues not related to the issue being addressed by the site visit. Daigle clarified that landowners are notified prior to any property inspection that if violations are found they need to be addressed.

Daigle read into the record the email received from Peter Weinschenk, Edgar WI as opposed to the plan for various reasons, but included the Editorial from the Record Review titled "Scrap the Plan".

Action: **Motion** / second by Conway / Drabek to postpone the Marathon County 2021-2030 Land and Water Resource Management Plan public hearing to the next scheduled Committee meeting.

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

Follow through: Bring back to the Committee at the next scheduled Committee 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

1. Resolution: Approval of the 2021 County Forest Annual Work Plan

Discussion: The annual resolution and 2021 Work Plan were included in the meeting packet and briefly reviewed. Both have been approved by the Forestry and Recreation Committee. Action is required to forward these to County Board for its consideration. County Board approval is necessary to be eligible for grant funds

Action: **Motion** / second by Fifrick / Schlei to approve the 2021 County Forest Work Plan and forward the resolution to County Board for its consideration.

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

Follow through: The resolution and work program will be forwarded to County Board for its consideration.

2. Resolution: Approval of the 2021 County Forest Acreage Share Loan Payment

Discussion: The annual resolution was included in the meeting packet; if adopted, the interest free

loan may be used for the purchase, development, preservation and maintenance of forest lands.

Action: **Motion** / second by Fifrick / Drabek to approve the 2021 County Forest Acreage Share Loan Payment and forward to County Board for its consideration.

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

Follow through: The resolution will be forwarded to County Board for its consideration at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

D. Review and Possible Action

1. Approval of a proposed public road - Town of McMillan

Discussion: Decker stated the Certified Survey Map (CSM) was including in the meeting packet in which the developer is proposing a dedicated public road with a temporary cul-de-sac that is longer than 850'. The proposed public road is approximately over 2800' long to the end of the temporary cul-de-sac. The Town of McMillan plans to eventually extend the proposed road to County Road "T". The proposed CSM meets all of the zoning requirements for RR zoning district. The Town of McMillan Board approved and signed the proposed CSM. Decker additionally reviewed the reasoning behind why CPZ staff are recommending approval of the proposed CSM allowing for the proposed town road to exceed the maximum allowable length of a dead end road with a cul-de-sac.

Action: **Motion** / second by Schlei /Fifrick to approve the proposed town road to exceed the maximum allowable length of a dead end road with a cul-de-sac. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Follow through: Approve and sign proposed CSM for recording.

2. Review recommended updates to Average Cost worksheet for land conservation practices

Discussion: Daigle discussed the update of average cost share reimbursement rates for farmers. These average costs are used when calculating project costs associated with cost shared conservation practices. State law requires committee approval to use this as a cost control measure. The last update of these average costs occurred in 2018.

Action: **Motion** / second by Conway /Guild to approve the Marathon County 2021 Average Cost for cost share reimbursement.

Follow through: None.

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

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

1. Update on Town Comprehensive Plans

Discussion: Pritchard reviewed the Comprehensive Planning Guidance document that was included in the meeting packet. After Towns update their plans, CPZ staff does receive the updated Town Plan which is also updated on the Town's website.

Action: None.

2. McMillan Marsh Lease Amendment (Lovlien)

Discussion: Lovlien discussed the amendment to the McMillan Marsh lease to include six, 40 acre parcels. County Administrator, Lance Leonhard has signed the amendment which will be forwarded to the Department of Natural Resources.

Action: None.

Follow through: Forward the McMillan Marsh Lease Amendment to the Department of Natural Resources.

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

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

**Tuesday, January 5, 2021 3:00 p.m. 212 River Drive Room 5 Wausau WI**

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- A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion
  - B. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence
    - Summary of revisions to Chapter 17
8. **Adjourn – Motion** / second by Schlei / Guild to **adjourn** at 4:55 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