



**Marathon County
Environmental Resources Committee Minutes
Thursday, May 2, 2019
500 Forest Street, Wausau WI**

Attendance:	<u>Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Not present</u>
Chair	Jacob Langenhahn.....	X	
Vice-Chair	Randy Fifrick.....	X	
	Rick Seefeldt	X	
	Jim Bove		X (<i>excused</i>)
	Allen Drabek	X	
	Ashley Lange.....		X (<i>excused</i>)
	Sara Guild.....	X	
	Allen Opall		X (<i>excused</i>)
	Marilyn Bhend	X	
	Kelly King	X	

Also present: Rebecca Frisch, Paul Daigle, Matt Repking, Dominique Swangstu, Cindy Kraeger – Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ); Tom Lovlien – Park Recreation and Forestry (PRF), Peter Weinschenk, Liz Holbrook.

1. **Call to order** – Called to order by Chair Langenhahn at 3:00 p.m. at 500 Forest Street – Assembly Room, Wausau, WI.
2. **Public Comment** – None.
3. **Approval of April 4, 2019 Environmental Resources Committee (ERC) minutes with clarifications.**
Motion / second by King / Drabek to approve of the April 4, 2019 Environmental Resources Committee minutes as distributed. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.
4. **Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution: None**
5. **Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**

A. Community Stakeholder Discussion: Manure Policies and Practice

1. Wisconsin River Alliance Representative Falon French and CAFO Representative Dan Punke

Discussion: Falon French presented a power point presentation on the water challenges with phosphorus and the effects connected to businesses would be harmed if there was not a reliable supply of clean, plentiful water. French discussed ways for guiding farms through a process of evaluating and enhancing water stewardship performance in their agricultural practices and achieving credible, stakeholder recognition for their efforts. There are currently two pilot farms in Wisconsin working to implement the Alliance for Water Stewardship standards to achieve improved water quality.

Dan Punke was unable to attend the meeting.

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

Follow through: None

B. Strategic Plan annual reporting: Priority objectives 5.2 and 6.3

Discussion: Chair Langenhahn discussed the Committee should be considering the Strategic Plan Objectives 5.2 Promote sound land use decisions that conserve and preserve natural resources in decisions with economic development and growth and Objective 6.3 - Protect and enhance the quantity and quality of potable groundwater and potable surface water supplies during committee discussions and when making decisions. Fifrick questioned incorporating the other objectives and Chair will review these objectives as they relate to ERC but considers Objective 5.2 and 6.3 the top priority.

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

Follow through: Future meetings will continue to focus on priority objectives.

C. Department Updates: Conservation, Planning, and Zoning, Parks, Recreation, and Forestry (PRF), and Solid Waste Department

CPZ

1. Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) grants

Discussion: Daigle presented the power point which was included in the meeting packet. Daigle discussed how the DATCP grants are implemented, giving an overview of the competitive grant process with all the counties in Wisconsin. Marathon County applies for grants for staffing, bond, segregated grants, and nutrient management grants. These grants are based on performance and interaction with

farmers to implement best practices. The combined grants amounts from DATCP have now exceeded all other counties for several years due to the dedicated staff within CPZ. CPZ has a multi county program that educates farmers on nutrient management programs. Other counties transfer their allocated money to Marathon County. The base level of Conservation funding is not being met by the state. The State Legislature continues to work on the biennial budget. The Executive Committee will represent Marathon County on County Conservation Staffing and Cost Sharing; and Soil and Water Resource Management Bond Authority and Cost Share Grants.

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

D. Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) Revolving Loan Fund Update

Discussion: Chair advised the committee that the program is being established, Administration is handling the details, asked for a brief update. Frisch stated Administrative, Finance and MCDEVCO have met and are working on the details on the revolving loan program, including educational brochures.

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

Follow through: None.

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

A. Legislative and Budget Report: current and future legislative initiatives

Discussion: Lovlien/Frisch reviewed the Legislative Update on the Condemnation Authority used to acquire land to establish or extend recreational trails, bicycle ways or lanes or pedestrian ways.

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

Follow through: CPZ will continue to monitor legislative actions.

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

Thursday, June 6, 2019 3:00 p.m. Courthouse Assembly Room 500 Forest Street, Wausau

A. Discuss anticipated public hearings for July and date for another July meeting

July 2, 2019 3:00 p.m. Assembly Room

July 11, 2019 3:00 p.m. Assembly Room (if needed)

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

Environmental Repair Fund update

Environmental Impact Fund projects completed -update

C. Fenwood Creek Watershed Update

Place on agenda in the fall

D. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence - None

8. **Adjourn – Motion** / second by Fifrck / Seefeldt to **adjourn** at 4:30 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