



**Marathon County
Environmental Resources Committee Minutes
Thursday, December 5, 2019
212 River Drive, Wausau WI**

Attendance:	<u>Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Not present</u>
<i>Chair</i>	Jacob Langenhahn.....	X (arrived at 4:15)	
<i>Vice-Chair</i>	Randy Fifrick.....		X (excused)
	Rick Seefeldt	X	
	Jim Bove	X	
	Allen Drabek	X	
	Sara Guild.....	X	
	Arnold Schlei	X	
	Dave Oberbeck.....		X
	Marilyn Bhend		X (excused)
	Kelly King	X	

Also present: Rebecca Frisch, Dominique Swangstu, Paul Daigle, Dave Decker, Lane Loveland, Cindy Kraeger – Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ); Meleesa Johnson, Solid Waste; Tom Lovlien, Jamie Polley – Park Recreation and Forestry (PRF); Craig McEwen; Michael Kuyoth, Tim Vreeland.

1. **Call to order** – In the absence of Chair Langenhahn and Vice Chair Fifrick, Langenhahn appointed Guild as Chair pro tempore. Called to order by Chair pro tempore at 3:00 p.m. at 212 River Drive Room 5, Wausau, WI.
2. **Welcome and Introductions of new committee members**
3. **Public Comment** – None.
4. **Approval of November 7, 2019 Environmental Resources Committee (ERC) minutes.**

Motion / second by Drabek / Seefeldt to approve of the November 7, 2019 Environmental Resources Committee minutes as distributed. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

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)**

1. **Tim Vreeland on behalf of Hugh & Jeanine Feirer and Jason & Casey Heeg – F-P Farmland Preservation to R-E Rural Estate – Town of Brighton**

Discussion: Swangstu was sworn in, and reviewed the staff report, noting that the decision sheet had been included in the meeting packet. The request is to rezone 9.362 acre Lot 2 on Certified Survey Map 9554-38-177. The area proposed to be rezoned is also abutting the Town of Hull and the Town of Brighton border. The parent parcel is directly adjacent to the Village of Unity, which does not have extraterritorial jurisdiction regarding land division or zoning. The Town of Brighton has reviewed the application and recommends approval without any concerns.

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 3:17 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: Motion / second by Drabek / King to recommend approval to County Board, of the Tim Vreeland on behalf of Hugh & Jeanine Feirer and Jason & Casey Heeg rezone request. Committee determined the rezone is consistent with the Marathon County and Town comprehensive plans, and is in the Farmland Preservation Plan. 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 voice vote, no dissent.

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

2. **Tim Vreeland on behalf of Michael Kuyoth – G-A General Agriculture and L-I Light Industrial to R-R Rural Residential and G-A General Agriculture – Town of Wien**

Discussion: Swangstu was sworn in, and reviewed the staff report, noting that the decision sheet had been included in the meeting packet. Proposed area to be rezoned from L-I to G-A described as Lot 2 (10.535 acres) and area to be rezoned from L-I and G-A to R-R described as Lot 3 (2.024 acres) of the Preliminary Certified Survey Map submitted to the department. The remnant parcel (proposed as Lot #1) will have greater than 10 acres which conforms to the G-A zoning district standards.

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

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

Action: Motion / second by Bove / Seefeldt to recommend approval to County Board, of the Michael Kuyoth rezone request. Committee determined the rezone is consistent with the Marathon County and Town comprehensive plans, and is not located in the Farmland Preservation Plan. 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 voice vote, no dissent.

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

3. Tim Vreeland on behalf of agent Jeff Redetzke and Thomas & John Uthmeier – L-I Light Industrial to N-C Neighborhood Commercial – Town of McMillan

Discussion: Swangstu was sworn in, and reviewed the staff report, noting that the decision sheet had been included in the meeting packet. The rezone request is to build public storage units. Swangstu shared the email received from the City of Marshfield, City Planner, in favor of the rezone.

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

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 3:38 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: Motion / second by King / Schlei to recommend approval to County Board, of the Tim Vreeland on behalf of agent Jeff Redetzke and Thomas & John Uthmeier rezone request. Committee determined the rezone is consistent with the Marathon County and Town comprehensive plans, and is not located in the Farmland Preservation Plan. 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 voice vote, no dissent.

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

4. Public testimony on text amendments to the Marathon County Code of Ordinance for Chapter 18 Land Division and Surveying Regulations

Discussion: Decker was sworn in and briefly explained the Land Division Rewrite process including engagement of surveyors and town officials. Recent changes included revising the yard definition to match the Zoning Ordinance and revising language to restrict proposed lot lines from crossing tax district boundary lines. Frisch stated Corporation Counsel, Scott Corbett, provided guidance with the rewrite of this ordinance. There was no additional testimony in favor or opposed to the text amendments request. Testimony portion of the hearing was closed at 3:49 p.m.

Action: Motion / second by Seefeldt / Bove to approve the text amendments to the Marathon County Code of Ordinance for Chapter 18 Land Division and Surveying Regulations Code, including the minor revisions submitted by the county surveyor stated at the hearing.

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 Recommendations to the County Board for its consideration (Town Zoning changes pursuant to §60.62(3) Wis. Stats.)

1. Town of Ringle – Plover River Acres Subdivision – zone changes

Discussion: Swangstu presented the Town of Ringle is independently zoned and submitted text amendment changes to amend the Plover River Acres Subdivision from Agriculture to RS 1/40 Residential. The text amendments were approved at a joint meeting of the town board and planning commission on February 11, 2019. Although the Town is independently zoned, County Board approval is still needed.

Action: Motion / second by Schlei / Drabek to recommend approval to County Board, of the Town of Ringle – Plover River Acres Subdivision text amendment change. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

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

2. Town of Weston – Adopting and recreating a new Chapter 94 Zoning Ordinance

Discussion: Swangstu presented the Town of Weston is independently zoned and submitted text

amendments repealing Chapter 94 Zoning Ordinance for the Town of Weston and adopting and recreating a new Chapter 94 Zoning Ordinance for the Town of Weston. The adoption and recreating a new Chapter 94 Zoning Ordinance was approved at a joint meeting of the town board and planning commission on November 19, 2019. Although the Town is independently zoned, County Board approval is still needed.

Action: **Motion** / second by King / Seefeldt to recommend approval to County Board, of the Town of Weston Adopting and recreating a new Chapter 94 Zoning Ordinance. 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

1. Resolution: Approval of the 2020 County Forest Annual Work Plan

Discussion: The annual resolution and 2020 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 Drabek / Schlei to approve the 2020 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 2020 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 Bove / Seefeldt to approve the 2020 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.

3. 2020 - 2024 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Discussion: Polley gave an overview of the plan purpose and how it used to guide the County in making decisions related to improvements at existing parks, land acquisition for park expansion, trail extension and improvements for the next five years.

Action: **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / King to approve the 2020 – 2024 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and forward to County Board for its consideration. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

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

Jacob arrives and resumes Chair position.

4. Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department Restructuring

Discussion: Polley discussed the abolishing two positions known as Parks and Recreation Managers and create one Assistant Director Position and one Assistant Park and Recreation Manager Position to better align the structure of the department to provide more efficiencies to the work place as well as the department operations.

Action: **Motion** / second by King / Guild to recommend and forward the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department Restructuring to Human Resources / Finance Committee for its consideration. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Follow through: The resolution will be forwarded to Human Resources, Finance Committee and County Board for their consideration.

5. CPZ grant funded new position request – Conservation Specialist

Discussion: Daigle discussed the new position request which is 100% USDA- Natural Resource Conservation Service funded. This position will work with land owners primarily in the Fenwood and Eau Pleine watershed areas to implement the best practices on the ground.

Action: **Motion** / second by King / Bove to recommend and forward the CPZ grant funded new position request – Conservation Specialist to the Human Resources / Finance Committee for its consideration. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Follow through: Forward to Human Resources and Finance and County Board for their consideration at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

D. Review Possible Action

1. Recommended Nonmetallic mining fee adjustment

Discussion: Daigle discussed the changes to the Nonmetallic mining fee schedule to include a minimum fee of \$100 and correct grammatical errors.

Action: **Motion** / second by King / Drabek to approve the recommended Nonmetallic Mining fee adjustment.

Follow through: New fees will be posted to CPZ website, along with other department fees.

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

A. Strategic Plan Objective 5.2 and 6.3

1. Outcome – Groundwater protection plan by 2022

Discussion: Frisch gave an update regarding staff meeting with UWSP about groundwater and the need for a new groundwater plan. McEwen discussed the progress with the Committee on the objectives 5.2 and 6.3 from the Strategic Plan. Discussion occurred regarding reporting on the progress of these items to County Board. Frisch will work with Chair Langenhahn to develop a list of items of ERC progress in addressing the objectives.

Action: **None.**

Follow through: Chair Langenhahn and Frisch will develop a list of items of progress to report to County Board.

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

Solid Waste

1. PFAS/PFOS issue and its relationship to land and water resources

Discussion: Johnson reviewed and discussed the content of the PowerPoint that was included in the ERC packet. Johnson explained the origins, history, and purposes of PFAS/PFOS as well as described the common uses, materials, products in which PFAS/PFOS are used. She also explained what some risks and common issues associated with PFAS/PFOS are as well as historical actions made by different organizations using 3M as an example. Different US companies are phasing out the production of PFOS/PFAS yet, other countries may not. PFOS/PFAS have been in the media lately and different agencies and municipalities are taking action with research and restrictions associated with its uses and products. Consumers have been driving the use and consumption of PFAS/PFOS due to user habits and practices. New legislation is being brought up all the time and they are primarily associated with water quality standards and requirements, yet testing is difficult given some testing equipment is coated with PFOS/PFAS and there are specific processes and safeguards related to testing. Wisconsin is looking to adopt one of the nation's toughest PFAS standards to restrict limits of 2 ppt where the EPA recommended limit is 70ppt, whereas the DHS recommended groundwater standard is 20ppt. State capital representatives have meet and discussed the next steps to putting some regulations in place. Johnson continued to explain the current waste treatment systems associated with PFAS/PFOS, as well as PFA detection systems that are being used in other states as well as some communities. Marathon County Waste Management Dept. is running into issues transporting the leachate associated with these PFOS/PFAS, as many previous locations such as Domtar are beginning to no long take the waste. This may result in increased expensive for communities and municipalities. Marathon County is looking to explore all of the options to properly dispose of PFOS/PFAS given farmers, landfills, and other industrial sectors are no longer taking the material. To end the presentation a fact sheet was distributed to the committee. There were no additional questions from the committee.

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

1. Animal Waste and Nutrient Management ordinance revisions

Discussion: Daigle stated CPZ will be revising the Animal Waste and Nutrient Management Ordinance. Education elements will be presented to the committee at the January meeting date. Draft ordinance to be introduced for public hearing at the February or March meetings.

Action: **None.**

2. Zoning Text Amendments

Discussion: Swangstu explained there will be zoning revisions brought to committee which will include the wind and solar energy system updates. CPZ is planning to bring a memo as well as a summary of revisions to the committee for education and discussion in January to then have the Public hearing in February 2020.

Action: **None.**

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

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

Discussion: Loveland distributed the legislative report. CPZ will monitor the federal budget and update the

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Committee of any impacts.

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

Follow through: CPZ will continue to monitor legislative actions.

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

Thursday, January 2, 2020 3:00 p.m. 212 River Drive, Room 5 Wausau WI

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

B. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence

- Rules Review Committee – Future meeting dates 1st Tuesday of the month
- Standing Committees taking precedence

9. **Adjourn – Motion** / second by King / Schlei to **adjourn** at 6:00 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