



**Marathon County
Environmental Resources Committee Minutes
Tuesday, May 2, 2023
500 Forest Street, Wausau WI**

Attendance:	<u>Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Not present</u>
<i>Chair</i>	Jacob Langenhahn	X	
<i>Vice-Chair</i>	Allen Drabek		X (Excused)
	Rick Seefeldt	X	
	Dave Oberbeck	X	
	Andrew Venzke	X	
	Tony Sherfinski	X	
	Kim Ungerer	X	
	Mike Ritter	X	
	Marilyn Bhend	X	
	Rodney Roskopf	X	

Via in person, Webex Or phone

Also present via Webex, phone or in person: Laurie Miskimins, Nicole Delonay, Shad Harvey, Garrett Pagel, Diane Hanson, – Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ); Jamie Polley – Parks Department, David Hagenbucher – Solid Waste, Lance Leonhard – Administrator, John Robinson, Stacey Morache, Jean Maszk, Tim Sondelski – County Board Supervisors, Stacey Schumacher – WI Public Service Commission, Ronald Letz, Jerald Seege, Sharon Seege, Martin Machtan

1. **Call to order** – Called to order by Chair Langenhahn at 3:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
3. **Public Comment** –
 - Ronald Letz – expressed his concerns over the noise and nuisance of the wind turbines.
 - Martin Machtan – Town of Lincoln – Wood County – Machtan spoke on the behalf of Farm First
4. **Approval of April 4, 2023, Committee minutes**
Motion / second by Sherfinski/ Seefeldt to approve of the April 4, 2023, Environmental Resources Committee minutes.
 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. Jason Pflieger on the behalf of Larry Weigel – R-E Rural Estate to R-R Rural Residential - Town of McMillan

Discussion: Pagel was sworn in and noted the staff report and decision sheet had been included in the packet. Pagel reviewed the rezone request shown on the Preliminary Certified Survey Map (CSM) that was submitted with the petition. Pagel additionally reviewed the reasoning behind why Conservation Planning and Zoning (CPZ) staff are recommending approval of the rezone request, citing the rezone standards, requirements, and pertinent site characteristics. The Town McMillan has reviewed the application and recommends approval without any concerns or additional comments. Pagel noted that the agenda listed incorrectly states that the petition was from Tim Vreeland. The petition request was from Jason Pflieger



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was correct in the Public Hearing Notice that was posted and distributed to the surrounding landowners and local newspaper sources.

There was no additional testimony in favor or opposed to this rezone request virtually or in person. Testimony portion of the hearing was closed at 3:27 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Ritter/ Sherfinski to recommend approval to County Board, of the Weigel rezone request. Noting the reasoning provided in the staff report and conclusions of law, 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. Based on the proposed land division and existing land uses onsite 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.) – None.
- C. Review and Possible Recommendations to County Board for its Consideration – None.
- D. Review and Possible Action – None.

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports and Committee Discussion

- A. Department Updates: Conservation, Planning and Zoning (CPZ), Parks Recreation and Forestry (PRF), Solid Waste
- 1. Overview of the Marathon County General Code of Ordinances Chapter 17 Wind Regulations and the Public Service Commission Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity & 128 Wind Regulations

Discussion: Harvey discussed Marathon County's General Code of Ordinances Chapter 17 related to Wind Regulations.

Stacey Schumacher – WI Public Service Commission (PSC), explained the Public Service Commission permitting process for wind projects over 100 megawatts, including the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) and PSC 128 Wind Siting Regulations being reviewed by the Wind Siting Council. She also explained the process for public comment as it related to CPCN, and the Wind Siting Council's update process for administrative guidelines.

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

- A. Discussion regarding 2024 Annual Budget and policy recommendations from the



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committee.

1. Review of Mandatory / Discretionary Program document
2. Review of Rates and Fees document
3. Review of 5-Year Departmental Expense/Levy document

Discussion: Chair Robinson discussed the upcoming budget process; this will be done by having the committees evaluate each department individually that they are involved with. Administrator Leonard indicated the finance committee has laid out of the three most important items which are: 1) What programs/services do we offer? 2) At what level or service do we offer them? 3) At what cost do we deliver these services? The HR Finance and Property Committee is asking the committees to discuss these suggestions. The ERC Committee asked clarifying questions on what they are to do, and how to best evaluate priorities. Chair Langenhahn asked CPZ, Parks, and Solid Waste to come back to the board at a forthcoming meeting with specific items to discuss pertaining to the budget process:

- Examine non-mandated programs and the role of fees, grants, and levy in funding these programs.
 - Lay out service levels for non-mandated programs.
- Further explain the relationship between fees and levy for the mandated programs.
- Identify any opportunities, trends, patterns, or concerns the ERC should be aware of as it relates to your department's programs.

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

Tuesday, May 30, 2023, 3:00 p.m. Marathon County Courthouse, Assembly Room

- A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion
- B. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence
 1. Conservation, Planning, & Zoning Staff will testify at the State Legislature on the Fenwood Pilot: May 10, 2023

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- 9. Adjourn – Motion/** second by Seefeldt/ Venzke to **adjourn** at 5:33 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Laurie Miskimins, CPZ Director
For Jacob Langenhahn, Chair

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

LM/nd