



**Marathon County  
Environmental Resources Committee Minutes  
Tuesday, May 30, 2023  
500 Forest Street, 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		} Via in person, Webex Or phone
<i>Vice-Chair</i>	Allen Drabek.....	X		
	Rick Seefeldt .....	X		
	Dave Oberbeck .....		X	
	Andrew Venzke.....		X (excused)	
	Tony Sherfinski.....	X		
	Kim Ungerer .....	X		
	Mike Ritter.....	X		
	Marilyn Bhend.....	X		
	Rodney Roskopf.....		X (excused)	

Also present via Webex, phone or in person: Laurie Miskimins, Shad Harvey, Garrett Pagel, Diane Hanson, – Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ); Jamie Polley – Parks Department, David Hagenbucher – Solid Waste, Lance Leonhard – Administrator, Chris Holman – Deputy Administrator; Dejan Adzic – Deputy Corporation Counsel, John Robinson – County Board Supervisor, Scott Hoepfner, Josh Prentice – REI Engineering

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** –
4. **Approval of May 2, 2023, Committee minutes**  
**Motion** / second by Drabek/Ritter to approve of the May 2, 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. Josh Prentice of REI Engineering on behalf of Larry Scheuer, Trustee of the Larry Scheuer Revocable Trust – G-A General Agriculture to F-P Farmland Preservation - 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.

Josh Prentice – REI Engineering was sworn in and stated he was present for any questions from the Committee. 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 3:08 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.



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Action: **Motion** / second by Sherfinski/Ritter to recommend approval to County Board, of the Scheuer 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. 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.

2. Jason Pflieger on behalf of Michael Kellhauser – L-I Light Industrial to R-R Rural Residential - Town of Marathon

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 Marathon has reviewed the application and recommends approval without any concerns or additional comments.

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 3:13 p.m. Committee deliberated and applied the standards for this request by reviewing and completing the decision sheet.

Action: **Motion** / second by Ritter/Drabek to recommend approval to County Board, of the Kellhauser 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.



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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.

1. Resolution to Amend the 2023 Capital Improvement Project List to add Phase A Closure of Bluebird Ridge Recycling and Disposal Facility

Discussion: Hagenbucher provided background information as to why the 2023 Capital Improvement Project list needed to be amended, and confirmed funding for the project is covered through the Solid Waste Department. The resolution has received approval from the Solid Waste Management Board.

Action: **Motion** / Second by Sherfinski/Ungerer to approve the resolution to amend the 2023 Capital Improvement Project list to add phase A Closure of Bluebird Ridge Recycling and Disposal Facility.

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

D. Review and Possible Action

1. Turbett Estates Preliminary Plat – Town of Mosinee

Discussion: Decker discussed the Turbett Estates CSM submittal. Based on the information provided CPZ staff recommend this approval. The Committee asked for clarification on the number of units in the plat, and Decker estimated 9 units.

Action: **Motion** / Second by Sherfinski/Drabek to approve the preliminary plat for Turbett Estates

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

Follow-through/Action: None at this time. Preliminary plats only require ERC approval.

2. Stettin Acres Preliminary Plat – Town of Stettin

Discussion: Decker discussed the Stettin Acres Preliminary CSM submittal. Based on the information provided CPZ staff recommend this approval. The Committee clarified with Decker why extra territorial review is required, because Wausau reviews everything within 3-mile radius. The Committee clarified that the Town of Stettin has not met yet to give approval. Decker reminded the Committee that plat approval decisions are siloed. One approval does not drive or dictate another. If any one entity denies the plat, it is denied. Decker estimated there were around 40-units in this plat.

Action: **Motion** / Second Ritter/ Seefeldt to approve preliminary plat for Stettin Acres

Motion **carried** by voice vote, 5 affirmed approval with 1 objection

Follow-through/Action: None at this time. Preliminary plats only require ERC approval.



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**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. Update on Manure Spill Incidents in Marathon County

Discussion: CPZ staff, Repking and Heidenreich, gave overview of manure spills, procedures, ordinance/enforcement, and trends in the county and state. They spoke to the current tools the county has and suggested other tools the county could pursue in the future to assist with enforcement. The Committee asked questions and discussed ideas.

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

- A. Letter to Governor Evers and the Wisconsin Legislature in Support of more Local Environmental Control

Discussion: Chair Langenhahn explained reasoning behind drafting this letter and clarified it was not meant to expand local government but ask the Governor and Legislature to give local governments more input into environmental issues that will affect their communities. He asked the Committee to support moving this letter to the Executive Committee for consideration to move to the full County Board, however with two changes: 1) strike the word "again" in closing statement, and 2) Replace County Board Chair signature with a signature page for all County Board Supervisors. The Committee discussed.

Action: **Motion/Second** by Ritter/Sherfinski to forward to Executive Committee with two changes 1) strike the word "again" in closing statement, and 2) Replace County Board Chair signature with a signature page for all County Board Supervisors

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

- B. Continue Discussion Regarding 2024 Annual Budget and Policy Recommendations from the Committee

Discussion: Supervisor Robinson and Administrator Leonhard reminded the Committee of potential feedback and/or direction they can provide to their departments and the budget process. Department Heads Miskimins, Polley, and Hagenbucher gave overviews on non-mandated versus mandated programs, policies/historic use of fees, grants, and levy, and other measures and directions they are pursuing to continue minimizing the use of levy. The Committee and staff discussed other ideas for finding efficiencies, evaluating the level of service the County wants to provide for certain programs, and other considerations related to fees and use of the levy. It was also noted that departments under the ERC are only using between 31%-33% in levy for their budgets.



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Action/Follow-through: No follow-up/through was identified by the committee at this time.

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

**Tuesday, June 27, 2023, 3:00 p.m. Marathon County Courthouse, Assembly Room 500 Forest Street Wausau WI**

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

Discussion: Seefeldt asked the Committee Chair to bring forth a discussion related to lot sizes in the zoning code and what could be considered with sizing to promote more affordable housing.

D. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence

1. Mike Ritter's Appointment to WI Land + Water Board of Directors

Discussion: Heidenreich announced Mike Ritter's appointment to WI Land + Water Board of Directors and what a great honor and opportunity this is for Marathon County. Ritter expressed his enthusiasm for the position and soil health, and his desire to bring an active grazer's voice and point of view to this board.

**9. Adjourn – Motion/ second by Seefeldt/Drabek to **adjourn** at 5:58 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