

FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 10, 2017 – 12:30 P.M.
AMNICON TOWN HALL
8985 US-2, SOUTH RANGE, WISCONSIN

Meeting called to order by Vice-chair Jim Streveler at 12:42pm.

Present – Jane Anklam, Amy Eliot, Charlie Glazman, Gary Haughn, Mark Liebaert, Larry Luostari, Christine Ostern, Steve Rannenberg, Jim Streveler, and Terry White. Also present – Shelly Nelson.

Motion by Steve Rannenberg, second by Charlie Glazman, approve the minutes from the June 7, 2016 meeting. Motion passed.

Motion by Steve Rannenberg, second by Charlie Glazman, to amend the agenda to remove item #5 “Discharge the committee from service”. Motion passed.

An overview of the current status of the revised planning process was given by Amy Eliot and Christine Ostern including the following items:

- Amy will share any substantive public comments with the committee by email;
- an information presentation will be given to the County Board at their December meeting;
- the Zoning Committee will address a resolution to add the revised farmland preservation plan and maps to the county’s comprehensive land-use plan at their November meeting; and
- Towns will still have the opportunity to change their future land-use maps and/or definitions during the 30-day comment period.

The committee went through the draft plan section by section and suggested these changes:

1. Page 20 - Town of Cloverland revised its language on its Rural Residential FLU class per Larry L.:

The Rural Residential class will remain in the FPA and the County will add the following language criteria to the Farmland Preservation Plan:

“Any group of parcels in the ‘Rural Residential’ class resembling a sub-division (less than 5 acres) will be excluded from the FPA.

2. Page 21 - Clarification of land included/excluded in revised FPA map:
3. Table 2 (page 22): Added explanation for renaming Highway 2 Grasslands to Lake Superior Grasslands.
4. Page 24/25 – Added an image for Highway 2 Grasslands indicated the name being changed to Lake Superior Grasslands.
5. Page 30 – Revised fairground language under Obj. 3d, Action i.
6. Page 37 – Revised per Jane A. - ~~According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, farm employment comprised 5.5% of total employment in the county in 2006 (DC Comp Plan).~~ In 2014, agriculture provided 696 jobs in the county, or 3.3% of the county’s labor force of 20,970. The majority of the farms are owned by individuals or families at 90.4 %. Farmers own and manage 8.5% of the County’s land, including cropland, pasture, tree farms and farm forest (UWEX Value and Economic Impact of Agriculture et al, 2014). ~~The job growth rate in 2006 for the Ag, forestry, fishing and hunting industry (including crops, forestry and logging) ranked last out of 19 industry sectors with a new job growth rate of -25.5%. Another 4.2% decrease was predicted to occur in~~

~~2004-2014 (DC Comp Plan)~~-The Northwest Workforce Development Area Occupation projections are that Farming, Fish & Forestry jobs will decline -15% from 2012 to 2022 (WDWD, 2016).

7. Page 38-39 – Economic Growth (edits by Charlie G. discussed at meeting)
8. Page 39 – Utilities (edits by Charlie G. discussed at meeting)
9. Page 46 – added source for atrazine map
10. Page 49 – Changed dragonfly species from Hine’s to Forcipate (Hine’s not in DC per Jane A.)
11. Page 50 – High capacity well definition
12. Page 53 – Add a paragraph about waterbodies in Douglas county that are on the impaired waters list for phosphorus (1 on, 1 removed, 3 proposed).
13. Page 53-54 - Added section on WWAP/Lake Superior Grasslands per Jane A.
14. Page 57 – Removed reference to the DC Moratorium on Livestock Facilities Licensing Ordinance because it expired on 9-15-16.
15. Page 61-63 – Ag Characteristics and Trends - deleted/revised language per Jane Anklam.
16. Page 68 – Key Ag Infrastructure – revised sentence: There are no fruit or vegetable preserving manufacturers; cheese manufacturers; ~~animal slaughtering and processing facilities; perishable prepared food manufacturers; breweries;~~ or wineries in Douglas County.
17. Page 68 - – Key Ag Infrastructure – Deleted paragraph: The Head of the Lakes Fair has been held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in the City of Superior for many years. In 2012, the Douglas County Land and Development Committee voted unanimously to transfer property at the fairgrounds to the city's 55Redevelopment Authority to facilitate the proposed manufacturing facility for Kestrel Aircraft Company (Duluth News Tribune, 11 January 2012). The same article quoted Jason Serck, Superior Port and Planning Director as saying the land would "revert back to the county if this unravels or doesn't come to fruition". The FPP Steering Committee was not aware of the current status or if the land was still being marketed. The FPP Steering Committee has concerns about the loss of fairgrounds and noted that the DC Comp Plan identifies promotion of the county fair throughout the year and encourages farmers to participate. The Head of the Lakes Facebook page indicates the fair will be held in 2017.

Motion by Charlie Glazman, second by Terry White, to make the above changes and recommend the draft plan, with changes, for approval to the Land Conservation Committee. Motion passed.

Motion by Terry White, second by Larry Luostari to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:12pm.

Submitted by,
Christine Ostern, County Conservationist