

Richland County Natural Resources Standing Committee

August 5, 2024

The Richland County Natural Resources Standing Committee convened on Monday, August 5, 2024 in person and virtually at 9:30 AM in the County Boardroom of the Richland County Courthouse.

Call To Order: Committee Chair Carrow called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Roll Call: Clerk Kalish conducted roll call. Committee members present: Carrow, McKee, Hendricks, Gill, Woodhouse, Fleming, and Brookens. Committee member(s) absent: none.

Verification Of Open Meetings Law Compliance: Clerk Kalish confirmed the meeting had been properly noticed.

Approval Of Agenda: Motion by McKee second by Gill to approve agenda with items #8A & #8B moved for address after item #6. Motion carried and amended agenda declared approved.

Approval Of Minutes From July 1, 2024 Meeting: Motion by Brookens second by Gill to approve July 1, 2024 minutes. Motion carried and the July 1, 2024 minutes declared approved.

Public Comment: None present for Public Comment.

Zoning Petitions – Rowen Wipperfurth/Schmitz Living Trust: Zoning Administrator Salewski reviewed petition. Motion by Gill second by McKee to approve petition. Discussion followed regarding the number of homes that could be built on a 20-acre parcel. Motion carried. Petition approved and forwarded to County Board for full approval.

Zoning Petitions – Town Of Rockbridge: Zoning Administrator Salewski reviewed petition. Motion by Gill second by Hendricks to approve petition. Committee Chair Carrow noted this action was a formality and Steve Banker provided brief history of zoning practices in the Town of Rockbridge. Motion carried. Petition approved and forwarded to County Board for full approval.

County Conservationist Cooper reported that she and Zoning Administrator Salewski would be taking the test to become certified soil testers.

Zoning Administrator Report: Zoning Administrator Salewski reported that she has been working on sanitary permitting and inspections to become more familiar with the process and reviewed the number of sanitary and land use permits issued. Discussion followed regarding a returning to the field to inspect septic systems physically and the potential increase in compliance as a result. County Conservationist Cooper noted the permits for the mobile tower projects in county zoned areas have been signed except the one for Keyesville. Cooper also noted that the campers are still present in Gotham and Supervisor Fleming noted she learned they are expected to be removed soon.

County Conservationist Report: Kori Rogers introduced herself and noted her primary role is to manage the farmland preservation program. Rogers noted the program needs to be improved to ensure compliance from program participants. Rogers stated that efforts to increase compliance inspections are underway which may result in an increase of violations. Carrow asked when the manure storage ordinance would be rolled out and Cooper noted it would be brought forward to a future meeting.

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Carrow asked about the fee schedule and Administrator Pesch noted the fee schedule and procurement policy are very close to being finished. Pesch asked how many would be impacted by the manure storage ordinance and Cooper and Rogers stated that the number was unknown at this time. Gill asked about the size of manure storage pit for ordinance compliance and Cooper noted its size requirements for compliance purposes were listed in the ordinance. Rogers noted that perpetual CREP easements are being worked on and that she is meeting with UW Nutrient & Pest Management staff next week. Gill asked how many participants were in the program and Rogers noted it was hard to discern due to the way in which participant information is entered into the system. Cooper noted that the Snapshot Day is August 10th and the Southern Area conference will be held in September at Rock County.

UW-Extension Report: Anastasia Kurth, Regional Crops and Soils Educator introduced herself to the committee.

Discussion & Possible Action – Approval Of Short-Term Rental Ordinance: Committee reviewed draft short-term rental ordinance. Supervisor Fleming pointed out a spelling error and noted that the wording could be revised under the “2 Year License” section for increased clarity. Cooper noted that she would make requested changes and forward to Corporation Counsel Windle for further review. Administrator Pesch asked who would be responsible for ordinance enforcement and Cooper stated that the county’s Zoning Department would be responsible for ordinance enforcement. No further action taken on this item.

Discussion & Possible Action – Establishment Of Agent For Short-Term Rental Ordinance: Discussion occurred regarding the duties of the agent and whether or not county staff could absorb the responsibilities. Consensus was reached that the establishment of agent be reviewed at a later date. Supervisor Fleming noted that a presentation outlining agent duties from a representative of the applicable state department may be helpful in determining whether or not the county can perform the duties. No further action taken on this item.

Discussion & Possible Action – Ag Forest/Residential Zoning Ordinance Requirements: Cooper reviewed the history and findings of non-conforming parcels. Carrow asked if zoning of non-conforming parcels will continue. Cooper replied by stating that handling of non-conforming parcels needs to be addressed and noted a temporary solution could be to not require a rezone if the parcel was owned by the same individual(s). Discussion continued regarding revisions to the zoning ordinance. Administrator Pesch noted the current zoning ordinance is prohibitive and now is the time to review the ordinance in detail. Supervisor Gill asked about the tax implications from zoning and Cooper noted that zoning is separate from assessing. Supervisor Hendrickson asked if the parcel that was zoned in three different ways was addressed and Zoning Administrator Salewski noted it had been corrected. Supervisor Fleming noted that reviewing zoning ordinances from other counties may be beneficial for comparative purposes. Cooper noted she would consult with Corporation Counsel Windle for future rezones as needed.

Correspondence: None.

Future Agenda Items:

Report: Presentation Regarding Duties Of Agent For Short-Term Rentals

Discussion: Review Of Water Quality In Richland County

Discussion & Possible Action: Modifications To The Richland County Zoning Ordinance

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Discussion & Possible Action: Modifications To The Manure Storage Ordinance
Discussion & Possible Action: Short-Term Rental Ordinance

Adjourn: Motion by Fleming second by Gill to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 10:51 AM.



Derek S. Kalish
County Clerk