

# Richland County Natural Resources Standing Committee

November 25, 2024

The Richland County Natural Resources Standing Committee convened on Monday, November 25, 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:** Deputy Clerk Hege conducted roll call. Committee members present: Steve Carrow, Richard McKee, Alayne Hendricks, Mark Gill, and Robert Brookens. Committee members absent: Craig Woodhouse and Julie Fleming. Craig Woodhouse joined the meeting at 9:45 AM.

**Verification of Open Meetings Law Compliance:** Deputy Clerk Hege confirmed the meeting had been properly noticed.

**Approval Of Agenda:** Motion by McKee, second by Gill to approve agenda. Motion carried and agenda declared approved.

**Approval Of Minutes From November 4, 2024 Meeting:** Chair Carrow asked if there were any comments on or corrections to be made to the minutes from the November 4, 2024 meeting. Hearing none, Chair Carrow declared the minutes approved as published.

**Public Comment:** One member of the public questioned Chair Carrow if they would be allowed to speak when their zoning petition was presented. Chair Carrow replied that they would.

## **Zoning Petitions:**

**A. Eugene & Ila Hagenston – Town Of Dayton:** County Zoning Administrator, Katrina Salewski presented the zoning petition to the committee. Brief discussion ensued. Motion by McKee, second by Hendricks to approve the zoning petition. Motion carried and the zoning petition was approved.

**B. Wild Hills Real Estate/Arron Halverson – Town Of Orion:** Zoning Administrator Salewski presented the zoning petition to the committee. Mr. Halverson joined the meeting via WebEx and briefly spoke to the committee. Neighbors of the property were given a chance to speak. Questions were raised in regards to any restrictions on the property if it was zoned as commercial, the tax implications if the property were zoned as commercial, and any guidelines in regards to septic capabilities in any new structures built on the property. One neighbor was vehemently apposed to the zoning petition. Supervisor Gill stated he thought it was important to support a local business. Brief comments and explanations from Mr. Halverson and County Conservationist Cathy Cooper. Motion by McKee, second by Gill to approve the zoning petition. Motion carried and the zoning petition was approved.

Craig Woodhouse joined the meeting at 9:45 AM.

**C. Benjamin & Arianne Leskos – Town Of Ithaca:** Zoning Administrator Salewski presented the zoning petition to the committee. Brief discussion ensued. Motion by Woodhouse, second by Brookens to approve the zoning petition. Motion carried and the zoning petition was approved.

## Richland County Natural Resources Standing Committee

**D. Richland County Highway Department – Town Of Ithaca:** Zoning Administrator Salewski presented the zoning petition to the committee and gave a brief background as the petition is part of the continuing Radio Tower Project. Motion by McKee, second by Woodhouse to approved the zoning petition. Brief discussion ensued. Motion carried and the zoning petition was approved.

### Reports:

**A. Zoning Administrator – Departmental Activities:** Zoning Administrator Katrina Salewski briefly reported on the activities of the Zoning Department including that the date of the meeting was also her last day with Richland County and that the Zoning Department issued 6 sanitation permits since the last meeting. County Conservationist, Cathy Cooper reported that interviews for a replacement County Zoning Administrator were in progress and that she was still waiting on the results of her certification test. Brief discussion ensued.

**B. County Conservationist – Departmental Activities:** County Conservationist Cathy Cooper reported on various conservation activities including the mailing of the non-metallic mine letters, Conservation Tech, Derrick Warner, would be completing non-metallic mine inspections, reminded the committee of the upcoming tree sale, and the conservation poster contest coming up in January 2025.

**C. UW-Extension – Departmental Activities:** Mr. Adam Hady, Area 13 Extension Director, reported on various activities including the addition of an AmeriCorps worker, upcoming classes for the community, and the soon-to-be-published Richland County Newsletter. Brief discussion ensued.

**D. Farmland Preservation Certificate Of Compliance:** County Conservation Technician, Kori Rogers, have a brief explanation of the purpose of the Certification of Compliance forms and reported that the Land Conservation Department is working on creating a standardized procedure for dealing with noncompliance. Discussion ensued. Chair Carrow requested that the compliance requirements be forwarded to each member of the Natural Resources Standing Committee. Woodhouse questioned how the process was being created. Conservation Tech Rogers briefly referenced State Statutes, DATCAP requirements, and her mentorship with Sauk County.

**E. Legal & Illegal Non-Conforming Parcels:** County Conservationist Cooper presented the data on non-conforming parcels, both legal and illegal, as requested at the last meeting of the Natural Resources Standing Committee. Conservationist Cooper reported that there are currently 215 legal non-conforming parcels and various illegal non-conforming parcels in Richland County. Brief discussion ensued. Zoning Administrator Salewski asked the opinion of the committee on how to deal with very small parcels zoned a legal non-conforming. Brief discussion ensued.

**Discussion & Possible Action: Approval Of Short-Term Rental Ordinance:** Chair Carrow presented the proposed ordinance to the committee and asked their thoughts on the ordinance as presented. Supervisor Frank joined the meeting via WebEx and briefly commented on the purpose of the ordinance and fee schedule. Extensive discussion on the merits of a Conditional Use Permit vs an ordinance. Supervisor Hendricks asked Ms. Sheila Troxel, local business owner operator of a short-term rental, to speak. Ms. Troxel briefly spoke on the compliance of local operators of short-term rentals to State laws. Discussion ensued. Another short-term rental operator asked if one of the conditions for being approved a Conditional Use Permit to operate a short-term rental could be providing proof to the County that the

## Richland County Natural Resources Standing Committee

operator had a valid short-term rental license from the State. Extensive discussion ensued. Chair Carrow declared that no action would be taken on this item and it would be moved on to the January 2025 meeting.

**Discussion & Possible Action: Approval Of Extension Educator Contract:** Mr. Adam Hady, Area 13 Extension Director, gave a brief background on the Extension Educator contract. Motion by McKee, second by Gill to approve the contract. Brief discussion ensued. Motion carried and the Extension Educator contract was approved.

**Discussion & Possible Action: Approval Of Wildlife Damage Commodity Rates:** Mr. Gregory Cerven with the WI DNR, gave a brief explanation of the wildlife damage commodity process and presented proposed rate increases. Brief discussion ensued. Motion by Gill, second by Woodhouse to approve the Wildlife Damage Commodity rates as presented. Motion carried and the Wildlife Damage Commodity rates were approved as presented.

**Discussion & Possible Action: Setting The 80% Harvest Date For The Wildlife Damage Program:** Mr. Gregory Cerven with the WI DNR, gave a brief explanation of the need to set the 80% harvest date for the Wildlife Damage Program. Motion by Gill, second by McKee to set November 13<sup>th</sup> as the 80% harvest date for the Wildlife Damage Program. Motion carried and November 13<sup>th</sup> was set as the 80% harvest date for the Wildlife Damage Program.

**Discussion & Possible Action: Resolution Approving The 2025 Land Information Grant:** Conservationist Cooper gave a brief background on the Land Information grant. Motion by Hendricks, second by Woodhouse to approve the resolution approving the 2025 Land Information grant. Brief discussion ensued. Motion carried and the resolution approving the 2025 Land Management grant was approved.

**Discussion: Review Of Board Of Adjustments Functions & Duties:** Conservationist Cooper explained to the committee what the function and duties of the Board of Adjustments are. Brief discussion ensued.

**Correspondence:** None.

### **Future Agenda Items:**

Discussion & Possible Action: Approval Of Short-Term Rental Ordinance – Steve Carrow

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

Chair Carrow briefly thank Ms. Katrina Salewski for her work on behalf of Richland County and wished her well in her future endeavors.

**Adjourn:** Chair Carrow entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion by McKee, second by Gill to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 11:12 AM.



Myranda H. Hege  
Deputy County Clerk