

Richland County Natural Resources Standing Committee

March 3, 2025

The Richland County Natural Resources Standing Committee convened on Monday, March 3, 2025 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 9:31 AM.

Roll Call: Deputy Clerk Hege conducted roll call. Committee members present: Steve Carrow, Richard McKee, Mark Gill, and Julie Fleming. Committee members absent: Alayne Hendricks, Craig Woodhouse, and Robert Brookens.

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

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

Approval Of Minutes From February 3, 2025 Meeting: Chair Carrow asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the minutes from the February 3, 2025 meeting. Hearing none, Chair Carrow approved the minutes of the February 3, 2025 meeting approved as published.

Public Comment: Richard McKee and Mark Gill both expressed frustrations caused by their county issued tablets not syncing and being able to view materials provided electronically to the county board supervisors. Chair Carrow requested that the minutes reflect supervisors McKee and Gill's issues with their county issued devices.

Zoning Petitions:

A. Steve Beutler – Town of Henrietta: County Conservationist, Ms. Cathy Cooper provided background on the zoning petition. Mr. Beutler is requesting to rezone a 6.66 acer vacant land parcel from Legal Non-conforming to Ag/Residential for a future home site. Brief discussion ensued. Motion by Gill, second by Fleming to approve the zoning petition. Motion carried and the zoning petition was approved and forwarded on to county board for final approval.

B. Allison Bock & Dawn Piech – Town Of Orion: County Conservationist Cooper recommended that this petition be tabled until the April 2025 meeting because the applicants had not submitted all of the required documentation. Consensus was gained from the committee and the Bock/Piech petition was tabled to the April 2025 meeting.

Reports:

A. Zoning Administrator: Departmental Activities: County Conservationist Cooper reported that Electra Drea had tendered her resignation and her last day would be Friday, March 7, 2025. Extensive discussion on the county's hiring practices and job posting verbiage ensued. Chair Carrow requested that the minutes show that he recommends that the HR Department reviews job postings and that job descriptions specify whether a job has the potential for remote work or not and that job descriptions specify whether an applicant must be a US citizen or not. Conservationist Cooper reported that she had attended

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a training session for county sanitation staff put on by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services.

B. County Conservationist: Departmental Activities: Conservationist Cooper reported that she and Conservation Tech, Derrick Warner were going to be attending a conference in Green Bay, the county's tree sale was still going on, and that Kori Rogers, Derrick Warner, and Jenn Fry were all taking advantage of online training opportunities. Brief discussion ensued.

C. UW-Extension: Departmental Activities: Mr. Adam Hady, Area 13 Extension Director briefly reported that 11 farmers took part in the recent nutrient management class, the Human Development Coordinator had recently completed her coaching training, and that work continued for the Get Real program day. Mr. Hady introduced Karleen Craddock, Extension 4-H Educator to the committee. Ms. Craddock briefly spoke on the Richland County Extension youth programs and the recent learning days held for area children. Brief discussion ensued.

Discussion & Possible Action: Approval Of Short-Term Rental Ordinance: Conservationist Cooper reported on updates that had been made to the short-term rental ordinance. Supervisor Fleming pointed out several more errors. Discussion ensued. Consensus from the committee was for Conservationist Cooper to make the corrections and then forward the ordinance on to the Executive and Finance Standing Committee.

Discussion & Possible Action: Approval Of The Richland County Zoning Ordinance: Extensive discussion on changes made and updates yet to be made ensued. Chair Carrow requested that the updated be made and the ordinance be brought back to the Natural Resources Committee before being taken on to the Executive and Finance Committee. Consensus was gained from the committee to review the updates at the April 2025 meeting.

Discussion & Possible Action: Water Study Project: County Conservationist Cooper reported that there was no money in the 2025 budget for a water/well study. Discussion on having money set aside in the 2026 budget for a DAWS (Driftless Area Water Study) ensued. Chair Carrow requested that Conservationist Cooper report to the committee what the estimated cost of a DAWS project would cost.

Discussion & Possible Action: Approval Of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Plan Revision For Scott And Leean Rettler: Farmland Preservation Technician, Kori Rogers provided background on the perpetual CREP easement that was found to be out of compliance. Discussion ensued. Motion by Gill, second by Fleming to approve the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Plan revision for Scott and Leean Rettler. Motion carried and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Plan revision for Scott and Leean Rettler was approved.

Discussion & Possible Action: Approval Of 2026 Farmland Preservation Planning Grant Application: County Conservationist Cooper gave background on the 2026 Farmland Preservation Planning Grant. Brief discussion ensued. Motion by McKee, second by Fleming to approve the 2026 Farmland Preservation Planning Grant application. Motion carried and the 2026 Farmland Preservation Planning Grant application was approved and forwarded on to county board for final approval.

Discussion & Possible Action: Approval Of 2026 Joint DATCP/DNR Grant Application: County Conservationist Cooper gave background on the 2026 Joint DATCP/DNR grant application. Brief

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discussion ensued. Motion by McKee, second by Fleming to approve the 2026 Joint DATCP/DNR grant application. Motion carried and the 2026 Joint DATCP/DNR grant application was approved and forwarded on to county board for final approval.

Discussion & Possible Action: Approval Of Agreement With Ayres Associates, Inc For Geospatial Services: County Conservationist Cooper gave background on the proposed agreement with Ayres Associates, Inc for geospatial services. Discussion on funding sources ensued. Chair Carrow requested Conservationist Cooper report to the committee how much money is in the retained fees fund (fund 48). Motion by Fleming, second by McKee to approve the agreement with Ayres Associates, Inc for geospatial services. Motion carried and the agreement with Ayres Associates, Inc for geospatial services was approved.

Correspondence: None.

Future Agenda Items:

Discussion & Possible Action: Update On DAWS (Driftless Area Water Study) Project Estimated Costs

Discussion & Possible Action: Approval Of The Richland County Zoning Ordinance

Report: Land Information Retained Fees Fund Balance

Adjourn: Chair Carrow entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion by Fleming, second by McKee to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 10:42 AM.



Myranda H. Hege
Deputy County Clerk