

Richland County

Natural Resources Standing Committee

June 2, 2025

The Richland County Natural Resources Standing Committee convened on Monday, June 2, 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 9:30 AM.

Roll Call: Deputy County Clerk Hege conducted roll call. Committee members present: Steve Carrow, Richard McKee, Alayne Hendricks, Mark Gill, Craig Woodhouse, Julie Fleming, and Robert Brookens. Committee member(s) absent: None.

Verification of Open Meetings Law Compliance: Deputy County 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 May 5, 2025 Meeting: Chair Carrow asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the minutes from the May 5, 2025 meeting. Hearing none, Chair Carrow declared the minutes of the May 5, 2025, meeting approved as published.

Public Comment: None.

Zoning Petitions:

A. Petition To Rezone Parcels 014-2133-2000, 014-2044-1000, 014-2044-2000, And 014-2044-1100 - Town Of Henrietta: Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitary Technician, gave a brief background on the petition. Motion by Gill, second by Fleming to approved the petition. Brief discussion ensued. Motion carried and petition was approved and forwarded on to county board.

B. Petition To Rezone A Portion Of Parcel 014-3034-0000 – Town Of Henrietta: Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitary Technician, gave a brief background on the petition. Motion McKee, second by Fleming to approved the petition. Brief discussion ensued. Motion carried and petition was approved and forwarded on to county board.

C. Petition To Rezone Parcel 030-2811-1100 – Town Of Westford: County Conservationist Cooper requested that this petition be tabled until the July 2025 meeting as the petitioner had not completed all the required paperwork. Consensus was gained from the committee to table this petition until the July 2025 meeting.

D. Petition To Rezone Parcel 012-0733-2000 - Town Of Forest: Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitary Technician, gave a brief background on the petition. Motion by Fleming, second by Gill to approve the petition. Brief discussion ensued. Motion carried and petition was approved and forwarded on to county board.

E. Petition To Rezone Parcel 010-0122-3000 - Town Of Eagle: Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitary Technician, gave a brief background on the petition. Motion by Fleming, second by McKee to approved

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the petition. Brief discussion ensued. Motion carried and petition was approved and forwarded on to county board.

F. Petition For A CUP For A Campground On Parcel 014-0742-0000, Section 7, Town Of Henrietta: Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitary Technician, gave a brief background on the petition. Motion by Fleming, second by Hendricks to table till next meeting. Brief discussion ensued. Motion carried and the petition was tabled till the next meeting.

Reports:

A. Zoning: Report & Departmental Activities: Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitary Technician, reported that the office was at 48 Land Use permits for the year, 22 Sanitary Permits for the year, and 6 to 7 septic installs for the year. Ms. Fry reported that there would several more rezone petitions being brought to the next meeting. Brief discussion on failed septsics ensued.

B. Land Conservation: Report & Departmental Activities: County Conservationist, Cathy Cooper reported on various topics including the upcoming statewide Snapshot Day on August 9, 2025, a day for reporting invasive species. Brief discussion ensued. Conservationist Cooper also reported that Kori Rogers, Farmland Preservation Technician, was out doing farmland preservation monitoring, and Derek Warner, Land and Water Technician was waiting for construction to start to perform construction inspections. Conservationist Cooper also reported that Supervisors Hendricks and Carrow had recently attended the Southern Area Association of Land Conservation Committees meeting and that there were going to be talks between the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Zoning and Conservation staff. Conservationist Cooper reported that the dollars for Land Conservation staffing was still in the State of Wisconsin budget and encouraged the county board supervisors to reach out to the members of the State of Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee in support of Land Conservation staffing funding. Brief discussion ensued.

C. UW-Extension: Departmental Activities: Mr. Adam Hady, Area 13 Extension Director presented his May 2025 Richland report to the committee and introduced Karleen Craddock, 4-H Educator for Richland County. Extensive discussion on the loss of Federal funding and the effects of the freezes, specifically to the AmeriCorps and SNAP-Ed programs. Mr. Hady reported that the direct effect of the freezing of funding to the SNAP-ED program would eliminate Food Wise, a nutrition education program in Richland County. Ms. Craddock introduced Autumn Carter and Isaiah Currier the two summer interns and briefly spoke on the upcoming summer programing including a gardening program for kids and a youth led community garden. Discussion ensued with various committee members asking questions of the two summer interns.

D. Land Information: Report & Departmental Activities: Conservationist Cooper reported that the grant dollars for staffing must be project based and that there was work being done with the Southwest Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to make the zoning maps accessible to the public. Conservationist Cooper said they were working on a list of ideas for projects that could be covered by the 2026 Land Information Grant dollars.

Discussion & Possible Action: Update On DAWS (Driftless Area Water Study) Project: Conservationist Cooper reported that the EPA grant was frozen and that freeze put an end to the funding for the Driftless Area Water Study. Discussion ensued. No action was taken.

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Discussion & Possible Action: Policy Pertaining To Crediting Short Term Rental Fees: County Administrator Clements expressed her concerns about setting a precedent that could have adverse, long term effects. Conservationist Cooper reported that only one person was going to be affected by the changes to the fee structure. Extensive discussion ensued. Consensus was gained from the committee to not credit or reimburse any short-term rental fees incurred during the period in which the fee schedule was changed.

Discussion & Possible Action: GIS Technician Position: Conservationist Cooper reported that the job description for the GIS technician position had been created, but there was no money available in the county budget to fund the position. Extensive discussion ensued. No action was taken.

Correspondence: None.

Future Agenda Items:

Discussion & Possible Action: Chickens In Residential Zoning Districts

Adjourn: Chair Carrow entertained a motion to adjourn to June 30th, 2025. Motion by Fleming, second by McKee to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 10:29 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Myranda H. Hege".

Myranda H. Hege
Deputy County Clerk