

**Richland County
Natural Resources Standing Committee**

Date Posted: July 30, 2025

NOTICE OF MEETING

Please be advised that the Richland County Natural Resources Standing Committee will convene on Monday, August 4, 2025 at 9:30 AM in the Richland County Board Room of the Courthouse at 181 West Seminary Street, Richland Center, WI 53581.

Information for attending the meeting virtually (if available) can be found at the following link:
<https://administrator.co.richland.wi.us/minutes/natural-resources-committee/>

If you have any trouble accessing the meeting, please contact MIS Support at 608-649-4371 (phone) or mis@co.richland.wi.us (email).

AGENDA

1. Call To Order
2. Roll Call
3. Verification Of Open Meetings Law Compliance
4. Approval Of Agenda
5. Approval Of Minutes From June 30, 2025 Meeting
6. Public Comment
7. Zoning Petitions
 - A. Petition To Rezone Parcels 010-1242-4000 And 010-1242-3000 And To Approve Conditional Use Permits For 2 Short-Term Rentals
8. Reports
 - A. Zoning: Report & Departmental Activities
 - B. Land Conservation: Report & Departmental Activities
 - C. UW-Extension: Report & Departmental Activities
 - D. Real Property Lister: Report & Departmental Activities
9. Discussion & Possible Action: Changes To The Fees For Minor Subdivision Review/Certified Survey Map
10. Discussion & Possible Action: Approval To Allow Chickens In Residential Zoning Districts
11. Correspondence
12. Future Agenda Items
13. Adjourn

PLEASE NOTE: That upon reasonable notice, a minimum of 24 hours in advance, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information or to request this service contact Tricia Clements, County Administrator at 181 W. Seminary St., Richland Center, WI 53581 or call 608-647-2197.

A quorum may be present from other Committees, Boards, or Commissions. No committee, board or commission will exercise any responsibilities, authority or duties except for the Natural Resources Standing Committee.

Derek S. Kalish
County Clerk

Richland County

Natural Resources Standing Committee

June 30, 2025

The Richland County Natural Resources Standing Committee convened on Monday, June 30, 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, Mark Gill, and Robert Brookens. Committee member(s) absent: Craig Woodhouse, Alayne Hendricks, and Julie Fleming.

Supervisors Hendricks and Fleming arrived at 9:31 AM.

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

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

Approval Of Minutes From June 2, 2025 Meeting: Chair Carrow asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the minutes from the June 2, 2025 meeting and entertained a motion to approved the minutes as presented. Motion by McKee, second by Brookens. No corrections were made. Motion carried and the minutes from the June 2, 2025, meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comment: Brief discussion on the new Public Comment forms ensued. Three members of the public expressed interest in speaking but wished to speak when the item(s) were on the table. Chair Carrow allowed the members of the public to wait to speak until the items(s) were on the table.

Zoning Petitions:

- A. Petition To Rezone Parcel 024-2823-3000 – Town Of Richwood.** Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, gave a brief description of the petition. Motion by McKee, second by Fleming to approve the petition. Motion carried and the petition was forwarded on to county board for final approval.
- B. Petition To Rezone Parcel 024-2941-0000 – Town Of Richwood** Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, gave a brief description of the petition. Motion by Gill, second by Fleming to approve the petition. Motion carried and the petition was forwarded on to county board for final approval.
- C. Petition To Rezone Parcel 002-1922-2000 – Town Of Akan:** Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, gave a brief description of the petition. Motion by McKee, second by Gill to approve the petition. Motion carried and the petition was forwarded on to county board for final approval.
- D. Petition To Rezone Parcel 016-3411-0000 – Town Of Ithaca:** Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, gave a brief description of the petition. Motion by Gill, second by Fleming to approve the petition. Motion carried and the petition was forwarded on to county board for final approval.

Richland County Natural Resources Standing Committee

- E. Petition For A CUP For A Manufactured Home On Parcel 006-2343-1000 – Town Of Buena Vista:** Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, gave a brief description of the petition. Motion by Brookens, second by McKee to approve the petition. Brief discussion ensued. Motion carried and the petition was approved.
- F. Petition For A CUP For A Campground On Parcel 014-0742-0000 – Town Of Henrietta:** Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, gave a brief description of the petition. Motion by Gill, second by McKee to approve the petition. Motion carried and the petition was approved.
- G. Petition For A CUP For A Non-Metallic Mine On Parcel 032-1811-1000 – Town Of Willow:** Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, briefly stated that a 5 year permit was up for renewal and gave a description of the petition. Motion by McKee, second by Fleming to approve the petition. Noah and Mary Rothering of Willow Township spoke to their concerns to the conditions of the CUP, whether they were remaining the same or not. The Rotherings also questioned who they would contact if the terms were violated and expressed concerns about activity at the mine site outside of the posted hours. Robin Loger of Yahara Materials, owner of the mine site, requested that the Rotherings contact him directly when they witnessed activity outside of the posted hours. The Rotherings also expressed concerns about significant amounts of dust blowing into their home from the unpaved road to the mine site. Mr. Loger stated that the road could be paved in the next several months. Extensive discussion ensued. Fleming requested that violations of the hours for the mine be reported to the County Zoning Department as well so that the committee could be aware of any ongoing issues at the mine site. Paul and Sandy Hellenbrand of Middleton, WI introduced themselves to the committee and requested to speak. Mr. Hellenbrand stated that they own property next to the mine site and expressed his frustrations with the mud runoff from the mine during heavy rains. Extensive discussion ensued. Motion carried and the petition was approved.
- H. Petition To Rezone Parcel 030-2811-1000 And For A CUP For A Milk Bottling Plant – Town Of Westford:** Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, gave a brief description of the petition to rezone and the CUP. Donny Mengel, consultant on the project presented blueprints for the proposed bottling plant and gave an overview of the current plans and future plans for the project. Motion by Gill, second by Fleming to approve the petition. Extensive discussion ensued. Motion carried and the CUP was approved, and the zoning petition was moved to county board for final approval.
- I. Petition For A CUP For An Ag Structure On Parcel 012-0923-1000 - Town Of Forest:** Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, gave a brief description of the petition. Motion by Brookens, second by McKee to approve the petition. Brief discussion ensued. Motion carried and the petition was approved.

Reports:

- A. Zoning: Report & Departmental Activities:** Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, reported the office was at 56 land use permits for the year and 30 sanitation permits for the year. County Conservationist, Cathy Cooper, reported on requests for floodplain permits relating to stream restorations

Richland County Natural Resources Standing Committee

and that she was working with Richland County Highway Commissioner, Josh Elder, on a project to replace one of the buildings at the Richland County Fairgrounds that was in the floodplain. Brief discussion ensued.

B. Land Conservation: Report & Departmental Activities: County Conservationist, Cathy Cooper, reported on projects being held up by the recent heavy rains, issues with a current cost-share program, and her work with the Wisconsin DNR on a pasture runoff, due to overgrazing in the Basswood area, and barnyard runoff in the Sextonville area. Conservationist Cooper also reminded the committee on the upcoming aquatic invasive species snapshot day on August 9 and asked for volunteers for the clean boats/clean water initiative. Brief discussion ensued.

C. UW-Extension: Departmental Activities: Mr. Adam Hady, Area 13 Extension Director presented his June 2025 Report for Richland County and his Richland County Extension Priorities for 2025-26 Academic Year report. Extensive discussion ensued on the budgeting process and the potential loss of the FoodWise program if the SnapEd funding is cut from the Federal Budget. Mr. Hady introduced Anastasia Kurth the Regional Crops and Soils Educator. Ms. Kurth briefly reported on her current projects in Richland County and gave a brief overview of the recent Richland County Dairy Breakfast and the outreach done with the visitors to the event.

D. Land Information: Report & Departmental Activities: Richland County Real Property Lister, Julie Lins, reported the ongoing questions on having a plat of survey done on a property vs having a certified survey done and her research on the matter.

Discussion & Possible Action: Updating The Acreage Requirements For A Certified Survey Map: Richland County Real Property Lister, Julie Lins gave a detailed description of the issue between a plat of survey and a certified survey. Extensive discussion ensued with Richland County Register of Deeds, Deborah McCoy expressing her opinion. Ms. Lins stated that she would have more information by the August 2025 meeting. Consensus was gained from the committee to table this item until the August meeting. No action was taken.

Discussion & Possible Action: Approval To Allow Chickens In Residential Zoning Districts: Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, gave a brief description of the proposal for an ordinance allowing chickens in residential zoning districts and presented several example ordinances. Ms. Fry reminded to the committee of the municipalities that have their own zoning ordinances, including the City of Richland Center, Rockbridge Township, and Ithaca Township. Extensive discussion ensued. Conservationist Cooper requested that the committee provided feedback on the example ordinances before the next meeting. Consensus was gained from the committee to table this item until the August meeting. No action was taken.

Correspondence: None.

Future Agenda Items:

Report: City of Richland Center Zoning – requested by Gill

Discussion & Possible Action: Updating The Acreage Requirements For A Certified Survey Map

Discussion & Possible Action: Approval To Allow Chickens In Residential Zoning Districts

Adjourn: Chair Carrow entertained a motion to adjourn until August 4, 2025. Motion by Fleming, second

Richland County
Natural Resources Standing Committee

by McKee to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 11:12 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Myranda H. Hege". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'H'.

Myranda H. Hege
Deputy County Clerk

DRAFT

Natural Resources Standing Committee

Agenda Item Cover

1. **Agenda Item Name:** To hear a petition to rezone Parcel 010-1242-4000, from Ag/Forest to Commercial, and 2 CUPs for Short Term Rentals, Section 12, Town of Eagle.

Department	Land and Zoning	Presented By:	Jenn Fry
Date of Meeting:	08/04/2025	Action Needed:	Adopt ordinance
Disclosure:		Authority:	
Date submitted:	08/04/2025	Referred by:	Natural Resources Committee
Action needed by no later than (date)		Resolution	

Recommendation and/or action language:

Approve the rezone of parcel 010-1242-4000 from Ag/Forestry to Commercial and approve 2 conditional use permits for 2 short-term rentals.

Background:

The landowners want to add an event space on Parcel 010-1242-4000 so the parcel needs to be rezoned from Ag/Forestry to Commercial. They also want to add 2 short-term rentals to the same parcel. A conditional use permit needs to be issued.

Attachments and References: Application, maps, township approval, adjoining neighbors


Financial Review:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

Cathy Cooper

Department Head


Administrator

Customer #

Petition #

25-020

COUNTY OF RICHLAND ZONING COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF PETITION

(I) (We) First Name(s) Last Name Phone 773 320 4018

Address 21558 CANDLEWOOD LANE City RICHLAND CENTER State WI Zip 53581

First Name(s) Last Name Phone 661 917 2643

Address 21558 Candlewood Lane City Richland Center State WI Zip 53581

hereby petition the Richland County Zoning Committee for a:

☒ Rezone from Ag/Forest Rezone to Commercial 01012424000

☒ CUP to permit 2 short-term rentals on 01012424000 + - 3000

☐ SUP to permit

☐ Other

Authorized by Section(s) of the Richland County Zoning Ordinance.

Present description of the property involved in this petition is as follows: Parcel # 01012424000 + - 3000

Qtr NW Qtr SE Section 12 Town 9N Range 1W Township Eagle # of acres 6.3 + 11

Lot Block Subdivision # of Acres Approved

Present Use Residence + rental business

Present Improvements 12422000 - 1 residence + 2 outbuildings
12423000 - 1 short-term rental

Proposed Use Residence + rental business

Legal Description

Petition Filed 7/17/25 Petitioner Notified 7/18/25 Rezone Decision Ordinance #

Category Rezoning Town Notified CUP Decision CB Date

Fee Amount \$300.00 ☒ Township Approval CUP Expires CB Decision

Meeting Date 8/4/25 Decision Date SUP Decision Amendment #

Comments

County Clerk Approval

(Signed) Appellant(s) or Agent(s)

Eagle Township Joint Meeting of the Plan Commission and Town Board. July 16, 2025

1. Call to Order the joint meeting of the Town of Eagle Plan Commission and Board.
2. Proof of publication. It was noted that the meeting was properly noticed.
3. Present from the Plan Commission were Jim Goplin, Lee Dieter and Paula Koppiman, Jason Horton and Merl Jones. Town Board members present was Wes Hanke, Brian McGraw, Bobbi Ann Goplin and Sharon Storms. Dustin Gaudette was absent.
4. Discussion of the requests by _____ to rezone Parcel number 010-1242-4000 from Ag Forestry to Commercial to allow construction of an event barn and Treeline cabin for a Conditional use permit for parcel number 010-242-3000, to allow construction of Mirror cabin and relocation of a machine shed. The applicants were engaged in discussion of their plans for the business along with evaluation of the conditional use permits set forth in the zoning code.
5. Action by the Plan commission on a recommendation to the Town Board on the requests set forth in number 4. Lee Dieter made a motion to approve the construction of an event barn and Treeline cabin and to allow the rezone from Ag Forestry to Commercial. Along with a Conditional use permit to allow the construction of Mirror cabin and relocation of a machine shed. Seconded by Merl Jones. Motion Carried. 5-0
6. Action by the Town Board on a recommendation to the County Board on the requests set forth in number 4. Wes Hanke made to allow Hearth & Green, LLC to rezone parcel number 1242-4000 from Ag Forestry to Commercial, in order to allow construction of an event barn, and to issue a conditional use permit to allow construction of 1 cabin on parcel number 1242-4000 and 1 cabin on parcel number 1242-3000, in addition to relocating a machine shed on this latter parcel as well. Seconded by Brian McGraw. Motion Carried. 2-0
7. Adjourn the Joint meeting. Motion to adjourn at 5:55 by Wes Hanke. Seconded by Brian McGraw. Motion Carried. 2-0.

Respectfully submitted.

Bobbi Ann Goplin
07/16/2025



Name	Title	Property Address	Mailing Address (if different)	City	State	Zip
Property		21558 Candlewood Ln		Richland Center	WI	53581
<u>Neighbors</u>						
Gerald & Larry Stadele		Parcel 010-1244-0000, 010-1243-0000, 010-1234-0000	21489 Stadele Ln	Muscoda	WI	53573
Rita Greenheck		Parcel 020-0733-0000	5353 County Rd M5	Boscobel	WI	53805
James & John Foard		Parcel 020-0732-0000	29788 Oakridge Dr	Richland Center	WI	53581
Robert & Sonia Beck		22151 Wegner Rd		Richland Center	WI	53581
Craig & Jamie Rogers		29075 State Hwy 80		Richland Center	WI	53581
Paul Brown-Lucas		29095 Old Hwy 80 Dr		Richland Center	WI	53581
Zwicker Living Trust Jon & Daylene Zwicker		010-1211-1000	21949 Bethke Ln	Richland Center	WI	53581
Gregory & Devin Cooke		29384 Old Hwy 80 Dr		Richland Center	WI	53581
Kevin & Marsha Cooke		29349 State Hwy 80		Richland Center	WI	53581
Kathy Logan		29501 State Hwy 80		Richland Center	WI	53581
Michael & Rita Kleinsasser		29585 State Hwy 80		Richland Center	WI	53581
Jeffrey & Julie Hilleshiem		29544 State Hwy 80		Richland Center	WI	53581
Bobbi Ann Goplin	Eagle Township Clerk		19099 Crossover Rd	Muscoda	WI	53573
Steve Williamson	Supervisory District 17		17998 State Hwy 60	Blue River	WI	53518

Agriculture

A workshop for farmers, agronomists, and service providers where they learned about camelina as a cover crop and grain crop to increase crop diversity in Wisconsin. (Sam Bibby, **Anastasia Kurth**, Will Fulwider)

- Rye is currently the cover crop of choice for most farmers, however it can have significant impact to corn yield the following year if not managed correctly. Camelina, an overwintering broadleaf crop that has a lower C:N ratio is possibly a better choice depending on a farmers cover crop goals. Unfortunately, it has rarely been grown in Wisconsin and farmers are unfamiliar with it. In addition the market for camelina as a grain has been growing rapidly yet no farmers in Wisconsin have sold it as a grain on a large scale. We hosted this camelina workshop to deliver some of our preliminary research results around how it performed as a cover crop related to rye. Anna Teeter from Cargill also spoke on the agronomic consideration from growing camelina as a grain and gave an insight into how it is priced and current contract offerings for grain production. In addition, we talked about how grain harvest went on a small field in Wisconsin and went over changes we might consider. The workshop helped to make local farmers aware of a new grain crop opportunity in Western Wisconsin. This gives farmers more options to diversify and spread-out risk. They also learned the basics about how it is grown. Those farmers who are skeptical of rye ahead of corn learned camelina is showing promising results as an alternative. This is great news for our environment and will hopefully help to increase cover crop acres in the state.

Planning for a series of cow-calf workshops for beef producers in collaboration with Western Wisconsin Beef Producers and Coulee Region Shipping Association. The goal is to discuss best management strategies for herd retention, nutrition, fall weed management, and transportation safety, so that beef producers can become or maintain economic viability and participate in sustainable practices. (**Beth McIlquham**, Bill Halfman)

A Cover Crop Grazing Field Day for local farmers, where participants toured a farm utilizing cover crop and annual forage grazing to diversify their rotation and maintain a high-quality beef herd. (Sam Bibby, **Beth McIlquham**, Jason Cavadini, Will Fulwider)

A weekly report on agronomic considerations for farmers, crop consultants, and viewers of the Wisconsin Ag Weather Outlook (WAWO) where specific considerations for field, forage, vegetable, and fruit crops are communicated to help producers make informed decisions regarding field work and timing of field activities. (**Anastasia Kurth**, Emilee Gaulke, Josh Bendorf, Josie Dillon, Rue Genger)

A monthly newsletter that is designed to deliver timely updates for the Extension Crops and Soils and Dairy and Livestock Programs as well as connect various stakeholders to the agriculture community across Richland County. (**Anastasia Kurth**, **Beth McIlquham**)

An on-farm research project investigating use of winter camelina as a cover crop option after soybeans to reduce nitrate leaching and mitigate the yield drag seen in corn following winter cereal cover crops, the only other overwintering cover crop choice in Wisconsin post-soybean harvest. Results from this study will help farmers decide if winter camelina is a viable cover crop for their operation and engage farmers in thinking more critically about nitrogen loss pathways. (Will Fulwider, **Anastasia Kurth**, Chelsea Zegler, Sam Bibby, Sheryl Schwert, Steven Hall)



Human Development and Relationships

A coaching program for families and individuals, where participants learn how to create financial goals and gain money management skills. The goal of this program is to enable participants to prepare for and take charge of household financial situations that occur due to changes in income or unforeseen hardships. (Sarah Kubiak)

Natural Resources Standing Committee

Agenda Item Cover

Agenda Item Name: Increase fee for Minor Subdivision Review/Certified Survey Map

Department	Land and Zoning	Presented By:	Cathy Cooper
Date of Meeting:	08/04/2025	Action Needed:	Adopt Fee increase
Disclosure:		Authority:	
Date submitted:	08/04/2025	Referred by:	Natural Resources Committee
Action needed by no later than (date)		Resolution	

Recommendation and/or action language:

Increase the fee for Minor Subdivision Review/Certified Survey Map immediately from \$100 plus \$20.00 per lot to \$300 plus \$20.00 per lot.

Background:


The Wisconsin Department of Administration Plat Review has been reviewing certified surveys (CSM) for Richland County. The surveyors have been submitting the surveys to the state and charging the clients the extra \$100 for the state to review. The state will no longer review the CSM's. The Zoning office has been in contact with the County Surveyor about potential cost for him to review. It will cost an additional \$200.00. The Land Conservation & Zoning Department is looking at changing the fee immediately to \$300.00 plus \$20.00 per lot.

Attachments and References:

Financial Review:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source		
x	No financial impact		

<u>Cathy Cooper</u>	
Department Head	Administrator

Natural Resources Standing Committee

Agenda Item Cover

Agenda Item Name: Allowing Chickens in a residential district

Department	Land and Zoning	Presented By:	
Date of Meeting:	08/04/2025	Action Needed:	Adopt ordinance change
Disclosure:		Authority:	
Date submitted:	08/04/2025	Referred by:	Natural Resources Committee
Action needed by no later than (date)		Resolution	

Recommendation and/or action language:

When the zoning ordinance is amended, add language to allow chickens in a residential district if certain requirements are met

Background:

Land Conservation and Zoning have received requests for landowners to have chickens in residential district. The department has reached out to other counties for language they have for chickens on small acreage. The department has also reached out to UW-Extension with information on poultry on small lots.

Attachments and References:

Ordinance language

Financial Review:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

Cathy Cooper

Department Head


Administrator

Richland County Residential Chicken Ordinance

1. Maximum of 8 chickens (per acre/parcel/etc.?)
2. No roosters
3. Not allowed out of the coop or run/pen.
4. Fully enclosed chicken coop to house chickens
 - a. At least 2 sq ft/chicken in the coop
(<https://www.freedomrangerhatchery.com/blog/square-feet-per-chicken/>)
 - b. Meet residential building setbacks
 - c. Cannot be in front yard without a privacy fence (height requirement? at least 5 ft tall?)
5. Require enclosed, outdoor chicken run/pen area attached to coop (enclosed by fencing or structure)
 - a. At least 8 sq ft/chicken in the run/pen
(<https://www.freedomrangerhatchery.com/blog/square-feet-per-chicken/>)
 - b. Setbacks: 25 feet from centerline of road
 - i. With a privacy fence, can be tight to the fence
 - ii. Without a privacy fence, 5 feet from property line
 - c. Cannot be in front yard without a privacy fence
6. Coop/pen cannot be closer than 75 feet to the ordinary high-water mark of any waterway
7. Coop/pen cannot be located in any floodplain
8. Minimum lot size of 2 acres