

Richland County Natural Resources Standing Committee

February 2, 2026

The Richland County Natural Resources Standing Committee convened on Monday, February 2, 2026, 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, Randy Schoonover, Richard McKee, and Rod Perry. Committee member(s) absent: Alayne Hendricks and Julie Fleming. Supervisors Hendricks and Fleming arrived after roll at 9:31 a.m.

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 Fleming to approve agenda. Motion carried and agenda declared approved with Supervisor Perry being in opposition.

Approval Of Minutes From January 5, 2026: Chair Carrow asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the minutes from the January 5, 2026 meeting. Hearing none, Chair Carrow declared the minutes from the January 5, 2026, meeting approved as presented.

Public Comment: None.

Zoning Petitions:

A. Petition To Petition To Split And Rezone Parcel 024-4011-3000: Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician and Cathy Cooper, County Conservationist provided a brief background on the petition and the need for two ordinances. Motion by Fleming, second by McKee to approve the petition. Brief discussion ensued. Motion carried and the petition to split and rezone parcel 024-4011-3000 was approved and moved on to county board for final approval.

B. Petition To Rezone Parcels 006-3043-1000 And 006-3034-1000: Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician provided a brief background on the petition. Motion by McKee, second by Fleming to approve the petition. Brief discussion ensued. Motion carried and the petition to rezone parcels 006-3043-1000 and 006-3034-1000 was approved and moved on to county board for final approval.

Reports:

A. Zoning: Report & Departmental Activities: Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, reported that she was working with the new attorneys on items left over from 2025. Cathy Cooper, Richland County Conservationist reported that Derrick Warner, Land and Water Technician, had completed his MSHA (Mining Safety Hazard Assessment) training, the project to enter data into Catalis continues, several staff members were planning to go to a septic training event, there is a new Unified Dwelling Code Inspector, GEC Inc out of Portage, WI, and a new County Survey, Steve Alt. Conservationist Cooper also reported that she was working with Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission on the Farmland Preservation Plan and that various staff members were planning to attend the upcoming Land and Water Conference.

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B. Violations Report: Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, reported that progress had been made regarding a house that was built without the correct permitting and septic and that the hope was to have the property brought into compliance, and that two other issues, a camper stored in a residential driveway and pile of fill being stored in a floodplain, had come up and were being worked on. Brief discussion ensued.

C. Land Conservation: Report and Departmental Activities: Conservationist Cooper reported on behalf of Kori Rogers on the creation of a producer lead group called the “Richland County Legacy Alliance”, an upcoming nutrient training, working was being done on the annual Land Conservation Report Survey and staffing grant, the 2025 staffing grant reimbursements were coming in, and Derreck Warner was working on various projects including manure runoff issues, streambank reinforcements, and taking a chainsaw training.

D. UW-Extension: Report & Departmental Activities: Mr. Adam Hady, Area 13 Extension Director reminded the committee of the upcoming “Get Real” event that is scheduled for March 19, 2026 and introduced Blake Roberts Crall a Rural Community Economic Development Specialist who’s range includes Crawford, Grant, Lafayette, and Richland Counties. Ms. Roberts Crall spoke to her emphasis on housing and childcare and made the committee aware of a program currently being implemented to foster interest in and growth of the agricultural tourism industry. Brief discussion ensued.

E. Real Property Lister: Report & Departmental Activities: Julie Lins, Real Property Lister, briefly reported that the 2025 transfers were completed, that the splits for 2026 were being worked on, she and Noel Schmitz, Office Systems Technician, were planning to attend the Wisconsin Land Information Association seminary, and expressed her thanks to Mr. Todd Rummel for his years of service and his help over the years.

Discussion & Possible Action: Approval Of Wildlife Damage Claim: Mr. Greg Cerven with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources presented the 2025 Wildlife Damage Claims to the committee. Motion by Fleming, second by Perry to approve the 2025 Wildlife Damage Claims. Extensive discussion ensued. Motion carried and the 2025 Wildlife Damage Claims were approved.

Discussion & Possible Action: Zoning Ordinance Updates: Conservationist Cooper reported that Jenn Fry was working with the new attorneys on this item and suggested it be tabled until the next meeting. Brief discussion ensued. Consensus was gained from the committee to table this item until the next meeting.

Discussion & Possible Action: Land Use Section Of The County Comprehensive Plan: Conservationist Cooper read through the section on page 42 of the County Comprehensive Plan and briefly noted she wanted the Zoning layer added to the County GIS map. No action was taken.

Discussion & Possible Action: Resolution Regarding Potential 765 kV Transmission Line: Conservationist Cooper presented the proposed resolution to the committee. Extensive discussion ensued. Supervisor Perry expressed strong concerns about the negativity of the wording of the resolution. Supervisor Fleming suggested that the request for information be placed closer to the beginning. Motion by Perry, second by McKee to postpone the resolution until next meeting. Motion carried and the resolution was postponed until the next meeting.

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Correspondence: None.

Future Agenda Items:

Discussion & Possible Action: Zoning Ordinance Updates

Discussion & Possible Action: Land Use Section Of The County Comprehensive Plan

Discussion & Possible Action: Resolution Regarding Potential 765 kV Transmission Line

Adjourn: Chair Carrow entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion by Fleming, second by Hendricks to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 10:43 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,



Myranda H. Hege
Deputy County Clerk

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