

Richland County Natural Resources Standing Committee

March 2, 2026

The Richland County Natural Resources Standing Committee convened on Monday, March 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, Kevin Nolen, and Rod Perry. Committee member(s) absent: Alayne Hendricks and Julie Fleming. Supervisor Hendricks arrived after roll at 9:31 a.m.

Approval Of Agenda: Committee Chair Carrow stated that he would like to amend the agenda so that item 12 Discussion & Possible Action: Resolution Regarding Potential 765 KV Transmission Line would be moved up to follow item 7C. Motion by McKee, second by Schoonover to approve agenda with item 12 moved up to follow item 7C. Motion carried via voice vote and the agenda was approved with item 12 moved up to follow item 7C.

Approval Of Minutes From February 2, 2026: Chair Carrow asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the minutes from the February 2, 2026 meeting. Hearing none, Chair Carrow declared the minutes from the February 2, 2026, meeting approved as presented.

Public Comment: None.

Zoning Petitions:

A. Petition To Petition To Rezone A Portion Of Parcel 008-0841-3000: Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician and Cathy Cooper, County Conservationist provided a brief background on the petition. Motion by McKee, second by Perry to approve the petition. Brief discussion ensued. Motion carried via voice vote and the petition to rezone a portion of parcel 008-0841-3000 was approved and moved on to county board for final approval.

B. Petition To Rezone Parcel 006-3231-2000: Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician provided a brief background on the petition. Motion by Perry, second by McKee to approve the petition. Brief discussion ensued. Motion carried via voice vote and the petition to rezone parcel 006-3231-2000 was approved and moved on to county board for final approval.

C. Petion For A CUP For Non-Metallic Mining On Parcel 014-1914-1000 And Other Parcels: Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician provided a brief background on the petition and reported that the deed restriction on the property had been taken care of. Motion by Schoonover, second by Perry to approve the petition. Brief discussion ensued. Motion carried via voice vote and the petition for a CUP for non-metallic mining on parcel 014-1914-1000 and other parcels was approved.

Discussion & Possible Action: Resolution Regarding Potential 765 KV Transmission Line: Committee Chair Carrow introduced the draft resolution and stated that near by counties were considering a similar resolution. Motion by Schoonover, second by McKee to approve the resolution. Extensive discussion ensued with Supervisor Perry questioning where the resolution came from and providing an overview of his research into the project and the company. Jenn Fry handed out a flyer she found online

Richland County Natural Resources Standing Committee

regarding the project. Discussion continued. Motion by Perry, second by McKee to approve the resolution regarding the potential 765 kv transmission line and to take it before county board. Motion carried via voice vote and the resolution regarding the potential 765 kv transmission line was approved and forwarded onto county board for final approval.

Reports:

A. Zoning: Report & Departmental Activities: Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, reported that there were 7 sanitary permits, and 12 land use permits issued so far this year and that there was a contract in place for a new Uniform Dwelling Code inspector and 2 were in progress. County Conservationist Cooper briefly reported on various septic and sanitary project and introduced Steve Alt to the committee as the new county surveyor. Brief discussion ensued. Conservationist Cooper reported on various topics including that she, Jenn Fry, and Noel Schmitz were planning to attend the upcoming POUTS conference, Noel and Julie Lins' recent attendance at the Wisconsin Land Information Conference where they emphasized GIS education and gave an update on the address point project and the work to get them set to NG911 standards. Brief discussion ensued with Ms. Schmitz emphasizing the GIS education opportunities at the Wisconsin Land Information conference.

B. Violations Report: Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, reported that the county's attorney had spoken to the owner of the unpermitted house and work was being done to get it and its septic into compliance. Ms. Fry reported that the raze order for the house on the riverbank had been handed off to the township and that a potentially illegal manure storage facility had been reported to their office. Brief discussion ensued.

C. Land Conservation: Report and Departmental Activities: Conservationist Cooper reported that she was working on the annual State Department of Ag report, the 2026 Work Plan, and the 2027 Joint Allocation Grant application. Conservationist Cooper reported on several other items including the DAWS well testing project, the SW Wi Regional Planning Commission's site map project for groundwater information, Kori Rogers' continued work with the Nutrient Management classes and the next ones being set for March 13th and March 20th, the Richland County Legacy Alliance, a new producers run group, and that the tree sale was winding down, but there were still trees available. Brief discussion ensued

D. UW-Extension: Report & Departmental Activities: Mr. Adam Hady, Area 13 Extension Director presented his February 2026 report and reminded the committee that the "Get Real" event was happening on March 19th, gave notice of an upcoming end of life planning event called "Planning Ahead", and reported on a recent 4H event that was attended by around 120 kids, many of whom were not involved in 4H. Mr. Hady introduced Beth McIlquham the Regional Livestock Educator. Ms. McIlquham briefly spoke on various topics including the Asian Long Horn Tick study, an FFA Forum, and upcoming IVF workshop set to happen at the Schmitt Farm, the Richland County Beef Producers meeting set for March 11th, a small ruminants producers meeting set for May 1st, upcoming FAMACHA training for deworming, and reminded the committee members to sign up for the Richland Ag Newsletter. Brief discussion ensued. Mr. Hady reported that the Extension office was moving out of the Melville Hall building and back in the Health and Human Services building by the end of the month.

E. Real Property Lister: Report & Departmental Activities: No one was present to make a report.

Supervisor Perry stated that he was glad to see staff taking the opportunities available to them for

Richland County Natural Resources Standing Committee

education and then left the meeting at 10:23 AM.

Discussion & Possible Action: Updated Zoning Ordinance: Conservationist Cooper and Jenn Fry presented the documents showing the proposed updates to the Zoning Ordinance and asked for guidance from the committee. Committee Chair Carrow requested that the Zoning Office reach out to neighboring counties to gather information. Discussion on platted subdivisions and the definitions of junkyards, salvage yards, and the issue of severely untidy properties ensued. No action was taken.

Discussion & Possible Action: Updated Short-Term Rental Ordinance: Jenn Fry spoke to the proposed updates to the Short-Term Rental Ordinance and the work being done by the county's new attorneys on the project. Discussion on the definition of short-term rental vs campground ensued. Consensus was gained from the committee to table this item until the next meeting. No action was taken.

Discussion & Possible Action: Land Use Section Of The County Comprehensive Plan: County Conservationist Cooper asked the committee for feedback on what they would like to see her and her staff to focus on in 2026. Committee Chair Carrow stated that he would like her and her staff to prioritize items 2 and 3 on page 43 of the Comprehensive Plan, those items being: Implement the 2022 Richland County Land and Water Resource Management Plan and Activate Townships. Brief discussion ensued.

Correspondence: None.

Future Agenda Items: None

Adjourn: Chair Carrow entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion by Hendricks, second by Schoonover to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 11:07 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,



Myranda H. Hege
Deputy County Clerk