Marathon County
Environmental Resources Team
Technical Advisory Team
Minutes
Wednesday, November 1, 2012
210 River Drive
Wausau, WI

Attendance: Present Not Present
Rebecca Frisch...........X
Dave Mack...............X
Andy Johnson.............X
Diane Wessel............X
Paul Daigle...............X
Ken Pozorski.............X
Bill Duncanson...........X
Tom Lovlien..............X
Jim Griesbach...........X
Mary Kluz...............X
Dale Grosskrth...........X
Meleesa Johnson..........X (left at 11:00 am)

Others Present: Heather Schlesser-UWEX

1. Call to Order.
Meeting was called to order by Frisch at 10:05 am.

Action: MOTION / SECOND BY DAIGLE / MACK TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 15, 2012 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE, NO DISSENT.

Discussion: The report on the Safe Water Project and application had been e-mailed to the members. The project would accelerate the ongoing project to properly close abandoned waste storage facilities. Although the data may be incomplete, 140-150 such facilities had been identified through examination of aerial photos. Approximately 10-15 facilities are closed annually. State and federal cost share funds, up to 70%, are currently available through the county to help offset the cost for landowners. Discussion covered:
- Idled facilities have been closed without permits and not to standards;
- State and federal cost share funds have been decreasing;
- Possible breakdown of costs: 50% EIF, 20% state or federal funds, 30% landowner;
- This is the first time these funds are being requested to be used on private property;
  - All other requests have been for projects on public property;
  - Setting a precedent for other property owners to request funds (e.g., failed septic systems);
  - Setting a precedent for county departments to request these funds for departmental projects;
- The Environmental Resources Committee’s (ERC) expressed concern regarding the conversion of land to a non-agricultural use;
- Some members uncomfortable using these funds to subsidize an agricultural business operation;
- Additional funding may double the speed of closures – project would be completed by 2015;
  - Two to three improper closures are occurring in a year;
  - Safety issue for a new landowner who may be unaware of improperly closed facility;
- Revising the ordinance to raise a red flag that an idled facility exists on a property when a real estate transfer occurs.

Concerns noted included:
- The established criteria that “it is probably not appropriate that funds be used to replace funds for ongoing expenses currently funded by tax levy, grants, or other sources of funding available for County use.” From information available on the County’s website for the use of these funds.
- Need for guidance from the ERC regarding the role of the TAT and a better understanding of the criteria for evaluating projects.
The project was reviewed and ranked by the members with a score of 988 out of a possible 1,570. Consensus reached to refer this application with the concerns noted to the Environmental Resources Committee for consideration.

Action: Motion / Second by Griesbach / Wessel to forward the request for environmental impact funds for the Safe Water Project along with the noted concerns to the Environmental Resources Committee for its consideration. Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent.

Follow Through: This request will be placed on the agenda for the next Environmental Resources Committee meeting.

4. Adjourn.
There being no further business to discuss, Motion / Second by Wessel / Griesbach to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent.

Submitted by:
Rebecca Frisch, Director
Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department
November 8, 2012
RJF/ljs