MARATHON COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
AGENDA

February 4, 2016
2:30 P.M.

Marathon County Mission Statement: Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business. (Last updated: 12-20-05)

Environmental Resources Committee Mission Statement: Provide leadership for the implementation of the County Strategic Plan, monitoring outcomes, reviewing and recommending to the County Board policies related to environmental resource initiatives of Marathon County. (Revised: 04/17/12)

Members: Jim Seefeldt, Chair; John Small; John Bandow; Sandi Cihlar; Jacob Langenhahn; Matt Bootz; and Marilyn Bhend - Towns Association Representative

1. Call to Order and Silence Electronic Devices

2. Public Comment

3. Approval of the Minutes of the January 14, 2016 Meeting

4. Policy Issues Discussion and Committee Determination to the County Board for its Consideration and Possible Action:
   A. Marathon County Comprehensive Plan 2016 – accept Land Conservation and Zoning Committee recommendation to adopt plan
   B. Zoning Comprehensive Revision: Adopt Land Conservation and Zoning Committee policy recommendation to repeal and recreate the General Code of Ordinances for Marathon County Chapter 17 Zoning Code
   C. ERC Scorecard: Strategic Plan Implementation

5. Educational Presentation / Outcome Monitoring Reports and Possible Action:
   A. Marathon County Chapter 22 Shoreland, Shoreland-Wetland, and Floodplain Code to comply with state and federal regulations
   B. 2015 County Forest Division Annual Report
   C. Status of Lake Management and community capacity grant application
   D. Legislative and Budget Tracking Report
      1) Wisconsin Counties Association’s (WCA) Environmental and Land Use Advisory Steering Committee Update – M. Johnson
   E. Department Quarterly Report – Topic suggestion list
   F. Department Quarterly Report – Parks and Recreation
   G. March Monthly Update topic ideas
   H. LIFE Report

6. Next Regular Meeting Date and Future Agenda Items: Environmental Impact Fund Joint meeting with Finance and Property Committee: February 15, 2016, 3:00 pm, Assembly Room, Courthouse. Regular meeting tentatively scheduled for March 10, 2016, 2:30 pm, Room 5, 212 River Drive

7. Announcements and Requests

8. Adjourn
Marathon County
Environmental Resources Committee
Minutes – January 14, 2016
210 River Drive, Wausau, WI

Attendance: Present Not Present
James Seefeldt ...................... X
John Small ............................. X
John Bandow ......................... X
Sandi Cihlar............................ X
Jacob Langenhahn ................ X
Matt Bootz .............................. X
Marilyn Bhend ........................ X

Also Present:  Rebecca Frisch, Paul Daigle, Andy Johnson, Jeff Pritchard – Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ); Bill Duncanson, Tom Lovlien – Park Recreation and Forestry (PRF); Don Radtke – Marathon County Farm Bureau

1. Call to Order and Silence Electronic Devices
Chair Seefeldt called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm and asked that all electronic devices be silenced. Matthew Bootz was introduced as Alan Kraus’ replacement.

2. Public Comment – None.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the December 10, 2015 Meeting
Action: MOTION / SECOND BY LANGENHAHN / BANDOW TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2015 MEETING AS DISTRIBUTED. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE, NO DISSENT.

4. Policy Issues Discussion and Committee Determination to the County Board for its Consideration and Possible Action.
A. Resolution to Support Marathon County Farm Bureau: Land Conservation & Zoning Committee
Discussion: This resolution, as discussed at the December meeting, is no longer recommended for support by staff as it had not been acted on by the Farm Bureaus at their state convention. The handout included in the meeting packet on the Clean Water Act of 1972, the Wisconsin River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study and agricultural performance standards and manure management prohibitions was reviewed. The following were noted:

 The TMDL plan will identify the sources of pollution in the Fenwood watershed and indicate how much the pollutants from the watershed would have to be reduced to make a positive impact downstream
 Marathon County has codified many of the state’s agricultural performance standards and manure management prohibitions
 The need to prioritize programming on the western side of the County due to the large number of dairy farms
 This begins the conversation that a “one size fits all” is not realistic because of the varied soil types within the state
  o Highlights the need to educate state legislators
  o Highlights the need to educate both farmers and municipalities
  o Opportunity to build capacity of local officials
 Possibility of a Farm Bureau resolution being brought forward next year
 CPZ’s support of the county’s Farm Bureau and its leadership as this is a means to provide local input
 Those farmers that do not adhere to best management practices may not be very financially successful
 CPZ does have some tools to start to deal with some of these issues but does not have the financial resources to do a higher level of enforcement than what is currently in place.

Action: NO ACTION AT THIS TIME, FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY.
Follow through: This topic will be taken up at a future date.

B. Resolution in Support of Lake Grant Application
Discussion: Background information and the draft resolution were included in the meeting packet and briefly reviewed. This was a request for a $100,000 DNR grant to begin the implementation of the recently completed Eastern Lake plans on 11 lakes. The grant would implement shoreland restoration practices and provide staff support to build community capacity for the Eastern Lakes and Fenwood Creek watersheds.
and requires an in-kind 25% local match (CPZ staff time, PRF staff and equipment, landowners’ time and boats). The grant addresses the following Strategic Plan goals: 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6. The lake associations have been very active throughout this project as it started as a grassroots effort.

**Action:** MOTION / SECOND BY CIHLAR / LANGENHAHN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION PROTECTING WATER QUALITY THROUGH COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING AND FORWARD THE RESOLUTION TO THE COUNTY BOARD FOR ITS CONSIDERATION. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE, NO DISSENT.

**Follow through:** This resolution will be forwarded to the County Board for consideration at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

C. ERC Scorecard: Strategic Plan Implementation

**Discussion:** The ERC’s scorecard was included in the meeting packet and briefly reviewed. The scorecard was the means by which the committee tracks issues and determines how its actions meet the goals of the County’s Strategic Plan. The scorecard will be completed and discussed at the February meeting. The committee was reminded that this was an immature document but it will mature through use. The committee was encouraged to consider any other outcomes it would like included on the scorecard.

**Action:** NO ACTION AT THIS TIME, FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY.

**Follow through:** The scorecard will be updated and presented for discussion at the February meeting.

5. Educational Presentation / Outcome Monitoring Reports and Possible Action:

A. Zoning Comprehensive Revision: Status Update

**Discussion:** The Land Conservation and Zoning Committee (LCZC) scheduled a working meeting 1/15/16 to discuss public and staff comments regarding the wording and language in the draft code. Corporation Counsel Corbett will be in attendance to assist the committee. The LCZC may make a recommendation to this committee to enable the ERC to forward the revised code to the County Board for its consideration in February. The Zoning Comprehensive Revision Task Force was complimented on its work. The level of service handout from the December ERC meeting should be reviewed to facilitate the policy discussion at the February meeting.

**Action:** NONE NEEDED, FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY.

**Follow through:** The committee will be kept informed as the approval process proceeds.

B. Comprehensive Plan Update: Public Hearing 5:30 PM January 14, 2016, Courthouse

This was a reminder of the date, time and place of the public hearing; no discussion.

C. Department Quarterly Report – Forestry Division/Tom Lovlien

**Discussion:** Included in the meeting packet and reviewed were: a press release on the recent results of the third party audit announcing that Wisconsin’s 27 county forests exceeded standards for certified forests for the 11th consecutive year, the results of the fall 2015 bid openings, and maps showing the counties infected with annosum root rot. Also reported was that Forestry has best management practices regarding water quality as forestry harvests are considered non-point pollutant sources but annual measurement of the voluntary practices indicate they are working, and the receipt of a $25,000 Sustainable Forestry Grant to treat invasive species, mainly buckthorn and honey suckle, in Nine Mile, Burma and Kronenwetter County Forest units by PRF.

**Action:** FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY, NO ACTION NEEDED.

**Follow through:** None needed at this time.

D. Report on quarterly reports, monthly update, and meeting schedule

**Discussion:** Chair Seefeldt met with the department heads to discuss the quarterly report, monthly update, and meeting schedule. Notes from this meeting were included in the meeting packet:

- Quarterly Report: The departments to provide the committee, for review, a list of potential topics to be included in a report as time allows. Information to be provided in the meeting packets. Focus on PRF and SW as CPZ continuously brings large projects as agenda items.

- Monthly Update: The committee will be asked in February for direction on articles to be included in the March Update. The scheduled for these Updates would be January, March, May, September, and...
November. The summer months were eliminated as the workload for the committee and staff increases due to the Environmental Impact Fund (EIF) project process.

Committee meeting schedule: Continue to meet on the second Thursday until the new Board is seated and committee membership is determined. As a 12:30 pm start time is difficult for some members, it was suggested that the start time be changed to 2:30 pm.

**Action:** Consensus reached to include the Quarterly Report in the meeting packet with opportunity for questions and answers as time allows; the schedule for the Monthly Update to the County Board changed to January, March, May, September, and November; and committee meetings will be at 2:30 PM for February and March.

**Follow through:** The discussed changes to the Quarterly Report, Monthly Update and meeting scheduled will be implemented.

E. Legislative and Budget Tracking Report

**Discussion:** No report was made although several legislative initiatives are being monitored. The speed at which bills are moving through the legislature was discussed – the schedule is not always conducive to public input. Briefly discussed was proposed legislation on private property rights and managed forest law.

**Action:** None needed, informational purposes only.

**Follow through:** The committee will be informed if any of these issues become time sensitive.

6. Next Regular Meeting Date and Future Agenda Items: Need to schedule February meeting early due to zoning code/comprehensive plan submission to County Board on February 11th. (tentatively 12:30 a.m., February 4th or 9th?), 2016, 210 River Drive.

**Discussion:** Rational for holding the meeting earlier in February was that both the zoning comprehensive revision and the comprehensive plan were anticipated to be presented to the County Board for their consideration at the February 11 meeting with final approval anticipated at the February 16 meeting. The LCZC is anticipated to make a recommendation for approval for both documents at its February 2 meeting. Scheduling this on either February 4 or February 9 would allow staff time to address any concerns prior to the February 11 County Board meeting. The meeting schedule for March was also discussed – to be scheduled March 10 at 2:30 pm.

**Action:** Consensus to schedule the next two meetings on February 4, 2016 at 2:30 PM and March 10, at 2:30 PM, 210 RIVER DRIVE.

**Follow through:** These meetings will be scheduled.

**Future Agenda Items:**

A. ERC Scorecard: Strategic Plan Implementation
B. Zoning Comprehensive Revision: Level of Service
C. Legislative and Budget Tracking Report
D. Building Local Capacity – Farmer Lead Councils, TMDL

**Follow through:** These meetings will be scheduled.

6. Announcements and Requests

Daigle distributed a brochure on the Government Affairs Seminar, which will provide an overview of the TMDL, to be held February 25, 2016 in Middleton, WI.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the committee, **MOTION / SECOND BY LANGENHAHN / BHEND TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 2:48 P.M. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE, NO DISSENT.**

Submitted by:
Rebecca Frisch, Director
Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department
January 20, 2016

ljs
GENERAL COMPREHENSIVE ZONING POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE

Policy Statement:

Marathon County will provide general zoning regulatory services to support community development through the implementation of Chapter 17 Zoning Code. The general zoning code will establish:

- Building and structure standards;
- Lot coverage and population density restrictions;
- Distribution and location of various land uses through zoning districts;
- Guidelines to promote the public health, safety and general welfare of the residents of Marathon County;
- Provisions for orderly, efficient, and appropriate development of land;
- To ensure adequate provision of open space for light, air, sanitation and drainage;
- Standards for signs and parking;
- Administrative authority and responsibilities;
- Penalties for the violation of the provisions of this chapter.

Marathon County will also provide community planning services to help unincorporated communities (and their neighboring municipalities) determine the value of zoning within their respective communities.

Authority to execute zoning services within Marathon County is provided by §59.69, 59.692, 59.694, 87.30 and 281.31, Wisconsin Statutes.

Note: On March 24, 2015, the Marathon County Board of Supervisors approved Ordinance No. O-8-15 to separate general zoning regulatory activities (Chapter 17) from the shoreland, wetland and floodplain regulatory activities (Chapter 22).

Service to Whom

Zoning assistance and support will be provided to the unincorporated municipalities and their constituents who have adopted the Marathon County Zoning Code.

At What Cost*

In order to align with the goals and objectives of the Marathon County Strategic Plan, the adoption of the proposed zoning code along with an enhanced level of service is recommended as follows:
2017 proposed budget request:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staffing</th>
<th>Anticipated Expense</th>
<th>2017 Funding Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Limited Term employee (fund existing staff beyond ZCR scope)</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support: permitting support, newsletter expenses, mapping etc.</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
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<td>Re-directed planning support</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL - 2017 Investment</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Refer to Supplement from February 3, 2016 Land Conservation and Zoning Committee for full narrative and itemization of enhanced level of service recommendation.
**Policy Guidelines:**  Chapter 17 of the Marathon County General Code of Ordinances will be referred to as the “Zoning Code.”

1. The County Board will be assigned the responsibility to enact, amend, or repeal this Chapter 17 of the General Code of Ordinances according to County Board rules and State Statutes.

2. The County Board will establish the position of the Zoning Administrator.

3. The Environmental Resources Committee (ERC) will ensure that the Zoning Code is consistent with both Marathon County Comprehensive and Strategic Plans.

4. ERC will develop outcomes of the zoning program along with indicators that track progress of the program’s goals.

5. ERC will ensure that the Zoning Code is consistent with other Marathon County policies.

6. The Land Conservation and Zoning Committee (LC&ZC) will ensure that the Zoning Code is consistent with local ordinances and plans relative to public safety, transportation, economic development, resource protection, farmland preservation, and land use.

7. LC&ZC will serve to oversee the administration of the Marathon County Zoning Code to ensure compliance with State Statutes, Administrative Codes, and customer satisfaction and to revise the code periodically.

8. LC&ZC and Corporation Counsel will ensure that the Zoning Code complies with statutory authority and ensures reasonable enforcement.

9. Board of Adjustment will be consistent with WI. Stats. 59.69 for the purpose of hearing and deciding administrative appeals, variances, and conditional use permit applications.

10. LC&ZC will establish a schedule of fees which will be reviewed periodically to generate revenues to support program activities.

11. The development of the Zoning Code (and future revisions) must involve the elected officials and planning commissions of participating municipalities providing a clear process of public engagement where written and spoken comments are received and recorded.

12. The Zoning Code will promote, sustain, and create an environment that supports the safety, health, and prosperity of local and regional communities.

13. The Zoning Code will include specific zoning districts and associated maps that identify zoning districts. These maps will be developed in collaboration with local officials and adopted by local resolution.

14. LC&ZC in collaboration with participating towns will develop zoning districts in order to classify and regulate buildings, land use, and other structures. Each district will specify permitted uses and conditional uses.
Administrative Guidelines:

1. Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department (CPZ) will designate a Zoning Administrator for the purpose of effecting proper administration of the Zoning Code. The CPZ Land and Water Program Director will supervise the Zoning Administrator.

2. CPZ will maintain records of applications; official Zoning District maps and amendments; and the original Zoning Code and amendments.

3. CPZ will provide administrative support to the Board of Adjustment.

4. CPZ will develop a department newsletter for all Marathon County municipalities that share the value, activities, processes, and outcomes of the zoning program.

5. CPZ will review the Zoning Code relative to its effectiveness and consistency with the Comprehensive Plan implementation periodically and share with municipalities.

6. CPZ, with LC&ZC oversight, will lead a comprehensive revision process every 10 years. CPZ will develop an outline for review criteria and report content.

7. CPZ will develop a public engagement strategy to provide municipal officials, customers and general citizens an opportunity to give constructive feedback to zoning services and the administration.

8. CPZ will provide an implementation and progress report (activities, indicators, and outcomes) for the LC&ZC and ERC annually. ERC will forward any Zoning Code policy recommendations and a progress report to the County Board of Supervisors.

9. CPZ will provide administrative training and planning support to local communities who have adopted the Marathon County Zoning Code.
PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION OF ZONING COMPREHENSIVE REVISION FOR 2017
February 2, 2016

Due to the unpredictable nature of adoption of the new zoning code and the desire to offer towns and citizens a level of service high enough to move towards the achievement of the county’s strategic goal, the following is offered for 2017:

Enhanced Level of Service:
1. Education: Actively engage elected town officials and landowners to promote and provide information about the benefits of county administered zoning. Hold meetings at town halls and local meeting places to educate landowners and town boards about the new zoning code. Develop informational newsletter to distribute quarterly to town officials and landowners in priority areas.

2. Planning and Zoning:
   - Actively engage and assist towns to update Comprehensive Plans, especially the land use elements as they consider county zoning.
   - Provide planning, mapping, and zoning information to towns as they are considering zoning as a tool to implement their comprehensive plan.
   - Work directly with towns to educate them on changes to county zoning codes and the benefits to their town. Proactively solicit towns to generate interest in the adoption of county zoning.
   - Enhanced training of Town boards regarding their role in the rezoning and conditional use process to enable the towns to enhance their decision making abilities.
   - Communicate on a quarterly basis directly with town boards to listen to their needs provide follow up assistance to generate and build interest in county zoning.
   - Maintain and update zoning ordinance regularly to meet the needs of the community (anticipate a 2017 minor revision).

3. Implementation:
   - Zoning permits will be issued within allowed timelines.
   - Pre-site plan development with landowners to assure knowledge and understanding of code.
   - Follow up inspections of properties with permits within one year of date of issuance
   - Complaints will be responded to based upon the level urgency
     a. High level complaints, within a week
     b. Medium complaints level within two weeks
     c. Low level complaints within 1 month

2017 proposed budget request:

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CPZ staff will prepare an annual budget request to the LCZ and ERC committees to deliver an enhanced level of service for zoning code implementation in 2017. Annual evaluation of budget needs will be based upon future enrollment of towns in county zoning and the ability of CPZ to provide adequate services, enforcement, and processing of applications in a timely manner. Future costs can be anticipated based upon the levels of service and at the adoption rates of county zoning anticipated in the funding scenarios above. In the event that more towns join county zoning than anticipated, CPZ staff would make a special request to LCZ and county administration for additional funding to deliver zoning services.
As Marathon County moves forward with the Zoning Comprehensive Revision, I would like to introduce examples of possible goals and performance indicators that could be included with the revision of the General Zoning Code of Marathon County.

The following document explains the purpose of the indicators to help us realize the goals and objectives of the Marathon County Strategic Plan. Please review the document and prepare your thoughts about what indicators ERC needs to track to provide reports to the County Board.

In addition, I have included a detailed summary of what various levels of services that could be provided in relation to staff time and financial allocation. The service decisions and the guidance for prioritization of services by the ERC will allow us all to determine the costs.
ZONING COMPREHENSIVE REVISION GOALS,
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND OUTCOMES

Organizational Message

The Zoning Comprehensive Revision (ZCR) represents a significant policy for the Marathon County Board of Supervisors that defines the importance of zoning relative to land use, culture, resource management, and planned economic expansion contributions. As policy, the implementation levels for ZCR identifies the possible services, prioritization of services, and costs of services that Marathon County will incur and its contributions to the community’s health, safety, and prosperity.

The leadership by the Environmental Resources Committee (ERC) provides a community vision for zoning, as well as specific implementation strategies to guide regulations (ordinances), education, and landowner assistance. The ZCR is consistent with Marathon County Comprehensive Plan and specifically serves to advance the goals and objectives of the Marathon County Strategic Plan 2012-2017. Specific policy outcomes and performance indicators are established to monitor the effectiveness of programming and financial allocations to the realization of strategic plan (stated plan goals).

Goal 1. Provide leadership for greater cooperation and collaboration among state, regional, and local public and private entities.

Objective 1. Provide leadership for the elimination of duplicative public services by municipalities and within county government.

Goal 3. Provide leadership and services which focus on improving land use and resource planning to assure the orderly development of retail and manufacturing business, agriculture/agribusiness and residential growth while retaining the rural character of Marathon County.

Objective 1. Develop comprehensive planning and zoning ordinances that provide towns with value, so that 100% request participation in county zoning and planning.

Objective 2. Improve water quality and residential, commercial, and industrial waste management resulting in 100% of households, businesses, and industrial sites meeting water quality standards.

Goal 5. Increase county government accountability by establishing measurable performance expectations for county programs and services. Monitor performance consistent with outcome expectations.

Objective 1. Continue development and refinement of the County’s service/program monitoring and ranking system.
Marathon County Zoning Comprehensive Revision: Implementation Options:

Implementation of the Zoning Comprehensive Revision will follow the policies and priorities adopted by County Board. Education of local town officials and the public is essential to Zoning acceptance and implementation. Education would be focused on the benefits of zoning in relation to the general health, safety, welfare and prosperity of the residents as well as the public costs, and land use impacts without zoning. It is also essential to provide the public with the knowledge and tools to better protect their land with zoning. Educating the general public and building their awareness of the zoning is necessary for communities as a whole to embrace and support this effort.

Specific strategies, tools and assistance that have proven effective in helping ensure the acceptance and adoption of zoning are described below:

1. **Comprehensive Planning**
   The county and towns can use comprehensive plans as the basis for zoning. By utilizing comprehensive plans and/or sewer service area plans the county and towns can identify areas to protect for prescribed land uses and areas where growth will be encouraged. Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ), in cooperation with North Central Regional Planning Commission, will work with towns to ensure they have relevant and up to date plans, especially the land use elements. This will help to enact proper zoning to ensure that land use activities are well planned and land use conflicts are minimized.

2. **Education, Communication and Outreach**
   Landowners, town and county officials, residents and the general public will need to be engaged in an active and on-going educational effort to build and maintain support for zoning adoption and implementation. It will be important to not only start out strong with education, communication and outreach but these efforts need to continue in the long term to ensure viability, support and ultimately success. Maintenance of effort is probably the most overlooked but critical aspect of zoning. As efforts mature, education, communication, and outreach must continue to build and maintain support for zoning success.

3. **Implementation**
   Currently, the county has 19 towns with county administered zoning. The county invests approximately 1.6 full time staff equivalents to meet the current needs. The county currently delivers a basic level of service. The current investment in staff along with equipment will need to be maintained to meet the current zoning workload. To offer enhanced or high levels of service additional financial resources will be needed. The levels of service listed below are offered to allow the county board to choose their level of service to current and future recipients of county zoning services.
### Zoning Comprehensive Revision: Performance Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Long Term Outcome</th>
<th>Short Term Outcomes</th>
<th>Key Performance Indicators (Short Term)</th>
<th>Basic (Current)</th>
<th>Enhanced</th>
<th>High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land use activities are well planned to minimize conflicts, maximize infrastructure investments, and protect the rural character.</td>
<td>Local officials understand the regional land use and demographic trends of their respective communities and the value of comprehensive planning and zoning to implement community and economic development goals.</td>
<td>• Number of communities provided updated Comprehensive plans</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Plan 2</td>
<td>Plan 4 Towns per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Number of non-zoned Towns utilizing County zoning (7 towns)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide leadership for the elimination of duplicative public services by municipalities and within county government.</td>
<td>Town officials currently under town zoning understand and realize the additional cost and duplication of services incurred when they administer town zoning rather than county zoning which is already paid for by current taxes and fees.</td>
<td>• Number of Towns with Town zoning switch to County Zoning (14 Towns)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Add 1-2</td>
<td>Add 2-4 Towns per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Towns per year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Implementation delivery and costs: Based on levels of service:

Basic (Current) Level of Service:

Monitoring for success: Current levels of zoning will continue. One to two towns may join county zoning over the next five years.

1. Education:
   - Provide information to towns and landowners as requested to allow them to take the lead considering the adoption of county zoning.

2. Planning and Zoning assistance:
   - Provide basic mapping, planning and zoning information to towns to enable the towns make their decisions in considering zoning.
   - Maintain zoning ordinance to meet the needs of the community. Send out educational information to towns with noted changes to ordinance.

3. Implementation:
   - Zoning permits will be issued within currently allowed timelines.
   - Complaints will be responded to based upon the level urgency.
     a. High level, within two weeks
     b. Medium level within a month
     c. Low level within 6 months
   - Inspections will only be done when time allows; with low and medium levels possibly not inspected at all.

Note:
1. The Basic or Current level of service will not achieve the goals identified in Marathon County’s Strategic Plan
2. Approximately 2/3’s of the new costs will be tax levy under current fee levels
Enhanced Level of Service:

Monitoring indicator of success: One to two towns per year will be added to County Zoning.

1. Education: Actively engage elected town officials and landowners to promote and provide information about the benefits of County Administered Zoning. Hold meetings at town halls and local meeting places to educate landowners and town supervisors. Develop informational newsletter to distribute quarterly to town officials and landowners in priority areas.

2. Planning and Zoning:
   - Provide mapping, planning and zoning information to towns to enable the towns their own decisions in considering zoning
   - Maintain and update zoning ordinance regularly to meet the needs of the community.
   - Work directly with towns to educate them on changes to County zoning codes. Proactively solicit towns to generate interest in the adoption of county zoning.
   - Actively engage and assist towns to update their Comprehensive plans, especially the land use elements and consider county zoning.
   - Communicate directly with town boards to listen to their needs on a quarterly basis, provide follow up assistance to generate and build interest in County Zoning.
   - Enhanced training of Town boards regarding their role in the rezoning and conditional use process

3. Implementation:
   - Zoning permits will be issued within allowed timelines.
   - Complaints will be responded to based upon the level urgency
     a. High level, within a week
     b. Medium level within two weeks
     c. Low level within 1 month
   - In field inspections of properties with permits will be done each year.

Note: Approximately 2/3 of the new costs will be tax levy under current fee levels
High Performance Level of Service:
Monitoring indicator of success: Two to four towns per year will be added to County Zoning.

1. Education: Actively engage towns and landowners to promote and provide information about the benefits of County Zoning. Hold meetings at town halls and local meeting places to educate landowners and town supervisors, meet one on one with town supervisors and key landowners to build support for County Zoning. Develop informational monthly newsletter to distribute to town officials and landowners in priority areas.

2. Planning and Zoning:
   - Provide mapping, planning and zoning information to towns for them to make their own decisions in considering zoning
   - Maintain and regularly update zoning ordinance to meet the needs of the community.
   - Work directly with Towns to educate them on changes to County zoning codes. Proactively solicit towns to generate interest in the adoption of county zoning.
   - Actively engage and prepare updated comprehensive plans which would include ties to county zoning elements.
   - Communicate directly with town boards to listen to their needs on a monthly basis provide follow up assistance to generate and build interest in County Zoning.
   - Enhanced training of Town boards regarding their role in the rezoning and conditional use process

3. Implementation:
   - Zoning permits will be issued within allowed timelines. Deputy zoning administrators will receive advanced training to function at a higher level than they currently function.
   - Complaints will be responded to based upon the level urgency.
     a. High level, within two days
     b. Medium level within one week
     c. Low level within one month
   - In field inspections of properties with permits within 60 days of permit being issued.

Note: Approximately 2/3 of the new costs will be tax levy under current fee levels
PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION OF ZONING COMPREHENSIVE REVISION FOR 2017
February 2, 2016

Due to the unpredictable nature of adoption of the new zoning code and the desire to offer towns and citizens a level of service high enough to move towards the achievement of the county’s strategic goal, the following is offered for 2017:

Enhanced Level of Service:
1. Education: Actively engage elected town officials and landowners to promote and provide information about the benefits of county administered zoning. Hold meetings at town halls and local meeting places to educate landowners and town boards about the new zoning code. Develop informational newsletter to distribute quarterly to town officials and landowners in priority areas.

2. Planning and Zoning:
   - Actively engage and assist towns to update Comprehensive Plans, especially the land use elements as they consider county zoning.
   - Provide planning, mapping, and zoning information to towns as they are considering zoning as a tool to implement their comprehensive plan.
   - Work directly with towns to educate them on changes to county zoning codes and the benefits to their town. Proactively solicit towns to generate interest in the adoption of county zoning.
   - Enhanced training of Town boards regarding their role in the rezoning and conditional use process to enable the towns to enhance their decision making abilities.
   - Communicate on a quarterly basis directly with town boards to listen to their needs provide follow up assistance to generate and build interest in county zoning.
   - Maintain and update zoning ordinance regularly to meet the needs of the community (anticipate a 2017 minor revision).

3. Implementation:
   - Zoning permits will be issued within allowed timelines.
   - Pre-site plan development with landowners to assure knowledge and understanding of code.
   - Follow up inspections of properties with permits within one year of date of issuance
   - Complaints will be responded to based upon the level urgency
     - a. High level complaints, within a week
     - b. Medium complaints level within two weeks
     - c. Low level complaints within 1 month

2017 proposed budget request:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Anticipated Expense</th>
<th>New Funding Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Limited Term employee (fund existing staff, beyond ZCR request)</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support: permitting support, newsletter expenses, mapping etc.</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-directed planning support</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL - 2017 Investment</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CPZ staff will prepare an annual budget request to the LCZ and ERC committees to deliver an enhanced level of service for zoning code implementation in 2017. Annual evaluation of budget needs will be based upon future enrollment of towns in county zoning and the ability of CPZ to provide adequate services, enforcement, and processing of applications in a timely manner. Future costs can be anticipated based upon the levels of service and at the adoption rates of county zoning anticipated in the funding scenarios above. In the event that more towns join county zoning than anticipated, CPZ staff would make a special request to LCZ and county administration for additional funding to deliver zoning services.
Program Highlights:

- Net timber sale revenue to Marathon County of $46,456.72.

- Total net revenue for the Forestry Division program was $104,364.82 and expenses were $345,387.

- Practiced sustainable forestry on 115 acres on the Marathon County Forest.

- Treated pockets of invasive species at several locations on County Forest land.

- Continued participation as a member of the Wisconsin County Forests Association Forest Legislative/Certification Committee.

- Mowed 50 miles of hunter walking trails and associated wildlife openings.

- Continued participation in the County Forest Administrator grant program that funds one-half the salary and fringe benefits of the Forest Administrator position.

- Continued participation in third party forest certification under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) standard.

- Resurfaced 2.15 miles of roads and trails in Burma and Leathercamp Forest Units adding 2936 yards of granite and breaker material.

- Completed a County Conservation Aids Project at Memorial Park in the City of Wausau that replaced the concrete launch, pier and anchored the shoreline for erosion control.

- Auditors again completed a third party field audit and found no non-conformances or opportunities for improvement and Marathon County remained certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) standard.

- Regulated uses at Nine Mile County Forest Recreation Area to allow all user groups to have safe and quality recreation experiences.

- Four Mountain Bike Races were held at Nine Mile Forest Unit with 1357 participants resulting in $8,934.55 in revenue for Marathon County.

- Updated the Marathon County Snowmobile map for the Snowmobile Council.

- Utilized volunteers to complete work on both the ski and mountain bike trails.
**Land Holdings:**
Acreage in 2015:
- County Forest - Regular County Forest Law: 29,384.46
- County Forest - Special County Forest Law: 552.10
- Total County Forest: 29,936.56

**Other Land Holdings:**
- Parking & road access: 8.59
- Farm Lease (Pingel): 80.00
- McMillan Marsh Lease (DNR): 1,661.40
- Under water, island & wetlands: 192.74
- Railroad ROW/Snowmobile Trail: 85.04
- Total Other Lands: 2,027.77

**Total Lands Managed:** 31,964.33 Acres

**Timber Management, Cultural Projects, and Reforestation:**

**Timber Sales:**
Timber sales generated 2,434 cords of pulpwood and 15,850 board feet of logs worth $66,366.74 (unaudited) in 2015. The following is a listing of the gross value of timber cut from the forest over the past 10 years:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Annual Gross Revenue – Cut and Hauled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>$509,065.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$734,576.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$485,565.44</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>$477,122.61</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$242,865.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$66,366.74</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Marathon County Forest**
Timber Sales Annual Gross Revenue – Cut and Hauled
Other Timber Sale Data:
New sales – 7 were established on 597 acres with 10,640 cords appraised at $358,292.60.

Marathon County Forest
Timber Sales Annual Sold Value

1. Sold sales - 7 of 7 sales advertised were sold in 2015 for a value of $531,420.05.
2. Uncompleted timber contracts – 18 with 27,004 cord equivalents worth $1,273,223.01.
3. Cut volume reports filed with DNR (form 2460):
   Final reports - 4 sales worth $73,028.69.
   Partial reports - 0 sales worth $0.
4. Severance paid to DNR on interest free loans $14,605.74.
5. Severance Tax Escrow for Town payments (10% of gross receipts) $6,636.69.
6. Firewood permits – 17 permits were issued worth $510.00.
7. New sale establishment - evaluated 683 acres for potential sale (established 596 acres).
8. Forest reconnaissance - updated 2836 acres.
9. Administered a timber sale at Trappe River Dells County Park.
10. Established a timber sale for the Rib Mountain Metropolitan Sewerage District.

Cultural Projects:
1. Classified forest habitat types on 2836 acres for inclusion in our GIS database.
2. Monitored for additional oak wilt areas in Nine Mile and Kronenwetter Forest Units.
3. Identified a two new pockets of oak trees in Nine Mile infected with the oak wilt fungus, treatment was completed in August.
4. Received a $25,000 Sustainable Forestry grant in an attempt to control invasive species on high-use areas of the County Forest. Treatment of approximately 114 acres by a contractor will begin in the spring of 2016.
5. Treated areas of tansy, thistle and spotted knapweed on several wildlife flowage dikes and forest unit trails.
6. Released tamarack seedlings using herbicides on an abandoned farm field at Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit.
7. Released red pine seedlings planted in 2013 using herbicides at Burma Road Forest Unit.

Reforestation:
1. No reforestation took place in 2015 as all plantations were fully stocked and growing well.
Road, Trail, and Facility Construction and Maintenance:
1. APHIS trapped 48 beaver and removed 25 dams at problem locations in the county forest. Nine dams were blown using dynamite. All are new records for County Forest.
2. Replaced four culverts in the Kronenwetter, Leather Camp and Nine Mile Forest Units and added granite in problem locations.
3. Brushed approximately 9.5 miles of trails in the Burma and Nine Mile Forest Units.
4. Placed 2936 yards of granite on forest trails in the Burma and Leather Camp Forest Units.
5. Completed repairs to dikes and water control structures from muskrat and beaver damage.
6. Reconstructed several segments of Nine Mile ski trails to improve drainage and level the surface.
7. Performed normal maintenance on 190 miles of forest roads and trails.
8. Repaired several sections of trail in Nine Mile Forest due to heavy use and erosion.
9. Graded several sections of the Burma Road ATV trails to prevent erosion.
10. Inspected County Forest boundaries to control encroaching land uses and completed a professional survey to locate property corners in Leather Camp Forest Unit.
11. Removed many blown over trees on mountain bike and ski trails due to windstorms in Nine Mile Forest Unit.
12. Installed three gates and repaired others on roads and trails that access the County Forest.

Administration:
1. Continued utilizing DNR forestry reconnaissance program (WisFIRS).
2. Evaluated one parcel for potential land acquisition as an addition to County Forest land.
3. Developed policy and implemented principals of Forest Certification - Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) on the Marathon County Forest.
4. Drafted amendments to the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan to reflect forest certification, language and policy changes.
5. Park and forest rangers removed 11 illegal tree stands from County Forest lands.
6. The Chief Ranger issued 13 citations on County Forest lands. One for operating a bike on a seasonally closed trail, one for using a trail camera in an unauthorized manner, two for dumping waste, four for using a tree stand in an unauthorized manner and five for using bike trails without paying the established fee.
7. Issued four ATV/UTV disabled person access permits to people with disabilities for County Forest access.
8. Several revisions were made to County Forest Ordinances and were adopted by the County Board.
9. Held quarterly meetings with the Forest Citizen’s Advisory Subcommittee to discuss forestry and recreation issues.

Wildlife and Fisheries Management:
In cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources:
1. Maintained 17 flowages.
2. Mowed forest openings, Nine Mile and Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit flowage dikes, several fields and the Bitzke Bird Walk trail.
3. Mowed most forest unit trails suitable for mowing.
4. Monitored status of black bear at Ringle, Leathercamp, Kronenwetter and Harrison-Hewitt Forest Units.
5. Sheared 26 acres of tag alder in the Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit to create habitat for grouse, woodcock and other early successional species.
6. Treated 16 out of 71 forest openings in the forest units by either mowing or applying herbicides.
7. Seeded several roads and trails with a wildlife mixture in Kronenwetter and Leather Camp Forest Units.
9. Seeded wild rice in numerous flowages in Harrison-Hewitt Forest Units.
10. Completed a woodcock survey in Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit that showed increasing numbers of this species over previous years.
11. Replaced water control structure boards in several water control structures at Bitzke flowage.
12. Chemically or manually treated tansy, spotted knapweed and thistle along flowage dikes.

**Recreation:**

**Nine Mile County Forest Cross Country Ski Trails:**
The ski season opened on December 28, 2014 and the chalet closed for the season on March 10, 2015. The length of the ski season was 72 days. Total paid attendance at Nine Mile was 10,375 patrons; this includes 9,575 skiers and 800 snowshoers. These numbers represent a 7% decline in the number of skiers and a 30% decline in the number of snowshoers when compared to the previous season. This reduction in numbers was mostly due to a lack of snowfall.

The Wausau Nordic Ski Club offered free adult ski lessons on Tuesday evenings in January. The County assisted by allowing free ski rental and free ski passes for those taking lessons. This partnership was developed to help promote the ski area and increase the interest in cross country skiing. A warmer January than last year allowed 150 people to take advantage of these lessons.

The staff at Nine Mile was trained in the use of an I Phone and card reader which now allows patrons to use their credit cards at Nine Mile.

The Snekkevik ski race was held on January 10, 2015 and had 283 participants. Special Olympic Winter Games were held on January 24 & 25 and 300 people participated. The Badger State Games were held on January 31, 2015 and had 580 participants. Stomp the Swamp Snowshoe race was held on February 23 and due to cold temperatures only 77 people participated. Total seasonal expenses for skiing related activities was $73,697.89 and receipts were $82,460.60

**Ski Trail Maintenance at Nine Mile Forest Unit:**
1. Brushing of all trails is ongoing, and the efforts of the volunteers are greatly appreciated.
2. Volunteers from the Nordic Ski Club sponsored work days in October. They preformed tasks such as rock picking, splitting firewood for the Chalet, lifting trees and brushing trails.
3. Trail signs were inspected and damaged trail signs replaced, some new signage added, this work will continue in 2016 as the signage is evaluated and updated.

**Mountain Biking at Nine Mile Forest Unit:**
The 2015 mountain bike season opened at noon on May 1st as scheduled. There were no reports of any conflicts between the spring turkey hunters and bikers. The bike trails closed as scheduled on October 15.

There were four Mountain Bike events held at Nine Mile in 2015, the Rib Mountain Adventure challenge, (May 23, 133 daily permits), Wisconsin Off Road Series, (WORS, June 14, 523 daily permits), Wausau 24, (August 1 & 2, 482 daily permits), and the Wisconsin Endurance Mountain Bike Series, (October 3, 27 daily permits). Trail pass fees were $4.00 for a daily pass and $25.00 for an annual pass. A total of 2,545 daily passes and 425 annual passes were sold in 2015.

1,145 of daily passes sold were a result of these events. Total receipts associated with mountain
biking in 2015 totaled $24,342.60.

Central Wisconsin Off-Road Cycling Coalition, (CWOCC) continued work on the re-design of the single track trails to make them more user friendly by developing a loop system. Signing of the redesigned trails was completed in 2015.

Snow biking was moved to Sunny Vale County Park for the second year as Nine Mile has too much activity with skiing and snowshoeing.

**Mountain Bike Trail Maintenance:**
1. The re-design of the single track trails was completed in 2015.
2. Additional directional signs to be located on the outlying trails.
3. A new bike trail brochure was created and printed as a joint effort involving the Central Wisconsin Cycling Coalition, Gary Barden Design and Marathon County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.

**Other Recreation:**
1. Six cross country running races were held at Nine Mile in 2015.
2. Thirty-eight undesignated camping permits were issued for the county forests in 2015. Twenty-one were issued for Nine Mile Forest Unit.
3. The number of people using all County Forest Units continues to increase. Activities such as hiking, dog walking, berry picking and horseback riding are growing and the demand for more trails is increasing.
4. Two ATV Safety Classes were held in the north parking lot at Nine Mile.

**Recreational GIS Mapping:**
1. Completed changes for the 2015-2016 snowmobile maps for Marathon County.
2. Provided mapping for the CWOCC bike club new brochure.
3. Created a new Big Eau Pleine Park mountain bike and equestrian trail map for the website.
5. Updated the Nine Mile Cross Country Ski trail map.
6. Created an Edgar to Fenwood ATV/UTV trail map.
7. Updated Mission Lake County Park map.
8. Created a Rivers Edge trail vegetation map and Wausau City Pools map.

**Snowmobile Trails:**
1. Trails were open 52 days during the 2014-15 seasons. Looking back 24 years, the seasonal average has been 49 days.
2. Six local snowmobile clubs contract with Marathon County to groom, sign, brush and perform other work related to maintaining the trail system on County Forest property.
3. Clubs are responsible for signing the trails to DNR specifications.
4. The Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department annually update the snowmobile trail map for the Snowmobile Council to print.
5. Printed trail maps are made available at numerous locations throughout Marathon County.
6. Marathon County snowmobile clubs continue to receive financial assistance for trail maintenance from the Snowmobile and ATV Aids Programs through grants administered by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department and disbursed by the DNR.

7. The Wausau/Central Wisconsin Convention and Visitors Bureau maintain the snow and trail conditions hotline which is updated by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department as
8. Current trail conditions are also updated by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department on the Marathon County website.

**Burma Forest ATV/UTV Trails:**
1. Approximately 1.5 miles of trail were rehabilitated using $6,605.00 of State ATV and UTV trail maintenance funds.
2. The Mid-Wisconsin Trailblazers ATV Club, through a contract with Marathon County, was responsible for the routine maintenance of 11 miles of summer ATV/UTV trails.
3. Volunteers from the Mid-Wisconsin Trailblazers ATV Club continued their trail patrol to encourage safe and ethical riding. Patrol members talked to other riders about the importance of staying on the trail.

**Public Outreach/Professional Development:**
1. Tom served as a member of the Wisconsin County Forests Association Legislative/Certification and Personnel Committees.
2. Tom served as a member of the Marathon County Deer Advisory Committee.
3. Contributed an article on Forestry that was included in the Forests Forever section of the Wausau Daily Herald.
4. Doug served as a member of the WDNR silvicultural guidance team representing the Wisconsin County Forests Association.
5. Attended several Society of American Foresters, Wisconsin County Forests Association and Forest Certification training sessions.
6. Two presentations were given to students at Stoney Brook Elementary.
7. A County Forest presentation was given to the Marathon County Surveyor Association.
8. Analyzed numerous plant samples for insect and disease problems.
9. Interviewed by media on forestry related issues.
10. Created interpretive displays to educate the public about the benefits of sustainable forest management.
11. Cooperated on a tree recruitment research project with UW-Madison on County Forest land.
12. Assisted UW-Stevens Point on a study to determine how oak trees respond to thinning.
13. Participated in a research project on how seasonal timber harvesting restrictions affects sustainable forest management in Wisconsin.
14. Cooperated with UW-Madison on a climate change research project to determine how warming winters and pathogens could affect tree species in the future.
15. Attended leadership development training for Marathon County managers.

**Budget Summaries** (available upon request)

**Forest Resources:**
- County Forest Program
- County Forest Administrator
- County Forest Road Aids
- County Conservation Aids
- FEMA Cattail Removal
- Forestry State Aid
- Segregated Land
- Wildlife Habitat

**Debt Redemption:**
- General Debt - Aid to County Forest

**Recreation:**
- Burma Trail ATV 14-15
- Cross-Country Ski Trails
- General Fund - Snowmobile Coordinator
  - Snowmobile Grant 14-15
I have summarized several important pieces of proposed legislation that are being considered in Madison.

1. **Assembly Bill 825.** This bill authorizes DNR to implement methods to reduce nutrients introduced into the WI River from headquarters to Castle Rock Flowage based upon TMDL study.
   
   **Recommendation:** Support.

2. **Assembly Bill 518.** This bill specifies the process for authorizing pipelines or hoses transmitting liquid manure within or across a highway right-of-way. Defines conditions of permits and privileges, as well as definitional language.

   **Recommendation:** Monitoring.

3. **Assembly Bill 564.** Implements of Husbandry. Bill proposes to make changes to permissible width of, and other matters pertaining to IOH operated or transported on highways.

   **Recommendation:** Monitoring.

4. **Assembly Bill 733.** Implements of Husbandry. Bill proposes to make changes to permissible width of, and other matters pertaining to IOH operated or transported on highways. Extends season variances: starting on August 1 to December 31.

   **Recommendation:** Monitoring.