



Duncan Road, Ringle

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Economic Development—Who Benefits From It?

Deb Hager, Deputy County Administrator

Although Central Wisconsin has been somewhat buffered from the most recent economic downturn, we are no stranger to the loss in manufacturing jobs, mergers, acquisitions, and general reductions in the workforce.

In order to address the current economic trends and to shape the future of our area, the Strategic Partnerships Taskforce is leading a discussion about the future of Central Wisconsin's economy.

Among many findings, the Taskforce identified that young skilled workers who will drive our economy strongly value a socially energetic and "green" place to live.

We must recognize that the economy of the future values knowledge and technology.

In order to remain economically viable, Central Wisconsin needs to define our unique role/niche in the new knowledge based economy and then aggressively communicate that to potential employers and employees.

The rural communities and their economies have much to offer. Central Wisconsin is known as a dairy and agricultural producer. An opportunity exists to build on this reputation and explore how we become an agriculture technology magnet, support bio-energy efforts, promote biodynamic food production, and locally grown food markets, etc. to meet the demands of new knowledge, technology and industry of the future.

For more information contact:
Deb Hager
Deputy County Administrator
(715) 261-1400
deb.hager@co.marathon.wi.us

Working Lands Initiative Update

Kirk Langfoss, Conservation, Planning & Zoning

The Working Lands Initiative (WLI) was passed as part of the State of Wisconsin's 2009-2011 biennial budget process, and became effective in July. WLI includes three main components:

1. Expansion and modernization of the state's existing Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)
2. Establishment of Agricultural Enterprise Areas

3. Development of a Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements matching grant program

For Marathon County land owners to be eligible to participate in these initiatives, the county will need to update its Farmland Preservation Plan by December 31, 2012.

The county and/or interested local municipalities may also elect to update existing, or establish new Farmland Preservation Zoning Ordinances to maximize land owner eligibility for the FPP and to make land owners eligible for enhanced FPP tax credits.

For more information:
Kirk Langfoss:
(715) 261-6000

Special points of interest:

- H1N1 mass vaccination clinics
- Comprehensive Planning 2010 Consistency
- Preparing for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)
- Pending Land Use Legislation

H1N1 Mass Vaccinations Planned

Dale Grosskurth, Health Department



Marathon County Health Department has estimated 63,000 people are in targeted groups recommended to receive the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine first. We are working with health care providers and schools to coordinate vaccination clinics at schools and communities located throughout the county. Vaccine will also be made available through area clinics. The groups being targeted for initial vaccination clinics:

Pregnant women - they are at higher risk of complications and can potentially provide protection to infants who cannot be vaccinated;

Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age -younger infants are at higher risk and cannot be vaccinated.

Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel - they work with vulnerable patients and increased absenteeism could reduce healthcare system capacity;

All people from 6 months through 24 years of age

- **Children from 6 months through 18 years of age** - cases of 2009 H1N1 influenza have been seen in children who are in close contact with each other in school and day care settings.

- **Young adults 19 through 24 years of age** -many earlier cases of 2009 H1N1 influenza have been seen in these healthy young adults and they are a mobile population.

Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions - 2009 H1N1 may complicate medical conditions.

Need additional information?

Call Marathon County Health Department: (715) 261-1900 or visit: pandemic.wisconsin.gov/



Comprehensive Plan—What Happens in 2010?

Diane Wessel, Conservation, Planning and Zoning

The Comprehensive Planning legislation states that beginning January 1, 2010, official mapping, subdivision regulation, county, municipal and shoreland/wetland zoning must be consistent with the local government's comprehensive plan.

This raises several questions that remain unanswered. These questions likely will be left up to the courts to decide:

- What happens in communities without a plan?
 - What is "consistent"?
 - Who determines consistency?
- Marathon County has drafted a decision-making process for the county to follow regarding plat approval and zoning. While the law requires only specific actions be consistent with comprehensive plans, the plans are designed to guide all decision-making.

The plans include public input and represent our citizens' vision of the future. They are intended to guide decision-making related to transportation, housing, natural resources, agriculture, cultural resources, utilities, economic development and recreation.

The County & municipal plans are available on the Marathon County website: www.co.marathon.wi.us

Big Eau Pleine Reservoir Update

Diane Wessel & Andy Johnson, Conservation, Planning and Zoning

The Marathon County Board of Supervisors has appointed John Small chairman of the Big Eau Pleine Reservoir Task Force. Other members include representatives of Marathon County (Parks, Recreation & Forestry and Conservation, Planning & Zoning), Department of Natural Resources, Big Eau Pleine Citizens' Organization, and Wisconsin Valley Improvement Corporation.

The Task Force has committed to develop a short-term strategic plan to address issues over the next 24 months. The short-term plan will involve 3 planning issues:

1. Complete a case study of the watershed
2. Develop and implement an immediate aeration upgrade plan by this winter

3. Develop an outline for a long-term strategic plan for the watershed that engages federal, state, and local authorities.

The Task Force meets every other Thursday at 212 River Drive, Wausau until the end of the year. Meeting agendas are available on the bulletin board of the Marathon County website.

EAB is Near, Is Your Community Prepared?

Don Kissinger, Wisconsin DNR

In fall of 2008, only one area of encompassing four counties in Wisconsin was known to be infested with emerald ash borer (EAB). Today, there are four areas encompassing nine counties infested.

To help communities prepare for EAB, a document entitled *Guidelines for Municipal Emerald Ash Borer Plans* was created by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Urban Forestry Program.

For a copy of the EAB guidelines or the Toolkit CD, contact: Don Kissinger at (715) 359-5793

There are several elements to the guidelines, but four are essential:

- Completing a public ash tree assessment with associated costs to address the situation
- Assessment of community staff training and equipment needs to complete the appropriate field operations
- Designation of the community EAB authority and their responsibilities
- Ash management recommendations, preparations or actions to take prior and after EAB is found.

In the Marathon County and immediate outlying areas, six communities (Stevens Point, Wausau, Merrill, Marshfield, Weston and Whiting) are either in the process or have completed EAB planning efforts. To encourage your community to plan for EAB, address this with your mayor, administrator, chairperson or president.

These guidelines can be used in conjunction with the DNR's 100 plus document EAB Toolkit, that was developed specifically to assist in community planning.

Photo: Larval galleries of EAB infested ash tree
Jeff Roe, DNR
Southcentral Regional Urban Forestry



County Forest Certification—Why Certify Forests?

Tom Lovlien, Parks Recreation & Forestry

Nearly 30,000 acres of the Marathon County Forest have been certified by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) for over five years. Attaining certification requires landowners meet a rigorous set of standards developed by a third party organization. An audit team recently completed an assessment of the standard and the County Forest program is performing very well.

Certification benefits everyone. Communities benefit by sustainable forestry practices, use of best management practices to protect water quality, enhanced wildlife habitat, and protection of endangered species that all play a critical role in ensuring the long-term health of the forest.

Forest certification requires a commitment by the County to continually improve the practices and policies that are good for you and our forests.

For more information, contact the Marathon County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department: at (715) 261-1550.



Eau Claire River forested area

Good Fences Make Good Neighbors

Mary Kluz, UW-Extension

Chapter 90, Wisconsin Statutes sets out rules regarding fences in agricultural areas. The law prescribes when a fence is required, how responsibility for a fence is divided, what a legal fence is and how to resolve disputes between property owners.



Municipal officials may be requested to intervene when property owners cannot agree, and may assess charges to property owners that do not maintain their portion.

The law provides that if either adjoining property of two neighbors is used for farming or grazing, a fence is required, built and maintained by both neighbors unless another agreement is reached.

A factsheet from UW-Extension is available that covers the requirements and the role of local government in fence maintenance disputes.

For a copy of the factsheet: www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/marathon/cnred/government/index.html

Or contact Mary Kluz, Marathon County UW-Extension: (715) 261-1241

Community Connections

Marathon County CPZ
210 River Drive
Wausau, WI 54403-5449

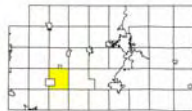
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A PERIODIC NEWSLETTER BY THE MARATHON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENTS

Conservation, Planning & Zoning: 261-6040
Health: 261-1900
Highway: 261-1800
Parks, Recreation & Forestry: 261-1550
Solid Waste: 446-3339
UW-Extension: 261-1230

The Marathon County Environmental Resources Committee provides guidance on policies and strategies that balance, protect and enhance environmental and community resources through cooperation with all levels of government.

We're on the Web!
www.co.marathon.wi.us



Did You Know??

Cleveland Township was formed out of part of Mosinee Township in 1884 and named for the recently elected President of the United States, Grover Cleveland.



Photo: wordsiq.com

Pending Land Use Legislation

Diane Wessel, Conservation, Planning & Zoning
Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Assembly Bill 25: school board approval of subdivision plats

Currently, before a subdivision may be recorded, the municipality in which the subdivision lies must approve the plat. The municipality may condition plat approval upon compliance with ordinances and comprehensive plan, etc.

AB25 requires the school board of each school district in which the subdivision lies to approve the subdivision plat as well. A school board may condition approval upon transportation costs, busing safety, affect on state aid, or adverse affects on the district's budget.

AB25 has been referred to the Committee on Urban and Local Affairs.

Assembly Bill 243: delaying implementation of comprehensive planning for some local units of government.

Currently, beginning January 1, 2010, certain actions that affect landuse must be consistent with that governmental unit's comprehensive plan.

AB243 delays this date to January 1, 2012 for those governmental units that have not enacted a comprehensive plan and have taken steps towards meeting the requirement. The governmental unit must adopt a resolution before January 1, 2010 committing to enacting a plan by January 1, 2012.

AB 243 has been referred to the Committee on Urban and Local Affairs.

Assembly Bill 260: extraterritorial plat approval on basis of land use

Currently, some cities and villages have extraterritorial plat approval authority 1½ or 3 miles (based on population) beyond their borders.

Approval of a plat may be conditioned upon local ordinances, comprehensive plans, etc.

AB260 prohibits a city or village from denying approval of a plat or Certified Survey Map (CSM) on the basis of the proposed use of the land unless the denial is based on regulations adopted under the cooperative effort between the municipality and the town establishing extraterritorial zoning.

AB 260 has been referred to the Committee on Renewable Energy and Rural Affairs.