

CHAPTER 5: CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER PLANS AND POLICIES

Marathon County Comprehensive Plan

In 2006, Marathon County adopted the Comprehensive Plan. The County is in the process of updating the Plan. The farmland preservation plan will be included in the comprehensive plan. Comprehensive planning goals (2006) addressed by the Farmland Preservation Plan include:

- Enhance the natural character of Marathon County by establishing, protecting, encouraging, and maintaining woodlands, wetlands, shorelands, grasslands, sensitive areas, and habitat diversity.
- Protect and enhance surface water resources and natural habitat areas by minimizing the impacts of development on rivers, floodplains, and wetlands.
- Protect and enhance the quantity and quality of potable ground and surface water supplies through development standards and clean-up of contaminated sites.
- Protect and preserve prime farmland for agricultural production through the use of tools, incentives, zoning, and best management practices to reduce soil erosion, decrease sedimentation to surface water, and increase soil quality.

Marathon County Strategic Plan – 2012-2017

The Marathon County 2012-2017 Strategic Plan is a short term roadmap for organizational development. It answers questions of what our County does (services), who we do it for (customers) and how we excel at what we do (accomplishments). Many of the goals of the farmland preservation plan are integrated in the Marathon County strategic plan recognizing the importance of agriculture to the safety, health, and prosperity of the community. In order to respond to these challenges and opportunities in the short term, the *Marathon County Strategic Plan 2012-2017* identified specific goals and objectives to direct the organization in support of agriculture, private business growth, balanced land use, and resource protection. The strategic plan also gives direction to County committees and departments to provide leadership and collaboration with both public and private partnerships, to established meaningful and trackable program indicators of success, and to communicate program work to customers and citizens to improve program value.

Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan (2010-2025)

Marathon County has developed a land and water plan to identify the soil and water resource concerns within the county. In identifying concerns, specific practices and programs (voluntary and regulatory) are provided to protect the resource while assisting landowners in meeting State Agricultural Performance Standards. A detailed summary of local soil and water resource concern and conservation programs can be found in this document. The conservation compliance provisions, as well as landowner incentives to implement best management practices will be administer through this LWRM plan.

Central Wisconsin River Basin Plan

The Central Wisconsin River Basin Plan was updated in 2010. Findings from the Basin Plan were used to assure that the LWRM Plan addresses those impacted waters and targeted County activities to those waters with the greatest need.

The Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department coordinates initiatives with appropriate agencies to address the following basin priorities.

- Develop monitoring programs with citizens and professionals. Monitoring shall target the Lower Big Rib River and the Big Eau Pleine River Watersheds, as well as the Eastern Lakes Project.
- To encourage conservation measures for land use activities, water consumption and discharge activities to minimize resource impacts and to promote sustainable use.
- Monitor the sources and quantity of sediment delivery into the surface waters. Primary attention will be agricultural sediment sources of soil and manure.

Marathon County Groundwater Plan

The plan identifies sources of groundwater in the county as well as consumption trends for the various communities. Environmental protection programs and responsibilities for implementation are identified for all the various State and local departments and agencies. Along with conservation programming, the enforcement of performance standards, zoning, wellhead protection activities and groundwater monitoring will be necessary to help protect the groundwater. As residential sprawl continues into the rural areas of the county and agricultural activities increasingly threaten the groundwater, the conservation efforts to protect the resource will need to increase. The Groundwater Plan and Central Wisconsin Basin Plan together identify risk concerns relative to type of pollutant sources present in specific watersheds as well as the relative risk of groundwater sources to potential problems.

Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, 2006-2020

This plan includes recommendations to guide management of forest land in Marathon County in accordance with the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department's mission to manage and protect the county forest on a sustainable basis for the ecological, economic, educational, recreational, and research needs of present and future generations. It provides substantial information on existing forest resources, as well as information regarding the roles of the various agencies and regulatory framework related to forest management.

Wausau Urban Area Sewer Service Plan

Sewer service area planning helps protect communities from adverse water quality impacts by anticipating growth patterns in the planning area and making recommendations on growth patterns that best serve water quality goals. The Wausau Urban Area Sewer Service Plan identifies land most suitable for new development and land use planning options that can mitigate adverse water quality impacts on the community.

Livestock Siting Ordinance

The livestock siting ordinance regulates the siting and management of livestock operations between 500 and 999 animal units. The intent of the ordinance is to safeguard the ground and surface waters in and around large scale concentrated livestock operations. The county oversees the management and structural practices associated with open feedlots, feed storage, waste storage structures, and land spreading of manure onto cropland.

Waste Storage Facility and Nutrient Management Ordinance

Marathon County has adopted a waste storage facility and nutrient management ordinance. The purpose of the ordinance is to regulate the proper siting and construction of livestock waste storage facilities as well as the land spreading of manure onto cropland to protect ground and surface waters.

Floodplain and Shoreland Zoning Ordinance

Marathon County shore land, wetlands, and floodplain regulations are applicable in all unincorporated areas of the County. This ordinance supersedes any town ordinance, unless a town ordinance is more restrictive. The shore land/wetland and floodplain area covered under this zoning is the area that lies within 1,000 feet of a lake and within 300 feet of a navigable stream or to the land ward side of a floodplain, whichever distance is greater. Most of the development regulations are aimed at establishing buffers and minimizing runoff to protect water quality. While the County adopted and enforces shore land regulations within Marathon County, the WDNR maintains oversight responsibilities to ensure compliance with State Statutes.

Non-metallic Mining Ordinance

The intent of non-metallic mining regulation is to minimize environmental impacts of mining and to assure that proper reclamation of the mining sites occurs. By requiring plans of operational activities, the County can minimize off-site discharges, groundwater concerns, public nuisances, and sediment releases. In agricultural zoned districts, the zoning code requires a conditional use permit on the parcel with the requirement that the land be returned to an agricultural use at the completion of mining operations. In areas of Marathon County that are designated as farmland preservation and/or an Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA), the County will consider formally incorporating language into this ordinance to specify acceptable post-mining agricultural land use.

General Zoning

Marathon County's General Code of Ordinances is adopted to promote and protect public health, safety, comfort, convenience, aesthetics and other aspects of the general welfare; and, to fix reasonable standards to which buildings and structures shall conform, to regulate and restrict lot coverage and population density, to guide the proper distribution and location of various land uses by the establishment of zoning districts which are applied where the County has zoning jurisdiction, to promote the safety and efficiency of the streets and highways, to provide for adequate light, air, sanitation, and drainage, to conserve natural resources, to provide safety from fire, flooding, water pollution, contamination and other hazards.

Extraterritorial Zoning

Cities and villages are authorized to participate with towns in the zoning of lands outside their incorporated boundaries (Wis. Stat. § 62.23(7a)). The extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction of 1st to 3rd class cities extends 3 miles beyond corporate limits. The limit for 4th class cities and villages is 1½ miles beyond corporate limits. In order to exercise their extraterritorial zoning powers, a city or village must have created a plan commission and adopted a zoning ordinance for the land within its corporate limits.

The governing body of the municipality adopting the initial resolution to zone outside its corporate limits may adopt an interim extraterritorial zoning ordinance. The interim ordinance freezes existing zoning or uses in the area during the period in which the extraterritorial ordinance is being prepared. It is valid for two years after its enactment and may be extended for another year if the joint committee so recommends. An approved extraterritorial zoning plan represents a set of recommendations agreed to by a joint committee of city and village representatives and participating towns within the area proposed to be zoned.

Criteria for designating farmland preservation areas were developed by the Marathon County Environmental Resources Committee (see page 23). In areas of extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction with an extraterritorial zoning plan adopted per state statute, actual zoning and Agricultural Enterprise Area designation will follow the extraterritorial zoning plan.

Land Division Ordinance

The County regulates the division of land in accordance with Chapter 18 of the Marathon County Code. The County's land division regulations apply in all unincorporated areas of the County. However, where a town has land division regulations that are more restrictive than the County's, both the County's regulations and the local regulations apply. Chapter 18 includes regulations for minimum lot sizes, access requirements, surface drainage and erosion control.