



DATE: January 18, 2018

TO: Town Board Chairs and Clerks

FROM: Dean Johnson, Zoning Administrator

SUBJECT: Metallic Mining Text Amendments

On December 11, 2017, Governor Walker signed the Nonferrous Metallic Mining Bill (Act 134) into law. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and Senate in September, 2017. Marathon County Board Chairman Kurt Gibbs represented the county and provided comments and feedback to the Legislature. Several amendments were made during the legislative process which included the timing of the effective date of the law (July 1, 2018). This delayed effective date was to allow time for counties and local units of government to review the law and address any local concerns.

On November 7, 2017, the Marathon County Board Executive Committee passed the following motion:

Motion by Robinson; second by McEwen to direct appropriate standing committees and Corporation Counsel to develop a county approach in protecting the county and towns interests as far as it relates to mining. Motion carried.

The Executive Committee indicated that the approach developed should be presented to County Board no later than March, 2018. In order to meet this time schedule, Corporation Counsel Scott Corbett and Conservation, Planning, and Zoning staff started collaborating with the WI Counties Association, WI Towns Association, DNR, and other partners to gather information relating to metallic mining regulations and to begin investigating possible options for addressing this issue.

As of today, language for Chapter 17, Marathon County General Code of Ordinances –Zoning Code related to **metallic mining** is being drafted but is not ready to be released to the Towns to meet the 45 day notice prior to the public hearing, as required. As soon as the draft metallic mining zoning ordinance language is available; all county zoned towns will be sent the draft language via email and post office mail.

Currently, Marathon County is also modifying Chapter 17, Marathon County General Code of Ordinances – Zoning Code with **general text amendments**. A public hearing on the general text amendments is scheduled for February 6, and March 6, 2018 which will be held at 210 River Drive, Wausau WI. If the county chooses to add a completely new section related to metallic mining to the zoning code, a separate public hearing will be tentatively scheduled for the March 6, 2018 Land Conservation and Zoning Committee meeting which will be held at 210 River Drive Wausau, WI.

If your town is interested in the metallic mining topic, please feel free to contact Lane Loveland at 715-261-6000 for additional information. CPZ staff may be available to attend a town planning and/or town board meeting if requested.

Marathon County appreciates your understanding and patience with this effort.