

Eau Claire County
AG ORDINANCE REVIEW SPECIAL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Tuesday, February 26, 2019 • 1:00 p.m.
Agriculture & Resource Center • 227 – 1st Street West • Room AG103
Altoona, Wisconsin

Members Present: Gary Gibson, Tami Schraufnagel (County Board member alternate), Tammy Smith-Schroeder, Derrick Nelson (joined via telephone/internet connection at 1:38 pm), Eleanor Wolf, Kate Beaton, Paul La Liberte, Jody Wilhelm, Mark Zuber, Dan Zook

Members Absent: Robin Leary, Ed Gorell, Steve Strey, Andy Ferguson, Roland Fischer, Todd Meyer, Cynthia Anderegg, Jon Nicolet (citizen member alternate)

Staff Present: Greg Leonard, Amanda Peters (Land Conservation); Matt Steinbach (City/County Health); Joseph Malual, Mark Hagedorn (UW-Extension); Rod Eslinger (Planning & Development)

Others Present: Bev Stelljes, Don Schroeder, Nancy Coffey, Liz Spencer, Jim Dunning

1. Call to Order

Chair Gibson called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm.

2. Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meetings Law

Gibson confirmed compliance with the open meetings law.

3. Public Input Session (15 minutes maximum) – Discussion

Bev Stelljes commented that she appreciated the committee's willingness to learn and listen, and this is good timing in relation to Governor Evers' announcement of clean water proposals

4. Approve Minutes from January 29, 2019 meeting – Discussion/Action

ACTION: Motion by Zuber to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2019 meeting as presented. Motion carried, 9-0-0.

5. Review of Moratorium Action items and Special Committee's duties – Discussion/Action

Chair Gibson and Leonard reviewed the following items:

a. Duration of Moratorium

The moratorium was originally set with a 6-month duration. The Planning & Development Committee will be requesting a 2-month extension to allow the special committee to complete its work.

b. Special Committee's duties

The duties of the Special Committee are to "perform those functions delegated to the planning and development department staff in Section 8 of the moratorium ordinance as well as other Ag-related topics including animal waste storage and livestock facilities siting."

c. Section 8, Action and Review During Moratorium

The items reviewed included:

1. Review and analyze existing state and local regulations and ordinances regarding the impact large-scale livestock facilities of 1,000 animals or more may have on groundwater, surface water, air quality, public health as these issues apply to Eau Claire County.

2. Identify areas where new regulations may be needed, where current regulations need to be modified, and where enforcement of current regulation is inadequate to protect the groundwater, surface water, air quality, public health and safety.

3. Identify who has monitoring and citation authority to ensure applicable regulations are followed.

Item 1 has constituted most of the meetings to date. Items 2 & 3 will include development of recommendations for staff (P&D, Land Cons, Corp Counsel) on revision and/or creation of ordinances. Staff to formulate the recommendations, as allowed by state statutes and powers granted, into revision and/or creation of ordinances to be forwarded to Planning & Development Committee and Land Conservation

Commission, which will forward recommendations to the County Board for action.


(Derrick Nelson joined the meeting via telephone/internet connection)

6. NR-151 Ag Performance Standards and Prohibitions – Discussion/Action
 - a. Overview of NR-151
Leonard provided an overview of NR-151.
 - b. Evaluation Activities
Malual divided the committee to into 4 smaller groups, with each group concentrating on specific areas of NR-151.
 - c. Large group consensus
Malual led the entire committee in a discussion of NR-151. Several concerns were brought forward from the small groups with most of these being addressed with clarification of NR-151. Accountability of manure pumpers/haulers for spills was a concern not addressed within NR-151. Staff will explore options.

ACTION: Motion by Smith-Schroeder/Zuber to recommend incorporation of NR-151 Ag Performance Standards and Prohibitions into County Code. Discussion to clarify how NR-151 would be adopted, such as an operations ordinance, part of livestock siting, or part of the animal waste storage ordinance. The motion is to recommend incorporating NR-151 into County Code only, but the placement and type of ordinance will be part of future meeting recommendations. Motion carried, 9-1-0.

7. Set Future meetings and items for discussion – Discussion/Action
Future meeting dates and topics are as follows:
March 12, 2019 – Animal Waste Storage Ordinance, 2019
March 26, 2019 – Livestock Siting and CAFO
8. Adjourn
Gibson adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Greg Leonard
Clerk, Ag Ordinance Review Special Committee