

PLANNING, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, August 29, 2011

Administrative Center – Room 3220

4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Meyer, Don Bina, Bob Keil, Beverly Mach, Marilyn Pedretti, Tina Wehrs

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Dennis Manthei

MEMBERS ABSENT: Marlane Anderson

STAFF & GUESTS: Gregg Stangl, Bryan Meyer, Steve O'Malley, Jeff Bluske, Charlie Handy, Margaret Norden, Nate Sampson, Dick Berg, Mary Jo Webster, David Lange, Steve Huntzicker, Mike Weibel, Sean Gavighan, Fred Schomberg, Chuck Thompson, Grant Stevenson, Nathan Franklin, Duane Teschler, Linda Van Art, Joe Morse, Irv Balto, George Nygaard, Dayle Schechter, Maureen McCollum, A.M. Yeske

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 1, 2011

MOTION by Bina/Keil to approve the minutes of August 1, 2011, as amended. **Motion carried unanimously.** Manthei excused; Anderson absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested under the agenda item.

SUPERVISOR CONFERENCE REPORTS

None reported.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Pedretti/Bina to receive and file the following consent agenda items. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- a. Historic Sites Preservation Commission minutes of 8/5/11
- b. Sustainable La Crosse Commission minutes of 7/28/11

RESOLUTION RE: OPPOSITION TO CAPX2020 AND ATC APPLICATIONS FOR A 345 KV TRANSMISSION LINE

The Resolution states that the CapX2020 and ATC 345 kV projects include a proposed corridor through scenic rural areas of La Crosse County. The Resolution opposes the planned grid expansion due to health concerns, increased electricity costs for ratepayers, loss of property values, and an adverse affect on tourism and the general economy. Supervisor Pedretti spoke about informational meetings at the Town of Holland and the Sustainable La Crosse Commission. The Town of Holland has opposed the project, and the Sustainable La Crosse Commission passed the Resolution unanimously. The following members of Citizens Energy Task Force gave comment:

- Joe Morse pointed out that the power lines will be at rate payer expense, and he questions whether it is a wise use of those funds when energy use has actually declined. He encouraged locally-produced energy, which produces more jobs than energy transmission by power line. He proposed a study to examine economic benefits.
- Duane Teschler, Irv Balto, and George Nygaard also spoke about the detriments to the environment, and the adverse effects on property values.
- Linda Van Art spoke about health concerns related to the electromagnetic field.

Representatives from local power companies also spoke about the project:

- Grant Stevenson, representing CAPX2020, a group of energy providers, stated there are several regulatory permits required. He reviewed the process and timetable. He stated that the Public Service Commission and branches of the federal government

will review. He stated that customers will be the beneficiaries of the transmitted energy, and addressed peak energy demands.

- Nathan Franklin, representing Dairyland Power, stated that the CAPX2020 and Badger Coulee Line are not the same thing. He expressed concern about the power companies not having had prior opportunity to discuss the project with County committees, and asked to delay the Resolution.

Discussion was held regarding state requirements for renewable energy.

MOTION by Pedretti/Mach to approve the Resolution Re: Opposition to CAPX2020 and ATC Applications for a 345 kV Transmission Line. No vote was taken on the motion.

MOTION by Pedretti/Bina to hold over the Resolution Re: Opposition to CAPX2020 and ATC Applications for a 345 kV Transmission Line for 60 days. **Motion carried unanimously.** Manthei excused; Anderson absent.

NOTE: The Chair took the following item out of order to approve storm water management prior to consideration of the final plat.

APPROVE THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FINAL REVIEW FOR WILDWOOD VALLEY SUBDIVISION

Mary Jo Webster presented the storm water management plan for Wildwood Valley. At the April 4, 2011, PRD meeting, she outlined the criteria that would have to be met. She reported that the additions and revisions have been accomplished as proposed, and commended the developer and designer for working with the Land Conservation Department. Two large sediment basins were not part of the original management plan, and the operation/management plan for the basins will be signed by the responsible parties. The storm water maintenance agreement will be recorded with the Register of Deeds no later than October 1, 2011. The Town of Onalaska will be taking responsibility for maintenance of the basins. Discussion was held regarding the status of the bond for erosion control stabilization, which is in place without a time limit until there is 70% cover.

MOTION by Bina/Wehrs to approve the storm water management final plan for Wildwood Valley Subdivision. **Motion carried unanimously.** Manthei excused; Anderson absent.

APPROVE FINAL PLAT OF WILDWOOD VALLEY IN THE TOWN OF ONALASKA

Bryan Meyer reported the plat was submitted to the State Department of Administration - Plat Review Unit and was approved. The plat has also been approved by the Town of Onalaska and the Village of Holmen. Meyer explained that the only remaining requirement for the plat was that appropriate signage has yet to be placed on the roadways. Sean Gavighan, the developer, explained the roundabout signage placement and that all signs have been ordered and would be in place shortly. Meyer recommended approval. **MOTION** by Wehrs/Keil to approve the Final Plat of Wildwood Valley in the Town of Onalaska.

Motion carried unanimously. Manthei excused; Anderson absent.

REVIEW AND APPROVE REVISION TO THE LAND AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND RECOMMEND FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Gregg Stangl presented a summary of the 2011 Revision to the La Crosse County Land and Water Resource Management Plan. The plan details the current condition of County land and water resources, sets goals and objectives to improve natural resources quality, prioritizes goals, coordinates activities with cooperating agencies, and monitors progress. Staff time will be taken up primarily by the Farmland Preservation Program, construction site erosion control, and storm water management. Having the plan in place makes La Crosse County Land Conservation eligible to receive staffing grants from the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources. Stangl reported that the plan is posted on their website. There will be a resolution for consideration in October, 2011.

MOTION by Bina/Pedretti to approve the revision to the Land and Water Resource

Management Plan and Recommend for Public Hearing. **Motion carried unanimously.** Manthei excused; Anderson absent.

PRESENTATION OF THE FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN AND SET DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Charlie Handy reviewed the Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP), which was originally adopted in 1980. The Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative (WLI), which was adopted by the state in 2009, requires updating the plan. Handy provided a copy of the proposed update. This update was approved by resolution at the Farmland Preservation Steering Committee meeting on August 18th. The La Crosse County Zoning and Planning office received a five-year grant to update the Farmland Preservation Plan. He stated that the La Crosse County FPP must be consistent with the La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan and the La Crosse County Zoning Ordinance, and must be certified by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection for any landowner to be eligible for FPP incentives. The County Comprehensive Plan will be amended to incorporate the Farmland Preservation Plan, if it is certified by DATCP and adopted by the County Board. The FPP will be reviewed annually to determine whether amendments are needed. **MOTION** by Pedretti/Wehrs to approve the Farmland Preservation Plan and set a public hearing on September 20, 2011. **Motion carried unanimously.** Manthei excused; Anderson absent.

SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR FLOODPLAIN ZONING ORDINANCE

Jeff Bluske reported that the ordinance received tentative approval from the Department of Natural Resources. There will need to be a Class II notice for a public hearing to be held by the Planning, Resources, and Development Committee meeting on October 3, 2011. Lengthy discussion was held regarding date and time. The following was decided: September 20, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. – Floodplain Zoning Ordinance; 6:15 p.m. – Farmland Preservation Plan; 6:30 – Zoning Informational Public Hearing. Bluske noted there will be discussion about the proposed sign ordinance on September 21, 2011. Charlie Handy stated there will be a public informational meeting at the county fairgrounds on the zoning ordinance on September 22, 2011.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Nothing further suggested than previously noted.

RECESS

MOTION by Keil/Wehrs to recess until the 6:00 p.m. public hearing. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting recessed at 5:33 p.m.

Approved, October 3, 2011, Margaret Norden, Recorder