

## **PLANNING, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Monday, October 3, 2011

Administrative Center – Room 3220

2:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Don Meyer, Marlane Anderson, Don Bina, Bob Keil, Beverly Mach, Dennis Manthei, Marilyn Pedretti, Tina Wehrs

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** None

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF & GUESTS:** Gregg Stangl, Bryan Meyer, Steve O'Malley, Jeff Bluske, Charlie Handy, Margaret Norden, Nate Sampson, Cheryl McBride, Bryan Jostad, Joan Kent, Peggy Pasker, Tim Carlsgaard, Bradley Walker, Denan Johnson, Toni Yeske, Lois Meinking, Pam Remus, Joyce Cielecki, John Corcoran, Cathy Corcoran, Cynthia Peterson, Pete VanLaarhovenen, Joseph Morse, Monica Haaf, Julie Larson, Dena Schleifer, Dayle Schechter, Linda Van Art, Mike Herro, Irv Balto, George Nygaard

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 29, 2011**

**MOTION** by Pedretti/Keil to approve the minutes of August 29, 2011. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None requested under the agenda item.

### **SUPERVISOR CONFERENCE REPORTS**

Supervisor Bina reported on attending the RC&D convention, which is now a non-profit organization. The focus of the convention included fundraising, alternative fuels, and cleaning up the Mississippi River.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- a. Board of Adjustment minutes of 8/15/11
- b. Historic Sites Preservation Commission minutes of 9/2/11

### **UW-EXTENSION WRITTEN REPORTS**

**MOTION** by Bina/Keil to accept the UW-Extension report and place on file. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **STATE VITAL RECORDS – NEW FILING & ISSUING SYSTEM**

Cheryl McBride reported on a change in the vital records filing system. The Register of Deeds office has previously been responsible for accepting all vital records and then forwarding to the state. The system will now change to the Statewide Vital Records Information System (SVRIS), which is a statewide web-based application, which is not accessible to the public, to certify and register birth, death, marriage and domestic partnerships. There will be a gradual implementation. McBride's primary concerns are loss of revenue on the local level generated by charging copy fees, and lack of access for genealogists. Discussion was held about the backlog of records kept in Madison, and the length of time it could take before the system is fully operational. Supervisor Pedretti asked to have McBride keep the committee updated.

### **ACCESS EASEMENT FOR JOHN & DAWN MACEWEN**

Bryan Meyer stated the easement requested was withdrawn by the MacEwens.

**GPS EQUIPMENT PURCHASE RECOMMENDATION**

Bryan Jostad reported that staff from the Surveyor, Land Conservation, Land Information, Finance and Information Technology departments recently investigated the purchase of GPS equipment. Three vendors were selected for interviews, and the top two were selected for field testing. Results of the team evaluation were presented as follows:

VENDOR	EVALUATION SCORE	COST
Topcon	195	\$45,082.28
Leica	155	\$49,065.75
Turning Point	Did not field test	\$29,995.00
Trimble	Did not interview or field test	\$63,471.25
Sidwell	Did not interview or field test	\$42,663.24

Strengths were reviewed as follows: Topcon has innovative technology, the software appears to be user friendly and allows future upgrades, and the company appears to provide excellent customer support and education. The evaluation team recommended purchasing GPS equipment from Topcon at \$45,082.28. **MOTION** by Pedretti/Keil to purchase GPS equipment from Topcon equipment at \$45,082.28. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION TO THE COUNTY BOARD APPROVING THE REVISION TO THE 2012-2017 LAND AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Resolution states that Wis. Stat. 92.10 requires a land and water resource management plan to be in place. The La Crosse County Land and Water Resource Management Plan 2012-2017 is the tool developed to satisfy this requirement. A public hearing was held on September 20, 2011, and the Planning, Resources and Development Committee recommends approval of the Plan. Gregg Stangl reported there have been no negative comments received. **MOTION** by Bina/Manthei to approve the Resolution to the County Board Approving the Revision to the 2012-2017 Land and Water Resource Management Plan. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVE A FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE FOR MICHAEL HESS, TOWN OF GREENFIELD**

Gregg Stangl reported that Mr. Hess is a new applicant in the Farmland Preservation Program. He has worked to comply with State Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions as required by program rules. Stangl recommended approval of the Hess application. **MOTION** by Bina/Manthei to approve the Farmland Preservation Program Certificate of Compliance for Michael Hess, Town of Greenfield. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION RE: OPPOSING CAPX2020 TRANSMISSION LINE**

The Resolution states that the CAPX2020 Phase I line includes a 345kV high voltage power line from Alma to North La Crosse. It further states that alternative methods of meeting additional electrical should be considered and implemented first, including conservation, demand and supply side management, dispersed renewable generation, and energy-related economic development. It also addresses the cost to ratepayers, loss of property values, adverse effects on tourism, and concerns about medical issues associated with exposure to electromagnetic fields.

Chair Meyer called for statements from CAPX2020 and the Citizens Energy Task Force:

- Tim Carlsgaard, representing the CAPX2020 utilities spoke about route options, the need for a grid update, and considerations for alternatives such as low voltage. He reported that while energy demand has dropped, it's anticipated there will be a significant increase with more electric vehicles coming on the market. He also

addressed health concerns, and cited studies, including the American Cancer Society, that reported no link between cancer and exposure to electromagnetic fields.

- Linda Van Art and Joe Morse spoke on behalf of CETF. They expressed concerns about compensation for land acquired for power lines through eminent domain. They urged further and more recent studies on the effects of electromagnetic fields. They also spoke about coal-based energy from North Dakota that will be transmitted on the lines, and removal of wind energy requirements. They stated that the energy will be sold further east than the Wisconsin market because that's where it will make a profit.

The following public comment was also received:

- Bradley Walter spoke about 100% of the cost being borne by rate payers, and expressed concerns regarding the impact on farm and wood land, and on bird species.
- George Nygaard questioned the drop in usage while projections for future use remain the same, and stated that a new coal plant is being built despite claims to the contrary.
- Joan Kent asked to have substantiation for the need for high voltage, and to address the low voltage option.
- Denan Johnson stated that her property would be devalued and the power lines would destroy views.
- Pete VanLaarhovenen stated that rates will go up more than have been projected and property values will plummet.
- Julie Larson, a dairy farmer, spoke about the health effects on livestock and wildlife, and stated she would like to see a reduction on demand and more businesses incorporating alternative energy.
- Cynthia Peterson also spoke about health concerns, particularly related to her husband who has a pacemaker.
- Dave Brady challenged supporters of CAPX2020 to move their own families under the power lines.
- Irving Balto stated the high voltage lines are not for the greater good.

The committee held lengthy discussion, and then considered the following:

**MOTION** by Pedretti/Wehrs to amend the Now, Therefore Be It Resolved paragraph to state "that the La Crosse County Board hereby requests additional information from CAPX2020 pertaining to the high voltage, low voltage, and efficient only solutions (Appendix A).

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**MOTION** by Pedretti/Wehrs to add a Be It Further Resolved paragraph to state "that the La Crosse County Board requests additional cost-benefit study on construction of underground transmission lines for the whole proposed La Crosse County project and on key Department of Natural Resources-identified environmentally-sensitive areas. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**MOTION** by Wehrs/Pedretti to amend the Whereas paragraph regarding power line cost to delete the following: "...and be part of a \$23-36 billion grid expansion project in the Midwest;". **Motion carried unanimously.**

**MOTION** by Wehrs/Manthei to add a Whereas paragraph to state that building a high voltage transmission line could create an adverse effect on tourism and the general economy. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**MOTION** by Wehrs/Bina to delete the Whereas paragraph that states "the studies have shown growth in electricity in Wisconsin and adjacent states has been at historically low rates for the last three years and is projected to average only 1% per year growth over the next 25 years;". **Motion carried 4-3.** Mach, Meyer, Pedretti opposed.

**MOTION** by Pedretti/Wehrs to add a Be It Further Resolved paragraph to state “that the La Crosse County Board requests that the Public Service Commission do an independent study of the health concerns of the electromagnetic field.” **Motion carried unanimously.**

**MOTION** by Pedretti/Meyer to change the title of the Resolution to “Information Request Concerning the CAPX2020 Application for a 345 kV Transmission Line.” **Motion carried unanimously.**

**MOTION** by Pedretti/Mach to approve the Resolution Re: Opposing CapX2020 Transmission Line, as amended. **Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **RESOLUTION RE: REQUESTING FURTHER INFORMATION FROM AMERICAN TRANSMISSION COMPANY (ATC)**

The Resolution states that American Transmission Company (ATC) has proposed a transmission line project, including a 345kV high voltage line. It addresses the need for clear, detailed information explaining the purpose of the line and other options, such as low voltage and efficiency-only, with a cost-benefit analysis.

**MOTION** by Wehrs/Meyer to delete the Whereas paragraph that states, “medical studies have shown an association between exposure to electromagnetic fields produced by large transmission lines and childhood leukemia and neurological diseases and conditions;” and to add a Be It Further Resolved paragraph to state “that the La Crosse County Board requests that the Public Service Commission do an independent study of the health concerns of the electromagnetic field.” **Motion carried unanimously.**

**MOTION** by Pedretti/Wehrs to approve the Resolution Re: requesting further information from American Transmission Company (ATC), as amended. **Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 16 OF THE GENERAL CODE ENTITLED “FLOODPLAIN ZONING”**

The Ordinance amendment is required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). The official maps are required to continue eligibility for the National Flood Insurance Program. Other changes are to delete “hydraulic reach” and base flood elevations, changes to comply with the WDNR model floodplain zoning ordinance, and changes to regulations in floodway areas and flood elevation references to comply with FEMA requirements. **MOTION** by Mach/Manthei to approve the Ordinance to Amend Chapter 16 of the General Code Entitled “Floodplain Zoning”. **Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **RESOLUTION RE: APPROVING EXTENSION OF MORATORIUM ON CERTAIN TYPES OF OUTDOOR ADVERTISING**

The Resolution seeks to extend the moratorium on certain types of outdoor advertising for three months, which is added to the original six-month moratorium, or until the approval of a revised regulations and controls via regulations in a zoning ordinance, whichever occurs first. **MOTION** by Pedretti/Keil to approve the Resolution Re: Approving Extension of Moratorium on Certain Types of Outdoor Advertising. **Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **REVIEW AND ACT ON ZONING HEARING COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Charlie Handy distributed a summary of public comments that have been received with staff recommendations. Discussion was held regarding each of the items. The following motions resulted:

**MOTION** by Wehrs/Manthei to amend the proposed Ordinance to 1,000 pounds of animal per acre, and other drafting. **Motion carried 6-1.** Pedretti opposed.

**MOTION** by Pedretti/Wehrs to keep the temporary structure size at 100 square feet, as drafted. **Motion carried 6-1.** Bina opposed.

**MOTION** by Wehrs/Pedretti to name the previously-titled Ag A district a “rural district.” **Motion carried unanimously.**

Gregg Stangl pointed out that La Crosse County was grandfathered in on a 200 animal unit level, and if it would be increased and problems would occur, the county could not go below the state's 500 animal unit level.

**MOTION** by Wehrs/Manthei to approve a conditional use permit after the landowner exceeds the 500 animal unit level. **Motion failed 4-3.** Bina, Keil, Wehrs aye.

**MOTION** by Wehrs/Pedretti to approve staff recommendation to add the conditional use permit requirement in an Industrial and Recreational and Natural Resource district to include any activity that generates more than 200 trucks leaving the site per day, as drafted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**MOTION** by Wehrs/Meyer to approve staff recommendation for existing residential uses to be allowed in the Light Industrial District. **Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None suggested.

#### **RECESS**

**MOTION** by Manthei/Pedretti to recess until the 6:00 p.m. public hearing. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting recessed at 5:55 p.m.

**Disclaimer:** The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting. Margaret Norden, Recorder