

**FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN COMMITTEE**  
**APRIL 12, 2016 – 12:30 P.M.**  
**AMNICON TOWN HALL**  
**8985 US-2, SOUTH RANGE, WISCONSIN**

Meeting called to order by Chair Dave Dumke at 12:40pm.

Present – Dave Dumke, Amy Eliot, Charlie Glazman, Gary Kane, Mark Liebaert, Sue O'Halloran, Christine Ostern, Steve Rannenberg, Jim Streveler, and Terry White. Absent – Jane Anklam, Gary Haughn, Nathan Johnstad, Debbi King, Larry Luostari, Jon TePoel, Robert Wicklund. Others Present – Miina Helske.

Motion by Charlie Glazman, second by Jim Streveler, to approve the minutes from the March 22, 2016 meeting. Motion passed.

A review of last meeting was given by Amy Eliot. Discussion.

First topic for this meeting was introduced by Amy Eliot as identifying trends that may impact farmlands which are elements required to be included in the revised plan. See power point presentation. Discussion. Committee agreed to make the following recommendations:

- promote strong leadership to continue the county fair, perhaps include supporting a viable county fair in the comprehensive land-use plan;
- strengthen the 4-H program and other Extension youth and leadership programming
- review practices for re-zoning small tracts from non-ag to A-1 agriculture
- town and county leadership should promote more commercial development that supports agriculture
- a youth on-farm internship program should be developed working with university and technical colleges regarding programming
- support should be given to promote agricultural education in public schools

Population trends discussion:

There is pressure on farmlands from residential development in the form of needing mitigation sites, even if the new development is not built on farmlands. The City of Superior SAMP may be impacting farmlands. Other pressure may be annexation from city or villages.

Amy will work contact Steve LaValley for information about wetland permits for rural housing and with Christine and Steve Rannenberg to obtain the following information from the County that will help us use local data to better understand trends.

- Year-round dwelling numbers by town since the 1970's.
- Number of seasonal to permanent dwellings in each town. Steve Rannenberg indicated more year-round dwellings today than previously.
- Permits are not required for a new farm – Not a lot of new farms in the area.
- Copy of new SAMP

The committee briefly discussed a strategy for meeting with towns – Towns typically meet in the evenings although they do not meet regularly. Amy and Christine will begin scheduling town meetings in June.

Ag Trends:

What can be done to support and grow ag markets, which will ultimately preserve farmlands.

- Marketing for Farmers Markets
- Consumer education: cooking and food handling of fresh/market goods
- School gardens and classes
- Decrease gap between consumer and grower
- Encourage more producers
- CSA's in Carlton County (on high quality soils) are very successful
- Finding quality, short-term help in the greenhouse and other ag business.
- More information/making connections with area internships.
- How to connect 4H participation (July) with Fair (August)
- Re-energize the notion that the Tri-State Fair is the place for farming education and marketing.

Prime farmland, current zoning, current agriculture and future land-use maps were viewed and discussed at length. Specific situations and areas were viewed as examples in order to inform the committee about how to proceed in adding or changing layers for a farmland preservation base map. Motion by Mark Liebaert, second by Charlie Glazman, to add the "prime farmland" (dark green) and "farmland of state-wide importance" (dark brown) to the farmland preservation base map. Motion passed. Committee agreed to start and keep a list of recommendations for future action by other groups pertaining to county ordinances, county policies, etc. Motion by Debbi King, second by Gary Kane, to make future recommendation to the Zoning Committee to develop a new exclusive agricultural zoning district with 35 acre minimum lot sizes only in the "prime farmland" (dark green) areas of the farmland preservation map. Motion passed. Committee shifted focus to discuss how to best capture agricultural areas on farmland preservation base map by discussing current agricultural land-use and current agricultural zoning as compared to town future land-use designations. Committee agreed to remove A-1 agricultural zoned land that does not have current agricultural land-use and does not have adjacent agricultural land-use or zoning from the farmland preservation base map. Staff will try to capture these ideas on next iteration of draft farmland preservation base map for further review and discussion at next meeting. Committee agreed to make recommendation to towns that when there is a conflict with non-agricultural future land-use and "prime farmland" (dark green) that the future land-use should be changed to farmland preservation in the comprehensive land-use plan.

Committee reviewed and discussed loss of farmland statistics to identify trends. More discussion planned for next meeting.

~~Next meeting: Tuesday, April 12, 2016, 12:30 pm, at the Amnicon Town Hall~~

Amended: next meeting is June 7, 2016, 12:30 pm, at the Amnicon Town Hall

Motion by Jim Streveler, second by Gary Kane recommending that the county develop a livestock facilities operational ordinance using Bayfield County as an example; and that the county support conventional farms of various sizes. Motion carried.

Motion by Charlie Glazman, second by Jim Streveler to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:35pm.

Submitted by,  
Christine Ostern, County Conservationist