

## Minutes

### Winnebago Towns-County Planning Committee

March 28, 2002

5:05 PM

Ray Batley opened the meeting with member introductions at the Town of Winneconne Hall.

Jerry Bougie of Winnebago County Planning reported on a group discussion on RFP. This was sent to several consultant firms with an expected return date of 4-16-02. The group will review the applicant proposals after that date. Interviews will take place and a recommendation as to who would work with us will be made. That firm will help with three elements of the plan. That firm may also help with an explanation of the plan to the public.

George Dearborn, Town of Menasha, gave an update on public participation and meeting with various groups.

Mike Koles discussed the procedure for the five formal adoption process options. The adoption procedures as agreed upon are as follows:

1. Somebody will present the full comprehensive plan package to governing body or delegated decision making body (delegated by the governing body) (e.g., plan commission) at a single meeting.
2. Governing body or delegated body will have 90 days to respond in writing to the planning and zoning committee.
3. Planning and Zoning Committee will consider comments and make appropriate changes per their judgement.
4. Planning and Zoning Committee will hold a public hearing.
5. Following public hearing the Planning and Zoning Committee can recommend for approval as is or make changes and recommend for approval.
6. County Board action.

Mike Koles then moved to the Ag element on the agenda. There is a need to define Farmland – it is considered large tracts of open space land suitable for farming. Farming – is the occupation on which preserved critical masses of farmland are used to support the economy of farming. Discussion followed and it was the consensus that development would take place on acreage closer to cities. Farmland further out should be protected from development.

It was the consensus that development rights, where a farmer is able to sell, when and to whom is the real issue. For purposes of orderly growth and development this is no longer acceptable. In summary, we want an objective that preserves prime farmland (by soil classification) in rural areas. Arsenic in ground water aquifers may be a factor in this as well.

Under Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources objectives it was the consensus that:

- Objective 1 – Preserve large, contiguous tracts of ~~prime~~ <sup>in rural areas</sup> farmland is OK.
- Objective 2 – Separate the agriculture industry from incompatible uses is OK.
- Objective 3 – Promote the availability of land for a 21<sup>st</sup> century agriculture industry is OK.

Transportation Element discussion:

Denny Briggs from Town of Neenah had a concern regarding this element. The Town of Neenah sees inconsistencies in the plan for Hwy G from Cty A to Hwy 45. It calls for four lanes but has a low traffic count with a prediction of an increased count. It was felt that we should have the DOT clarify the plan and give some input. There should be some policy interpretation. Also we need a copy of the Town of Neenah letter to send to P & Z for study.

There will be no April meeting.

Next meeting will be May 30, 2002 5 PM at the Town of Winneconne Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM

Respectfully submitted, Secretary John Hinkfuss *JH*