

NOTICE OF MEETING

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY PLANNING, RESOURCES,
AGRICULTURE AND EXTENSION COMMITTEE

February 14, 2023

3:00 PM

UW Extension Office
UW Sheboygan Campus
5 University Drive
Sheboygan, WI
Room 5024

Remote Access:

(312) 626-6799

Meeting ID: 956 6404 0989

Passcode: 856197

<https://zoom.us/j/95664040989?pwd=dGJrYlZ5Tmx2RVcvRDFsdU5Ld0lXZz09>

*** AMENDED AGENDA ***

Call Meeting to Order

Certification of Compliance with Open Meeting Law

Approval of January 10, 2023 Minutes

Correspondence

Planning & Conservation-

Discussion on the Old Plank Road Trail Tunnel Mural

Consideration of 4th Quarter Variance

Consideration of Accepting Donation

Consideration of Winnebago County Resolution

Register of Deeds-

Consideration of 4th Quarter Variance

Consideration of Request to Fill Vacant Position

Discussion on Racial Restrictions in Property Deeds

Other Department Project and Program Management Updates- *This report is a summary of key activities in the Department. No action will be taken resulting from the report unless it is a specific item on the agenda.*

Consideration and Approval of Attendance at Other Meetings/Functions

Travel Report and Report of Meetings and Functions Attended by Committee Members

Review and Approve Vouchers

Adjournment

Next scheduled meetings - February 28, 2023 at 3:00 PM (UW-Extension Focus)
- March 14, 2023 at 3:00 PM (Planning & Conservation Focus)

Prepared by:
Megan Nasgovitz, Recording Secretary
(920) 459-1370

Approved by:
Keith Abler, Chairperson
(920) 207-9351

NOTE: The Committee welcomes all visitors to listen & observe, but only Committee members & those invited to speak will be permitted to do so, except for the Public Hearing portion of this meeting where any interested person can speak. Person with disabilities needing assistance to attend or participate should contact the County Planning & Conservation Department at 920/459-1370 prior to the meeting so that accommodations may be arranged.

NOTE: A majority of the members of the County Board of Supervisors or any of its committees may be present at this meeting to listen, observe and participate. If a majority of any such body is present, their presence constitutes a "meeting" under the Open Meeting Law as interpreted in *State ex rel. Badke v. Greendale Village Board*, Wis. 2d 553 (1993), even though the visiting body will take no action at this meeting.

**SHEBOYGAN COUNTY PLANNING, RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE & EXTENSION
COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Sheboygan County UW-Extension Office
5 University Drive
Sheboygan, WI
Room 5024
and
Remote

January 10, 2023

Called to Order: 3:02 PM

Adjourned: 4:04 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Keith Abler, Supervisor John Nelson, Supervisor Henry Nelson, Supervisor Rebecca Clarke, Supervisor Paul Gruber, Ag Community Member Stan Lammers

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Aaron Brault, Megan Nasgovitz, Greg Kroeplien, Tyler Betry, David Huenink (remote)

Chairperson Abler called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM and verified the meeting notice had been posted on January 6, 2023 at 3:00 PM and the meeting complied with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

Supervisor Henry Nelson motioned to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2022 committee meeting. Motion seconded by Supervisor John Nelson. Motion passed with no opposition.

Correspondence: None

Planning & Conservation-

Consideration of 2023 Stewardship Application. Mr. Brault requested permission to release the 2023 Stewardship Application. Mr. Lammers motioned to approve the request. Motion seconded by Supervisor Clarke. Motion carried with no opposition.

Consideration of ATC Easement. Mr. Brault presented a proposed easement with the electric company at the Erie Ave trailhead parking lot. Supervisor Henry Nelson motioned to approve the request. Motion seconded by Supervisor Gruber. Motion carried with no opposition.

Update on Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP). Mr. Kroeplien presented on the status of WQIP in the county.

Other Department Project and Program Management Updates. Mr. Brault shared that there are two potential acquisition properties that Ducks Unlimited might provide funding to help buy: 13 acres near the Marsh and land in the Town of Sheman. He also noted that an employee retired on January 3, and his replacement started yesterday. Last, Mr. Brault thanked the board for approving the office hours change, noting there have been no complaints from anyone. Consideration and Approval of Attendance at Other Meetings/Functions. None.

Travel Report and Report of Meetings and Functions Attended. Supervisor Clarke and Mr. Betry told the board about the annual conservation area planning meeting they attended last Friday. Supervisor Gruber reported that at the Little Elkhart Lake Rehabilitation Committee they were pleased with asphalt that had been laid to improve the launch.

Review and Approve Vouchers – Mr. Lammers made a motion to approve the vouchers. Supervisor Gruber seconded the motion. Motion carried with no opposition.

Supervisor Clarke motioned to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Henry Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried with no opposition. Meeting adjourned at 4:04 PM.

Next meeting (Extension Focus) is scheduled for January 24, 2023 at 3:00 PM.

Next meeting (Planning & Conservation Focus) is scheduled for February 14, 2023 at 3:00 PM.

Megan Nasgovitz
Recording Secretary

John Nelson
Committee Secretary

**VARIANCE REPORT FOR DEPARTMENT -- COUNTY PLANNING & RESOURCES
FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 12/31/2022**

TIMING	G/L CATEGORY	VARIANCE FROM BUDGET	EXPLANATION OF VARIANCE
	Intergovernmental Revenues		
x	Federal Grants	21,088.65	Timing of payments for NonMotorized and Sustain Our Great Lakes grant expenses.
x	State Grants	(41,349.56)	Timing of payments related to DATCP cost share program and snowmobile program. Revenues and expenses are budget neutral.
x	Grants from Local Gov'ts	(2,500.00)	Money not yet received from Stormwater Education reimbursement
	Charges - Other Local Gov'ts	(7,210.70)	Employee wages no longer being reimbursed for working at City of Plymouth.
	Licenses & Permits		
	Other Permits and Fees	(6,864.91)	Less revenue received from sanitary & shoreland permits.
	Public Charges for Services		
	General Government	(1,869.85)	Less revenue received for address signs.
	Conservation and Development	69,606.87	More revenue received for tree sales program.
	Interest and Other Revenue		
	Rent Revenue	6,533.00	More revenue from new education building rentals at Marsh.
	Other Misc. Revenue	5,528.84	Received funds under the Chervil grant.
	Personnel Related Expenditure		
	Wages	(5,736.70)	Wage increases given to employees during 2022
	Benefits	2,578.61	Less expense due to full-time employee reduced hours.

x

Operating Expenses

Purchased Services	56,766.76	Timing of consulting expenses, buffer contract payments, and land records expenses.
Repairs and Maintenance	27,122.33	Less expense for Marsh projects and general grounds maintenance.
General Operating	(73,306.63)	More expenses for tree sale advertising and nursery saplings, offset by tree sale revenue.
Fixed Charges	3,576.16	Less expense for rental of equipment.
Interdepartmental Charges		
Employee Related Insurance	(19,374.42)	Changes in health insurance coverage (family vs single) when comparing to budget.
Repairs & Maintenance Charges	(27,888.06)	More expense by highway at boat launches, Marsh, and Old Plank Road Trail.
Capital Outlay	17,834.00	Marsh tavern roof actual expense less than budgeted
Variances Less Than Justification Threshold	8,669.86	
TOTAL	33,204.25	Positive

1 **SHEBOYGAN COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. _____ (2022/23)**

2
3 **Re: Resolution Accepting Donation from Ducks Unlimited and Authorizing**
4 **Purchase of Property to be Added to the Sheboygan County Broughton Marsh**

5
6 **WHEREAS**, the Sheboygan County Broughton Marsh (the “Marsh”) is the largest restored
7 wetland complex in the Lake Michigan and Lake Superior Basins of Wisconsin;

8
9 **WHEREAS**, wetlands are imperative to a healthy ecosystem as they improve water quality by
10 filtering out pollutants, provide flood abatement thereby decreasing harmful erosion and property
11 damage, provide some of the most diverse habitats on Earth, and therefore, also provide great
12 recreational opportunities;

13
14 **WHEREAS**, the Sheboygan County is interested in purchasing an adjacent 13-acre property
15 (PIN 59020283960) in perpetuity to add to the Marsh;

16
17 **WHEREAS**, Ducks Unlimited, has expressed a willingness to provide 100% of the funding to
18 purchase the property;

19
20 **WHEREAS**, the 2021 Sheboygan County Park & Open Space Plan shows the property as a
21 potential acquisition area to expand the Marsh;

22
23 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Sheboygan County Board accepts with gratitude
24 the donation of \$27,000.00 from Ducks Unlimited and approves the North American Wetlands
25 Conservation Act Grant Sub-Award with Ducks Unlimited, Inc., as on file with the County Clerk’s Office,
26 to facilitate the acquisition of real estate for the Marsh.

27
28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Sheboygan County Board approves
29 the WB-13 Vacant Land Offer to Purchase, on file with the County Clerk’s Office, acquiring the
30 approximately 13-acre property, which will be made part of the Marsh upon acquisition.

31
32 Respectfully submitted this 21st day of February, 2023.

33
34
35 **PLANNING, RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND EXTENSION COMMITTEE**

36
37
38
39 _____
40 Keith Abler, Chairperson

Rebecca Clarke, Vice-Chairperson

41
42 _____
43 John Nelson, Secretary

Paul A. Gruber

44
45 _____
46 Henry Nelson

47 Opposed to Introduction:

48
49 _____

PASSED

1 135-112022

2 **RESOLUTION: Requesting the State of Wisconsin Review and Revise its Policy on Foreign**
3 **Ownership of Farmland by Entities Party to Adversarial Governments**

6 **TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

7 **WHEREAS**, according to the USDA, foreign agricultural interests in Wisconsin, as of December 31st, 2020,
8 own over 500,000 acres of land in the state with that number rising by over 25,000 acres from 2019 to 2020 alone;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin law currently allows for ownership of up to 640 acres of agricultural or forestry land
11 per foreign company or foreign individual; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic shows the need to localize supply chains, especially for food and
13 medicine, and to keep them out of the hands of adversarial governments or entities party to adversarial governments;
14 and

15 **WHEREAS**, with the reality that supply chain disruption could happen again in the future, it is prudent to limit the
16 exposure of these critical supply chains to entities party to governments who routinely abuse human rights, violate
17 international trade law and labor standards and seek to upend fair markets through state owned enterprises,
18 monopolization or means that otherwise threaten food security and the Wisconsin family farming tradition.

19
20 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors request that the
21 State of Wisconsin, in the next legislative biennium, review and revise its policy on foreign ownership of farmland.

22
23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution is sent to Governor Tony Evers, all members of
24 the Wisconsin State Legislature representing Winnebago County, the Wisconsin Counties Association and all other
25 Wisconsin Counties.

26
27
28 Fiscal Note: *No fiscal impact.*

29 Respectfully submitted by:

30 **JACOB FLOAM, District 16**

31 **NATE GUSTAFSON, District 28**


32
33 Respectfully submitted by:

34 **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

35 Committee Vote: 10-1

36 Vote Required for Passage: Three-Quarters of those Members Present

37
38 Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this 30th day of November, 2022.

39
40 
41 _____
42 Jonathan D. Doemel
Winnebago County Executive

**VARIANCE REPORT FOR DEPARTMENT -- REGISTER OF DEEDS
FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 12/31/2022**

TIMING	G/L CATEGORY	VARIANCE FROM BUDGET	EXPLANATION OF VARIANCE
	Public Charges for Services		
	General Government	232,420.09	Revenue fluctuates due to real estate and encumbrance activity which is based upon the local, state and national economy.
	Personnel Related Expenditure		
	Wages	7,330.19	Savings from staffing vacancy.
	Benefits	2,519.81	Savings from staffing vacancy.
	Operating Expenses		
	Purchased Services	1,350.46	Expected Fidar expenses less than anticipated budgeted.
	General Operating	6,102.10	Have not received invoice for 2022 security paper order. Computer expenses not as high as anticipated. Postage savings due to more documents be electronically recorded.
	Interdepartmental Charges		
	Employee Related Insurance	(3,985.26)	Budgeted for staff at time of budget, change in staffing changed the anticipated insurance needs.
	Variances Less Than Justification Threshold	(637.31)	
	TOTAL	245,100.08 Positive	

Racial restrictions still exist in Wisconsin property deeds. Wauwatosa is pushing the state to remove them.



Quinn Clark

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

[View Comments](#)



In some Wauwatosa property deeds, homeowners can still find restrictions that ban anyone who is not white from living there. The city's equity and inclusion commission is asking for statewide legislation to remove this racist language that, experts say, has had far-reaching detrimental effects.

The first racial restriction, or covenant, in Wauwatosa, placed on the Washington Highlands Subdivision in 1919, stated:

"At no time shall the land included in Washington Highlands or any part thereof, or any building thereon be purchased, owned, leased or occupied by any person other than of white race. This prohibition is not intended to include domestic servants while employed by the owner or occupied by and (sic) land included in the tract."

This isn't unique to Wauwatosa. By the 1940s, at least 16 of the 18 Milwaukee County suburbs used such covenants to exclude Black families from residential areas, [according to records from the Metropolitan Integration Research Center](#).

More: [How we measure segregation and what the numbers actually tell us](#)

Although racial covenants became legally unenforceable in 1948, they weren't specifically made illegal until the [Fair Housing Act](#) in 1968. While many have

expired, or have been directly removed, there's no law that says racial restrictions can't be in Wisconsin property deeds.

For years, the commission, formed in 2019, has discussed how to remove racist language from property deeds. This month, they've passed a resolution that asks for state laws that would remove, or make it easier for property owners to remove, racial covenants.

"Originally we had suggested just a volunteer effort in Wauwatosa to help people do this themselves, but it appears that a much more effective tool might be statewide legislation that would remove, or allow for the removal, of such covenants by law, since the issue of property title and deeds is an issue of state law," said City Attorney Alan Kesner.

Similar legislation has passed in Minnesota, California and Oregon.

"They all do it in slightly different ways, so there is a lot of flexibility if the legislature wanted to create such a state law in Wisconsin," Kesner said.

More: The Wauwatosa council has passed an equity and inclusion statement to guide the city. Here's what it says.

The resolution must pass the city's Common Council before it is sent to state legislators.

Racially restrictive covenants leave lasting effects, experts say



The commission's resolution cites the Mapping Racism and Resistance project, directed by University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee professors Anne Bonds and Derek Handley, which aims to document and map restrictive covenants in Milwaukee County.

"The covenants themselves are illegal, but their impacts are with us," said Bonds, a professor of geography and urban studies.

Impacts include generational and racial wealth gaps, current homes' property values and varying access to "well-established education systems," she said.

Covenants also help establish a culture and "ways of thinking about who belongs and who does not belong," said Handley, an English professor.

"You can talk to some Black Milwaukee residents, and they can tell you how they may not feel welcome in certain communities," Handley said.

While racial covenants have been unenforceable since 1948, they were still abided by for decades until the Fair Housing Act. The residual effects caused by covenants help to establish a culture where segregation is normalized, Handley said.

"Sometimes, I ask my students, 'Do you ever stop and ask why there are Black neighborhoods?'" Handley said. "'What words do we use to describe ... or what

do we conceptualize, when we ask whether a neighborhood is good or bad, whether a school is good or bad?"

Conversations like the ones brought forth by Wauwatosa's equity and inclusion commission are a step in the right direction, Handley said.

"We've seen instances across the nation of where properties are not appraised at the same rate because the person who's selling a house is a person of color," Handley said. "So, some of these conversations are taking place and perhaps more of them need to take place."

While Bonds called the resolution "exciting," both researchers could agree that residents should receive education on covenants, whether they are removed from deeds or not.

"I think it's very powerful for people to see the language in the documents ... where people of color, Black people are being discussed in ways ... with refuse and junk on properties, or the permitting of land uses like animals and livestock on properties," Bonds said.

Bonds and Handley hope to hold educational workshops in Wauwatosa and across Milwaukee County in coming months, also giving residents an opportunity to participate in their ongoing project.