

# Bayfield County Clerk

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**Minutes of the:**  
**Comprehensive Planning Committee Meeting**  
**February 15, 2023 10:00 a.m.**

Meeting Held in the Bayfield County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Annex Building,  
Washburn, WI  
& Remotely

The meeting of the Comprehensive Planning Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by *Committee Chairman*, Steve Sandstrom.

**Members Present:** Steve Sandstrom, Mary Dougherty, Charly Ray, Jim Crandall, Ruth Hulstrom, Ben Dufford, Steve Probst (on behalf of Jason Bodine), Bob Anderson, Kellie Pederson, Mark Abeles-Allison, Barb Thorpe, Keith Koening, Nicole Boyd, Cole Rabska (arrived late), Jason Laumann, Emily Nelson, Megan Mader, and Paige Terry

**Members Excused:** Lynn Divine, Douglas Smith, and Jason Bodine

**Others Present:** Bill Bussey- Lead of the Chequamegon Chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby, Bruce Moore- Member of the Chequamegon Chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby, Meagan Quaderer- Bayfield County Emergency Management Director, Larry Fickbohm- County Board Supervisor, Fred Strand- County Board Vice-Chair, Jeff Silbert- County Board Supervisor, Kim Bro- Town of Washburn Planning Commission

2. **Introductions:** Introductions of the committee members were made.

3. **Public Comment:**

Bill Bussey, Leader of the Chequamegon Chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby, thanked and commended the committee workgroups for including climate change and the transition to renewable energy in their section goals and activities.

Bruce Moore, Member of the Chequamegon Chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby, commented on the importance of including measurable action items in the Comprehensive Plan.

4. **Discussion and Possible Action, Minutes January 18, 2022:**

*Motion by Abeles-Allison, seconded by Ray to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2023, Comprehensive Planning Committee meeting with the recommended change. Motion carried.*

5. **Review Information Sent to Municipalities and Tribe:** Hulstrom reviewed the documents that were sent out to the county's municipalities and the Red Cliff Tribe. Abeles-Allison reviewed the mapping link that was sent out to municipalities that will allow towns to review the classification of their towns and allow them to submit changes. The committee discussed the purpose of the mapping tool that was sent out to towns.

6. **Discussion and Possible Action on DRAFT Workgroup Visioning Document Updates, Changes, Etc.:** Abeles-Allison questioned if workgroups will be allowed to make elements.

Nelson replied that the workgroups will continue to refine the documents. Sandstrom concurred with the importance of measurable action items being included in the Comprehensive Plan and encouraged the workgroups to take this into consideration when working on their drafts. Pederson spoke on the importance of addressing the concept of equity in the workgroup sections. Abeles-Allison informed the committee that the Intergovernmental workgroup identified the inability to measure the completeness of goals and actions included in the previous plan and the group questioned if there were a preferred way to track the future plan's goals and actions. Discussion took place regarding how the plan actions and tasks should be assigned and who they should be assigned to. Laumann explained that the draft portions that the workgroups have been working on can be utilized to lay out the goals and actions whereas the implementation section of the plan may be utilized to outline way the actions will be completed and who will be responsible for their completion.

7. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Workgroup Strategy (objective/action review) for Each of the Eight Workgroups:** Each of the workgroups reviewed progress that has been completed for each of the sections. The committee discussed and agreed that the some of the work groups would be presenting their Strategy Draft at the March meeting and the rest of the groups would be presenting at the April meeting. The following groups will be presenting at the March 15, 2023 meeting: Intergovernmental Cooperation, Housing, Land Use, and Hazard Mitigation with a deadline to submit drafts to the NWRPC by March 10, 2023. The following groups will be presenting at the April 2023 meeting: Agricultural, Natural, & Cultural Resources; Economic Development; Transportation; and Utilities & Community Facilities with a deadline to submit drafts to be set at a later date.

*11:03 a.m. – Cole Rabska joined the meeting.*

The committee discussed options for making a goals and action items measurable, the delegation of responsibility to complete the goals and action items, and the possibility of checking in on each of the items to make sure progress is being made towards completing them.

8. **Planning and Zoning Update on Existing Land Use Map Feedback:** Hulstrom informed the committee that the Land Use Map should be finalized by the end of March 2023. Laumann reported that he has not received any suggested changes for the land use map yet. Kim Bro, Town of Washburn Planning Commission, informed the committee that the mapping tool information was distributed to the municipalities; however, the towns were unsure who was responsible for suggesting or making changes to the map. Laumann explained that the map was not a legal document so any individual may go in and suggest changes. Bro asked that the municipal boundaries be added to the map to make it easier for users to determine which town they are viewing. Laumann stated that the municipal boundary layer will be added.
9. **Discussion and Possible Action on Existing Land Use Map:** Ray questioned why the classification of land owned by the Red Cliff Tribe was not included in the mapping tool. Laumann explained that Red Cliff is a separate entity and Bayfield County has no control over the classifications that Red Cliff uses. The committee discussed including the tribe's land use classifications in the mapping tool to ensure that neighboring parcels are compatible with Red Cliff.
10. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Future Land Use Mapping and Classifications:** Laumann reviewed the future land use mapping exercise that will be sent out to all municipalities in Bayfield County with the committee. Hulstrom asked that an example of density be included in the exercise to give individuals a visual representation. Laumann stated that the NWRPC prefers to not overcomplicate the exercise and has included a link in the document to contact the NWRPC if there are any questions. Bro suggested the Shoreland Residential category be removed from the list. Pederson requested that the phrase "Single-Family Residences" be removed from the Rural Residential category focus description and be replaced with a phrase similar to "suitable lands for residential use."

11:54 a.m. – Mary Dougherty left the meeting.

11:56 a.m. – Ruth Hulstrom left the meeting.

Discussion took place regarding the mapping categories included in the exercise.

12:10 p.m. – Nicole Boyd left the meeting.

Ray stated that the Agriculture category should include phrasing for residence and year-round homes similar to the Forestry and Open Space category. Laumann explained that a mistake was made, and that wording should be included in the Agriculture category.

The committee discussed the components of the exercise and members expressed concern on the difficulties individuals may have completing the exercise.

Ray suggested that the Conservation category description be changed to read “lands reserved for conservation and/or public recreational purposes.” Additionally, Ray suggested that, under the example land uses for the Conservation category “private lands with conservation easements, and lands that are managed for conservation purposes” be included.

The committee agreed with all suggested changes.

*Motion by Abeles-Allison, seconded by Ray to approve the preferred future land use mapping exercise plan with the addition of the suggested changes and to make Bayfield County responsible for distributing the document to all municipalities with a due date to submit all suggested changes back to the Northwest Regional Planning Commission by May 1, 2023.  
Motion carried.*

11. **Resources:** Abeles-Allison reviewed the available resources.
12. **Comprehensive Planning Calendar and Need for / Possibility of Extension:** Abeles-Allison suggested not extending the current contract. The committee agreed.
13. **Next Meeting:**
  - a) Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 9:00 AM
  - b) Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 10:00 AM

14. **Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the Bayfield County Comprehensive Planning Committee, *Chairman* Sandstrom adjourned the meeting at **12:19 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

**LYNN M. DIVINE**  
*Bayfield County Clerk*  
LMD/pat