

Bayfield County Clerk

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Minutes of the:
Comprehensive Planning Committee Meeting
August 17, 2022 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Held in the Bayfield County Board Room, Courthouse, Washburn, WI
& Remotely

The meeting of the Comprehensive Planning Committee was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by *Committee Chairman*, Steve Sandstrom

Members Present: Ben Dufford, Jim Crandall, Michael Mattmiller, Cole Rabska, Keith Koenning, Jason Bodine, Charly Ray, Mary Dougherty, Kellie Pederson, Emily Nelson, Megan Mader, Steve Sandstrom, Mark Abeles-Allison, Bob Anderson, Jason Laumann, Barb Thorpe, Ruth Hulstrom, Lynn Divine, and Paige Terry

Members Excused: Tribal Representative

Others Present: Scott Galetka-Bayfield County Land Records Administrator, Bruce Moore-Chequamegon Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby, Robert Schlack-Chequamegon Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby

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

3. **Discussion and Possible Action, Minutes July 20, 2022:**

Thorpe commented that Item 10 in the minutes should state that the PDF would be in an "accessible" PDF format.

Motion by Rabska, seconded by Ray to approve the minutes from the July 20, 2022, Comprehensive Planning Committee meeting with the recommended change. Motion carried.

4. **Overview of Community Demographics Change:** Laumann delivered a presentation on the demographic changes throughout Bayfield County. Discussion took place regarding the statistical data presented.

5. **Roundtable Discussion About Current, Ongoing, and Anticipated Issues and Concerns in Bayfield County:** Nelson reviewed the topics presented at the previous meeting. The committee held a roundtable discussion regarding discussion topics to be added to each of the work groups. The discussion topics are listed as follows:

County Demographics:

- Aging demographics
- Workforce decline
- Lacking appropriate services to fit demographics
- Mitigation of ages in and out and where they find healthcare services
- Transportation needs of aging population
- Heat map of ages and distribution of age-appropriate services (schools, healthcare, etc.)
- Remote workers population

- Housing for elderly who want to stay in the area
- Factors that pull people from the workforce (childcare)

11:14 a.m. – Hulstrom physically left the meeting to attend virtually.

Housing:

- Affordable housing shortage
- Lack of available housing for year-round residents due to short-term rentals
- What percent of vacant housing is short-term rentals
- Projections of what is needed for housing based on trends and demographics
- Accessible housing for seniors
- Workforce housing
- When do seasonal residents become full-time residents

Transportation:

- Lack of inter-community transportation
- Encouraging use of current transportation
- Climate impacts on transportation
- Cost increases in transportation infrastructure
- Smart grid system for hybrid/electric vehicles
- Interconnecting a large physical space
- Provide service/charging stations or electric vehicles
 - Benefits residents and tourists
- Lack of “non-car” options
- Parking Infrastructure
- Aging Demographic Transportation Needs
- Promote usage = promote maintenance
- ATV/UTV and bike planning
- Dependence on road structure
- Comprehensive Plan and recreational vehicle routes

Utilities and community facilities:

- County-wide electric smart grid
- Filling in broadband gaps
- Recreational infrastructure and safety measures in community facilities
- Bayfield pool and Dupont center
- Accessibility of facilities for people with disabilities
- Sanitary systems/districts and what their capacity is and other baseline data
- Mapping community facilities and their accessibility
- Business Park utility extensions
- Infrastructure expansion needs to meet housing needs
- Increase use of renewable energy

11:30 a.m. - Koening left the meeting.

Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources:

- Use pressures on natural resources, parks and rec, and how it relates to demographics and projections
- Educational outreach for folks who move to the area about natural resources management
- Changes in agriculture from larger operations to small, local sources
- Map of cultural resources
- Agriculture, natural area goals, and balance with zoning code

- Is zoning code compatible with future land use goals.
- Water Resources
 - Ground and surface water protection
- Sedimentation issues
- Impacts of climate change on agricultural and natural resources,
- Light pollution
 - Dark sky resources

Economic Development:

- Expanding business for smaller farms
- Encourage value added for small agriculture units, meat processing facilities
- Lack of sustainable economic development framework
- Opportunities for healthcare to expand to meet area needs
- Telecommunicating impacts on economic development
- Clarify zoning regulations to streamline process
- Expanding and improving recreational opportunities
- Potential impacts of heavily tourism-based economy
- Create opportunities for small scale manufacturing
- Impact of low labor participation rates, workforce shortages, demographics relation to challenges
- Importance of seasonal housing
- Shortages of childcare and elder care
- Utility infrastructures to business parks
- Supporting development of businesses that support tourism industry
 - Local businesses offering products
- Apprenticeship programs in schools to help students get into local industries

Intergovernmental Cooperation:

- Difficulty with sharing resources with tribal and nontribal governments
 - Financial resources
- Creating incentives for local government collaborations
 - Encouraging sharing of physical resources
- Coordinating with towns for land use plans
- Continued need for cooperation to deal with housing
- Lack of capacity and growing shortage of people willing to be in local government
- Education on what each government entity does and regulates
- Cross-boundary work and sharing resources with federal, state, and county, and towns

Land Use:

- Updated zoning ordinances and land use plans and maps
- Cohesive future land use with future and existing zoning districts
- Impact of climate change
- Land use planning for long- and short-term rentals
- Where to add suitable housing
- Ground and surface water protection
- Public land coordination
- Understanding what it takes to maintain forest and way of life
- Balancing recreation, development, agriculture, and competing land uses
- Incorporating planning for renewable energy development

Hazard Mitigation:

- Wildfire planning, preparedness, and outreach

- Cross-boundary mitigation coordination
- Climate change impacts on fire, flooding, and winter events
- Lack of capacity in first responder community
- First responder access to homes in all seasons
 - Driveways etc.
- Where are the vulnerable demographics for disasters
- Communication between responders
- Development of resilient power systems
- Dependency on few roads and lack of road capacity
- Pre-planned evacuation routes for emergency situations
- Community notification systems during major events
- Lack of capacity for medical care
 - No hospital in county

6. **Workgroup Guidance Plan, recommendations for breakout and establishment of workgroup assignments and overview of workgroup task one: Visioning Review (vision statement, goals, objectives), set meeting dates:**

Ray asked if anyone from Red Cliff had been recommended to fill the position of Tribal Representative on the committee. Abeles-Allison answered that the position had not yet been filled. Sandstrom stated that he would be attending the Tribal Council Retreat later in the afternoon and would bring it up at that meeting.

Nelson reviewed the first task that was given to the committee work groups. Sandstrom stated that there was a lack of an overall vision statement for the comprehensive plan, and one should be developed. Discussion took place regarding who would be responsible for setting up the work group meetings. It was determined that each group would be responsible for setting up meeting times.

7. **Public Participation Plan Review:** Abeles-Allison informed the committee that the Public Participation Plan is available on the Bayfield County website. Abeles-Allison questioned Nelson on the best route for encouraging public participation in the meetings. Nelson replied that ads in the paper would work. Nelson suggested reaching out to the municipalities to inquire if any changes have been made to their maps and comprehensive plans or need to be made. Divine stated she would reach out to the municipalities.

8. **Resources:** Abeles-Allison reviewed the comprehensive planning resources that are available to the committee.

9. **Public Comment:** Bruce Moore, Bayfield, asked the committee what format is available to members of the public looking to make comments and when the public is able to submit comments. Abeles-Allison answered that comments can be submitted via writing or email and emails can be sent during any point of the process to Mark Abeles-Allison, Lynn Divine, or the Northwest Regional Planning Commission. Ray asked that the public comment portion of the meeting be pushed to the top of the agenda for future meetings. The committee agreed.

It was asked if members outside of the committee were able to attend the work group meetings. Abeles-Allison answered yes and suggested that the Hazard Mitigation work group reach out the Bayfield County Emergency Management Director, Meagan Quaderer, as a point a point of contact.

10. **Next Meeting:** September 21, 2022 at 10:00 AM, County Board Room. The work groups will meet at 9:30 AM before the committee meeting.

11. Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Bayfield County Comprehensive Planning Committee, *Chairman* Sandstrom adjourned the meeting at **12:14 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

LYNN M. DIVINE

Bayfield County Clerk

LMD/pat