

Bayfield County Clerk

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Minutes of the:
Comprehensive Planning Committee Meeting
September 21, 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 10:00 a.m. by *Committee Chairman*, Steve Sandstrom

Members Present: Ben Dufford, Jim Crandall, Gus Smith, 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, Melis Arik (on behalf of Nicole Boyd from Red Cliff), and Paige Terry

Members Excused: Lynn Divine and Cole Rabska

Others Present: Bill Bussey-Chequamegon Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby, Bruce Moore-Chequamegon Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby, Jeff Silbert-Bayfield County Board Supervisor, Tony Erba-Chair of the Town of Cable's Planning Commission, Kim Bro-Representative from Town of Washburn, Roger Lindgren-Town of Bell Chairperson, David Ciembronowicz-Town of Iron River Chairperson, Kenneth Bodeen, Mark Dryer, Kim Mattson-Bayfield County Accountant

2. **Introductions:** Introductions of the committee members were made.
3. **Public Comment:** Bill Bussey, Chequamegon Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby, informed the committee of the purpose of the Citizens' Climate Lobby and explained that it is a national organization of citizen climate activists with a principle focus to lobby members of congress for federal legislation to address climate change. Bussey commended Bayfield County on its leadership in transitioning to renewable energy.

David Ciembronowicz, Chairperson for the Town of Iron River, informed the committee that he, along with the Town of Iron River, have been attempting to figure out the requirements for the comprehensive planning process and it has been several months since the town has heard any word or had any guidance on the process. Ciembronowicz stated that he and the town would like to learn more about the comprehensive planning process and what is expected of the town.

4. **Discussion and Possible Action, Minutes August 17, 2022:**

Abeles-Allison stated that Terry informed him that the heading on the minutes that were presented was incorrect and listed the previous meeting date, but they are the correct minutes.

Motion by Pederson, seconded by Ray to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2022, Comprehensive Planning Committee meeting with the recommended change. Motion carried.

5. **Discussion Regarding Work Group Goal and Objective Review:** Nelson asked if any of the work groups had a chance to meet and if they had any progress reports they would like to present to the committee.

Thorpe reported on behalf of the Utilities & Community Facilities group and stated that the group was successfully able to make a few changes. Thorpe stated that the Intergovernmental Cooperation workgroup would be meeting after the committee meeting.

Ray reported on behalf of the Land Use group and stated that, while the group has been able to examine their document in its entirety, the group has not yet taken time to make any major changes. Ray noted one topic the group would like to discuss is the number of commendable goals listed in the previous plan that were not acted upon and explained that the group intends to identify overlapping ideas/goals and work to consolidate them.

Anderson reported that the Transportation group has a draft document ready for submittal.

Pederson reported on behalf of the Economic Development and Housing groups and stated that the Economic Development group has made some major changes. Pederson reviewed the concept of Triple Bottom Line thinking with the committee and discussed how the concept plays a part in the way each work group approaches their own specific topic and how these approaches affect the comprehensive plan as a whole. Sandstrom spoke on the importance of a systems thinking approach and encouraged the work groups to keep in mind how each topic affects people, the environment, and other key components while they work. Kim Bro, Town of Washburn, spoke on the difficulty of the decision-making process, particularly when a consensus needs to be made. Bro gave an example regarding density control to the committee and how the topic of development plays a key role.

Abeles-Allison asked Laumann what action must be taken at the town level and asked Laumann to speak on behalf of the towns that have completed the update process. Laumann explained that the committee's role is to revise the countywide comprehensive plan that will serve the county as a governmental unit and the towns, cities, and villages are on their own to update their plans. Towns can be asked to participate in attendance but may not be able to participate on a discussion level except for the land use element. Laumann stated that there will always be towns that will update their plans simultaneously to the county and some that will not. Towns can contact the NWRPC to discuss if they would like to update their town's plan or not. Abeles-Allison continued the discussion and explained that the county has a history of adopting towns' future land use plans and there will need to be discussion regarding the topic at some point. Laumann explained that he will discuss the towns' involvement with land use further down on the agenda. Bro asked what other towns, other than Washburn, have informed the NWRPC that they would like to collaborate during the comprehensive planning process. Laumann answered the Towns of Clover, Barnes, Washburn, and Cable. The committee discussed increasing the amount of communication to the towns and agreed that communication needs to be increased to keep towns informed about the comprehensive planning process. Hulstrom stated that she would be attending the September 27, 2022, Towns Association meeting and is willing to provide an update to the towns on the planning process.

6. **Discussion Regarding Existing Land Use Review:** Laumann presented the previous future land use map to the committee and stated that the map is no longer viable in terms of use. Laumann presented a new map to the committee with a more current land use inventory and explained that the map is not yet finished but will be the best tool available once it is complete. Koenning stated that there are instances where the land use listed on a map may be inconsistent with the zoning and tax classification. Laumann explained that this map will be focusing strictly on land use. Discussion regarding potential purpose and uses of the new map. Laumann informed the committee that the NWRPC will need help reviewing the map to check its accuracy. Ray asked if someone should reach out to the towns to ask them to spot check portions of their map and give Laumann any feedback. Laumann stated it was a good idea but to wait until the map is complete. Hulstrom asked Laumann for a timeframe for the map's completion. Laumann informed the committee that 30 days until completion was the best estimate.

7. **Discussion Regarding Town Comprehensive Plan Integration:** Laumann asked any committee members that were present during the previous comprehensive plan update if the future land use map was a compilation of all the town plans. Bro explained that many of the towns updated their plans in coordination with the county, with some towns having already completed their plans, and a planner was hired to come up with a series of categories to be used for the future land use map and the towns with completed plans were lumped together to select categories that the planner had designed. Laumann asked if the committee prefers to utilize the same approach that was used in the previous plan to develop the future land use map, or to take everything completed at the local level and include each of the local maps to be the base for the future land use map. Discussion took place regarding the two options. Committee members spoke both in favor and against each option. No decision was made at this time. Laumann stated that a decision did not need to be made at this meeting but should be made at the next meeting.
8. **Discussion Regarding Draft Comprehensive Plan Elements:** Nelson gave an overview of each of the planning elements that are currently available on the NWRPC website:
- a) Issues and Opportunities
 - b) Housing
 - c) Transportation
 - d) Utilities & Community Facilities
 - e) Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources
 - f) Economic Development
 - g) Intergovernmental Cooperation
 - h) Hazard Mitigation
 - i) Land Use
 - j) Implementation

Nelson stated that the link to the site will be shared with the committee.

9. **Resources:** Abeles-Allison reviewed the comprehensive planning resources that are available to the committee.
10. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 10:00 AM

Sandstrom asked the committee how they would like to proceed with the workgroups meeting before the committee meeting. Ray suggested keeping the 10:00 a.m. start time for the committee meeting and leaving the workgroup meetings in the hands of each group to coordinate. The committee agreed. Sandstrom suggested that each work group make their meeting dates and times available to the other workgroups in case someone else would like to attend. Koenning stated that the interested parties should contact the leader of the other workgroup directly if they are interested in attending another meeting. Pederson asked Nelson when the revision drafts were due. Nelson replied that the drafts were due by November 4 and the drafts could be sent to Nelson. Nelson continued by explaining that she would create a OneDrive link for the documents that could be sent to the entire committee for everyone to view the submitted documents.

11. **Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the Bayfield County Comprehensive Planning Committee, *Chairman* Sandstrom adjourned the meeting at **11:35 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

LYNN M. DIVINE, *Bayfield County Clerk (LMD/pat)*