

Richland County

Natural Resources Standing Committee

June 30, 2025

The Richland County Natural Resources Standing Committee convened on Monday, June 30, 2025 in person and virtually at 9:30 AM in the County Boardroom of the Richland County Courthouse.

Call To Order: Committee Chair Carrow called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Roll Call: Deputy County Clerk Hege conducted roll call. Committee members present: Steve Carrow, Richard McKee, Mark Gill, and Robert Brookens. Committee member(s) absent: Craig Woodhouse, Alayne Hendricks, and Julie Fleming.

Supervisors Hendricks and Fleming arrived at 9:31 AM.

Verification of Open Meetings Law Compliance: Deputy County Clerk Hege confirmed the meeting had been properly noticed.

Approval Of Agenda: Motion by Gill, second by McKee to approve agenda. Motion carried and agenda declared approved.

Approval Of Minutes From June 2, 2025 Meeting: Chair Carrow asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the minutes from the June 2, 2025 meeting and entertained a motion to approved the minutes as presented. Motion by McKee, second by Brookens. No corrections were made. Motion carried and the minutes from the June 2, 2025, meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comment: Brief discussion on the new Public Comment forms ensued. Three members of the public expressed interest in speaking but wished to speak when the item(s) were on the table. Chair Carrow allowed the members of the public to wait to speak until the items(s) were on the table.

Zoning Petitions:

- A. Petition To Rezone Parcel 024-2823-3000 – Town Of Richwood.** Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, gave a brief description of the petition. Motion by McKee, second by Fleming to approve the petition. Motion carried and the petition was forwarded on to county board for final approval.
- B. Petition To Rezone Parcel 024-2941-0000 – Town Of Richwood** Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, gave a brief description of the petition. Motion by Gill, second by Fleming to approve the petition. Motion carried and the petition was forwarded on to county board for final approval.
- C. Petition To Rezone Parcel 002-1922-2000 – Town Of Akan:** Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, gave a brief description of the petition. Motion by McKee, second by Gill to approve the petition. Motion carried and the petition was forwarded on to county board for final approval.
- D. Petition To Rezone Parcel 016-3411-0000 – Town Of Ithaca:** Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, gave a brief description of the petition. Motion by Gill, second by Fleming to approve the petition. Motion carried and the petition was forwarded on to county board for final approval.

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- E. Petition For A CUP For A Manufactured Home On Parcel 006-2343-1000 – Town Of Buena Vista:** Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, gave a brief description of the petition. Motion by Brookens, second by McKee to approve the petition. Brief discussion ensued. Motion carried and the petition was approved.
- F. Petition For A CUP For A Campground On Parcel 014-0742-0000 – Town Of Henrietta:** Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, gave a brief description of the petition. Motion by Gill, second by McKee to approve the petition. Motion carried and the petition was approved.
- G. Petition For A CUP For A Non-Metallic Mine On Parcel 032-1811-1000 – Town Of Willow:** Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, briefly stated that a 5 year permit was up for renewal and gave a description of the petition. Motion by McKee, second by Fleming to approve the petition. Noah and Mary Rothering of Willow Township spoke to their concerns to the conditions of the CUP, whether they were remaining the same or not. The Rotherings also questioned who they would contact if the terms were violated and expressed concerns about activity at the mine site outside of the posted hours. Robin Loger of Yahara Materials, owner of the mine site, requested that the Rotherings contact him directly when they witnessed activity outside of the posted hours. The Rotherings also expressed concerns about significant amounts of dust blowing into their home from the unpaved road to the mine site. Mr. Loger stated that the road could be paved in the next several months. Extensive discussion ensued. Fleming requested that violations of the hours for the mine be reported to the County Zoning Department as well so that the committee could be aware of any ongoing issues at the mine site. Paul and Sandy Hellenbrand of Middleton, WI introduced themselves to the committee and requested to speak. Mr. Hellenbrand stated that they own property next to the mine site and expressed his frustrations with the mud runoff from the mine during heavy rains. Extensive discussion ensued. Motion carried and the petition was approved.
- H. Petition To Rezone Parcel 030-2811-1000 And For A CUP For A Milk Bottling Plant – Town Of Westford:** Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, gave a brief description of the petition to rezone and the CUP. Donny Mengel, consultant on the project presented blueprints for the proposed bottling plant and gave an overview of the current plans and future plans for the project. Motion by Gill, second by Fleming to approve the petition. Extensive discussion ensued. Motion carried and the CUP was approved, and the zoning petition was moved to county board for final approval.
- I. Petition For A CUP For An Ag Structure On Parcel 012-0923-1000 - Town Of Forest:** Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, gave a brief description of the petition. Motion by Brookens, second by McKee to approve the petition. Brief discussion ensued. Motion carried and the petition was approved.

Reports:

- A. Zoning: Report & Departmental Activities:** Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, reported the office was at 56 land use permits for the year and 30 sanitation permits for the year. County Conservationist, Cathy Cooper, reported on requests for floodplain permits relating to stream restorations

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and that she was working with Richland County Highway Commissioner, Josh Elder, on a project to replace one of the buildings at the Richland County Fairgrounds that was in the floodplain. Brief discussion ensued.

B. Land Conservation: Report & Departmental Activities: County Conservationist, Cathy Cooper, reported on projects being held up by the recent heavy rains, issues with a current cost-share program, and her work with the Wisconsin DNR on a pasture runoff, due to overgrazing in the Basswood area, and barnyard runoff in the Sextonville area. Conservationist Cooper also reminded the committee on the upcoming aquatic invasive species snapshot day on August 9 and asked for volunteers for the clean boats/clean water initiative. Brief discussion ensued.

C. UW-Extension: Departmental Activities: Mr. Adam Hady, Area 13 Extension Director presented his June 2025 Report for Richland County and his Richland County Extension Priorities for 2025-26 Academic Year report. Extensive discussion ensued on the budgeting process and the potential loss of the FoodWise program if the SnapEd funding is cut from the Federal Budget. Mr. Hady introduced Anastasia Kurth the Regional Crops and Soils Educator. Ms. Kurth briefly reported on her current projects in Richland County and gave a brief overview of the recent Richland County Dairy Breakfast and the outreach done with the visitors to the event.

D. Land Information: Report & Departmental Activities: Richland County Real Property Lister, Julie Lins, reported the ongoing questions on having a plat of survey done on a property vs having a certified survey done and her research on the matter.

Discussion & Possible Action: Updating The Acreage Requirements For A Certified Survey Map: Richland County Real Property Lister, Julie Lins gave a detailed description of the issue between a plat of survey and a certified survey. Extensive discussion ensued with Richland County Register of Deeds, Deborah McCoy expressing her option. Ms. Lins stated that she would have more information by the August 2025 meeting. Consensus was gained from the committee to table this item until the August meeting. No action was taken.

Discussion & Possible Action: Approval To Allow Chickens In Residential Zoning Districts: Jenn Fry, Zoning and Sanitation Technician, gave a brief description of the proposal for an ordinance allowing chickens in residential zoning districts and presented several example ordinances. Ms. Fry reminded to the committee of the municipalities that have their own zoning ordinances, including the City of Richland Center, Rockbridge Township, and Ithaca Township. Extensive discussion ensued. Conservationist Cooper requested that the committee provided feedback on the example ordinances before the next meeting. Consensus was gained from the committee to table this item until the August meeting. No action was taken.

Correspondence: None.

Future Agenda Items:

Report: City of Richland Center Zoning – requested by Gill

Discussion & Possible Action: Updating The Acreage Requirements For A Certified Survey Map

Discussion & Possible Action: Approval To Allow Chickens In Residential Zoning Districts

Adjourn: Chair Carrow entertained a motion to adjourn until August 4, 2025. Motion by Fleming, second

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by McKee to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 11:12 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Myranda H. Hege".

Myranda H. Hege
Deputy County Clerk