

Marquette County Farmland Preservation Steering Committee  
December 4, 2014  
7:00 PM  
Public Safety Room 103

**Members present:** Robin Buchholz, Suzie Seehaver, Al Gibeaut, Karl Spath, Jim Sanders, Richard Gumz, Meagan Hoffman and Dan Breene –Jim Kruger -Absent

**Others present:** Tom Onofrey, Dustin Grant, Mark Roffers, Colette Spranger

Mr. Onofrey called the meeting to order and the committee did introductions. Mr. Gumz nominated Robin Buchholz for Chair. **Motion/2<sup>nd</sup> by Gumz/Sanders** to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Buchholz. Motion Carried unanimously. **Motion/2<sup>nd</sup> by Spath/Gibeaut** to approve agenda. Motion carried: unanimously.

The Chair opened item 4, Discuss Farmland Preservation Plan project and Committee roles. Mark discussed his background and qualifications. He also discussed the role for the committee. Mark explained in great detail how Ag-1 zoning and the Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP) relate to each other and affect tax credits. Mark stated that the plan must be approved by December 31, 2015. The committee raised questions as to the need for the FPP. Pat Kilbey stated that 35 people claim the credit, but only 26 have approved plans through his office. The total amount claimed is about \$30,000.

The Chair opened item 5, Discuss relationship to past planning and zoning efforts. Mark gave an overview of the history of FPP in Marquette County. He also explained in further detail the Agricultural Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Much discussion occurred about the 80% rule for the percentage of planned preservation property that must be zoned Ag-1. There was also considerable discussion about housing options. The new requirements greatly affect the allowed uses on a property. These changes specifically relate to non-farm houses. Mark gave examples from other counties and how they treat non-farm housing.

The Chair opened item 6, Identify initial goals and priorities for farmland preservation and the project. Mark asked for goals from the committee. The responses included: large tracts of stay Ag-1 and preserve farming in some form; fewer frictions between farmers/non-farmers; incentives to keep farmers farming; get assistance to bring young people back to the County; flexibility in plan; use maps to explain housing options to towns instead of paragraphs; add Towns to County Zoning; protect better soils; present a limited number of options for Towns to choose from; clarify terms and use consistently; clustering is good; and minimize road use conflicts.

The Chair opened items 7 and 8. Timelines were presented giving an idea of when Town and Committee meetings will be held. The Board agreed that all future Steering Committee meetings will be at 6pm.

The Chair asked for other business. None. **Motion/2<sup>nd</sup> Sanders/Spath to adjourn.** The Chair adjourned meeting at 8:45 pm.