

AGENDA

CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 7, 2026
TIME: 9:00 AM
LOCATION: Courthouse – Room 302

1. Call meeting to order
2. Declaration of Quorum
3. Public Comments (*brief comments/statement regarding committee business*)
4. Review Correspondence.
5. Approve minutes of previous meetings
6. Approve vouchers, staff reports, & committee reports
7. Risk and Injury Report
8. Extension
 - a. General Position Updates
9. Land & Water Conservation Department
 - a. Central WI Farm Profitability Expo flyer (informational)
 - b. Update from Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership by Shannon Roehde
 - c. Update on Mill Creek Watershed / source of chloride
 - d. Update on ongoing violations
10. Private Sewage
11. Land Records
12. County Surveyor
13. Planning & Zoning
 - a. Consider resolution approving zoning ordinance amendments for the town of Saratoga.
 - b. Update on the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) grant results in Wood County.
14. Economic Development
 - a. Review Economic Develop Grant application and policies.
15. Committee requests for per diem for meeting attendance
16. Schedule next regular committee meeting
17. Agenda items for next meeting
18. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary
19. Adjourn

Join by phone

+1-408-418-9388 United States Toll
Access code: 2494 042 7841

Join by WebEx App or website

<https://woodcountywi.webex.com/woodcountywi/j.php?MTID=m9e05e33802741302788db6b680721dca>

Webinar number: 2494 042 7841

Webinar password: 010726

MINUTES

CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, December 3, 2025
TIME: 8:30 AM
PLACE: Courthouse – County Board Room #300

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Leichtnam, Tom Buttke, Wayne Schulz, Russ Perlock, Tim Hovendick, George Gilbertson

OTHERS PRESENT: Trent Miner, County Clerk; See attached sign-in list

1. Chairman Leichtnam called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM and declared a quorum present.
2. Representatives from Invenergy (Saratoga Solar Project) reviewed a possible amendment to the developer's agreement in place with the county to allow for the burning of cleared vegetation from the site. A list of questions from the committee had been compiled after the last meeting and answered by the representatives in advance of the meeting. Additional concerns of the committee were shared with the representatives.
3. Because of time constraints, Chair Leichtnam asked Corp Counsel Flanagan to weigh in on this subject as well as the Hub City Wind Farm and the Extension contract and MOU before he had to leave for court. Extension Assistant Dean Hausler noted that in the past, Wood County has not signed an MOU, nor have a number of other counties. Some counties have wanted further definition of roles and responsibilities which necessitated an MOU.
4. After hearing from Corp Counsel and Hausler, motion by Schulz/Perlock to approve the 2026 Extension Contract as presented and forego the signing of an MOU at this time.
5. Chair Leichtnam opened public comment for those interested in the amendment to the developers agreement with Invenergy. There were 2 public comments shared, both having concerns with the open burning being contemplated in the amendment. Chair Leichtnam closed public comment. Motion by Hovendick/Schulz to adhere to the original developers agreement and not move forward with the amendment. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Ben Tanko from Alliant Energy spoke on the current status of the Hub City Wind Farm and their request to possibly place a wind turbine on land owned by Wood County in Marathon County. The question before the committee was whether to continue to proceed towards the drafting of a Wind Lease & Easement agreement. Chair Leichtnam opened the floor for continued public comment, whereby 4 Marathon County residents spoke against and had concerns with wind turbines. The Board of Regents is considering this matter yet this year, as they lease the land in question. Motion by Hovendick to table this item until after the Board of Regents makes a decision. Hovendick withdrew his motion. Motion by Schulz/Hovendick to not enter into a lease agreement with Hub City Wind Farm for land owned by Wood County in Marathon County. Motion carried unanimously.
7. A 3-minute recess was called.

8. The minutes of the November 5 & 13, 2025, meetings were presented. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
9. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve the vouchers, monthly department reports and committee reports. Motion carried unanimously.
10. Associate Extension Dean Hausler reported that he expects a new Area Extension Director to be in place, possibly by the beginning of March, and that our district changed to include Marathon, Portage, Wood, and Waupaca Counties. Chair Leichtnam will be on the interview committee.
11. Extension Educator Rombalski gave a report on the Clean Sweeps held in 2025. This was a record turnout year in which the county had two separate events during the year. The same is scheduled for 2026. (Saturday, May 30 & Saturday, September 12)
12. County Conservationist Wucherpfennig shared the bids received for the Vruwink Manure Pit Closure. He reviewed the internal cost estimate of \$7,651. Bids received were:
 - Becker Trucking - \$22,311.88
 - Brad Brehm - \$7,158.75
 - Dvoran Trucking - \$6,450.00Motion by Buttke/Perlock to accept the low bid of \$6,450.00 from Dvoran Trucking for the basis of cost share. Motion carried unanimously.
13. Wucherpfennig reviewed the current status the Mill Creek chloride issue and that he met with officials from the City of Marshfield in this regard. They will be moving forward with efforts to try and determine the cause of chloride.
14. Wucherpfennig brought the committee up to date on the current violations. It was noted the manure overflow site is pretty much cleaned up.
15. Leichtnam presented the committee a set of rules for the Citizens Water Group, as a subcommittee of CEED, which was patterned from the Wood County Wildlife Advisory Committee rules. Motion by Schulz/Hovendick to approve the rules as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
16. The Citizens Water Group drafted a letter requesting legislative and regulatory action on the nitrate and water pollution issues. The letter was addressed to various stakeholders. Motion by Buttke/Hovendick to approve the sending of this letter to the addressees listed on the letter. Motion carried unanimously.
17. Wood County Surveyor Kevin Boyer presented his annual report to the committee noting that the county is 100% monumented and maintained until about 2030. He discussed projects that have been worked on and noted that they might be looking at updating the Land Subdivision ordinance in the near future.
18. Planning & Zoning Director Grueneberg introduced the new county planner, Emmett Simkowski, to the committee, who in turn gave a brief background and work experience to the committee.

19. Motion by Buttke/Schulz to approve per diem and mileage to Chairman Leichtnam for his service on the interview team for Extension Area Director. Motion carried unanimously.
20. Motion by Buttke/Perlock to approve Supervisor Hovendick per diem and mileage for attending the upcoming Citizen Water Group meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
21. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 9:00 AM.
22. Motion by Hovendick/Buttke for the committee to move into closed session pursuant to Wis Stats 19.85 (1)(c) to conduct performance evaluations of the department heads the committee oversees. Motion carried unanimously.
23. Motion by Schulz/Hovendick to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously.
24. Chair Leichtnam declared the meeting adjourned at 12:18 PM.

Minutes taken by Trent Miner, County Clerk, and are in draft form until approved at the next meeting.

Conservation, Education, & Economic Development Committee

December 3, 2025

NAME	REPRESENTING
Bill Clandorin	WCD #15
Trine Spindler	Farmland First
Neidi Roske	Farmland First/McMillan
Jackie Dillinger	Farmland First/Town of Day
Kristine Seehafn	Farmland First/McMillan
Emmett Simkowski	WC P+Z
Jason Grueneberg	WC P+Z
DENNIS POLACH	WCB- 14
George Gilbertson	LWC Dept Rep.
Burt Pester	LWCD
Nick Flanagan	Corp Counsel
Shane Wucherpfenning	LWCD
JOE KIWAK III	FARMLANDS FIRST
Ben Tanko	Alliant Energy
Jason Hausler	Extension
Kogel Wilex	Public
Jul Brysh	Public
Don White	Barton Malow
Paul Anet	BARTON malow
Sejal Dhindsa	Invernergy
Henry Petrash	Invernergy
Conner Newell	Invernergy
Paul McGowan	Invernergy
Bryan Kolman	Barton Malow
Lorelei Fuehrer	Town of Saratoga
Kayla Rombalski	Extension
Karin Boyer	County Surveyor

Conservation, Education, & Economic Development Committee

December 3, 2025

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Committee Report

County of Wood

Report of claims for: Extension Wood County

For the period of: December 2025

For the range of vouchers: 30250160 - 30250174

Voucher	Vendor Name	Nature of Claim	Doc Date	Amount	Paid
30250160	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Kitchen & 4-H Supplies	12/09/2025	\$110.78	P
30250161	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Program Supplies	12/09/2025	\$112.01	P
30250162	UW MADISON ACCOUNTING SERVICES	4-H Online Software	12/09/2025	\$500.00	P
30250163	US BANK	December Credit Card Bill	12/29/2025	\$816.93	P
30250164	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Kitchen & 4-H Supplies	12/29/2025	\$273.72	P
30250165	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Office Supplies	12/29/2025	\$163.68	P
30250166	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	4-H Office Supplies	12/29/2025	\$27.59	P
30250167	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Credit for Sales Tax	12/29/2025	(\$2.75)	P
30250168	STAPLES ADVANTAGE	Office Supplies - Paper	12/29/2025	\$135.38	P
30250169	BORES TRINA	November-December Expenses	12/29/2025	\$49.42	P
30250170	EBERLEIN BENJAMIN	December Expenses	12/29/2025	\$143.57	P
30250171	HUBER LAURA	December Expenses	12/29/2025	\$110.60	P
30250172	JONJAK ALLISON	December Expenses	12/29/2025	\$242.99	P
30250173	MCNELLY JENNIFER L	December Expenses	12/29/2025	\$150.92	P
30250174	MITCHELL ANNA M	November-December Expenses	12/29/2025	\$143.64	P
Grand Total:				\$2,978.48	

Signatures

Committee Chair: _____

Committee Member: _____

Committee Member: _____

Committee Member: _____

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Committee Report

County of Wood

Report of claims for: Land & Water Conservation

For the period of: December 2025

For the range of vouchers: 18250155 - 18250202

Voucher	Vendor Name	Nature of Claim	Doc Date	Amount	Paid
18250155	RICHARDSON BARRY & GAYLE	Cost share cover crops	11/12/2025	\$1,729.00	P
18250156	WEILER ALAN K	NMFE Reimbursement	12/02/2025	\$688.00	P
18250157	FAIT RAYMOND F	CS cover crops/residue mgmt	12/01/2025	\$20,589.00	P
18250158	FAIT RAYMOND F	Cost share residue management	12/02/2025	\$904.65	P
18250159	FAIT RAYMOND F	Cost share residue management	12/01/2025	\$2,247.75	P
18250160	GILBERTSON GEORGE & JILL	Cost share cover crops	11/28/2025	\$490.00	P
18250161	GILBERTSON GEORGE & JILL	CS cover crops (partial)	11/10/2025	\$2,415.00	P
18250162	GILBERTSON GEORGE & JILL	Cost share cover crops	11/10/2025	\$6,013.00	P
18250163	HEEG KEVIN	Cost share cover crops	12/08/2025	\$4,949.00	P
18250164	HEEG KEVIN	Cost share cover crops	12/08/2025	\$6,562.50	P
18250165	HEEG KEVIN	Cost share cover crops	12/08/2025	\$1,250.00	P
18250166	HEEG KEVIN	Cost share cover crops	12/08/2025	\$600.00	P
18250167	HEEG KEVIN	Cost share cover crops	12/08/2025	\$180.00	P
18250168	HEEG KEVIN	Cost share cover crops	12/08/2025	\$135.00	P
18250169	KOHN GARY	NMFE reimbursement	12/10/2025	\$1,150.00	P
18250170	VIEGUT JAMES	NMFE reimbursement	12/10/2025	\$603.00	P
18250171	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Office & truck supplies	12/08/2025	\$51.53	P
18250172	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Office/vehicile supplies	12/09/2025	\$247.65	P
18250173	ALBERT DUSTIN	Cost share cover crops (MDV)	11/25/2025	\$1,080.00	P
18250174	ALBERT DUSTIN	Cost share cover crops (MDV)	11/25/2025	\$2,272.50	P
18250175	ALBERT DUSTIN	Cost share cover crops (MDV)	11/25/2025	\$990.00	P
18250176	ALBERT DUSTIN	Cost share cover crops (MDV)	11/25/2025	\$2,092.50	P
18250177	ALBERT DUSTIN	Cost share cover crops (MDV)	11/25/2025	\$497.50	P
18250178	ALBERT DUSTIN	Cost share cover crops (MDV)	11/25/2025	\$1,210.00	P
18250179	ALBERT DUSTIN	Cost share cover crops (MDV)	11/25/2025	\$607.50	P
18250180	ALBERT DUSTIN	Cost share cover crops (MDV)	11/25/2025	\$797.50	P
18250181	GRASSL ALLEN	Cost share cover crops	12/12/2025	\$1,911.00	P
18250182	GRASSL ALLEN	Cost share cover crops	12/12/2025	\$668.50	P
18250183	GRASSL ALLEN	Cost share cover crops	11/28/2025	\$700.00	P
18250184	ROTH GOLDEN ACRES LLC	Cost share cover crops	11/20/2025	\$1,316.00	P
18250185	ROTH GOLDEN ACRES LLC	Cost share cover crops	11/20/2025	\$11,830.00	P
18250186	ROTH GOLDEN ACRES LLC	Cost share cover crops	11/20/2025	\$2,205.00	P
18250187	ROTH GOLDEN ACRES LLC	Cost share cover crops	11/20/2025	\$560.00	P
18250188	ROTH GOLDEN ACRES LLC	Cost share cover crops	11/20/2025	\$343.00	P

Committee Report - County of Wood

Land & Water Conservation - December 2025

18250155 - 18250202

Voucher	Vendor Name	Nature of Claim	Doc Date	Amount	Paid
18250189	ROTH GOLDEN ACRES LLC	Cost share cover crops	11/20/2025	\$1,099.00	P
18250190	ROTH GOLDEN ACRES LLC	Cost share cover crops	11/20/2025	\$4,879.00	P
18250191	WATER EXCELLENCE	CS Nitrate removal system (TE)	10/28/2025	\$4,960.00	P
18250192	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Office supplies	12/15/2025	\$18.98	P
18250193	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Educ supplies/poster contest	12/16/2025	\$176.14	P
18250194	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Office supplies	12/16/2025	\$52.14	P
18250195	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Office supplies	12/16/2025	\$7.59	P
18250196	US BANK	Field supplies, CCA renewal	12/17/2025	\$523.97	P
18250197	ALBERT DUSTIN	NMFE reimbursement	12/29/2025	\$931.00	P
18250198	DVORAN EXCAVATING LLC	CS waste fac. closure(Vruwink)	12/04/2025	\$4,515.00	P
18250199	ERTL JEFF	CS waste fac. closure(Strobel)	12/01/2025	\$4,769.45	P
18250200	ROFFERS MICHELLE	NMFE reimbursement	12/29/2025	\$1,411.00	P
18250201	SCHEUNEMANN LOREN	NMFE reimbursement	12/29/2025	\$571.00	P
18250202	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Soils book/education	12/19/2025	\$139.99	P
Grand Total:				\$103,940.34	

Signatures

Committee Chair:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Report

County of Wood

Report of claims for: Planning & Zoning

For the period of: December 2025

For the range of vouchers: 38250023 - 38250024 22250081 - 22250090

Voucher	Vendor Name	Nature of Claim	Doc Date	Amount	Paid
22250081	BOYER KEVIN	SU-Professional Svcs-Other	12/01/2025	\$1,126.66	P
22250082	INDUSTRY SERVICES DIVISION	PS-Sanitary Permit Fees	12/01/2025	\$1,100.00	P
22250083	BADGER-LAND SURVEYING INC	SU-R/M Serv-Other	12/05/2025	\$5,600.00	P
22250084	BADGER-LAND SURVEYING INC	PS-Prof Serv & Postage	12/05/2025	(Voided)	P
22250085	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	PL-Office Supplies	12/10/2025	\$14.99	P
22250086	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	PL-Office Supplies	12/10/2025	\$87.60	P
22250087	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	PL-Office Supplies	12/16/2025	\$31.68	P
22250088	US BANK	LR/ED Credit Card Charges	12/17/2025	\$640.35	P
22250089	OPPORTUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER	PS-Prof Serv & Postage	12/05/2025	\$741.65	P
22250090	RAPIDS FORD LLC	PS-R/M Serv Other-Vehicles	12/15/2025	\$506.64	P
38250023	MARSHFIELD AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION INC	ED-REDI Funding	12/22/2025	\$6,000.00	P
38250024	WISCONSIN RAPIDS AREA CVB	ED-REDI Funding	12/18/2025	\$5,000.00	P
Grand Total:				\$20,849.57	

Signatures

Committee Chair:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Committee Member:

Extension Wood County staff led, delivered, planned or collaborated on all of the following activities:

4-H POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Laura Huber, 4-H Program Educator

Trina Bores, 4-H AmeriCorps member

- A multi-county pen pal project for youth in kindergarten - 2nd grade featuring Jeff Brown's book "Flat Stanley." This project will incorporate developing literacy skills with social skills. The program will include two virtual meetings.
- An in-person service-learning project for 4-H youth during which they made pans of lasagna to donate to families in need throughout the community, learned how families make difficult budget decisions, and how acts of kindness make lasting impacts. Youth in 4-H and Girl Scouts worked together to serve families in southern Wood County.
- A direct education program for high school students in which we taught about the different cuts of beef, how to shop for the best cut of beef based on price and recipe, and the students cooked two different recipes using beef purchased by the high school. The high school received a WI Beef Council grant to purchase the beef. This lesson is part of a bigger series in which we help youth build independent living skills.

AGRICULTURE

Matt Lippert, Agriculture Educator

- A Zoom presentation for staff from the Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Department of Health Services Independent Living Centers, where participants learned about the typical day of a dairy farmer and the various farming operation types that exist in Wisconsin. Through this presentation, employees of these entities will have a better understanding of the needs of dairy farmers throughout Wisconsin. Total Reach: 96
- A statewide survey for dairy producers, where participants shared detailed records on inputs, management practices, and expenses associated with raising replacement heifers to generate updated benchmarks and highlight cost-saving opportunities, to support more informed decision-making and improve the economic sustainability of dairy operations.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Kayla Rombalski, Community Development Educator

- A kick-off meeting for the Central Wisconsin Entrepreneurship Coalition (CWEC), where economic developers, practitioners, and local government staff brainstormed and developed a shared mission, mapped resources, and identified priorities of focus for the coalition. Through this effort, CWEC aims to

build a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem with resources, capital, and collaboration for growth within the Central Wisconsin Region.

- **Total Reach:** *21 meeting participants*
- Planning for a regional rural housing summit hosted in Stevens Point in collaboration with state and regional CDI educators, and local, regional, and state housing partners. The goal is to engage developers, local government, and housing practitioners around rural housing solutions and best practices in order to increase affordable workforce housing and local economies in their area.
- Participation in a virtual panel discussion hosted by the Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC) focused on "Rural Resources for Small Business." Entrepreneurs and small business owners learned about five key rural resources available in Wisconsin to help catalyze business success. This effort supports rural entrepreneurs by connecting them to tools and programs that can accelerate growth and sustainability.
 - **Total Reach:** *5 presenters, approx. 20 participants*
- Facilitation of the Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce's A.C.E. (Advancing Community Education) Leadership program's Cultural Competence Day. Participants of the leadership program are employees of a variety of organizations across South Wood County. The purpose of this effort was to use a variety of hands-on instruction to demonstrate how to foster inclusiveness in leadership and understand the importance of diverse perspectives.
 - **Total Reach:** *20 participants*
- As part of ongoing facilitation of the Wood County Health Department's 2026–2028 Strategic Plan, three strategy sessions were held to identify actionable objectives under three main goals. These sessions provided clarity and alignment for leadership, resulting in a roadmap that will guide the department's priorities and initiatives over the next three years.
 - **Total Reach:** *Approx. 10 attendees*
- Facilitation of regular meetings for the Wood County Child Care Task Force and the Wood County Digital Equity Solutions Team continued to advance local economic development priorities. These meetings provide collaborative work time to address issues and updates directly related to child care and digital equity, while connecting local efforts to statewide resources and policy updates that impact Wood County.
 - **Total Reach:** *15 attendees*

CRANBERRIES

Allison Jonjak, Cranberry Outreach Specialist

- A compendium was compiled of all current UW and Wisconsin cranberry research, and statistical analysis was performed. This was shared with Wisconsin cranberry growers and in particular the Wisconsin Cranberry Board, which provides grower-supported funding for research projects. A complete



understanding of ongoing research helps grower-supported funds allocate support to high-leverage, critical research projects.

- A virtual brown bag seminar for Wisconsin cranberry growers will be held, where current research updates will be presented on health topics and cranberry chewing gum, stem gall canker, and current pollinator tracking research. Through this seminar, growers will learn how to protect their marshes against the stem gall disease and understand how to assess foraging patterns of pollinators on their marshes. Both of these will improve yields and reduce input costs.
- A virtual brown bag discussion was held for Wisconsin cranberry growers, where new information was shared about blunt nosed leafhoppers, new research on spring frost tolerance was shared, and color development at and during harvest was discussed. Through this session, growers have better research-backed information with which to make harvest color decisions. They are also able to use new information to manage frost tolerance in new hybrids. They also can manage the blunt nosed leafhopper better--important as the BNLH transmits an incurable disease.
 - **Total Reach:** 47

FOODWISE

Hannah Wendels, FoodWise Nutrition Educator

- A 5-week nutrition education series for fifth grade classrooms at Grove Elementary School, where students will learn about MyPlate, making healthy food and beverage choices, how to read nutrition facts labels, and about being physically active to help them to be healthier in school and at home.
 - **Total Reach:** 40 students in 5th grade
- A 5-week nutrition education series for fifth grade classrooms at Mead Elementary School, where students will learn about MyPlate, making healthy food and beverage choices, how to read nutrition facts labels, and about being physically active to help them to be healthier in school and at home.
 - **Total Reach:** 40 students in 5th grade
- A 12-week series of strength training sessions (StrongBodies) for older adults/adults at the Pittsville Community Hall, where participants engage in regular, progressive strength training and health education to improve their physical and mental health and enhance social connectedness. This series is led by two Extension StrongBodies volunteers.
 - **Total Reach:** 30 adult participants, 2 volunteers
- A 12-week series of strength training sessions (StrongBodies) for older adults/adults at the Nekoosa Area Community Center, where participants engage in regular, progressive strength training and health education to improve their physical and mental health and enhance social connectedness. This series is led by two Extension StrongBodies volunteers.
 - **Total Reach:** 30 adult participants, 2 volunteers
- A partnership with United Way/Hunger Coalition, FOCUS Food Pantry, and the Housing Authority of Wisconsin Rapids that provides "Stockboxes for Seniors", a monthly food box service where low-



income seniors can receive around 25–30 pounds of nutritious foods to stock their pantry with. The goal of this partnership is to promote the boxes with community partners with the overall goal to improve food security.

- A direct education program for high school students in which we taught about the different cuts of beef, how to shop for the best cut of beef based on price and recipe, and the students cooked two different recipes using beef purchased by the high school. The high school received a WI Beef Council grant to purchase the beef. This lesson is part of a bigger series in which we help youth build independent living skills.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Ka Zoua Thao, Bilingual (Hmong) Community Health Worker

- A resilience-building program for incarcerated women at the Wood County Jail, where participants engage in WeCOPE programming focused on managing stress, practicing mindfulness, and developing healthy coping strategies. Through this effort, the participants will gain tools to strengthen emotional regulation, improve relationships, and build confidence in their ability to navigate life's challenges to promote overall well-being.
 - **Total Reach:** 7 participants
- Facilitation of the Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce's A.C.E. (Advancing Community Education) Leadership program's Cultural Competence Day. Participants of the leadership program are employees of a variety of organizations across South Wood County. The purpose of this effort was to use a variety of hands-on instruction to demonstrate how to foster inclusiveness in leadership and understand the importance of diverse perspectives.
 - **Total Reach:** 20 participants
- Each month, Feeding Our Communities with United Services (FOCUS) hosts a food distribution where Hmong families can receive groceries to support their households. This effort helps ensure families have the nourishment they need to care for themselves and their loved ones.
 - **Total Reach:** 13 individuals on a monthly basis
- Weekly cultural practices for Hmong middle schoolers (grades 6–8), where participants explore their heritage and prepare to share their learning with all 6th graders at Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School to promote cultural awareness in December.
 - **Total Reach:** 29 middle school students, grades 6–8
- Support groups for Hmong students where they learn about feelings, safety, and respect through storytelling, art, and guided conversations. Using age-appropriate terms, basic concepts of mental health, personal boundaries, and trusted adults while honoring Hmong traditions and values will be introduced. Through this program, Hmong students will feel safe, heard, and confident to lay the foundation for lifelong emotional well-being and opening the door to healthier conversations in their families and communities.



- **Total Reach:** 48 students
 - 7 students in grades 4-5
 - 33 students in grades 6-8
 - 8 students in grades 9-12
- Building relationships and engaging with partners to address health needs with the Hmong community within Wood County.
- Ongoing one-on-one health coaching meetings with Hmong clients, where resources and referrals are made. Through these efforts, individual clients are able to receive support navigating through the healthcare and legal systems and get connected with community resources.
 - **Total Reach:** 11 one-on-one clients
- The Hmong Women's Social Space serves as a monthly gathering for Hmong women to engage in discussions about often overlooked topics within their community. This initiative aims to foster relationships among participants and empower them to advocate for the recognition of their voices.
 - **Total Reach:** 5 participants
- A 12-week series of strength training sessions (StrongBodies) for older adults/adults at the Pittsville Community Hall, where participants engage in regular, progressive strength training and health education to improve their physical and mental health and enhance social connectedness. This series is led by two Extension StrongBodies volunteers.
 - **Total Reach:** 30 adult participants, 2 volunteers

HORTICULTURE

Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator

- Planning for a bilingual agricultural conference for Hmong farmers in collaboration with local agencies and educators. The goal is to provide education on sustainable farming, business development, and pest management, so that participants can improve farm profitability, adopt resilient practices, and strengthen community connections.
- Planning for a four-part vegetable gardening series for novice and resource-limited gardeners in collaboration with multiple identified county partners in Wood and Marathon Counties. The goal is to teach foundational gardening skills and integrated pest management principles, so that participants can adopt sustainable practices that reduce chemical use and protect environmental health.
- Planning for a major update to the Sowing Success horticulture curriculum for gardeners and green industry professionals. The goal is to modernize content and delivery through a flipped classroom model with updated multimedia and hands-on labs, so that participants gain practical skills in sustainable gardening and integrated pest management, ultimately reducing environmental impacts and improving ecosystem health.

- Planning for a culturally responsive gardening workshop series for Hmong growers with limited English proficiency. The goal is to help participants gain foundational skills in garden planning, soil health, and integrated pest management while learning to identify reliable resources, so that they can increase awareness of sustainable practices and adopt methods that reduce chemical overuse and prevent environmental contamination.
- Planning for a four-part therapeutic horticulture series for residents of assisted living facilities in rural Marathon and Wood Counties. The goal is to provide accessible, hands-on plant activities that promote emotional and social wellness while teaching environmentally-sound gardening practices, so that residents experience improved mood, confidence in plant care, and stronger community connections.
- A diagnostic service for the general public, where Marathon and Wood County residents' horticultural inquiries are answered through evidence-based resources. This effort is designed to reduce pollution through horticultural product (pesticides and fertilizers) misuse.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS & DEVELOPMENT

Ben Eberlein, Human Development & Relationships Educator

- A 12-week series of strength training sessions (StrongBodies) for older adults/adults at the Nekoosa Area Community Center, where participants engage in regular, progressive strength training and health education to improve their physical and mental health and enhance social connectedness. This series is led by two Extension StrongBodies volunteers.
 - **Total Reach:** 30 adult participants, 2 volunteers
- A direct education program for high school juniors and seniors in which we help youth build independent living skills.
 - **Total Reach:** 81 students in grades 9-12
- A 6-session course for renters where participants learn how to find and apply for rental housing, understand their responsibilities as a renter, how to communicate effectively with their landlords, and manage housing expenses. Through this, those with negative rental records and those new to renting are able to increase their ability to find and keep safe affordable housing, thereby increasing their stability and decreasing their reliance on public supports. Total Reach: 1 session with one participant
- A direct education activity for elementary & middle school students in which participants learn basic financial concepts like the difference between needs & wants and to identify personal financial values and goals. Through this, they establish a foundation of knowledge for positive money management later in life.
 - **Total Reach:** 18 students in grades 1-8
- An 8-module class that provides people reentering communities with tools and tips for managing bills, identifying & prioritizing payments for both legal system-related debt and consumer debt, creating a spending & savings plan, understanding credit scores & reports, choosing financial products and services,



and building other financial competencies. Through this, participants strengthen their financial literacy to support a prosperous reentry to their community.

- **Total Reach:** *2 participants in the Wood County Jail*
- A direct education program for high school students in which we taught about the different cuts of beef, how to shop for the best cut of beef based on price and recipe, and the students cooked two different recipes using beef purchased by the high school. The high school received a WI Beef Council grant to purchase the beef. This lesson is part of a bigger series in which we help youth build independent living skills.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Jen McNelly, Natural Resources Educator

Anna Mitchell, Natural Resources Educator

- An Agriculture and Conservation Roundtable for farmers, agriculture industry professionals, conservation organizations, and agency staff where Natural Resources Educators and partners facilitated breakout sessions on five key topics: peer networks and local leadership, trust and communication, funding and economic opportunities, technology and research, and consistency and accountability. Through these sessions, participants identified practical actions and targeted strategies to guide implementation of Wisconsin's Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. This effort was designed to support farmers in reducing nutrient loss from agricultural land, improving water quality, and strengthening collaboration across sectors.
 - Extension Wood County Community Development Educator, Kayla Rombalski also assisted with facilitation for the Roundtable.
 - **Total Reach:** *Over 120 participants*
- Facilitation of quarterly meetings of the Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative, where representatives from Wood, Waushara, Marquette, Portage, Juneau, and Adams Counties Health and Land and Water Conservation Department and County Board Supervisors meet to discuss groundwater issues and concerns and management actions, plan events, update each other on work being done and identify new collaborations for future work and projects in the Central Sands Region of Wisconsin.
 - **Total Reach:** *14 meeting participants*
- A meeting with Nepco Lake District, where members reviewed results from a stakeholder engagement survey and outlined the strategic planning process. Through this meeting, participants learned how to incorporate community feedback into planning efforts, ensuring diverse perspectives are considered in decision making. This meeting is designed to foster inclusive and informed strategic planning, laying the groundwork for future meetings and conversations that will guide the Lake District's long-term goals and initiatives.
- A series of meetings for conservation and water professionals from six counties in the Wisconsin central sands to learn about the groundwater nitrate flow model created by the Wisconsin Geological and



Natural History Survey. The first meeting was to introduce the model and solicit feedback on potential improvements. The second meeting was to provide guidance on the use of the model and answer any questions that the Counties might have.

- **Total Reach:** *10 meeting attendees*
- Facilitation of monthly meetings of the Wood County Citizen Water Groups, where stakeholders meet to discuss ways to implement their annual action plan, learn about water related issues in Wood County, plan events and activities, update each other on work being done in Wood County, and identify new collaborations for future work/projects.
 - **Total Reach:** *15 Citizen Members of the Wood County Citizen Water Group*



LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

STAFF REPORTS – DECEMBER 2025

Barb Peeters

Conservation Administrative Specialist

- Completed November sales tax report and forwarded to Finance.
- Processed tree sale orders for 43 customers as received. We are close to selling out of both species of peach trees as well as the Honey Crisp apple trees. Fielded calls & emails from customers regarding tree sale.
- Attended Dec. 3rd CEED meeting at courthouse.
- Attended Dec. 9th Wellness Committee meeting and shared updates with LWCD staff & Parks/Forestry staff.
- Assisted Conservation Program Coordinator with mailing out letters for nonmetallic mine sites as notice to submit annual permit fees and financial assurance fees by deadline of January 31, 2026 (per ordinance).
- Downloaded the December DATCP monthly report and shared with LWCD staff.
- Generated cost share contract for *grassed waterway* using SWRM grant funds (G. Gilbertson \$3,386.25).
- Processed AWO (animal waste ordinance) permit payment (D. Vruwink)
- Generated payments to landowners for:
 - *cover crops* utilizing SWRM grant funds (G. Gilbertson (2 contracts) \$2,905.00; R. Fait (2 contracts) \$21,494.75; K. Heeg (2 contracts) \$11,511.50; A. Grassl (2 contracts) \$1,368.50)
 - *waste facility closures* utilizing SWRM grant funds (D. Vruwink \$4,515.00; S. Strobel \$4,769.45)
 - *cover crops* utilizing Mill Creek grant funds (G. Gilbertson \$6,013.00; A. Grassl \$1,911.00)
 - *cover crops* utilizing MDV funds (D. Albert (8 contracts) \$9,547.50)
 - *residue management* utilizing MDV funds (R. Fait \$2,247.75; K. Heeg (4 contracts) \$2,165.00)
 - *nitrate removal systems* utilizing ARPA grant funds to Water Excellence (T. Eglund \$4,960.00) (waiting on invoices for one system that has been installed and one yet to be installed)
 - *NMFE reimbursement* (G. Krohn \$1,150.00; J. Viegut \$603.00; D. Albert \$931.00; L. Scheunemann \$571.00; M. Roffers \$1,411.00)
- Processed reimbursement payment received from DATCP for four cost share contracts (\$9,949.50).
- Processed reimbursement requests for fifteen SWRM cost-share contracts totaling \$54,486.75 and submitted reimbursement requests to DATCP.
- Organized County Board packet materials and electronically submitted to the County Clerk's office.
- Completed the Wood County Employee Annual Safety Training.
- Processed nonmetallic mining annual permit fee payments as received (fees are due by January 31, 2026).
- Ordered department supplies and processed invoices/payments. Verified balances of 2025 supply accounts.
- Generated contract for a stream crossing project utilizing SWRM grant funds (S. Ciesielski - \$8,400.00)
- Worked with I.T. to have the Nutrient Management Course Registration Flyer placed on the LWCD website.
- Processed 3rd quarter Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program reimbursement payment (\$14,662.01)
- Generated cost share contract for a wastewater treatment strip/barnyard runoff control system (heavy use protection) and sediment basins utilizing SWRM grant funds (J. Gilbertson \$30,626.04).
- Processed department invoices/vouchers and deposits weekly for submission to the Treasurer/Finance.
- Completed LWCD payroll percentages and forwarded to Finance prior to the December 11th & 24th payrolls. Reviewed payroll reports and verified distribution by accounts/department. Generated and submitted journal entry to correct payroll benefits charged to incorrect budget account(s)
- Electronically submitted staff reports/packet materials to the County Clerk's office for the CEED meeting packet and entered LWCD agenda items.
- Attended virtual meeting on Dec. 23rd and assisted with planning for the 2026 Central WI Farmer Profitability Expo scheduled for January 27th in Marshfield. Uploaded flyer to LWCD website.

- Generated 2025 Extension Request, compiled supporting documents and submitted to DATCP prior to Dec. 31st deadline. We are requesting the extension of 6 contracts from 2025 to 2026 as noted below:
 - well closure (G. Jones - \$1,500.00) (project submitted for additional one-year extension request due to extenuating circumstances of a 2-3 year waiting list to get well driller on site to close well)
 - manure pit closure due to availability of contractors (D. Hayden \$3,499.99)
 - partial extension of cover crop cost share contract for cover crops (G. Gilbertson - \$1,085.00)
 - grassed waterway project due to weather conditions (G. Gilbertson - \$3,386.25)
 - streambank crossing due to weather conditions (S. Ciesielski \$8,400.00)
 - wastewater treatment strip/barnyard runoff system/sediment basins due to weather conditions (J. Gilbertson \$30,626.04)
- With the contracts listed above on extension request, LWCD expended and/or allocated all 2025 DATCP SEG grant funds (\$54,000.00) with one SEG contract submitted for extension. The 2025 DATCP Bond grant funds were also expended and/or allocated (\$50,300.00) with five bond contracts submitted for extension.
- Generated TRM Grant (Mill Creek) Reimbursement Request totaling \$34,128.65 (for reimbursement of 11 cost-share contracts paid out in 2025), compiled documents, & submitted to County Conservationist to submit to DNR.
- Served as point of contact for staff while Conservationist was out of the office Dec. 5, 10, 12, 17, 18, 23, 29, 30.
- Wishing all CEED committee members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2026!

Emily Salvinski

Conservation Specialist

- **Monday, December 1.** Worked on phosphorus reductions in SnapPlus and added that information to GIS.
- **Tuesday, December 2.** Checked cover crops on 2 farms in northwest Wood Co.
- **Wednesday, December 10.** Attended Farmers of Mill Creek event.
- **Thursday, December 11.** Organized photos from cover crop checks. Completed reduction scenarios in SnapPlus. Completed annual safety training.
- **Monday, December 15.** Used GIS to generate numbers requested by DATCP like number of acres with NMPs written by farmer, acres turned in due to ordinance, and more.
- **Tuesday, December 16.** Helped check cover crops on multiple fields where they were cost-shared.
- **Wednesday, December 17.** Ran reductions in snap and added to GIS (in half day).
- **Monday, December 22.** Added soil tests to snap to get farmer reimbursed for taking NMFE class. Made changes to fields in cost-share tracking shapefile to reflect changes in contracts. Run reductions in snap, added to GIS.
- **Monday, December 29.** Worked on reductions in snap, added to GIS, finished the Mill Creek shapefile to be uploaded into DNR's tracking system.

Kendra Wilhelm

Conservation Specialist

- Read a scientific paper regarding lessons learned about aquatic invasive species in northern Wisconsin.
- Continued to track remaining funds for each cost-share funding source and kept in communication with relevant staff members on the status of each cost-share contract.
- Navigated through UW-Extension's new interactive guide – "Water WELLness: Managing Your Private Well Water System."
- Participated in two planning meetings for the Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo.
- Attended the December Lakes and Rivers Partnership Meeting.

- Continuous communication with partners regarding the new outreach opportunity with cranberry growers about aquatic invasive species prevention.
 - Created an informational flyer.
 - Assisted with the creation of a survey that was sent out to cranberry growers to gauge their knowledge on aquatic invasive species.
- Navigated through DNR's new "Be Well Informed" tool for private well owners to help interpret test results.
- Submitted the Lake Monitoring & Protection Network grant report and reimbursement forms.
 - Final report was approved by DNR Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Biologist and uploaded to the SWIMS database.
 - Final reimbursement forms were sent to the DNR Grant Specialist.
- Continued communication with multiple venue options to host the Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo. The Blue Heron Brew Pub has been locked in for the date of Tuesday, January 27th.
- Created a flyer for the Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo.
- Assisted with cleaning and organizing a shared space within the Land & Water Conservation office.
- Compiled reporting documents for the Management Plan Implementation Surface Water Grant the Land & Water Department has been working on since the start of 2025 and extends through 2026.
 - This grant is for the installation of harvestable buffers.
 - A total of 4.5 acres of harvestable buffers were established under a 3-year contract.
 - A total of 63.6 acres of harvestable buffers were established under 5-year contracts.
 - Total reductions at the end of the 3- and 5-year contracts are calculated to be: ▪ 544.3 pounds of phosphorus kept out of our waterways.
 - 267.8 pounds of nitrogen kept out of our waterways.
 - 236.6 tons of sediment kept out of our waterways.
- Assisted customers with tree sale orders via phone and email.
- Attending a webinar focused on "Unlocking the Power of Cover Crop Diversity."
- Attended a webinar focused on current cover crop data in Wisconsin.
- Attended a webinar focused on "How do Conservation Staff and Dollars Advance Farm and Woodland Stewardship."
- Made follow-up calls and emails for landowners with outstanding cost-share contracts.
- Verified cover crops for A. Grassl, Roth Golden Acres, and Albert Acres.
- Attended the December Winter Water Talk hosted by Water Action Volunteers and the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network.
- Worked on a presentation about the Wood County Poster Contest for 2nd graders at Grant Elementary School in Marshfield. The presentation will be given on January 7th.
- Participated in a planning meeting for the Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo, finalized the flyer and agenda, and began promoting the event.

Kyle Andreae

Engineer Technician

- December 1 – Vruwink Site Visit and Contractor Correspondence
- December 2 – Ciesielski Site Visit and Investigation
- December 3 – Ciesielski Design
- December 4 – Vruwink Site Visit, Gilbertson Site Visit, Ciesielski Design
- December 5 – Gilbertson Design
- December 6 – Vruwink Contractor Coordination
- December 7 – Vruwink Construction Inspection
- December 8 – Vruwink Construction Inspection

- December 9 – Vruwink Construction Inspection, Strobel Site Visit
- December 10 – Cohort Meeting, Stream Stats Data Model Testing
- December 11 – Technical Committee meeting, Ciesielski Design
- December 12 – Ciesielski Design
- December 15 – Gilbertson Design
- December 16 – Gilbertson Design
- December 17 – Gilbertson Design, Strobel Construction Inspection
- December 18 – Gilbertson Design, Strobel Construction Inspection
- December 19 – Sick
- December 22 – Gilbertson Design, Strobel Construction Inspection and As-Built
- December 23 – Gilbertson Design and Site Visit, Vruwink Construction Inspections
- December 24-25 – Holiday
- December 26 – Vacation
- December 29-30 – Vacation
- December 31 – Holiday

Rodney Mayer

Conservation Program Manager

- Reviewed Post pond site exemption info – issued extension due to warm weather as frozen ground needed. Issued letter – updated file and spreadsheet.
- Finalized Brehm mine site inspection letter – outlining site shutdowns, needed actions, etc.
- Reviewed Earth 186 site stormwater emails and revised SWPPP. Updated file.
- Sent earth status email – researched sites, needed actions, etc.
- Kollross wildlife damage and abatement program deer tag complaint. Researched and sent response explaining program, damage info, DNR contacts, etc.
- Met with landowner – explained program for pond build, wetland issues, permits needed, avoidance of mining permitting, etc.
- Correspondence with DNR for pending mine site issues (Weichelt, Earth, Brehm, Tork).
- Contact to engineer – obtained Weichelt HWY T mine site wetland layer – input into county GIS layer – etc.
- FA reviews for: I Brandl, Milestone, Schneider, Hansen Sand, Earth 186, B&R, Haas, Ignatowski, Tork, Fanning Cranberry). Updates to file, spreadsheet, and software.
- Contacted deer donation processors for DNR December report. 9 deer donated as of 12/10/25 for DNR Wildlife Venison Donation Program.
- Bach (MidWI mine site) contact for updates on new plan and permit transfer. Discussed procedure and actions needed.
- Contact with Autumn Cranberry for deer damage on marsh, issued ag tags, discuss future fence build, etc.
- Emailed Weichelt’s surveyor for amendments needed to Hwy T reclamation plan maps for wetland areas and Ch. 30 setbacks.
- Reviewed Tork site wetland restoration plan.
- Contact for info request from engineering firm working with Weichelt wetland issues.
- Researched mountain lion call located on reservation in Nekoosa. Contacted landowner with information/ advice and provided landowner with Ho-Chunk wildlife contact.
- Reviewed site exemption for pond – sent comments via email for changes needed and info.
- (4 days of vacation taken for WI cow elk hunt.)

Shane Wucherpennig

County Conservationist

- Zoom meeting with Caleb Armstrong & Kendra Wilhelm to discuss the Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo (CWFPE). Planning the event for January 27, 2026, in Marshfield
 - Streambank Crossing assessment at the Dawn Ciesielski farm on Hwy 34
 - Attended CEED Meeting on December 3, 2025
 - Follow up discussions & water testing with landowners that have installed Nitrate Removal Systems
 - Approved timesheets and payroll percentages.
 - Attended PACRS Meeting in Necedah
 - Attended Virtually the Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative (CSGCC) meeting in Hancock
 - Attended Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Council (FMCWC) Field Day.
 - Attended Wood Co Citizens Groundwater Group Meeting
 - Attended virtually the County Con Support Network meeting
 - Attended Wood County Board Virtually
 - Mett with Golden Sands RC&D director and staff to discuss groundwater Nitrate Reduction Recommendations
 - Met with PartnersHP of Portage County to discuss concerns
 - Cost-share contracts with landowners
 - Met with Nick Flannagan (Corp Counsel)
 - Follow-up meeting with Caleb Armstrong & Kendra Wilhelm to discuss the Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo (CWFPE). Planning the event for January 27, 2026, in Marshfield
 - Inspected Nitrate Removal in-home installations
 - Staff activity report and CEED agenda.
 - Reviewed new contracts and signed for various grants.
 - Staff Meeting
 - CSA Contracts for carryover projects
 - Wrapped up Doug Vruwink final reimbursement for pit closure
 - Agenda items for CEED meeting
-



Wood County WISCONSIN

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ZONING

TO: Conservation, Education & Economic Development Committee

FR: Jason Grueneberg, Planning & Zoning Director
Emmett Simkowski, County Planner
Paul Bernard, Land Records Coordinator
Brad Cook, Code Administrator
Kayla Rautio, Code Technician
Victoria Wilson, Program Assistant
Julie Mancl, Program Assistant

RE: Staff Report for January 7, 2026

1. Economic Development (Jason Grueneberg)

North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) – On December 11th the NCWRPC CEDS Committee met to finalize the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2026 for the region. The focus of the meeting was to review and discuss the Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) and make any changes prior to the plan going to the Regional Plan Commission for approval.

Central Wisconsin Economic Development Fund (CWED) – On December 17th I participated in the CWED Board of Directors' meeting. Agenda items included review of 4 loan applications, modification to an existing loan, the monthly fund status report, administrator report, loan committee report, and review of financials.

Central Wisconsin Economic Development (CWED) Fund Loan Committee – With over 20 loan applications in the pipeline, the CWED Loan Committee has been busy the last few months. In December, 7 loans were reviewed by the Loan Committee. As the Loan Committee Chair, I have been working with our Administrative Service Provider to implement processes and tools to expedite the review of incoming loan application.

UW Stevens Point – Marshfield Campus Grant – On December 30th I submitted a grant application to the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) requesting \$2 million for the renovation of the Helen Connor Laird Theater. The total estimated project cost is approximately \$2.4 million with up to \$400,000 being committed as a match by the Laird Endowment Committee. I have spoken with the WEDC Regional Economic Development Director, Melinda Osterberg, and she has indicated that they will likely meet in early January to review the application.

2. Planning & Zoning (Emmet Simkowski)

I have been working on adjusting to my new role with Wood County after starting on December 1st. The two main projects I have been picking up where they were left off, are the Town of Rock's and the Town of Cameron's comprehensive plan. In between working on those projects, a few CSM's have come in for review, along with multiple zoning map and text amendments to Saratoga's Zoning Ordinance. I also have met with the City of Marshfield's planning staff to

discuss some upcoming projects they have going and how the City and County will have overlap to have a coordinated effort with them.

3. Land Records (Paul Bernard)

- Parcel Mapping
- Address Mapping
- Paperwork for 2026 Wisconsin Land Information Grants
- Creating an interactive snow plow map for the Highway Department
- Planimetric Mapping-Building interiors & Roofs, Farm Fields
- Working with IT on deploying new 2025 Air Photo

4. Code Administrator (Brad Cook) November and December reports

10-30-2025- (1) Reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for rep. mound TN: 12, (1) conv insp TN: 18, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

10-31-2025- WCCA Conference- WI Dells

11-3-2025- (1) reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for mound TN: 16, (1) reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for new HT TN: 33, (3) well permits reviewed and issued TN: 01,07, (1) SL permit reviewed and issued TN:07, (1) new mound and tanks insp TN:10, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

11-4-2025- Planning & Zoning Staff meeting, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

11-5-2025- (1) SL permit reviewed and issued TN 17, (2) mound inspections TN: 02, 15; <24, plow, abs. cell, tanks, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

11-6-2025- ACE Leadership Program- WI Rapids

11-7-2025- (1) reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for new mound TN: 19, (1) mound inspection <24, plow, abs. cell, tanks mound inspection TN: 02, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

11-10-2025- (1) reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for new mound TN: 19, (1) reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for new HT TN: 14, (1) reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for rep mound TN: 08, (1) mound plow insp TN: 21, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

11-11-2025- (1) reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for new At-Grade system TN: 14, (1) mound plow insp TN: 12, (1) abs. cell, tanks mound inspection TN:21, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

11-12-2025- (2) HS 25-037 & HS-25-042 letter (s) written and sent to owner TN 07, 18: , (1) HTA letter reviewed and sent TN: 12, (1) SF 25-019 letter reviewed and sent TN: 18, (1) POWTS onsite visit TN: 11, (1) mound abs cell, tanks insp TN: 12, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

11-13-2025-(1) <24, plow, abs. cell, tanks mound insp TN: 20 , (1) new HT insp TN: 03, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

11-14-2025- (2) SL permit reviewed and issued TN: 07, 18, (1) reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for new HT TN: 18, (1) <24, plow, abs. cell, tanks mound insp TN: 19, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

11-17-2025-(1) reconnect HT insp TN: 22, (1) rep HT insp TN: 21, (1) HTA letter reviewed and sent TN: 22, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

11-18-2025-(1) <24, plow, abs. cell, tanks mound inspection TN: 18, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

11-19-2025- (1) abs. cell, tanks, At-Grade system inspection TN: 14, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

11-20-2025- (1) SL permit reviewed and issued TN: 07, (1) POWTS Onsite insp TN: 17, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

11-21-25- Vacation

11-24-25- Vacation

11-25-2025- Vacation

11-26-2025- Vacation

12-1-2025- (1) Reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for new HT TN: 12, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

12-2-2025- (1) soil evaluation TN:18, (1) conventional inspection V:27, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

12-3-2025-(1) Reviewed soils, plan review, issued permit for new mound TN: 22, (2) POWTS onsite and verification TN: 14, 22, (1) conventional insp TN:13, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

12-4-2025- Organize office, documents, miscellaneous tasks, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

12-5-2025- Out of Office-Sick Leave- Family Emerg.

12-8-2025- (4) POWTS inspection reports written and reviewed TN: 113, 18, 19, 21, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

12-9-2025-, (1) conv. inspection TN: 18, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

12-10-2025- Answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL, review soil and POWTS

evaluation material (s)

12-11-2025- ACE Leadership Program- Nekoosa

12-12-2025- Review soil and POWTS evaluation material (s), answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

12-15-2025-(3) POWTS inspection reports written and reviewed TN: 07, 18, 21 answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

12-16-2025-(4) POWTS inspection reports written and reviewed TN: 04, 13, 20, 22, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

12-17-2025- Out of Office- Sick Leave-Family Emerg.

12-18-2025- Out of Office- Sick Leave-Family Emerg.

12-19-2025- Out of Office- Sick Leave-Family Emerg.

12-22-2025- Review, respond to inquiries about POWTS, shoreland, floodzone issues from previous days, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

12-23-25- (4) POWTS inspection reports written and reviewed TN: 01. 07,15, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL

12-24-25- Holiday

12-25-2025- Holiday

12-26-2025- Vacation

12-29-2025- (1) soil eval reviewed TN: 22, (6) inspection reports reviewed issued TN: 01, 08, 10, 18, V:27, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

12-30-2025- (1) soil eval reviewed TN: 15, (9) POWTS inspection reports written and reviewed TN: 06, 11, 12, 14, 17, 18, 20, answer phone calls and inquires with POWTS, SL, FL.

12-31-2025- Holiday

5. Code Technician (Kayla Rautio)

- A.** Reviewed and approved POWTS & well permit applications
- B.** Reviewed and approved soils evaluations
- C.** Completed inspection reports
- D.** Studied POWTS codes
- E.** Entered information from past well permits into online system and verified well abandonment from Well Filling & Sealing Reports
- F.** Assisted with daily phone calls/emails/office questions

G. Inspections/Investigations:

- 11-26-25: Conventional inspection, TN: 18
- 12-11-25: Conventional inspection, TN: 07
- 12-18-25: Conventional & holding tank inspection, TN: 18

H. Attended Meetings/Trainings/Etc.

- 12-8-25: Annual Review/Evaluation
- 12-9-25: POWTS Chat Update

6. Office Activity (Victoria Wilson & Julie MancI)

- a. Monthly Sanitary and Well Permit Activity – There were 5 sanitary permits and 2 well permits issued as well as 1 CSM processed and 2 recorded in December 2025.
- b. Triennial Program Fee – 386 invoices remain unpaid. A letter from our Corporation Counsel office will be mailed on January 12th to property owners who have not paid the fee.
- c. Attended the following meetings/trainings & activities:
 - i. December 3rd CEED meeting (VW & JM)
 - ii. December 22nd Land Information Council meeting (VW)
 - iii. Wood County Annual Safety training (JM & VW)



Monday, Dec. 15, 2025 @ 2:00pm (Riverblock Auditorium, room 206)

- 1.) The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Leichtnam at 2:00 pm.
- 2.) Public Comment:
 - a. Chair Leichtnam suggested that a statement of “now or at the time of the agenda item” be added to the rules may apply notation after public comment on the agenda.
- 3.) Approve minutes of Nov. 17th 2025 mtg
 - a. Carrell made a motion to adopt the Nov. 17, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Dimick 2nd the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 4.) Correspondence / Updates / Handouts / Reports on meetings attended
 - a. There is a new fire fighting foam that uses soybeans as an alternative to PFA's.
 - b. Shane Wucherpennig shared a map of where Wood County has installed water treatment systems in Wood County
 - c. It was asked if the minutes of the meetings could be shared with the Wood County Judicial and Legislative Committee
- 5.) SRAP Slides on new “Winter Spreading” guidelines
 - a. Socially Responsible Agriculture Project (SRAP) had given a presentation on a new model being developed by students at UW-Madison. The model tracks winter spreading on snow covered fields and will be available to anyone who would like to use it.
 - b. The model is not available yet and the slides are not able to be shared. Once things are ready they will be shared with the group.
- 6.) Wisconsin Conservation Voters Video
 - a. The following videos were shared with the group and were sent via email to the membership. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=305G0OLypFE>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YAS6gtZ2w5M>
- 7.) CEED Action on CWG Rules Draft Document
 - a. Corporation Counsel reviewed the draft document
 - b. The rules are now on file with the CEED committee and are in place for CWG.
- 8.) Disposition of the letter on recommendations from the Alliance for the Great Lakes Report
 - a. Letter was sent out to 127 recipients.

- b. CSGCC and Golden Sands will also be sending out letters with regards to the recommendations in the report.
- 9.) Action from the floor - None
- 10.) Possible agenda items for next meeting
 - a. Please have submitted to Bill or Jen at least one week before the meeting
- 11.) Next mtg.—Jan. 19, 2025, 2025, 2:00 pm
- 12.) Adjourn –
 - a. Motion to adjourn was made by Clendenning and 2nd by Rayome. Motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Chairman Bill Leichtnam adjourned the meeting at 3:10pm.

Present in the meeting: Bill Leichtnam, Jen McNelly, Rhonda Carrell, Bill Clendenning, Bruce Dimick, Tom Rayome, Shane Wucherpennig, Lance Pliml and Ben Jeffery.

Respectfully submitted by Jen McNelly on December 18, 2025

CENTRAL WISCONSIN FARM PROFITABILITY EXPO



Discover how on-farm conservation practices can increase your farm's profitability

The Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo is working to encourage profitable farming by building resiliency, diversifying farming operations, reducing inputs, and increasing farmer return on investment.

Attendees at the expo will learn about:

- Conservation practices farmers can use to increase profitability and self-sufficiency
- How to be good stewards of the land
- Edge of field practices
- Cover crops - what works and what hasn't
- Challenges farmers have experienced while adopting new conservation practices

RSVP IS REQUIRED

To RSVP by January 20th:



Call 715-421-8475 OR



Email landcons@woodcountymn.gov



FREE
LUNCH

When: Tuesday, January 27th

Time: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Where: Blue Heron Brew Pub
108 W 9th Street
Marshfield, WI 54449

This event is sponsored by
Wood County Land & Water Conservation





OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ZONING

DATE: December 30th, 2025
TO: Conservation, Education & Economic Development Committee (CEED)
County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Emmett Simkowski, County Planner
RE: Town of Saratoga – Zoning Map Amendment (Rezoning) and Zoning Text Amendment.

STAFF MEMORANDUM

Introduction:

The Town of Saratoga adopted and administers their own town zoning ordinance. In December 2025, the Town submitted a zoning map amendment and zoning text amendment to the Wood County Planning and Zoning Department for review and approval. The request includes six properties being rezoned and a text amendment refining and clarifying some items in their zoning code. The request is discussed further in this memo.

Background:

Wood County adopted the Wood County Zoning Ordinance #700. This ordinance is in effect in all 22 towns within its jurisdiction. In counties having a county zoning ordinance, no town zoning ordinance or amendment of a zoning ordinance may be adopted unless approved by the County Board of Supervisors Wis. Stat. §60.62(3)(a). This rule also applies to town zoning map amendments, and text amendments.

Analysis

The Town of Saratoga is requesting that Wood County approves six separate rezonings on multiple parcels throughout the Township in which the Town Board has acted on. The requests are as follows:

Parcel: 1800316 – Rural Preservation → Highway Commercial
Parcel: 1800316E – Rural Preservation → Highway Commercial
Parcel: 1800354 – Rural Preservation → Highway Commercial
Parcel: 1800287A – Rural Preservation → Highway Commercial
Parcel: 1800758BA – Rural Preservation → Suburban Residential
Parcel: 1800758B – Rural Preservation → Suburban Residential

All of the parcels being rezoned from Rural Preservation to Highway Commercial are within 1,000 feet of a State Highway and within a commercial corridor. Within the Town's Comprehensive plan, the Town's future land use map identifies a buffer around portions of State Highway 13 and 73 in which these rezonings take place; these rezonings are consistent with that map and the neighboring zoning districts.

The parcels being rezoned from Rural Preservation to Suburban Residential was due to minimum lot size requirements. The property owner desired to split a 2-acre parcel off their parent 32-acre parcel. By rezoning to Suburban residential, this could be accomplished. This rezoning is also consistent with the Town's Comprehensive plan as the land being rezoned is classified as Suburban Residential within the town's future land use map in their plan.



OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ZONING

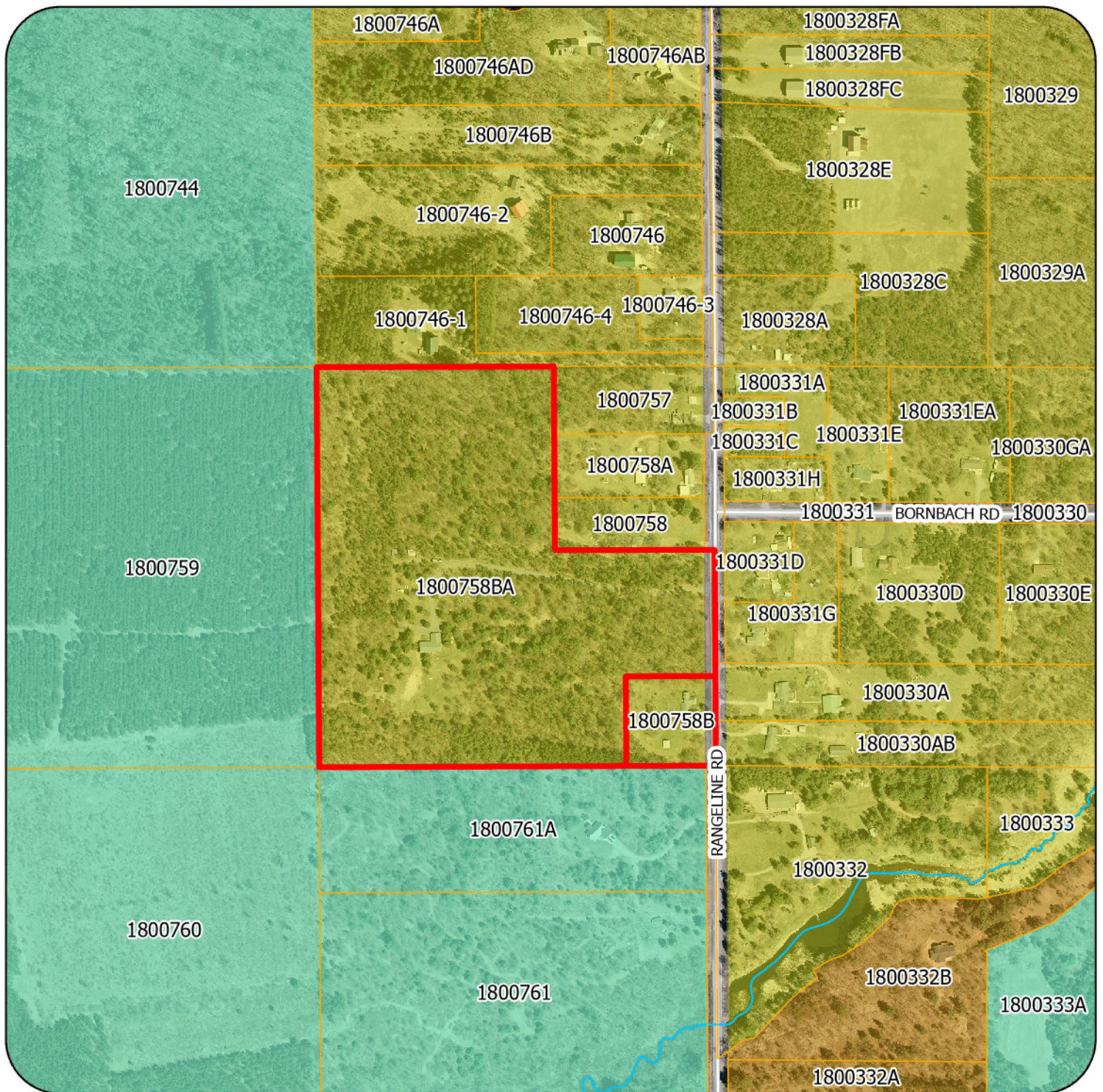
Along with this request, the town has also made some minor changes to their Zoning Ordinance. These changes include adding additional land uses as conditional uses in the Industrial District, clarifying processes in the plan review section, cleaning up redundancies and correcting grammatical errors. County Staff has reviewed the Ordinance and nothing that would conflict with state statute, Wood County Ordinances or plans was noticed. If anyone would like to view the Ordinance, please reach out and I can provide a copy.

Conclusion & Recommendation

County review and decision concerning approval or disapproval of a town rezone is limited to cases of abuse of discretion, excess of power, or error of law. Based on the information submitted to the Planning and Zoning Department, the Town of Saratoga adhered to the process for zoning amendments as outlined in Wis. Stats. The Town Board has acted on the items above and approval was unanimous. Additionally, I find no conflict with any existing county planning documents and zoning programs or ordinances.

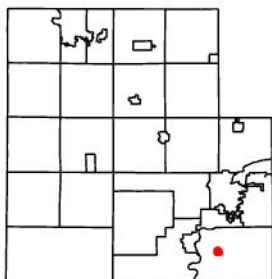
Attachments

1. Parcel Location Maps
2. Resolution



Attachment 1: Location Map

Town of Saratoga, Wood County Wisconsin

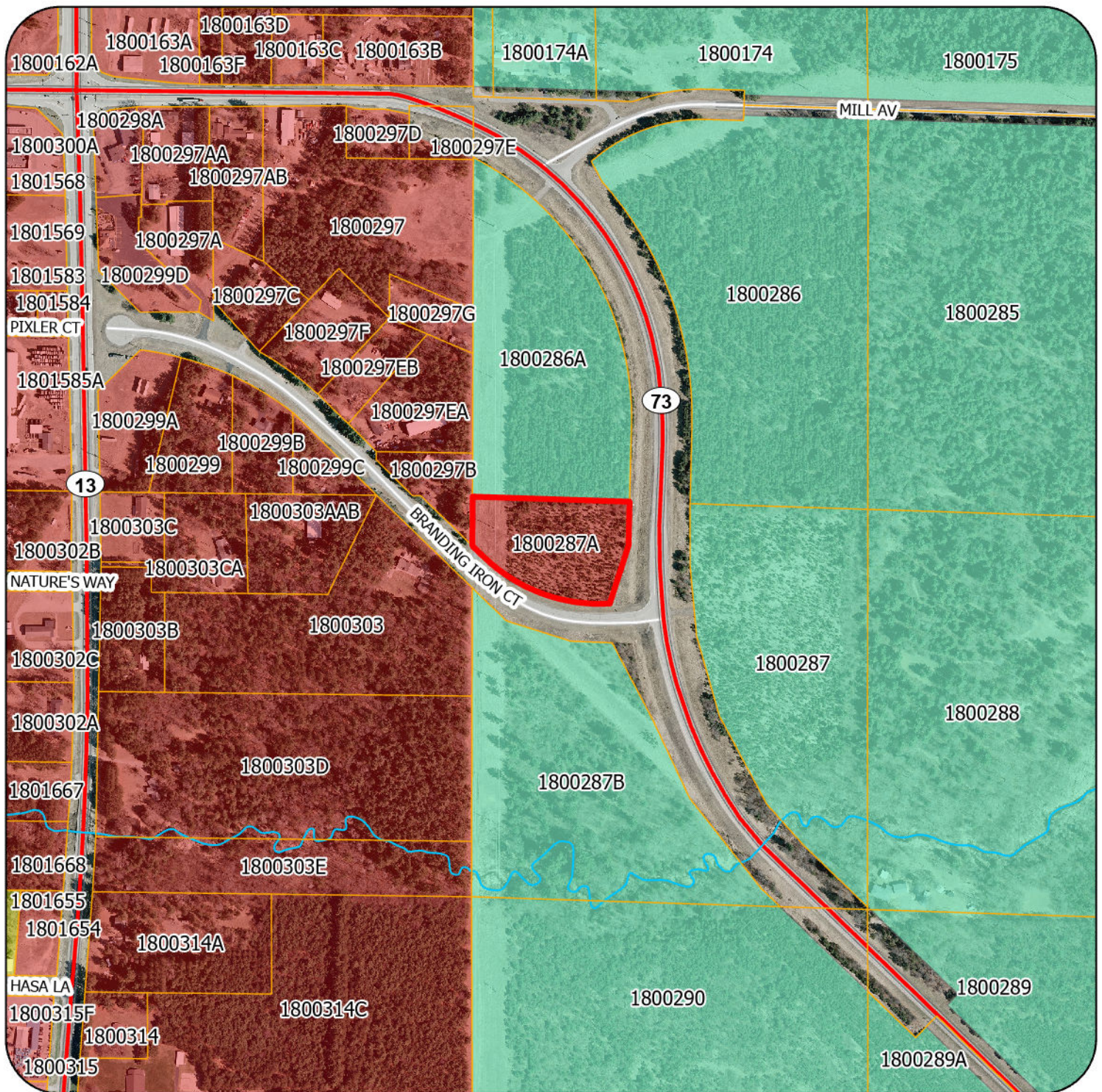


- Rural Preservation District
- Rural Residential District
- Suburban Residential District
- Subject Parcel(s)

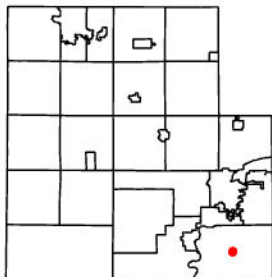


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Map produced by Wood County Planning and Zoning Department for reference purposes only.



Attachment 1: Location Map Town of Saratoga, Wood County Wisconsin

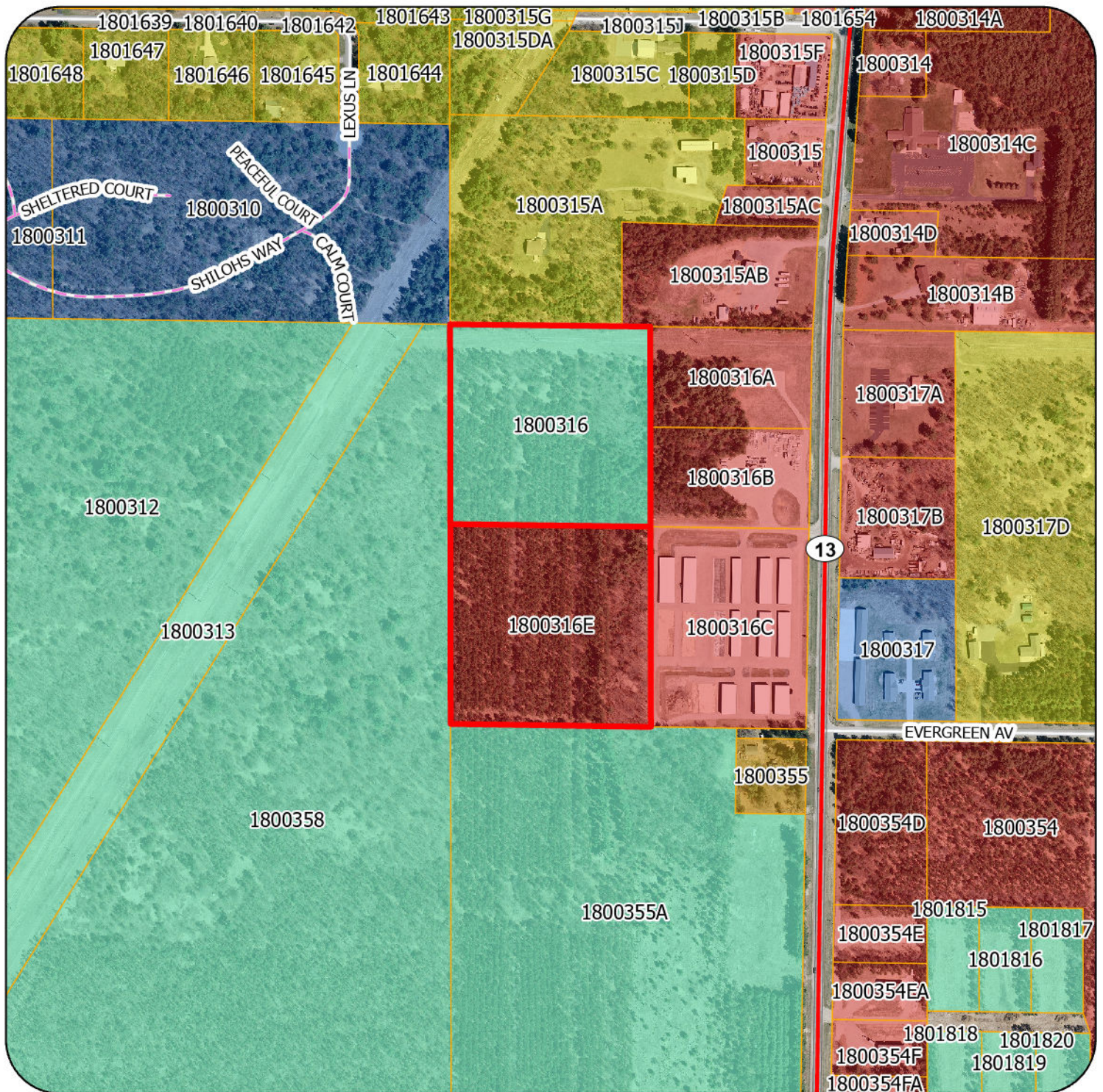


- Highway Commercial District
- Rural Preservation District
- Suburban Residential District
- Subject Parcel(s)



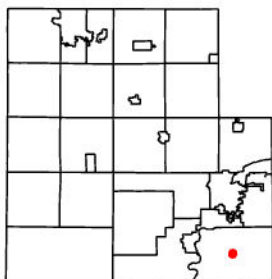
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Attachment 1: Location Map

Town of Saratoga, Wood County Wisconsin

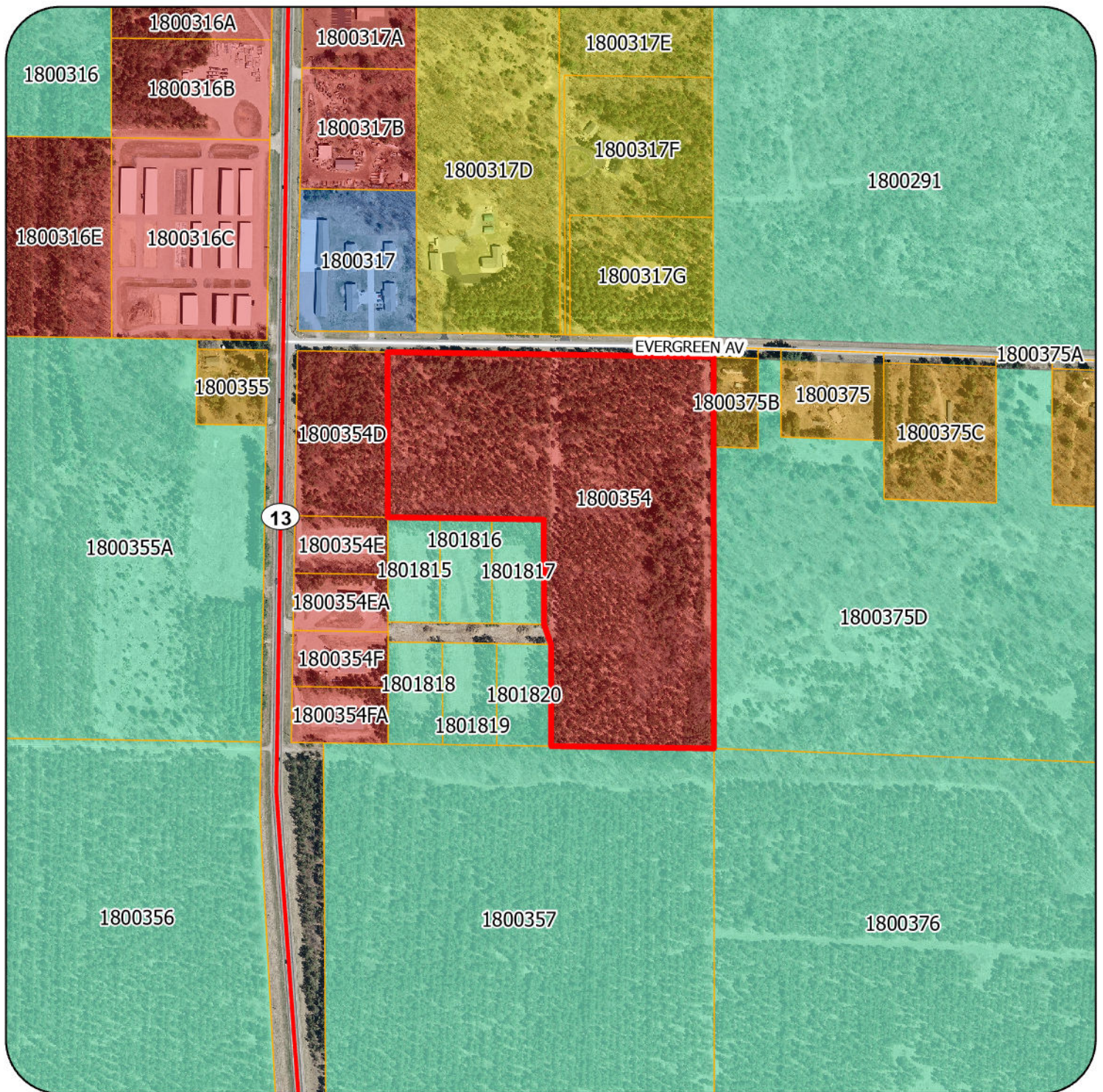


- ▬ Subject Parcel(s)
- Highway Commercial District
- Planned Unit Development Districts - Residential
- Rural Preservation District
- Rural Residential District
- Suburban Residential District



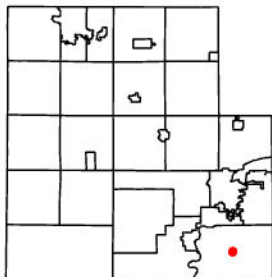
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Attachment 1: Location Map

Town of Saratoga, Wood County Wisconsin



- Highway Commercial District
- Planned Unit Development Districts - Residential
- Rural Preservation District
- Rural Residential District
- Suburban Residential District
- Subject Parcel(s)



0 0.1 0.1 0.2 Miles

Map produced by Wood County Planning and Zoning Department for reference purposes only.



RESOLUTION#

DATE January 20, 2026

Effective
Date

January 20, 2026

Page 1 of 2

Introduced by Conservation, Education, and Economic Development Committee

Motion:	Adopted:	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 st	Lost:	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 nd	Tabled:	<input type="checkbox"/>
No: _____	Yes: _____	Absent: _____
Number of votes required:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Majority	<input type="checkbox"/> Two-thirds	
Reviewed by: _____, Corp Counsel		
Reviewed by: _____, Finance Dir.		

INTENT & SYNOPSIS: Approve an amendment to the Town of Saratoga Official Zoning Ordinance.

FISCAL NOTE: No cost to Wood County.

WHEREAS, the Town of Saratoga adopted and administers a zoning ordinance to promote the health, safety, aesthetics, prosperity, and general welfare of the town; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 60.62(3)(a) Wis. Stats., in counties having a county zoning ordinance, no town zoning ordinance or amendment of a zoning ordinance may be adopted unless approved by the County Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, on December 1st, 2025 the Town of Saratoga submitted an ordinance amendment to the Wood County Department of Planning and Zoning for review and approval pursuant to the Wis. Stats.; and

WHEREAS, county review and decision concerning approval or disapproval of a town zoning amendment is limited to cases of abuse of discretion, excess of power, or error of law; and

WHEREAS, the Wood County Department of Planning and Zoning reviewed the information submitted by the Town of Saratoga and finds the Town adhered to the process for zoning amendments as outlined in the Wis. Stats.; and

WHEREAS, the Wood County Department of Planning and Zoning finds no conflict with any county planning and zoning programs

and ordinances; and

WHEREAS, on January 7, 2026 the Conservation, Education and Economic Development Committee (CEED) reviewed the request and recommended approval; and

Adopted by the County Board of Wood County, January 20, 2026

County Clerk

County Board Chairman

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wood County Board of Supervisors, pursuant to § 60.62(3)(a) Wis. Stats., hereby approves the following amendments to the Town of Saratoga Official Zoning Ordinance:

1. Rezoning of parcel #1800316 located west of 11072 State Highway 13 from Rural Preservation District to Highway Commercial District
2. Rezoning of parcel #1800316E located west of 11078 State Highway 13 from Rural Preservation District to Highway Commercial District
3. Rezoning of parcel #1800354 from Rural Preservation District to Highway Commercial District
4. Rezoning of parcel #1800287A from Rural Preservation to Highway Commercial
5. Rezoning of parcel #1800758BA located at 10720 Rangeline Rd. From Rural Preservation District to Suburban Residential
6. Rezoning of parcel #1800758B located at 10620 Rangeline Rd. From Rural Preservation District to Suburban Residential
7. Zoning text amendments to the Town of Saratoga's Zoning Ordinance