PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION #02-15

Oconto County Planning and Zoning Committee

Drafting of a DATCP Certified Farmland Preservation Zoning District.

WHEREAS, the updated Oconto County 20-Year Comprehensive Plan Including the DATCP certified Farmland Preservation Plan requirements was adopted by the Oconto County Board on March 19, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. Ch. 91 establishes ways for landowners within the adopted farmland preservation area to be eligible to sign Farmland Preservation Agreements and be eligible for tax credits; and

WHEREAS, the two options currently available for landowner eligibility are the creation of a certified farmland preservation zoning ordinance and / or the successful application with DATCP creating an Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA); and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 91.30 grants the county authority to adopt and administer a DATCP certified Farmland Preservation Zoning Ordinance and Wis. Stat. § 91.84 grants DATCP the authority to designate an AEA through an application process; and

WHEREAS, any landowners with lands within the adopted farmland preservation area would be eligible to pursue a 15 year Farmland Preservation Agreement and potentially be eligible for a $7.50/acre tax credit if the lands were zoned for farmland preservation and potentially be eligible for a $5.00/acre tax credit if within an AEA; and

WHEREAS, if the county adopts a DATCP certified zoning ordinance the county would be required to rezone a minimum of eighty percent of the lands within the adopted farmland preservation area per township to this zoning district;

WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Committee have thoroughly reviewed the results of prior planning recommendations and survey results supporting agriculture; considered the impacts that a farmland preservation zoning ordinance would have on non-agricultural development; and considered Planning and Zoning Department budgetary, staffing, and workload impacts and do not feel that pursuing a certified farmland preservation zoning ordinance is in the best interest of Oconto County at this time;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Oconto County Planning and Zoning Committee hereby recommend that the Oconto County Planning and Zoning Department not pursue the development of a DATCP certified farmland preservation zoning ordinance at this time and recommend that county departments assist interested landowners in pursuing AEA applications.

Dated this 26th day of May, 2015.

Resolution introduced and adoption moved by Christianson

Motion for adoption seconded by Brazee

Voting Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Absent:

Approved:

Ron Kozierski
Planning and Zoning Committee Chair

Reviewed by Corporation Counsel:

Attest:

Kenneth Linzmeyer
Planning and Zoning Committee Secretary

Initials of Date Approved

Corp. Counsel