



PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

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To: Members of the Planning and Zoning, Land and Water Conservation, and Agriculture and Extension Education Committees

From: Jeff Schuler, Director *JAS*

Date: August 11, 2016

Re: August 23, 2016 Joint Committee Meeting for Farmland Preservation Plan Review

At our July 26, 2016 meeting, we were able to work through the last 20 pages of the Farmland Preservation Plan draft, settling on the final form of the Issues/Challenges, Anticipated Changes, and Goals/Policies sections. The first 51 pages of the document were previously approved. During our discussion, the Committees made the following changes (please use your 7-26-16 draft copy to verify):

- Top of page 57: Land Legacy Fund is no longer listed on the Community Foundation website, so this reference/section was deleted.
- Top of page 59: paragraph labeled 2, second bullet (Pursue full implementation of water resource protection programs and regulations) deleted. Suggestion made to incorporate the remaining bullet into the preceding paragraph; bullet left in place to match format of adjacent paragraphs.
- Bottom of page 59: copied fourth and fifth bullet points under Key Vision Ideas for Economic Development to paragraph labeled 3 on page 60. The original bullet points were left in place to maintain original intent of adopted Comprehensive Plan language.
- Page 64: bolded the **Need For Water** bullet point text, while also placing the phrase "*while also assuring stakeholders of reasonable use?*" in italics
- Page 68: first Focus statement under Goal 1, changed the word "productivity" to "availability".
- Staff was also asked to bring back recommended language for the (page 52) Agri-tourism and (page 66) Land Use Issues Related to Preserving Farmland sections.

Attached you will find revised pages 52-74 of the document, which reflect the changes and new information. Our job for the August 23rd joint review meeting will be to complete final review of this last section of the Farmland Preservation Plan document. If the new language on pages 52 and 66 meets your needs, you will be able to recommend the entire draft for a Public Hearing at your next meeting. Staff's recommendation would be for the joint Committees to hold a one-hour open house the same night, prior to the Public Hearing. Pending the nature of the commentary at the Public Hearing and subsequent discussion by the joint Committees after testimony is complete, you will be in a position to either direct more research be done, or take the next step and recommend the Portage County Farmland Preservation Plan to the County Board for action.

If you have any questions, or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.