



PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

1462 STRONGS AVENUE, STEVENS POINT, WI 54481 • PHONE: 715-346-1334 • FAX: 715-346-1677

To: County Board of Supervisors
From: Jeff Schuler, Director *JS*
Date: November 2, 2016
R.e.: County Board Action on the Portage County Farmland Preservation Plan

On October 27, 2016, the Planning and Zoning, Land and Water Conservation, and Agriculture and Extension Education Committees, meeting jointly, unanimously passed a resolution formally recommending adoption of the Portage County Farmland Preservation Plan 2016. A copy of the full document was provided to County Supervisors on November 1st so that you would be able to familiarize yourselves with the Plan content and the goals and policies it establishes for the County Board with regard to agriculture and sustainability of the resources that support agriculture in Portage County.

The Resolution contains comprehensive background information detailing the “why” and “how” of the planning process. Planning and Zoning Department staff joins with the joint Committees in recommending adoption of the Plan.

A significant number of people were involved in the drafting of this document, and I would like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank them for their participation. The Farmland Preservation Ad Hoc Steering Committee, made up of a diverse group of people either professionally or personally involved with agriculture in Portage County, did a great job of assembling the initial draft of the Plan, and referring the first cut to the joint Committees. The Ad Hoc Steering Committee was Chaired by Supervisor Barry Jacowski and Co-chaired by Supervisor Dale O’Brien. The joint Committees did a good job of bringing the final details into focus for a Public Hearing and recommendation to the full County Board.

On the staff side, UW-Extension’s Community Development Educator Nathan Sandwick and County Agriculture Agent Ken Schroeder, and County Conservationist Steve Bradley were invaluable for turning ideas from the Committees into text, and Planning and Zoning Department Administrative Associate Patty Benedict created a meaningful and incredibly useful record of the Committees discussions through meeting minutes.

It was a planning process, and resulting document, that Portage County can take pride in.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.