

## **PLANNING, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Monday, August 30, 2010

Administrative Center – Room 3220

4:00 PM

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Don Meyer, Don Bina, Beverly Mach, Dennis Manthei, Marilyn Pedretti, Tina Wehrs

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Bob Keil, Steven Miller

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF & GUESTS:** Jeff Bluske, Bryan Meyer, Gregg Stangl, Charlie Handy, Margaret Norden, Nate Sampson, Karl Green, Steve O'Malley, Barb Kooiman

### **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Chair Don Meyer called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 2, 2010**

**MOTION** by Pedretti/Manthei to approve the Minutes from August 2, 2010. **Motion carried unanimously.** Keil excused.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None requested.

### **SUPERVISOR CONFERENCE REPORTS**

None reported.

### **RESOLUTION RE: DESIGNATION OF THE PALMER/LEWIS OCTAGON HOUSE AS A LA CROSSE COUNTY HISTORIC SITE**

The Resolution was presented by Barb Kooiman, member of the La Crosse County Historic Sites Preservation Commission. The designation of the Palmer/Lewis Octagon House as a county historic site is at the request of the West Salem Historical Society which moved the house to a site in West Salem near the Neshonoc Dam. The house is a unique octagon design, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. **MOTION** by Manthei/Mach to approve the Resolution Re: Designation of the Palmer/Lewis Octagon House as a La Crosse County Historic Site. **Motion carried unanimously.** Keil excused.

### **MEMBERSHIP IN WLWCA**

Gregg Stangl provided background information on the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA). Supervisor Mach, who attended their 2009 annual meeting, read aloud comments from the WLWCA director and newsletter articles regarding WLWCA efforts to lobby on behalf of conservation and provide education. She stated 66 counties are paying membership dues, and she recommended that La Crosse County join the organization. Stangl spoke about the alliances with other conservation organizations that the WLWCA has built. Discussion was held regarding WLWCA dues that are based on each county's equalized value, and the advantages of membership. **MOTION** by Manthei/Pedretti to approve having staff contact the WLWCA to inquire about whether the membership fees could be negotiated for less than a figure based on equalized value, and the estimated cost of a Board member attending their conference, and to bring the information back to committee. **Motion carried unanimously.** Keil, Miller excused.

### **NEED FOR ZONING PETITIONS TO GO TO TOWNSHIPS BEFORE COUNTY BOARD**

Jeff Bluske provided copies of application forms that are given to the public when they petition for zoning changes. He explained that the current procedure is to have staff meet with the petitioner and thoroughly explain the procedure, and to then have the applicant

sign a form that states the applicant is responsible for obtaining town board approval. Chair Meyer drafted a separate form for the petitioner's signature that states the town board must vote on the petition before it is scheduled for public hearing at La Crosse County. Discussion followed regarding the statutory timeline for town hearings, and the challenges town clerks have with notifying neighbors of re-zoning applications. Suggestions were made to delete the reference to a town board vote, and add a place on the form for the date of the town meeting and signature of the town clerk, and to have the petitioner submit the signed form with the legal description and fee. Staff will make revisions and return to committee.

**RESOLUTION RE: A PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR THE PREPARATION, REVIEW, AND ADOPTION OF A FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN FOR LA CROSSE COUNTY**

The Resolution states that the Wisconsin Statutes require written procedures designed to foster public participation in the adoption of a Farmland Preservation Plan. The La Crosse County Farmland Preservation Plan will be developed to be consistent with the La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan. Public participation will be sought via communications including a newsletter, County website, meetings and interviews, press releases, an open house, and a public hearing. **MOTION** by Pedretti/Wehrs to approve the Resolution Re: A Public Participation Plan for the Preparation, Review, and Adoption of a Farmland Preservation Plan for La Crosse County. **Motion carried unanimously.** Keil excused.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Zoning petitions revisions  
WLWCA membership

**RECESS**

**MOTION** by Bina/Pedretti to recess until the 6:00 p.m. public hearing. **Motion carried unanimously.** Keil excused. The meeting recessed at 5:02 p.m.

**Approved,** October 4, 2010, Margaret Norden, Recorder