

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Planning and Development Agency
INITIATED BY



Colin Byrnes
DRAFTED BY

Planning & Development Committee
SUBMITTED BY

October 28, 2014
DATE DRAFTED

**ADOPTING THE ROCK COUNTY AGRICULTURE PRESERVATION PLAN
2013 UPDATE AS AN ELEMENT OF THE ROCK COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE
PLAN**

1 **WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Legislature adopted the Chapter 91 Farmland Preservation Act as an
2 incentive for property owners to preserve agricultural land; and,

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the Rock County Board of Supervisors, through Resolution 10-5B-049 (May 27, 2010),
5 authorized acceptance of \$30,000 grant funding from Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and
6 Consumer Protection (DATCP) to develop the Plan and tasked the Agency with coordinating Plan
7 development; and,

8
9 **WHEREAS**, a working group of technical and policy representatives from the Towns and Rock County
10 worked together in preparing the draft of this proposed plan which was reviewed and recommended for a
11 public hearing by the Planning and Development Committee; and,

12
13 **WHEREAS**, the Agriculture Preservation Plan 2013 Update is comprised of the Towns' land use plans
14 then prepared by Rock County Planning and Development Department; and,

15
16 **WHEREAS**, the plan will help to facilitate Farmland Preservation for the benefit of the citizens and the
17 economy of Rock County; and,

18
19 **WHEREAS**, those Towns who choose to participate need to update their respective Town Zoning
20 Ordinances and have those Ordinances certified by DATCP in order for landowners to be eligible for
21 Farmland Preservation Tax Credits; and,

22
23 **WHEREAS**, The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection issued an order
24 certifying the Agricultural Preservation Plan under s. 91.16 Wis. Stats.; and,

25
26 **WHEREAS**, a Public Hearing was held on November 13, 2014 by the Rock County Planning and
27 Development Committee.

28
29 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled
30 this 26 day of November, 2014 does hereby approve and adopt the Rock County Agriculture
31 Preservation Plan 2013 Update as an element of the Rock County Comprehensive Plan.

32
33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that if the Town Board of a Town participating in this plan rezones a
34 parcel of land, the appropriate amendment to the plan shall be automatically made so as to reflect the
35 Town zoning change without the need for additional County action.

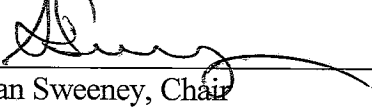
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ADOPTING THE ROCK COUNTY AGRICULTURE PRESERVATION PLAN 2013 UPDATE AS AN ELEMENT OF THE ROCK COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

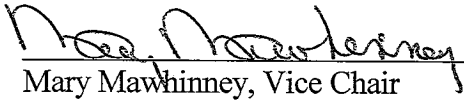
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Respectfully submitted,

Planning and Development Committee



Alan Sweeney, Chair



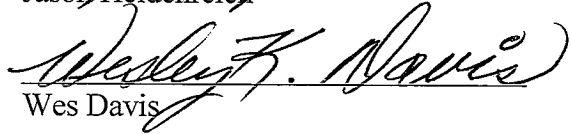
Mary Mawhinney, Vice Chair

Absent

Wayne Gustina



Jason Heidenreich



Wes Davis

FISCAL NOTE:

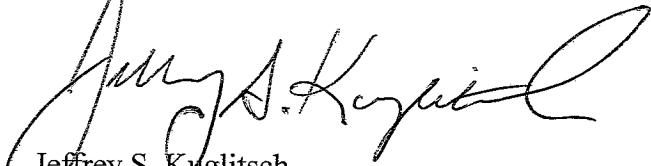
This resolution approves the Rock County Agriculture Preservation Plan 2013 Update. No fiscal impact in and by itself.



Sherry Oja
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

Rock County is authorized to take this action pursuant to Secs. 59.01, 59.51 and 91.10, Wis. Stats.



Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.



Josh Smith
County Administrator

**ROCK COUNTY AGRICULTURE PRESERVATION PLAN 2013 UPDATE
AS AN ELEMENT OF THE
ROCK COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

The Rock County Agriculture Preservation Plan was last updated in 2005. The purpose of an agriculture preservation plan is to help preserve our high quality agricultural lands and to help farmland owners qualify for the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program. This plan was drafted in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 91 Farmland Preservation which requires it to do the following:

State the county's policy related to farmland preservation and agricultural development, including the development of enterprises related to agriculture.

Identify, describe, and document all of the following:

1. Agricultural uses of land in the county at the time that the farmland preservation plan is adopted, including key agricultural specialties, if any.
2. Key agricultural resources, including available land, soil, and water resources.
3. Key infrastructure for agriculture, including key processing, storage, transportation, and supply facilities.
4. Significant trends in the county related to agricultural land use, agricultural production, enterprises related to agriculture, and the conversion of agricultural lands to other uses.
5. Anticipated changes in the nature, scope, location, and focus of agricultural production, processing, supply, and distribution.
6. Goals for agricultural development in the county, including goals related to the development of enterprises related to agriculture.
7. Actions that the county will take to preserve farmland and to promote agricultural development.
8. Key land use issues related to preserving farmland and to promoting agricultural development and plans for addressing those issues.
9. Clearly identify areas that the county plans to preserve for agricultural use and agriculture related uses, which may include undeveloped natural resource and open space areas but may not include any area that is planned for nonagricultural development within 15 years after the date on which the plan is adopted.

Once adopted, the Plan provides an opportunity for Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program financial incentives to farmland owners, who may apply for agricultural preservation income tax credits, as part of their Wisconsin income taxes. To claim a tax credit, landowners must be located in an area zoned and certified for farmland preservation and must have \$6,000 in gross farm revenue in the past year or \$18,000 in the past three years.

The Rock County Agriculture Preservation Plan was certified by the State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection on April 11, 2014.