

MINUTES

Blue Earth County Planning Commission

Regular Meeting

Wednesday May 2, 2018

7:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Lyle Femrite. Planning Commission members present were Bill Anderson, Kurt Anderson, Kip Bruender, Lyle Femrite, Barry Jacques, Michael Riley, and Joe Smentek. County staff members Garett Rohlfing, Aaron Stubbs, George Leary, and Jaclyn Essandoh were also present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Jacques made a motion to approve the minutes for the April 4th, 2018 regular Planning Commission meeting. Mr. Smentek seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Leary indicated there was no change to the agenda.

4. NEW BUSINESS

PC 08-18

Kevin & Jennifer Doyen - Request for review and approval of a Conditional Use Permit to construct and operate one 102' x 192' Total Confinement Hog Barn capable of housing 2,400 finishing pigs or 960 animal units. This site will utilize an 8 foot below-barn liquid manure storage area. The property is zoned Agricultural and is located in the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter all in Section 29, Lyra Township.

Mr. Rohlfing presented the staff report.

The applicant was present and made no further comment. There was no public comment.

Mr. Femrite commented that staff had done an excellent job of preparing this report and mentioned that he had no issues with the request. There were no comments or questions from members of the Planning Commission.

Mr. Smentek continued with a motion to approve the request with the findings and conditions proposed by staff. Mr. Bill Anderson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

PC 12-18

Robert Weerts - Request for review and approval of a Conditional Use Permit to open a two-acre clay borrow site. The property is zoned Agricultural and is located in the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 33, Medo Township.

Mr. Leary presented the staff report.

The applicant was present and made no further comment. There was no public comment.

Mr. Femrite commented that staff had done a good job of presenting the details of the proposal. There were no comments or questions from members of the Planning Commission.

Mr. Bill Anderson continued with a motion to approve the request with the findings and conditions proposed by staff. Mr. Jacques Anderson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

PC 13-18

Blue Earth County - Request for review and approval of a Conditional Use Permit to allow for the expansion of an existing clay borrow pit. The proposed expansion will be used to facilitate future cell construction at the County's Ponderosa Landfill and the NSP Ash Landfill. The project will consist of a series of three, 10-acre phases, and is projected to provide enough clay to meet the needs of this site for the life of the Ponderosa Landfill. The property is zoned Conservation, and the proposed project area is located in part of the Southern Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 32, South Bend Township.

Mr. Stubbs presented the staff report.

The applicants were represented by Chuck Donkers, project manager with Xcel Energy. Mr. Donkers asked that members of the Planning Commission consider revising the hours of operation for Saturdays from the allowed 7am-12pm to 7am-5pm due to the limited window they have to complete the project. There was no public comment.

Mr. Femrite commented that staff had done a good job of presenting the details. Mr. Jacques added that the extension of the hours was acceptable because the proposal is located in a remote area with only one residential facility within a ¼ mile radius.

Mr. Smentek continued with a motion to approve the request with the findings and conditions proposed by staff and with the change of hours for Saturday from 7am to 5pm. Mr. Bruender seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Jacques made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Smentek seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Planning Commission Chair

Date

Planning Commission Secretary

Date