AGENDA

Rock County Planning, Economic & Community Development Agency – Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – Farmland Preservation

November 20th, 2012 – 6:30 p.m.

Planning Department, East Wing, Room 266 – Rock County Courthouse

51 S. Main Street, Janesville

THIS IS NOT A PUBLIC HEARING

1) Approval of Agenda

2) Citizen Participation and Committee Communications and Announcements

3) INFORMATION ITEM: Changes/Edits to *Rock County Agriculture Plan: 2012 Update – Draft*

4) ACTION ITEM: Approval and Recommendation of *Rock County Agriculture Plan: 2012 Update – Draft: 10-15-2012*

5) General Comment and Discussion

6) Wrap Up and Next Steps

7) Adjournment

NOTE: It is possible that members of and possibly a quorum of other governmental bodies of Rock County may be in attendance at the above-stated meeting to gather information: any governmental body at the above-stated meeting will take no formal action.

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 7, 2012

To: Town Board and Planning and Zoning Committee Chairs and Rock County Farmland Preservation Technical Advisory Committee

From: Paul Benjamin, Director

Re: *Rock County Agriculture Plan: 2012 Update* – **Rock County Farmland Preservation Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – November 20th, 2012 at 6:30**

The Rock County Planning, Economic & Community Development Agency (Agency) has been working on updating the *Rock County Agriculture Plan* (formerly called the "*Rock County Farmland Preservation Plan*") over the past two years. Completion of the Plan, and adoption by the Rock County Board of Supervisors, will provide the County with a "comprehensive" agriculture plan to aid in maintaining and enhancing the County's agricultural resources, communities, and economy, and will also ensure that eligible landowners in the County's Towns are eligible for the State of Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation Tax Credit.

As consistency between the Plan and the Town's zoning ordinances and comprehensive plans are required in accordance with state statute, Town input and involvement throughout the Plan development process is vital. As such, Agency staff has met with each of the 20 Towns in the County on multiple occasions to ensure that the Plan will be consistent with and reflects each Town's future agriculture and land use vision, as identified in each Town's comprehensive plan future land use map and zoning map. Agency staff is currently in the process of working with the Towns to complete maps that will identify landowners in each Town that are potentially eligible for the Farmland Preservation Tax Credit. Once these maps are completed, they will be incorporated into the plan as Maps 13.5 and 13.6a – t (Map 13.5, the County map, will be a composite of all the Town maps.).

The Rock County Farmland Preservation Technical Advisory (TAC) Committee, representing various stakeholder interests throughout Rock County, including Towns, was formed at the beginning of the Plan development process to help guide Plan formation. The TAC has met at three publicly-noticed meetings, with a fourth meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, November 20th at 6:30 p.m., at the Conference Room of the Rock County Planning and Development Agency, Rock County Courthouse, 51 S. Main St., Janesville.** At this meeting, the TAC will be reviewing a final draft of the Plan, with a goal of recommending the draft Plan onto the Rock County Planning and Development Committee for their review, and eventually adoption by the Rock County Board of Supervisors.

A copy of the meeting agenda and the draft plan are located at the Rock County Planning and Development Agency and at the Rock County Clerk's Office at 51 S. Main Street, Janesville, WI.

If you have any questions, or need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 608.757.5583 or benjamin@co.rock.wi.us. I thank you for your time and effort.

cc: Wade Thompson, NIUMS