

Press Release

Farmland Preservation/Comprehensive Planning meetings begin

The process of developing the Marquette County Farmland Preservation Plan and updating the County Comprehensive plan began on December 4th when committees met with the planning consultant. MDRoffers has been contracted to work with the Farmland Preservation Plan Steering Committee, the Planning and Zoning Committee and other County Committees and staff to prepare both an updated Farmland Preservation Plan and to update the County Comprehensive Plan. A Farmland Preservation Plan is required under the 2009 Working Lands Initiative for property owners to be eligible for farmland preservation tax credits. In addition, State Statute 66.1001 requires that communities review their comprehensive plans at least once every 10 years. The County and local comprehensive plans were adopted in 2005. Once complete the Farmland Preservation Plan will be incorporated into the County Comprehensive Plan as the Agricultural Element.

Beginning January 14th local officials will meet with MDRoffers to provide their input on the Farmland Preservation Plan as it applies in their community. There will be a total of four meetings during this initial series with local officials being asked to attend one. Input received will then be used by the Farmland Preservation Plan Steering Committee to begin the process of developing the plan. At the meeting local officials will also be given guidance on the procedure for updating their local comprehensive plans if they choose to.

The County did receive a grant from DATCP to assist in the cost of developing the Farmland Preservation Plan. The planning process is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2015.

Current Comprehensive Plans can be viewed at

http://www.co.marquette.wi.us/Departments/Zoning/comp_planning.html

and soon the site will begin providing information on the current planning process. If you have questions please contact Tom Onofrey-Zoning Administrator at 608-297-3036 or

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