

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Planning & Development Agency
INITIATED BY



Colin Byrnes
DRAFTED BY

Planning & Development Committee
SUBMITTED BY

July 23, 2018
DATE DRAFTED

ROCK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION PLAN 2013 UPDATE
MAP AMENDMENT

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 14-11D-158 (November 20,
5 2014), adopted the Rock County Agricultural Preservation Plan 2013 Update as an element of the Rock
6 County Comprehensive Plan, and through Resolution 15-12A-439 (December 10, 2015), and through
7 Resolution 16-12A-183 (December 15, 2016) amended the Rock County Agricultural Preservation Plan
8 2013 Update; and,
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the Plan is comprised of the Towns' land use plans then prepared by the Rock County
11 Planning and Development Agency; and,
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the Plan will help to facilitate Farmland Preservation for the benefit of the citizens and
14 economy of Rock County; and,
15

16 **WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has
17 requested changes to the Farmland Preservation Plan Map for consistency between the Plan and the Town
18 of Magnolia Zoning Ordinance to allow landowners to receive Farmland Preservation Tax Credits; and,
19

20 **WHEREAS**, DATCP issued an order certifying the Farmland Preservation Plan Text and Map
21 Amendment under s. 91.16 Wis. Stats. through December 31, 2024; and,
22

23 **WHEREAS**, a Public Hearing was held on August 9, 2018 by the Rock County Planning and
24 Development Committee.
25

26 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled
27 this 9th day of August, 2018 does hereby amend the Rock County Preservation Plan
28 2013 Update Plan Map.

Respectfully submitted,

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Alan Sweeney, Chair

Mary Mawhinney, Vice Chair

ABSENT / EXCUSED

Wes Davis

Wayne Gustina

Phillip Owens

18-8A-062

Rock County Agricultural Preservation Plan 2013 Update Map Amendment
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FISCAL NOTE:

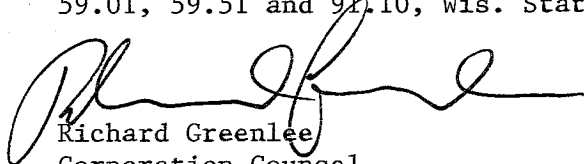
No fiscal impact.



Sherry Oja
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

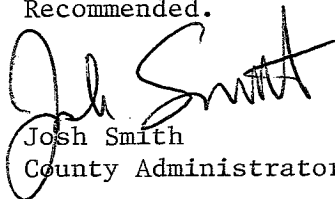
Rock County is authorized to take this action pursuant to secs.
59.01, 59.51 and 91.10, Wis. Stats.



Richard Greenlee
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.



Josh Smith
County Administrator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Rock County Agricultural Preservation Plan 2013 Update was adopted November 20, 2014 and Plan Map Amendments were adopted December 10, 2015 and December 15, 2016 by the Rock County Board. The purpose of an agricultural preservation plan is to help preserve our high quality agricultural lands and to help farmland owners qualify for the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program. The Plan was drafted in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 91 Farmland Preservation which requires it, among other things, to “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 an area that is planned for nonagricultural development within fifteen (15) years after the date on which the plan is adopted”.

Once it was adopted, the Plan provided 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, the landowner must be located in an area zoned on the Town zoning map and certified for farmland preservation on the Plan Map and must have \$6,000 in gross farm revenue in the past year or \$18,000 in the past three (3) years.

Recently, Planning and Development Agency Staff have assisted the Town of Magnolia with the certification process. In order for the Town of Magnolia to be certified for Farmland Preservation tax credits, the Town Zoning Map and the Rock County Farmland Preservation Plan Map must be consistent with respect to eligible and non-eligible parcels for tax credits. During the Town of Magnolia Zoning certification process, areas of inconsistency were noted. Typically, as the Town reviews their Zoning Map, specific issues arise and changes are made. This potentially creates an inconsistency with the previously adopted Rock County Farmland Preservation Plan Map. In order to resolve these inconsistencies, the Rock County Planning, Economic and Community Development Agency is recommending an amendment to the Farmland Preservation Plan Map.