

**RESOLUTION  
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Planning and Development Agency  
INITIATED BY



Colin Byrnes  
DRAFTED BY

Planning & Development Committee  
SUBMITTED BY

November 30, 2015  
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 incentive
- 2 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
- 7
- 8 **WHEREAS**, the Plan is a comprised of the Towns' land use plans then prepared by Rock County Planning
- 9 and Development Department; and,
- 10
- 11 **WHEREAS**, the Plan will help to facilitate Farmland Preservation for the benefit of the citizens and the
- 12 economy of Rock County; and,
- 13
- 14 **WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has
- 15 requested changes to the Farmland Preservation Plan Map in the Towns of Bradford, Beloit, Janesville and
- 16 Turtle for consistency between the Plan and Town Zoning Ordinances and,
- 17
- 18 **WHEREAS**, The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection issued an order
- 19 certifying the Farmland Preservation Plan Text and Map Amendment under s. 91.16 Wis. Stats. Through
- 20 December 31, 2024; and,
- 21
- 22 **WHEREAS**, a Public Hearing was to be held on December 10, 2015 by the Rock County Planning and
- 23 Development Committee.
- 24
- 25 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled
- 26 this 10th day of December, 2015 does hereby amend the Rock County Agricultural Preservation Plan 2013
- 27 Update Plan Map as certified by DATCP on November 23, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alan Sweeney, Chair

Absent  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Mawhinney, Vice Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne Gustina

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Heidenreich

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wes Davis

15-12A-439

ROCK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION PLAN 2013 UPDATE MAP AMENDMENT

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FISCAL NOTE:

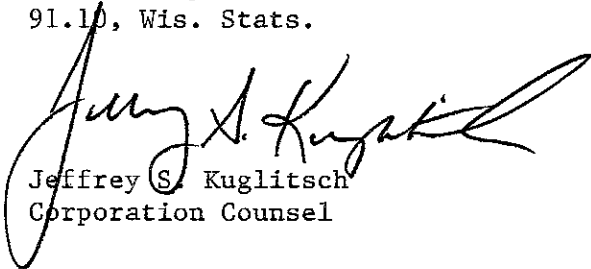
No direct fiscal impact to County operations.



Sherry Oja  
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

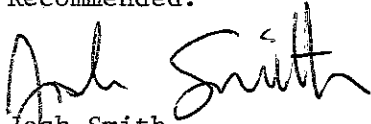
Rock County is authorized to take this action pursuant to secs. 59.01, 59.51 and 91.10, Wis. Stats.



Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch  
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

  
Josh Smith  
County Administrator

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Rock County Agricultural Preservation Plan 2013 Update was adopted November 20, 2014 and a Plan Map Amendment was adopted on May 14, 2015 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 the 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 any area that is planned for nonagricultural development within 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 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.

In order for a Town 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 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 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 in the Towns of Bradford, Beloit, Janesville and Turtle.

The Rock County Agricultural Preservation Plan Map Amendment was certified by DATCP on November 23, 2015.