

## REDWOOD COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

### MINUTES

Meeting Date: January 5, 2015

A meeting of the Redwood County Planning Commission convened on Monday, the 5th day of January, 2015, at the Redwood County Government Center.

The following members of the Redwood County Planning Commission were present: David Mattison, Mark Madsen, Mike Scheffler, John Rohlik, Jr and Commissioner John Schueller. Also present were the following individuals: Land Use & Zoning Supervisor Nick Brozek, Zoning Administrator Jon Mitchell and Citizens: Mike Boerboom, Denis Goblirsch, Cindy Goblirsch, Ryan Goblirsch, Jared Anez, Betsy Goblirsch, Matt Schueller, Wanda Wandersee, Darwin Pless, Judy Pless, Sharon Hollatz, Lon Walling, Priscilla Klabunde and Jeff Bauman. Absent was: Planning Commissioner Kent Runkel.

At approximately 1:00 p.m., Chairman Dave Mattison called the meeting to order.

At approximately 1:02 p.m., Chairman Mattison called to order a public hearing (continued) on an *Animal Confinement Feedlot Conditional Use Permit Application*, No. 13-14 submitted by Denis and Ryan Goblirsch to construct a new 1800-head total confinement swine finishing barn.

Chairman Mattison reviewed the material that was presented at the December 29, 2014 meeting. He then asked for any information/research that had been obtained related to filters, set-backs, etc.

Brozek presented the following information to the Planning Commission:

1. Disclosed that Darwin and Judy Pless are his in-laws; feels there is no conflict of interest, has discussed this fact with Ryan and Denis Goblirsch, and included it in the initial notice sent to the Planning Commissioners. Jon Mitchell will take over to explain any recommendations from the Environmental Office or in giving advice to the PC.
2. The plan at the December 29 meeting was to research the following:
  - a. Bio-filters
  - b. Electrostatic ionization systems
  - c. The University of Minnesota odor model
  - d. Other counties ordinances
3. The U of M model: comes out with a “non-annoying odor factor.” Nick ran the model three ways: as the current barns exist, with the new barns as proposed (with no filters) and with the new barns with filters.

Drew a chart to show what “annoyance free” means and displayed it for the audience, also described how the U of M came up with the rating system. (Annoyance free does not mean “free of odor.”)

As the barns exist now, they have a rating of 96% annoyance free for the Pless model and 94% for the Wandersee model. 1% = 7 hours, which equals 28 hours per month of annoyance for Pless and 42 per month for Wandersee.

With the addition of the proposed barn, the rating drops to 95% annoyance free for Pless and 92% for Wandersee, and add seven (7) hours of annoyance per month for each 1% of additional annoyance. Also ran for Huhnerkoch and Kapsner residences and Hwy 19.

4. Other county ordinances: Some counties use the model when it applies to variances, etc. and some counties actually have it built in to their ordinance and have set limits of how much annoyance factor can be present.
5. Bio-filters: Information made available to the Planning Commission Members via email prior to today’s meeting: Information from the U of M Extension service, a study conducted by the University of Nebraska and an article from Blue Earth County that was regarding Dodge County’s requirement to have bio-filters.  
Described how bio-filters operate and “scrub” the air coming from the barn out the fan. Primarily used for pit fans, not wall fans that are operational in tunnel barns.  
Explained a brochure received from PORC, LLC and the costs they associate with installing fans. PORC, LLC informed Ryan Goblirsch that they only put bio filters on pit fans, not wall fans. When asked approximately how much it would cost, Ryan explained that they are not willing at this time to install filters on their existing pit fans. They are, however, willing to try some things on their own voluntarily. He also discussed the approximate cost of them adding filters to various pit fans.  
Brozek read aloud the language Renville County uses when/if they require bio filters on barns.
6. Schueller inquired about trees and how they may fit into the U of M model. Trees are not considered in the model when factoring annoyance rating. The gentleman who designed the model has stated in his opinion that trees do not make any difference.
7. Mike Boerboom from Boerboom Ag Resources in Marshall, MN spoke: in the few cases in Lyon County where bio filters were required, it was to bring the annoyance factor over the required 94% minimum and they were on existing barn that were within ¼ mile of residences.
8. Electrostatic Ionization Systems: Brozek referred to a study done by the University of Kansas. The study showed that the EIS reduces particulate dust and matter in the air, but made no difference in the amount of ammonia or hydrogen-sulfide concentrations. They are only about 18% effective at reducing odor emitted from the barn.

Members of the public in favor of the project: Ryan Goblirsch, Mike Boerboom, Jared Anez, Matt Schueller and Wanda Wandersee all spoke in favor of the project:

- A. Ryan: he is the party pursuing the project, gave history of the site, they currently use pit additives to help control odor, 3<sup>rd</sup> generation farmer with sons, wrote a letter to the PC and the County Commissioners.
- B. Mike: Boerboom Ag Services has worked with Goblirschs for 20<sup>+</sup> years, they own the pigs that are in the Goblirschs barns, and the Goblirschs are “excellent pig caretakers,” they have embraced new technology to help with pest and odor control.
- C. Jared: Owns Anez Consulting out of Willmar. They have been working with the Goblirschs on the technical application and manure management plan for the county, state and federal permits. Nick covered many of the points Jared was going to discuss. They also ran the model (for the Pless residence only) and came within 1% point of what Nick did. Urged the PC to find a “standard.” The Goblirschs are willing to plant trees, vent the fan to the North (instead of the proposed South), and slide the footprint of the barn to the extent their current (state/federal) permit allows it.
  - i. Ryan – the barn would be “slid” 50’ to the south as they (Goblirschs and Environmental) feel the fan may be a nuisance to the north as well. Mitchell later explains that the fans blowing to the north may cause hazardous road conditions.
  - ii. Jared continued to explain that in his experience, pit fans don’t hold up well and need maintenance, etc. 5-10 years out, they don’t function properly.
  - iii. Madsen raised the question of pit additives. Were they using anything prior to the bio spheres that they’ve been using for 3-4 years, it takes time for the pits to become “clean,” some pits just smell more than others.
  - iv. Dennis answered that he used to use “Pit Remedy” and that just didn’t work. Since switching to the bio-spheres, the pumper remarked that the pits are cleaner and more manure solids are coming out.
- D. Matt: part-time employee for the Goblirschs, cleanest barns he has worked in, easy to breath, continues to work there vs. other sites.
- E. Wanda: residential neighbor to the east of Goblirschs, she is the closest neighbor. Has noticed a reduction in smell since they changed chemicals, if she had a real issue with it, she’d have called the Environmental Office with complaints.

Members of the public opposed to the project: Darwin and Judy Pless.

1. Darwin and his wife Judy run a business “Hilltop Harvest” at their residence, which is a “Century Farm,” as well.
2. Understands the reluctance to use “new” technology, but now it is 11 years old
3. Feels raising the number of pigs will raise the level of odor
4. The season at the berry farm is approximately 20 days long and if they lose even 3-4 days because of odor, they can’t recover those days, it’s approximately a \$2,000 loss
5. Felt after the last meeting that the Goblirschs would attempt to do the “neighborly thing” and try to eliminate as much odor as possible, but doesn’t feel after the testimony given that they are making an effort.
6. Windy days are not the problem...its calm, humid days when the smell is the worst.
7. Was prepared to support a barn with a filtration system, but feels like they are unwilling to try that.

8. Really just wants to see a “good-faith effort” on the part of the Goblirschs

The meeting was recessed for 5 minutes at 2:15 so Ryan and his “team” could discuss some possibilities for mitigating odor.

When the meeting re-convened, Ryan, Mike and Jared were up to speak:

- A. Willing to install three (3) bio-filters on the new barn. The filters will be installed on the minimum ventilation fans, which never shut off.
- B. Would like to accomplish this with a non-purchase technology, that they could do themselves. Willing to work with Environmental Office to ensure they are approved.
- C. Trying to watch their costs and make things cost-effective
- D. The filters will be installed upon completion of construction and before it is filled with animals.
- E. There will be approximately seven (7) fans that will not have filters.
- F. It’s impossible to filter all of the air running through the fans
- G. Filters reduce the fan efficiency
- H. The more fans that are filtered, the more fans would be necessary
- I. Concerned they are setting a new standard for someone else that may come in to apply for a feedlot

Schueller mentioned that in the 25 years he has been around, they have never had a tool like the U of M model. They can’t really go by other barns and the model is not in the Redwood County ordinance, but it is nice to see, because it will help in the future to measure the impact of barns.

Mattison brought up the possibility of the measures taken by Goblirsch not being sufficient. Would the PC then be able to bring them back in again? Brozek responded by stating that would really only happen if the applicants were not in compliance with their permit.

Jared Anez asked for specific language stating which fans the filters will be installed on, the design of the filters will be approved by the Environmental Office and that if they built them to the agreed upon design and maintained them, they would be in compliance and not open to more restrictions.

The hearing was closed at 2:45 p.m.

There were several recommended changes to the conditions which are as follows:

#18 now includes language that reads, “...except by approval of the Zoning Administrator.”

#19 states: “The new 61’ by 240’ barn will be turned 180 degrees from the proposed orientation in the design submitted by the applicant so that the end fans blow north instead of south. The new barn will be moved directly south for the maximum distance allowed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; however, the barn will not be moved any further south than the southernmost existing feedlot barn on the site.”

#20 states: "A biofilter system to reduce odors, as outlined in the University of Minnesota Extension Service bulletin dated March 2004 entitled Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Update or any updates to this bulletin or other new technology that meets or exceeds the bulletin standards, will be established prior to the placement of animals. The biofilter system will be continuously maintained to reduce odors. The pit fans will run continuously into the biofilter year-round. The biofilter system condition shall apply to the three continuously running minimum ventilation fans on the new barn only."

On a motion made by Madsen and seconded by Rohlik it was moved and passed unanimously that the *Animal Confinement Feedlot Conditional Use Permit Application*, No. 13-14 submitted by Denis and Ryan Goblirsch be recommended for approval by the Redwood County Board of Commissioners subject to the twenty-one (21) recommended conditions plus amendments and three (3) additional conditions.

On a motion by Scheffler seconded by Rohlik, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

  
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Nicholas Brozek  
Land Use & Zoning Supervisor  
Redwood County Environmental Office

  
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Mark Madsen, Chairman  
Redwood County Planning Commission

# Redwood County Planning Commission Meeting

Date: 1-5-15

NAME (Please <b>PRINT</b> legibly)	MAILING ADDRESS (Street, City, State and ZIP code)
<u>Mike Boerboom</u>	<u>3173 State Hwy 19</u> <u>Marshall, MN 56258</u>
<u>Ryan Goblirsch</u>	<u>25138 St. Hwy 19</u> <u>RWF, MN 56283</u>
<u>JARED ANEZ</u>	<u>1700 Technology Dr. NE</u> <u>Suite 130 Willmar, MN 56201</u>
<u>Jeff Bauman</u>	<u>1700 Technology Dr. Suite 130</u> <u>Willmar, MN 56201</u>
<u>Denis GOBLIRSCH</u>	<u>306 E Cook ST Redwood</u> <u>306 E Cook St - RWF</u>
<u>Cindy Goblirsch</u>	
<u>Betsy Goblirsch</u>	<u>25138 State Hwy 19</u> <u>Redwood Falls, MN 56283</u>
<u>Sam, Gabe + Nathan Goblirsch</u>	
<u>Darwin &amp; Judy Pless</u>	<u>33343 Hunter Ave</u> <u>Redwood Falls, MN 56283</u>
<u>Matt Schueller</u>	<u>26176 Sack Ave</u> <u>Wabasso, MN 56293</u>
<u>WANDA WANDERSEE</u>	<u>25540 St. Hwy 19</u> <u>Redwood Falls, MN 56283</u>
<u>Sharon Holbaty</u> <u>Don Mallin</u> <u>Priscilla Klabunde</u>	<u>Red Co Comm</u> " "