

ZORAC Kickoff Meeting Notes

October 1, 2025

Project Overview

- Meeting began with a presentation from Project Manager, Orrin Sumwalt, providing background information and an overview of project.
- Overview of project timeline
- Public participation plan (PPP) overview and discussion.
- Project subcommittee discussion

Stakeholder Discussion

- Discussion on participation for the upcoming stakeholder groups.
- Went through potential questions.
- Advisory group to get potential participants contact information for County staff.

Project website

- Discussed & shared project website information.

Personal Focus Areas

- Scott Soik (Linwood) – Personal property rights.
 - Both subdivision rights and zoning rights.
 - Conservancy standards?
 - Example discussion regarding requirements for 2 acres upland to subdivide.
- Todd Knepfel (New Hope) – Legal review and state changes.
- Scott Soik (Lindwood) – Solar Uses and local control.
- Kurt Drexler (Eau Pleine) – Existing ordinance to be incorporated into the plan.
- Vinnie Miresse (County Board) – Solar
 - Model JDA discussion
 - Over 100 MW & PSE vs local control
- Todd Knepfel (New Hope) – CAFO
 - County currently evaluating but does zoning plan a role
 - Local vs State / DNR
 - Enforcement concerns
- Brenna Olson (Amherst) – Event Barns & Short-term rentals.
- Kathy Girolamo (Dewey) – Event Barns & Commercial uses and what is allowed via Special Exception.
 - Agricultural use vs commercial use and fire dept involvement
- Vinnie Miresse (County Board) – Sex offenders
 - How does zoning apply
- Scott Soik (Lindwood) – Enforcement
 - What do the County / Towns do if ordinances are ignored
- Bill Gibbs (Sharon) – Town residences not wanting zoning changes
 - Conflicts between residential & agricultural
 - Rezoning / Comp Plan amendments for what property owners want