



PORTAGE COUNTY

MEETING MINUTES

AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS

PORTAGE COUNTY ANNEX
CONFERENCE ROOMS 1 & 2
1462 STRONGS AVENUE
STEVENS POINT, WI 54481

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

6:00 PM

REMOTE ATTENDANCE & COMMENT

To attend this meeting by telephone : dial 1-872-242-7813, after dialing the number you will then be asked to enter in a meeting number. Use the following meeting number: 168 194 499, then press #

To attend this meeting by video: [Join the meeting now](#)

CALL TO ORDER

The Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Industrial Livestock Operations meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Chair Schwartz.

Members Present: Amberle Schwartz, Janell Wehr, Ken Feltz, Tyler Bulgrin, Mike Pagel, Lynn Markham, Christine Mechenich

Staff Attending: Tracy Arnold, Shawn O'Connell, Andrew Senderhauf, Tim Reed, Camryn Brewbaker, Tyler Kunze

Others Attending: County Board Chairman Ray Reser, County Executive John Pavelski

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Kurt E Grajkowski, Emergency Services Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection - Foreign Animal Disease Response Presentation

The committee reviewed Kurt E Grajkowski presentation on Foreign Animal Disease Reponse.

PRESENTATIONS

REPORTS

2. Special Meeting Attendance Reports (Portage County Ordinance 3.1.47 & 3.1.48)

No Report.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the public comment ordinance and the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.

Public Comment: Dean Onan (Agenda Item #4), Lisa Anderson (Agenda Item #4), Kyle Gordon (Agenda Item #4), Chuck Warzynski (Agenda Item #4).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3. Approval of November 19th, 2025 Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Janell Wehr, seconded by Ken Feltz, to Approve minutes. Motion to Approve carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

4. Discussion/Possible Action Re: Recommendations for the proposed industrial livestock operations ordinance

A motion was made by Janell Wehr, seconded by Lynn Markham, to Approve the following recommendations for the proposed industrial livestock operations ordinance.

The motion to Approve Passed by the following vote:

6 Yes: Amberle Schwartz, Janell Wehr, Ken Feltz, Mike Pagel, Lynn Markham, Christine Mechenich
1 No: Tyler Bulgrin
0 Abstain: None

Fire/Emergency Management

- Determine firefighting water needs
- Fire readiness/training for farm employees
- Pre incident fire safety plan required – once a year walkthrough, onsite and employee housing, full 360 degree access to facilities & 60-foot clearance for fire lanes, fire dept has access to all gates/buildings (Knox box)
- Fire exits every 15,000 sq ft
- Map of site showing housing, water sources and pumping capacity, and where fuel and other chemicals are stored

Waste Management/Nutrient Management Triggers – total animal units

- One committee member recommended 10,000 animal units
- Three committee members recommended 3,500 animal units
- Three committee members recommended 1,000 animal units
- The committee considered having a tiered system with different recommendations for a small animal unit number and a larger animal unit number: 1,000 animal units vs 3,500 animal units.
- If a farm over the animal unit trigger exists prior to the adoption of the ordinance, the ordinance applies to that farm once 500 or more animal units are added.
- Calculate mass balance nitrogen as an educational tool, simple version.
- County staff has the discretion to request, review & verify landowner lease agreements/manure land application agreements

Environmental impacts

- 210 days of manure storage. Possible 2 tier system with more days of storage required if a higher animal unit is chosen. Example; 270 days for 5,000 animal units or more.
- Ensure DNR environmental impact statement is completed for all high-capacity wells
- Incoming producers must submit an estimated water usage plan consistent with the WI DNR “Environmental Analysis Questionnaire for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations”.
- Representative baseline quarterly well water testing of nitrates one year before and one year after operation begins. Plan and test representative sampling of existing wells in approximately one mile radius of production site in consultation with Portage County Water Resources Specialist. Annual summary report based on continuous annual sampling at the responsibility of the producer as recommended by County Water Resource Specialist – Neighbors must be notified if contamination is found.

Roads

- Operator meets annually with town to agree upon road use

Financial security

- Producer submits documentation of sufficient funds/insurance for operation

Public health

Population & depopulation

- DATCP reviewed “Livestock Mass Mortality Disposal Guide” attached to permit

Biosecurity

- Submit biosecurity plan(s) – list of items including: (vector control, line of separation, isolating new arrivals and sick animals, keep off-farm vehicles and equipment away from animals, dedicated clothing, cleaning/sterilizing surfaces)

Air Pollution

- Develop a plan to mitigate ammonia emissions based on “Beneficial Management Practices for Mitigating Hazardous Air Emissions from Animal Waste in Wisconsin” from DNR

NEXT MEETING DATE Tentatively Wednesday, December 17th at 7pm, Portage County Annex, Conference Rooms 1 and 2.

No Report.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:22pm by Chair Schwartz.