MEETING MINUTES
POPE COUNTY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMISSION
Thursday July 14, 2022

The Planning Advisory Commission convened in special session on Thursday, July 14, 2022 at the Pope County Courthouse, 1st floor Community Room.

Members Present: John Messenger (Chair), Mark Halls, Roger Isdahl, Ivie Cooley, Ted Kannegiesser, and Paul Gerde (County Commissioner)

Other Officials Present: David Green, Jessica Hill and Barry Bouwman (Land & Resource Management staff)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Messenger at 6:02 p.m. with the following items being addressed by the chair:

Approval of Agenda
There were no additions or corrections to the agenda. A motion to accept the agenda was offered by Gerde and seconded by Kannegiesser

Ordinance Amendment: Section 10.3.6 Non-Confinement Feeding Areas
Director Green presented a proposed amendment to the text of section 10.3.6 of the zoning ordinance. The proposed amendment would affect permitting duration, application submittals and performance standards.

Public Hearing: Proposed amendment to Section 10.3.6 Non-Confinement Feeding Areas
At 6:15 p.m., the Chairman Messenger declares the Public Hearing to be open. Richard Benson makes a comment defending the original definition of Non-Confined Feeding Area and also makes a point regarding timeliness of availability of the draft text language. Randy Mitteness states that the definition of cow calf operator should include "bred heifers" as well. Dan Jenniges states that a longer-term permit, like a five-year permit, would be beneficial to younger farmer if they needed a loan for a tractor or spreader farmer. It would be better to show the bank that you have a multi-year permit issued from the county for your proposed operation. Dan Jenniges makes a statement regarding the importance of cover crops and manure and how they relate to good soil health and organic matter. He also mentions that his property, where he does have animal livestock in the winters, had suffered little to no erosion during the spring storms. He attributes this to the way in which soil is managed on the property including the use of livestock in the winter time. When the question is raised about potential impacts of stormwater runoff, Barry Bouwman responds that part of a site evaluation is slope conditions and having erosion control buffers in place. Allen Cooley raises question of whom are the private consultants to be used for preparing of the required submittals and questions the reliability of information and data that is to be provided by private consultants who work on behalf of the operator. Barry Bouwman identifies some of the Consultants and companies by name including Centrol Crop

Consulting. Mike Billehus volunteers that he uses/hires Centrol for his cropping and nutrient management needs. He relies on their information and trusts them. Ivie Cooley makes comments regarding porous soils and the potential for nitrate and phosphorus contamination of drinking water resources, particularly from shallow wells. Cooley states that small towns should have the same level of drinking water protection as those communities that have established well head protection areas. With no more comment received, Chairman Messenger closes the Public Hearing portion of the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Discussion: Cooley (Ivie), makes a comment regarding frozen feeders and the hauling and spreading of manure onsite. Halls states that on his operation that they are always moving the feeders and feeding on fresh ground so that manure is deposited across the entire site. He likes to use manure for fertilizer stating that it is safer and good for soil health. Without good soil health it is difficult to work with the land. Kannegiesser states that he has noticed that some farmers can make apparatuses that can drag feeders around in the winter. Regarding the practice of winter time feeding of livestock, Isdahl states that it all comes down to proper management. Cooley points out that the original committee that worked on the NFA ordinance recommended a setback of ½ mile from city limits but that the adopted version resulted in only a ¼ mile setback. Cooley stated her concern for citizens that live in town and the impact of winter feeding activities on them. Cooley asks for display of Pope County Geologic Atlas and states that it should be used for permitting decision and that she doesn't feel that it has so far. She points out the areas indicated on the map that are associated with medium to high risk for pollution to the shallow aquifer. These are areas where the soils a very porous. Halls mentions that animal agriculture and the deposition of manure helps to build the soil content in these areas. Otherwise, more chemicals are applied over these porous soils in order to grow crops. Kannegiesser comments about the number of worms witnessed on a field that has good soil health. Dan Jenniges follows up with comments about worms and other bugs in the ground that make for good soil health. He mentions a statistic relative to predator/prey ratio. There is discussion regarding when this issue may be acted upon. Director Green states that it could be acted upon at any subsequent PAC meeting subject to notification. He states that it is a notified agenda item for the upcoming July 28th regular meeting of the PAC.

Adjournment 7:10 p.m. Chairman Messenger seeks motion to adjourn the Planning Advisory Commission meeting. Motion to adjourn is offered by Gerde with a second by Kannegiesser. Motion carried with no dissenting votes noted.

Respectfully submitted,

David Green

David Green/Director
Pope County Land & Resource Management