

Discussion outline – Protecting and Enhancing Wildlife and Wetlands

Plan Commissioner Network

Wednesday, August 31, 2011 @ Town of Omro, 6:30-8pm

- I. Why should Plan Commissions plan for protecting and enhancing wildlife and wetlands?
 - o Quality of Life
 - o Recreational opportunities (e.g. Bird City Designation)
 - o To achieve goals in comprehensive plans
- II. Who regulates them? Who can help?
 - o Department of Natural Resources
 - o Fish and Wildlife Service
 - o Land and Water Conservation Department
 - o Wildlife and Hunting groups (such as Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited)
- III. General planning and protection strategies
 - o Set aside land
 - o Enhance existing habitat – large and small areas
 - o Create new habitat (small and large)
 - o Protect from encroachment by development
 - o Regulation/zoning (tree protection, site clearing, site design, buffers)
- IV. General Wetland Protection strategies (see Land Use and Wetlands: Zoning Opportunities to Improve Wetland Protection, Wisconsin Wetlands Association. May 2011)
 - o Establish “Avoid and Minimize” standards for project review
 - o Implement wetland protection land use controls
 - o Help landowners avoid unauthorized wetland impacts
 - o Encourage wetland restoration
- V. General Wildlife strategies
 - o Promote hunting and public access opportunities
 - o Promote accessible hunting and fishing - <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/accessible/access-northeast.html>
 - o Encourage participation in local wildlife surveys (with DNR)
- IV – Where to find data, information and maps about local wildlife and wetland habitat
 - o State wildlife areas (http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/wildlife_areas/map.htm)
 - o Deppe, Jaeger’s Island, Lake Buttes des Morts, Rat River, Wolf River
 - o County GIS Data – wetland layer
- IV. Local issues/questions – round table discussion
- VI. Next meeting
 - Wednesday, October 26, 2011, 6:30-8pm. Topic – Historical Preservation with Guest Rick Bernstein, Wisconsin Historical Society. Location: Town of Winchester Town Hall

Resources:

Planning for Natural Resources, a Guide to including Natural Resources in Local comprehensive Planning. http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/es/science/publications/SS_964_2002.pdf

Wetland Restoration Handbook for Wisconsin Landowners. 2004. Wisconsin Wetland Association and DNR. <http://dnr.wi.gov/wetlands/handbook.html>

Wetland Information for Local Governments – WWA website - <http://www.wisconsinwetlands.org/localgovs.htm>

Wetland protection information for local governments – WWA website – <http://www.wisconsinwetlands.org/protectinglocal.htm>

Land Use and Wetlands: Zoning Opportunities to Improve Wetland Protection. 2011. Wisconsin Wetlands Association. http://www.wisconsinwetlands.org/Final_Local_SL_WL_Zng_Recs.pdf