



COUNTY OF BURNETT  
**LAND USE AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE**  
**Campground Work Group**  
Burnett County Government Center

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## MINUTES

Land Use and Information Committee  
Campground Work Group  
June 11, 2021

**MEMBERS PRESENT** Jim Paden, Craig Conroy and Chuck Awe.

**OTHERS PRESENT** Land Services Director Jason Towne, Sheriff Tracy Finch, Highway Administrator Mike Hoefs, County Conservationist Dave Ferris and Ruth King of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

**CALL TO ORDER** Vice-Chair Conroy called the June 11, 2021, meeting of the Land Use and Information Committee (LUI) Campground Work Group to order at 9:07 a.m. in Room 165 of the Burnett County Government Center.

### **NOTICE POSTED IN ACCORDANCE TO WIS. STAT. 19.84 OPEN MEETING LAW**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA ORDER** Motion to approve the agenda order was made by Supervisor Awe, seconded by Supervisor Paden. Motion carried, voice vote.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JUNE 4, 2021, MEETING** Motion to approve minutes of the June 4, 2021, meeting was made by Supervisor Paden, seconded by Supervisor Awe. Motion carried, voice vote.

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH THREE COUNTY DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES** Vice-Chair Conroy introduced Burnett County Highway Administrator Mike Hoefs. Mr. Hoefs explained his role in the process if a permit is requested for a campground in Burnett County. Road, entrance/driveway and accident information is his focus. Mr. Hoefs puts out traffic counters for seven days to assess the number of vehicles, time lines of traffic flow and how fast vehicles are traveling. He summarizes the data and then does a field study with sight distances for entering or leaving to assure there would be adequate time for safe stopping distance. With this combined information he can make a determination of whether the entrance/exit is in a safe place. He tabulates and applies the appropriate values to determine a decision. Evaluation of a left turn and a right turn maneuver is also a critical calculation to add to the information for determination. When they know what's available and what's required, they make a statement as to whether it is acceptable or not to have a driveway at that location. This information will additionally determine whether you have to have a bypass lane or turning lane. Impact to roads is considered and whether there is a better area for an entrance and/or exit. Formulas are applied to also consider the life expectancy of the road depending on the information gathered. Passenger vehicles don't play a significant part in determining the wear and tear on our county roads as both county and town roads have a

thickness that is adequate to support them. Therefore it would take much heavier vehicles/trucks versus the passenger car or an average RV or camper trailer to significantly affect the condition of our roads. The proximity to other driveways is important to look at. Mr. Hoefs was asked in his opinion, what areas would better support a campground in the county. His only thought was if they are in a commercial area, there are a lot more driveways in a very short distance which can affect safety. From a traffic stand point we could adopt the DOTs access management policy to apply to this with amendments so it fits the county. DOT generally wants to try to push the access onto a lesser used highway when assessing an area of road for a campground.

Vice-Chair Conroy introduced Sheriff Tracy Finch. Sheriff Finch stated it doesn't affect their department at all whether there are campgrounds or not. There are very few calls to campgrounds their department responds to and if there is a call, it isn't because of criminal behavior, but more to do with a medical issue. The department only responded to two calls in the last two years. Those calls were to DuFour's Campground for missing elderly persons and were both resolved easily. They receive more calls to free camping areas like the river landings and not campgrounds. Sheriff Finch was asked if there were any area her department would like to see a campground in versus somewhere else in the county. Her response was a remote campground is nice for the peace and quiet but maybe less reporting of an issue if there is one. In a more busy area, like a commercial zoned area, campers don't have as much privacy, but if there were an issue, it more likely would be reported. Bottom line is to date, they had any increase in public safety expense due to campgrounds.

Vice-Chair Conroy introduced Ruth King from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and County Conservationist Dave Ferris. Ms. King deals with DNR permits and her expertise is runoff and it's affects, agriculture and forestry. Typically, anything over an acre of land would have some type of disturbance for a campground, will require a permit to operate. This entails an inspection done by the DNR. There would need to be an erosion control plan and post construction storm water management plan done. The volume of runoff will increase when a campground is constructed and needs the post construction run off plans to the water, as well. Burnett County is lucky in the fact we have many soil types. The DNR looks at the soil type and the density of development for permitting; sand versus heavy soil. If someone has a design in place which follows county zoning setbacks it will be considered. The DNR is more strict on wetland setbacks to protect water areas assuring setbacks are in place and erosion control plans and post construction storm water management plans are done. An official delineation will be required if necessary. An Environmental Impact Study is not usually done as it isn't usually necessary unless it is a very large project or politically impacted. Any study on surface quality water that would need to be done would depend on where it is sited. This is based on the level of where the groundwater is determined. The amount and intensity of runoff after development has to equal pre-development runoff and anywhere from 50-90% of the rain needs to go back into the water table so the surface and ground water are protected. There needs to be controls in place to deal with sedimentation discharge. She was asked if extra traffic on the lake contribute to bad water quality. Erosion is more prevalent depending on the type of use such as a wake boat. Ms. King doesn't have specific data on this area.

**DISCUSS TOPIC FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS** Review other county ordinances from Door, Washburn, Sawyer and Buffalo counties with Lynn Markham of UW-Stevens Point and Extension, Center for Land Use Education.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** Possible moratorium extension and ordinance recommendations.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** June 25, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT** Motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Paden, seconded by Supervisor Awe. Vice-Chair Conroy adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.