

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2013

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2013-03 C.O.W.

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole February 12, 2013, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 9:00 a.m. CST. Chair Lyle Tjosaas opened the meeting at 9:02 a.m. CST.

Meeting Convened

The Chair acknowledged those present:

Those Present

Members present:	John Allen	District #1
	Steven Gray	District #2
	David Erickson	District #4
	Lyle Tjosaas	District #5
Members absent:	Rodney Peterson	District #3
Also present:	Jim Elmquist	County Administrator
	Becky Lubahn	Deputy County Clerk
	Melissa DeVetter	Zoning Administrator
	Mark Gamm	Environmental Services Director
	Mary Greening	Assistant Zoning Administrator/Administrative Assistant

Zoning Administrator Melissa DeVetter met with the Board to discuss the OFFSET analysis for proposed feedlot revisions.

OFFSET Analysis
for Proposed
Feedlot Revisions
Discussion

Included in the Board packet was the OFFSET analysis which was performed on all feedlots with 300 or more Animal Units (AU) in Dodge County. The purpose of this analysis was to determine the effects of potentially adopting the 95% annoyance free standard for odor from feedlots. The county had previously looked at whether setting this standard at the current setback of 1,000 feet might be acceptable, but based upon preliminary analysis it was obvious that it would prohibit most expansion.

Based upon this more detailed OFFSET analysis of all feedlots 300 AU and above, several things were observed:

1. For sites with open air lagoon manure storage pits (regardless of type), it was impossible to meet 95% at 1,000. Even with increased setbacks based upon type of operation, it was very difficult (and in most cases impossible) to meet at proposed setback or closest dwelling without an impermeable cover.
2. Unless there was a large open air lagoon manure storage pit, all dairy operations met the 95% OFFSET at 1,000 feet or less.

3. For beef and poultry operations 300 AU and above, the average setback needed to meet the 95% standard was 500 feet.
4. For swine operations the following was observed:
 - A. Only two smaller swine finishing operations met the 95% standard at 1,000 feet, however, most of the non-NPDES swine finishers met this standard without odor mitigation at 1,200 feet.
 - B. For swine nurseries and NPDES swine finisher operations, 1,500 feet provided an OFFSET of 95% or minimum bio-filtration was required to meet the proposed standard.
 - C. For all sow sites (gestation and farrowing), all barns would require some level of odor mitigation, even with a proposed setback of 2,000 feet. Most of these sites have open-air manure storage pits associated with them which make it difficult or impossible to meet standards if these pits are considered in the analysis.

OFFSET Analysis
for Proposed
Feedlot Revisions
Discussion -
Continued

Ms. DeVetter presented the following questions for the Board's consideration:

1. Given the above, is the 1,000 foot setback appropriate for all operations, regardless of type?
2. Is a 1,000 foot setback necessary for anything less than 300 AU? (Is a 1,000 foot setback from someone with 30 horses or beef cattle appropriate?)
3. What will happen if odor standard cannot be achieved if an operation is proposing expansion? Will expansion be prohibited?
4. Should there be a different or separate standard for open-air lagoon type manure storage?
5. Where should the 95% odor standard be applied? At the proposed setback line (even if there is no one there) or the closest dwelling (even if it is farther away than the setback)?
6. What happens in the instances of closed quarter sections or other instances where a new dwelling would never be able to locate at the setback distance to existing feedlots?
7. What happens if a feedlot cannot meet the odor standards because it is too close to another feedlot (with a dwelling located on it)? Should the 95% OFFSET requiring odor mitigation standard apply feedlot to feedlot?
8. In instances where feedlot owners cannot meet (or don't want to meet) the standard, can an "odor easement" (similar to an air quality easement) be obtained from a dwelling?

Ms. DeVetter reminded the Board that the County Attorney has advised them that the odor issue needs to be less arbitrary and addressed in the ordinance, as opposed to added as a permit condition.

OFFSET Analysis
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Continued

Given that fact and considering the results of the OFFSET analysis and the questions presented, the Zoning Administration would like to know where the Board thought the county should go from here.

Ms. DeVetter handed out for the new commissioner's review information from a producers meeting held on April 5, 2012.

Brief discussion took place on several questions that were posed by the Zoning Administrator.

Also discussed was feedlot production vs. air quality.

Commissioners were in agreement that there were numerous variables to consider when determining an appropriate OFFSET for Dodge County, therefore additional discussion would be needed on this issue.

The Board ran out of time to further discuss suggestions for OFFSET standards.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m. CST.

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

LYLE TJOSAAS
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY CLERK

DATED: