

TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2013

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2013-13 C.O.W.

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole July 9, 2013, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 9:00 a.m. CDT. Vice Chair David Erickson opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. CDT.

Meeting Convened

The Vice Chair acknowledged those present:

Those Present

Members present:	John Allen	District #1
	Rodney Peterson	District #3
	David Erickson	District #4
	Steven Gray	District #5
Members absent:	Lyle Tjosaas	District #2
Also present:	Jim Elmquist	County Administrator
	Becky Lubahn	Deputy Clerk
	Melissa DeVetter	Zoning Administrator
	Ryan Thesing	County Feedlot Officer/Water Quality Technician

Zoning Administrator Melissa DeVetter presented for the Board's consideration a draft of the Feedlot Performance Standards.

Feedlot Odor/
Setback Standards
Draft Discussion

County Feedlot Officer/Water Quality Technician Ryan Thesing was available to comment on the proposed revisions.

Ms. DeVetter reported that on May 20, 2013, the Board was forwarded two draft versions of proposed feedlot revision language. The Zoning Administrator reported that at this time Environmental Services staff would like to discuss with the Board whether there has been any decision on the language to move forward on the concepts behind the proposed language.

The Zoning Administrator also noted that there are significant changes to the proposed standards.

Ms. DeVetter provided the following background information:

The results from the OFFSET analysis for 95% were presented at the Committee of the Whole meeting on February 12, 2013. At that time, it was determined that additional discussion on this issue was needed.

Included in the Board packet were the two proposed versions of the Feedlot Performance Standard section. One version utilizes a 93% OFFSET along with the current feedlot setback of 1,000 feet. The odor standard is more relaxed than what the county is currently requiring and this proposal could be viewed as more "Ag" friendly.

The second version utilizes a higher 95% OFFSET, but increases the setbacks on swine facilities to a minimum of 1,500 feet. This would allow expansion of existing facilities with odor mitigation, but due to increased setbacks it may also limit the siting of new swine feedlots because of the substantial number of dwellings already out in the Agricultural District.

Feedlot Odor/
Setback Standards
Draft Discussion -
Continued

Discussion took place regarding statistical information provided by Zoning for the Mark Finstuen Farm and the William Rohwer Farm.

Statistics reviewed included the following:

- OFFSET % at 1,000 feet
- Distance to closest dwelling
- OFFSET at closest dwelling
- % odor mitigation to achieve 93% OFFSET at closest dwelling
- Required now?
- Needed with new standard?

Commissioner Peterson commented that he has a problem with the standards. Mr. Peterson had questions on how they verify that the standards are being met.

Ms. DeVetter reported that feedlot owners are required to use bio-filters on their barns and the conditional use permit specifies what percent of the air needs to be run through the bio-filters.

Commissioner Gray wanted to know what the financial impact of bio-filters is on the producers.

The Zoning Administrator stated that the financial impact to producers who install bio-filters is significant.

The Board ran out of time to further discuss Feedlot Performance Standards.

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

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

DAVID ERICKSON
VICE CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY CLERK

DATED: