

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection  
Farmland Preservation Program (ch. 91, Wis. Stats.)

## Agricultural Enterprise Areas: Request for Petitions

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is requesting petitions, under s. 91.86, Wis. Stats., to designate *Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEAs)* under s. 91.84, Wis. Stats. Petitions must be filed by **February 26, 2010**.

*Interested petitioners should contact Coreen Fallat at [Coreen.Fallat@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Coreen.Fallat@wisconsin.gov) or (608) 224-4625 to indicate their intent to submit a request for AEA designation.*

DATCP will evaluate the petitions and, by June 11, 2010, will announce selected AEAs for subsequent designation by rule. Between now and January 1, 2012, DATCP may designate up to 15 AEAs with a combined area of up to 200,000 acres. After January 1, 2012, up to 1 million acres may be designated as AEAs statewide. DATCP may issue a second request for petitions in 2010.

An *Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA)* is a contiguous land area, devoted primarily to agricultural use, which is locally targeted for agricultural preservation and development. Designation of an AEA does not, by itself, control or limit land use. However, farmers in an AEA may earn state income tax credits by entering into voluntary farmland preservation agreements. An AEA may be part of a broader local strategy to protect farmland and promote agricultural and related development.

### Who May Petition

A petition must be jointly filed by at least 5 eligible farmers in the proposed AEA, and by each county, town or municipality in which any part of the proposed AEA is located. Other persons may sign the petition as supporting "cooperators."

### Filing the Petition

- Petitioners must jointly complete and file the attached PETITION FORM. All required petitioners must sign, and every petitioner should keep a copy of the complete petition.
- Submit *hard copies* of all the following to DATCP:
  - The completed PETITION FORM (*including* any supporting pages, maps and documentation).
  - A signed *signature page* for each owner of an eligible farm who is signing the petition.
  - A signed *signature page* for each political subdivision in which any part of the proposed AEA is located.
  - Cooperator signature pages if any.

Submit hard copy materials to:

Wisconsin DATCP  
Attn: DARM AEA  
2811 Agriculture Dr  
PO Box 8911  
Madison, WI 53708-8911

- Submit an *electronic copy* of the following (see attached Map and Spatial Data Guidelines):
  - Map of the proposed AEA.
  - Spatial location data used to create the map.

Submit electronic materials to:

Email: [DATCPWorkingLands@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DATCPWorkingLands@wisconsin.gov) (Enter "Map and spatial location data for proposed AEA" in the subject line).

- If you have questions, call 608-224-4625 or email [DATCPWorkingLands@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DATCPWorkingLands@wisconsin.gov).

## **REVIEW AND DECISION**

DATCP has the discretion to grant or deny a petition subject to s. 91.86, Wis. Stats. DATCP will consider the materials included with each petition, and may choose among competing petitions. Decisions will be *based on the materials that you submit*, so please make sure that the materials are clear, complete and accurate. DATCP will give notice of its decision to the contact person identified in the petition. DATCP may also issue a public announcement, particularly if it grants a petition.

DATCP must designate AEA's by administrative rule. An AEA does not take effect until DATCP adopts and publishes a rule creating that AEA. Any decision granting an AEA petition is contingent upon a successful administrative rulemaking process to implement that decision. Rules are subject to possible legal and policy challenges. DATCP may reverse its decision and withdraw a proposed rule at any time. DATCP may also modify or repeal an AEA by rule.

## ***Map and Spatial Data Guidelines***

A clear agricultural enterprise area map should:

- Be titled with the preferred name of the proposed AEA.
- Clearly delineate the boundary of the proposed AEA so it is easy to determine whether a parcel of land is located within the proposed area.
- Have a map scale of no greater than one inch = 2,000 ft. (1:24,000).
- Show political boundaries (county, city, town, village), parcel boundaries, section lines, roads and water bodies.
- Have a map legend that includes symbols for all data represented on the map, including farmland preservation area boundaries, political boundaries, parcel boundaries, section lines, roads, and water bodies.
- Identify map scale, north arrow, map date and map producer.
- Be submitted in .pdf or equivalent file format via an appropriate electronic data transfer method (email, ftp, cd, flashdrive, or other acceptable method).

Spatial location data used to create a farmland preservation map should:

- Be projected in the WTM83, NAD83(1991) coordinate reference system.
- Include metadata written to the “Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata (CSDGM), Vers. 2 (FGDC Metadata Standard).” This includes data source, producer, contact, and attribute definitions. Metadata should also indicate, in the “purpose” section, that the map information is provided as a part of the petition requesting designation of an agricultural enterprise area.
- Be submitted in vector shapefile or equivalent file format via an appropriate electronic data transfer method (email, ftp, cd, flashdrive, or other acceptable method).

If you have any problems meeting these preferred mapping and data standards, please contact DATCP at 608-224-4632 or by email at [DATCPWorkingLands@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DATCPWorkingLands@wisconsin.gov).



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection  
 Division of Agricultural Resource Management  
 P.O. Box 8911  
 Madison, WI 53708-8911  
 (608) 224-4500

## Agricultural Enterprise Area Petition

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The undersigned persons hereby petition the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), pursuant to s. 91.86, Wis. Stats., to create an Agricultural Enterprise Area (**AEA**) under s. 91.84, Wis. Stats. We submit the following information in support of the petition (*use the space provided or check the appropriate box*):<sup>1</sup>

### PART I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. Preferred name of AEA. Squaw Lake AEA
- B. County or counties in which the proposed AEA is located (*all must sign this petition*). Polk and St. Croix
- C. All towns, villages or cities in which the proposed AEA is located (*all must sign this petition*). Alden Farmington Star Prairie Somerset
- D. Number of owners of “eligible farms,”<sup>2</sup> within the proposed AEA, who are signing this petition (*at least 5 required*). 15
- E. Total number of acres in the proposed AEA.<sup>3</sup> 10,306
- F. All counties signing the petition have a certified farmland preservation plan. X Yes  No
- G. All land in the proposed AEA is located within a farmland preservation area designated in the certified county farmland preservation plan. X Yes  No
- H. All of the parcels in the proposed AEA are contiguous.<sup>4</sup> X Yes  No
- I. The proposed AEA is primarily in agricultural use. X Yes  No
- J. Designated contact person for the AEA.  
 Name: Timm Johnson  
 Address: 79 217<sup>th</sup> St. New Richmond, WI 54017  
 Phone number: 715-248-3277  
 Email: [johnsont@frontiernet.net](mailto:johnsont@frontiernet.net)

<sup>1</sup> Personal information you provide may be used for secondary purposes (Privacy Law s. 19.62-19.80, Wis. Stats.)

<sup>2</sup> An “eligible farm” is one that produced at least \$6,000 in “gross farm revenues” during the tax year preceding the year of this petition, or a total of at least \$18,000 in “gross farm revenues” during the 3 taxable years preceding the year of this petition. “Gross farm revenues” means gross receipts from agricultural use of a farm, excluding rent receipts, less the cost or other basis of livestock or other agricultural items purchased for resale which are sold or otherwise disposed of during the taxable year.

<sup>3</sup> DATCP will give preference to proposed AEAs of at least 1,000 acres of land.

<sup>4</sup> Contiguous means immediately adjacent or separated only by a lake, stream, or transportation or utility right-of-way.

## **PART II. PURPOSE AND RATIONALE FOR AEA**

*DATCP will evaluate petitions under s. 91.86, Wis. Stats., and will consider information provided in response to the following questions.*

### **1. What are the agricultural land use and development goals of the proposed AEA?**

*Include a discussion of proposed agricultural uses and agricultural-related uses, including a discussion of relevant infrastructure in the AEA. Explain how the proposed AEA will advance the state's goal of agricultural preservation and development. Attach supporting documentation, where appropriate.*

The concept of creating pilot Agricultural Enterprise Area's (AEA) around the state of Wisconsin for farmland preservation and agricultural economic development is an exciting concept. The following short introduction will give many reasons why the Squaw Lake Watershed area should be declared as one of the initial AEA pilots in the State of Wisconsin.

The Squaw Lake AEA is comprised of over 10,000 acres located on the Polk-St. Croix County line in the Towns of Alden and Farmington in SW Polk County, and Towns of Somerset and Star Prairie in NW St. Croix County. These two counties have experienced dramatic population growth over the past 15 years from the Metropolitan Twin Cities region located approximately 30 minutes from the Squaw Lake AEA and it lies within close proximity of the designated 7 county Metropolitan Twin City region.

The land base of the Squaw Lake AEA is comprised of primarily class 1, 2, and 3 soils with the transition from family run dairy operations converting to more cash crop or larger livestock operations. This area contains some of Polk County's best soils and some of the most progressive operators. These producers have demonstrated their commitment to the protection of natural resources through the St. Croix Priority Watershed involving Squaw Lake. The Squaw Lake Priority Watershed exercise started with farm operators in the early 1990's responding with conservation tillage and use of no till planting to minimize runoff and soil loss, careful winter spreading of animal waste, use of fertilizers to meet crop needs through nutrient management plans, and programs utilizing wildlife habitat improvement. The Squaw Lake Watershed boundary is the primary boundary of the AEA with adjacent landowners interested in participating outside of the original designated area.

It has also been interesting to watch the evolution of producers in the Squaw Lake AEA moving into value added products and away from the commodity approach. One farm has transitioned into organic dairy and organic vegetable production, 3 operators now produce non-GMO soybeans and winter rye for the Asian market, one operation raises sunflowers for the bird seed market, one operation has transferred from dairy to providing boarding and stabling for pleasure horses. It is very likely other value added production is also occurring in the neighborhood, the above list includes only a few.

Perhaps the most unique feature of the Squaw Lake AEA is being part of a regional attempt at becoming a more sustainable region for food and fuel. The Osceola Village and Osceola School District are leading a community effort to become 100% self sufficient by 2025 for food and fuel. This is a very ambitious goal of meeting the needs for approximately 10,000 residents and will require wise use of all lands in terms of food, energy, and biomass production along with wildlife habitat and protection of natural resources.

The long term intent of the Squaw Lake AEA is to guarantee the ability of transitioning current production capabilities to the next generation of producers and the generations to follow. It is uniquely located with a history of committed producers for resource protection, top level management practices, and evolving into value added production.

The producers view the 15 year FPP contract as an initial step into preserving the farmland of the Squaw Lake Watershed for several generations to come. In addition, the designation of the Squaw Lake AEA could also serve as an impetus for additional farmland in the Polk-St. Croix area to pursue an AEA creation.

The following is a summary of additional land use and development goals for this area:

1. Maintain sustainable Prime Agricultural Soils (Class I, II, III)
  - 64% of proposed AEA is Prime Ag Soils
2. Continue to improve 303d listed watershed by implementing agricultural BMPs
3. Secure quality agriculture land for the Osceola sustainable community effort
  - Hoping to be 100% energy independent by 2025
  - Canola Oil, Soy Oil and Sunflowers for liquid energy production, etc.
  - Expansion of locally sourced food for food independence
4. Stimulate local agricultural community
5. Wildlife habitat enhancement
6. Agriculture related development
  - Implement dealers, vet clinics, Ag. Co-ops, Food Co-ops, Creameries, Farm supplies
7. Slow urban development pressure from the Twin Cities, MN
8. Create an opportunity for a more sustainable agriculture community where commodities are marketed locally and other forms of economic development occur such as agro-tourism, locally grown products, energy production, etc.

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## **2. What activities are planned in the proposed AEA to achieve the agricultural preservation and development goals?**

*Describe any planned activities within the AEA, including grants, development incentives, cooperative agreements, land or easement purchases, land donations, promotional activities, public outreach or other actions that will help achieve the stated goals. Identify other individuals and entities involved in these efforts and their level of commitment. Attach supporting documentation, where appropriate.*

This proposed AEA has a significant history of proactive programs to promote the adoption of agricultural and conservation best management and public outreach. These programs demonstrate the ability of local producers to work cooperatively amongst themselves and with supporting agencies to achieve common goals for the area.

Past and current examples include:

- Producers in the proposed AEA have shown effectiveness in public outreach and promotion of agriculture literacy. For example, one of the petitioning dairy farms hosts tours yearly for the Osceola Elementary School to see a working farm. Another landowner operates a farmstead store to directly market his products.
- Presence of the Squaw Lake Rehabilitation District, which will be updating its lakes management plan in 2010
- The proposed AEA falls within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Comprehensive Conservation management plan for waterfowl habitat protection. Preserving agricultural lands from development can enhance their habitat protection efforts. This is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate an area where agricultural use and waterfowl habitat management are complimentary and not competing land uses.

- UW-Extension has been involved in land use education in the proposed AEA for over a decade. Examples include:
  - *Western Wisconsin Working Lands Workshop*; On March 11, 2009, collaborated with St. Croix County and West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to design and deliver an educational event regarding land use and agriculture preservation. This event also elicited public input regarding the next steps for working lands initiative in Polk, St. Croix, and Pierce. Most comments fell into the broad categories of education and communication/collaboration
  - *Celebration honoring the Paul and Sherrill Schottler Family*; Over the past decade, there have been numerous efforts by Pierce, Polk, and St. Croix County individuals and agencies to provide information and education to landowners and public officials about the need to protect farmland and open space. This event was intended to capture the momentum of these efforts by providing an opportunity to learn valuable insight from local landowners and to share thoughts and ideas with fellow citizens; 2009
  - *Rural Living Guide*; Educational piece adapted from CRD Educator Mike Kornmann for new Polk County residents and used by 11 units of government as part of the implementation element of their Comprehensive Plans; 2008
  - *In 2008, Polk County Comprehensive Planning educational programs*; hosted and taught by UWEX Agents included a monthly newsletter sent to plan commissioners (60 recipients each received 12 newsletters), 4 countywide educational programs (total attendance of 80) and over twelve meetings with individual town boards or plan commissions. Education for these programs focused on online mapping resources, comprehensive plan development, plan commission responsibilities, and integrating the elements of a plan.
  - *Land Use Tour to Dakota County, MN*; In collaboration with Al Singer, Director of the Dakota County Farmland and Natural Areas Program (FNAP), this group of educators hosted a one-day educational bus tour to Dakota County, Minnesota. The objectives of the bus tour were to increase understanding of the FNAP program, build networks between individuals and organizations interested in protecting farmland and natural areas as well as increase knowledge of the necessary steps needed to take at the local level. The tour included an overview of the leadership process in designing Dakota County's FNAP as well as a bus tour of properties participating in the program. Overall, 42 people attended representing 11 Wisconsin counties. Participants included producers, planners, developers, local elected officials, citizens and educators
  - *2008 Ultimate Land Use Tour*; organized by CNRED agent Bob Kazmierski and co-sponsored by Polk County. Five Polk County participants, went on to enroll in the October 2008 Ultimate Land Use Tour, organized by CNRED agent Mike Koles and co-sponsored by Polk County
  - *The Polk County Comprehensive Planning Process---An Eight Step Checklist and Planning Resource Directory*; Researched, gathered data and developed two educational pieces for and distributed to 89 town, village, city and county plan commissions members; 2006
  - *Population Growth Projections and Polk County Trends*; Developed and delivered a power point to educate the public at public input hearings for Polk County's Comprehensive Planning Program; 2008-2009
- In recent years producers in the proposed AEA have participated in listening sessions for town and county comprehensive plans, a Dakota County MN land use tour, conservation easement celebrations, and local workshops focusing on working lands. Some of these producers were so passionate about this effort that they have gone on to form the Western Wisconsin Land Resources Alliance (WWLRA).

Future initiatives proposed are:

- UW-Extension will develop and deliver programs to promote long term viability of agricultural production in the area. Economic viability of agriculture will be a key to maintaining the farms in the AEA for future generations. The programs will emphasize suitability, development of new marketing avenues, and development of new farm enterprises. Examples include:
  - Agro-tourism Opportunities for Farm Diversification
  - Value added crop production
  - Transferring the farm in a high stakes era: a workshop for farm succession
- Incorporate information on the AEA and local land use goals into the Rural Living Guides for both Polk and St. Croix Counties. The Rural Living Guide is available to all residents, and many new residents request the guide to learn more about services, ordinances, etc., in the area.
- Signage on major roads informing travelers of the AEA.
- Provide information about the AEA at Farm City Days and the Polk and St. Croix County Fairs.

The WWLRA has expressed interest in expanding their educational efforts to include PACE and TDR programs.

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### **3. How will the AEA location promote agricultural preservation and development?**

*Explain what is special about this location. Include why the proposed AEA is geographically well “targeted” for agricultural preservation and development. Explain how the geographic distribution of existing agricultural uses and related infrastructure helped determine the location (see next). Attach supporting documentation, where appropriate.*

The Squaw Lake AEA is located approximately 30 miles from the outer limits of the Twin Cities Metro Area of Minnesota. Due to the close proximity to the city, this area has experience very high development pressure in the last 20 years. Development pressure on this area is concerning for many reasons. This area is likely the most productive area in Polk County from a soil quality standpoint. More than 60% of the soils in this proposed AEA are classified as prime agricultural soils with little to no limitations for agriculture. Large tracts of contiguous row crops, fantastic soils fertility and many young farming families are valuable assets of this area. For this, there is a great need to maintain this productive farming community for many years to come.

If protected from the pressure of development this area could capitalize on the development around it by locally marketing its products to the development nearby. This idea would add even more value to this area as the nearby populations of people would be depending on this area for locally grown or produced goods.

In addition, this area has a number of environmental benefits to gain if this area was to be preserved as productive farmland and open space. Squaw Lake was added to the Wisconsin DNRs 303(d) list of impaired waters in 1998. Since then great accomplishments have been made to improve the water quality of Squaw Lake through conservation practices. However, new threats have presented new challenges in the area and the watershed could benefit greatly by the soil and water conservation standards participants in the AEA would be required to implement.

The following list of items is unique to this area and is not mentioned above.

1. Area holds a very strong interest in Ag. Land preservation through the Working Lands Initiative
2. Two existing FPP contracts in Polk County and EAZ in St. Croix County showing a

commitment to farmland preservation.

3. Area may promote Ag. And Eco. Tourism with close proximity to Twin Cities
4. Other interest for farmland preservation exists nearby; this proposed AEA could “Plant Seed” for the development of others in the area.
5. Much Conservation tillage and No-till exists in this area (1998 WLWCA – State Conservation Farmer of the year operates in this area)

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#### **4. How did you determine the size and the boundary of the proposed AEA?**

*Explain why the size and boundaries are appropriate, and will help “focus” preservation development efforts. As part of the explanation, include a discussion of agricultural uses and infrastructure, unique land resources, soil productivity, proximity to viable farm markets or processing facilities, and other relevant factors. Attach supporting documentation, where appropriate.*

The process of designating the proposed AEA started with landowner interest for the Working Lands Initiative in the area of Squaw Lake. Landowners expressed interest in this program to local agencies and the agency representatives began working with the interested parties to develop the boundary. As it turned out the foundation for this boundary already existed in the form of the Squaw Lake watershed. This watershed boundary was expanded slightly to include surrounding sections. Once interest for this AEA idea was evaluated in the expanded area the final boundary was developed based on petitioners and their land base.

The proposed Squaw Lake AEA boundary has all the critical AEA components we had hoped for. These include;

- Close proximity to development pressure of the Twin Cities of Minnesota.
- Large tracts of productive cropland made up of a large percent of prime agricultural soils.
- Land owner interest in the Working Land Initiative demonstrating a value for preserving agriculture land.
- An area that included a natural resource that could be benefitted by conservation programs, economic development and wildlife habitat enhancement opportunities associated with the AEA.

This area is approximately 10,306 acres with approximately 8,859 acres as agricultural land. This area is operated by forward thinking producers that hope to one day create a self sustaining agriculture community. Critical components for a self sustainable AEA that already exist are;

- Conservation minded producers
- Nearby agriculture service providers
- Viable farming operations with long term goals in agriculture
- Many next generation operators are present
- Nearby Ag. Lime Quarry
- Goals of producing commodities that can be both food and fuel

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#### **5. What are the current land uses within the proposed AEA?**

*Provide documentation to show that the proposed AEA is primarily in agricultural use. Describe the percentage and distribution of agricultural and agriculture-related uses; residential uses; transportation, utility, energy and communications uses; undeveloped natural resource and open space uses; and other uses as applicable. Identify the principal types of agricultural use and describe*

*the location, geographic scope, size, significance and compatibility of those agricultural uses. Describe current trends and emerging issues within the proposed area. Attach a land use map for the area to support this explanation (at the town or county scale).*

See attached zoning maps

- Town of Alden, Appendix A
- Town of Farmington, Appendix B
- Town of Somerset, Appendix C
- Town of Star Prairie, Appendix D

Land Use/Cover

Agriculture	7,653 Acres	74 % of Total Acres
Wetlands	571 Acres	6 % of Total Acres
Woodlands	1,858 Acres	18 % of Total Acres
USFWS/DNR Public Lands *	627 Acres	6 % of Total Acres
Water	207 Acres	2 % of Total Acres

\* Included into Agriculture Acres.

Squaw Lake Agricultural Enterprise area land cover map can be referenced in appendix J.

Future land use maps for the applicable towns may be referenced in appendix H (Page 1-3).

Principle types of agriculture uses within this proposed Squaw Lake AEA.

1. Row Crop Production
2. Dairying
3. Forestry including a considerable area in MFL.
4. Large horse training and recreational riding facility.
5. Raising of non-GMO food grade soybeans.
6. Raising breeding dairy replacement cattle.
7. Beef cow/calf and feeder/finishing of cattle.
8. USFWS Prairie restorations.

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**6. How is the proposed AEA consistent with your other local land use plans?**

*The entire proposed AEA must be located within a farmland preservation area designation in the county's certified farmland preservation plan (please document). Explain how the proposed AEA is consistent with existing county and local land use plans. If there are inconsistencies, explain how they will be reconciled. Attach supporting documentation, where appropriate.*

The proposed AEA is entirely included within the Polk and St. Croix county farmland preservation plans. Maps from the appropriate county farmland preservation plans have been attached in the appendix (appendix E & F). Major subdivisions and lands listed in the 1980 plan as land to be excluded from farmland preservation agreements have been removed temporarily from the AEA in an effort to keep the area consistent with each plan. These areas will be re-evaluated when revisions to the county farmland preservation plans take place.

Each town listed in this petition has completed a comprehensive plan. High points from the Agriculture, Natural and Cultural Resource elements related to this question can be referenced in the appendix (appendix G).

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## **7. What nonagricultural development trends affect the proposed AEA?**

*Explain current development trends affecting the proposed AEA. Describe the likelihood that land in the AEA will transition out of agriculture in the foreseeable future (note that an AEA may not include any area planned for nonagricultural development within the next 15 years). Attach supporting documentation, where appropriate.*

To date, the proposed Squaw Lake AEA has been able to maintain the majority of its most productive farmland. The development pressure this area is experiencing is not urban but slow development of rural lands into rural, non-farm residences. Thus far, with the exception of a few major subdivisions, minimal fragmentation of agricultural lands has taken place. The following are a few examples of rural, non-farm development trends in the four applicable towns in the last 20 years.

### **Farmington**

The Town of Farmington has 60 percent of its land assessed as agricultural land and 18 percent assessed as forested lands. The Town lost 23 percent of its assessed agricultural acres between 1987 and 2007 while assessed forest land decreased by almost 28 percent. The Town experienced a 146 percent increase in improved residential parcels and a 280 percent increase in assessed residential acres since 1987.

### **Alden**

The Town of Alden has significant agricultural activity, with 48 percent of its assessed land assessed as agriculture. About one-fifth of the assessed land in the Town is assessed as forest. The Town lost 23 percent of its assessed agricultural acreage and 19.5 percent of its assessed forest acreage between 1987 and 2007. The town contains several lakes and is traversed by the Apple River. The town contains more assessed residential acreage (4,698 acres) than any other community in Polk County. From 1987 to 2007, assessed residential acreage increased by 251 percent while the number of improved residential parcels increased by 51 percent. Average residential parcel size increased from a little over an acre to 2.6 acres over this period.

### **Somerset**

The Town of Somerset has about 41 percent of its assessed land assessed as agricultural and 15 percent as forest. The Town has lost about 42 percent of assessed agricultural land and 32 percent of assessed forest land between 1987 and 2007. During the same period the Town experienced a 169 percent increase in improved residential parcels and a 133 percent increase in assessed residential acreage. The Town ranks second in the county in assessed residential acres (7,328 acres).

### **Star Prairie**

The Town of Star Prairie has 40 percent of its assessed land assessed as agricultural, 24 percent as residential and 18 percent assessed as forest. The Town has lost over half of its assessed agricultural land, but almost doubled (93% increase) assessed forest land between 1987 and 2007. The Town has numerous lakes and streams consisting of about 768 total acres or 3.8 percent of the total area of the Town. Many of these water bodies have significant shoreland development, particularly around Cedar and Squaw Lakes, and the Apple River. The Town experienced an increase of four and a half times in improved residential parcels and a 145 percent increase in assessed residential acreage between 1987 and 2007.

Due to the economic downturn, the development pressures have temporarily eased in this area. This lag in pressure has given us the opportunity to catch up in terms of planning land uses in the area and actually be able to implement it before the pressure builds again.

Future development is inevitable. Currently, plans exist for rebuilding and expanding the Hwy 64 bridge into Stillwater, which would open up a high-quality direct link from the Twin Cities to this area,

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thus making it more appealing for development. This may trigger a second push in development pressures.

The towns and counties of which this AEA includes have all designated this area for future agriculture use in some way. St. Croix County has implemented Exclusive Agricultural Zoning in the sections within the AEA. The Town of Alden in Polk County has included sections 16, 21, 28 and 33 as exclusive agriculture land use in their Comprehensive land use plan.

For more information as it relates to future land use in these areas please refer to the excerpts from the towns' comprehensive plans agricultural, natural, and cultural resource elements in the appendix (appendix G pgs. 1-9). In addition, future land use maps have been included in the appendix as well (appendix H pgs. 1-3).

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### **8. How will current or proposed land use controls support the proposed AEA?**

*Describe current and proposed land use controls such as zoning ordinances (farmland preservation, shoreland, wetland), farmland preservation agreements, easements, subdivision ordinances, natural area protections or other similar controls. If the area is zoned, attach a zoning map for the area (at the town or county scale). Attach documentation, where appropriate.*

The proposed Squaw Lake AEA has an assortment of land use controls already implemented. Currently, on the Polk County side of the AEA there are two Farmland Preservation program agreements in effect. In the St. Croix section of the AEA farmland preservation is being achieved by Exclusive Agricultural Zoning. Both Polk and St. Croix have certified farmland preservation plans. These plans will be revised and updated by 2012 to reflect current land use goals. In addition to farmland preservation land use controls, the following list is a collection of other plans and ordinances with some degree of land use control and where they can be referenced.

- Shoreland Zoning Ordinances are in effect - <http://www.co.polk.wi.us/landinfo/ordinances.asp>
- Polk County has a Subdivision Ordinance- <http://www.co.polk.wi.us/landinfo/ordinances.asp>
- Polk County Comprehensive Land Use Plan - <http://www.co.polk.wi.us/landinfo/PlanningCompPlan.asp>
- Town of Alden Land Use Ordinance - <http://www.twp.alden.wi.us/ordinances.htm>
- Town of Alden Comprehensive Plan - <http://www.co.polk.wi.us/landinfo/PlanningCompGrant.asp>
- USFWS St. Croix Wetland Management District Comprehensive Conservation Plan - <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/stcroix/>

In addition, zoning maps are attached in the appendix (appendix A-D).

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### **9. How will the proposed AEA promote compliance with the state's soil and water standards for nonpoint source pollution?**

*Farmers in an AEA who enter into a farmland preservation agreement must meet the following state standards (ATCP 50, Wis. Adm. Code), to claim a tax credit. Please indicate whether any of the petitioners are already in compliance with these standards. Explain how the proposed AEA will promote compliance with conservation standards. Attach documentation, where appropriate.*

- Control of soil erosion
- Nutrient management planning
- Prevention of direct runoff from feedlots or stored manure into state waters
- Prevention of overflowing manure storage structures

- *Repair of failing and leaking manure storage structures and closure of abandoned manure storage structures*
- *Construction of new or substantially altered manure storage structures to technical standards*
- *No stacking of manure in unconfined piles in water quality management areas*
- *Diversion of clean water from feedlots, manure storage areas and barnyards in the water quality management area*
- *Maintenance of self-sustaining sod cover along waterways*

Agriculture producers within the proposed agricultural enterprise area have had a history of being very proactive in implementing conservation practices. All of the petitioners have already developed conservation plans and are currently implementing them. Some conservation plans may need updating. Some of the petitioners have developed a nutrient management plan at some point with a certified crop consultant or the Polk County LWRD. One of the petitioners has a CNMP and others have CRP contracts. The county land and water conservation departments have also designed and installed a number of barnyard runoff control and manure storage structures since the Squaw Lake priority watershed project began in 1997. Many times follow-up operation evaluations are lacking due to the presence of other priority projects. The proposed AEA and the annual compliance certifications would allow for follow-up on previously implemented practices and maintain an open line of communication for new compliance requirements and program opportunities.

Upon approval of the AEA the county land and water conservation departments will evaluate the petitioners to determine full compliance with state soil and water conservation and NR 151 standards. At that time if there are certain items that an operation will need to address the county conservation departments will assist in bringing these operations into full compliance. It is unlikely that any of the petitioners operations are far out of compliance due to the past conservation efforts in the Squaw Lake watershed. As a result, conservation efforts in this area will be more about maintaining conservation practices rather than entire farm updates for compliance.

**10. How will the proposed AEA promote agricultural and related investment?**

*Describe current and proposed investment within the AEA. Identify key current and potential investors and their level of commitment. Explain how the AEA will promote or facilitate agricultural and related investment. Attach documentation, where appropriate.*

Ultimately, an AEA designation would help insure agricultural opportunity for the present and future generations. It is important to note that a few of the producers in the proposed AEA moved here from the Twin Cities area because of development pressures from the west. These producers can tell you first hand the hardships of having to relocate the family farm with each generation, and have expressed concerns over doing it again if action is not taken. Implement dealers, veterinarians, supply cooperatives and the like would also benefit from the added security of knowing there will be an agriculture customer base in the future.

As stated in question #2, one of the proposed initiatives for this area is to facilitate the creation of a long term sustainable agriculture economy in the area. Efforts are already underway to expand the use of locally sourced foods into the Osceola Schools. Another initiative already underway is to achieve 100% food and fuel independence by 2025 in the Osceola area. Wise use of cropland, such as that presented in the proposed AEA, will be necessary to produce the food and energy required for this initiative. The agriculture resources in this area are prime to evolve from a commodity based marketing system to one where both food and energy are locally produced and utilized.

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**11. How will the proposed AEA support economic activity within the community?**

*Explain how the AEA will promote economic activity between agricultural enterprises or between agricultural and nonagricultural enterprises. This may include, for example, joint marketing opportunities, purchase of feed, shared facilities and equipment, custom manure spreading or other opportunities. Attach documentation, where appropriate.*

The establishment of an AEA in this area could have phenomenal impacts on the economic viability of this community. Maintaining all types of working land for various recreational, agricultural and employment opportunities creates a solid foundation for economic development. The following are just a few examples of enterprises, both agricultural and non-agricultural, that would prosper with the help of the proposed AEA.

- Implement dealers, Veterinarians, Lenders, Co-Ops
- Agro-Tourism
- Markets for Organic Products and Community Supported Agriculture as well as local farmers markets.
- Custom Planting, harvesting, hauling services
- Sporting and recreation opportunities (hunting, fishing)
- Markets between operations within the AEA for trade or sale of services or commodities locally (ex. Sharing equipment, selling feed/livestock to neighbors, raising young stock, etc)
- Timber production

---

**12. What is the level of cooperator support for this petition?**

*Describe the level of support by other farmers, and by affected businesses, community organizations, and government entities. Attach cooperator "signature pages," if any.*

1. Fifteen Squaw Lake AEA petitioners
  2. Letters of support:
    - Wisconsin DNR
    - USDA-NRCS
    - Polk County LWRD
    - St. Croix LWCD
  3. Cooperator List of signatures:
    - Seven Landowner cooperator signature pages
    - Star Prairie Land Trust
    - USFWS
    - Countryside Co-op
    - Burnett Dairy
    - Star Prairie Fish and Game Inc.
    - Cedar Lake District
    - Polk County Economic Development
    - West Wisconsin Land Trust (WWLT)
    - Federated Co-ops Inc.
-

**Are there any other compelling reasons to choose this AEA proposal from among competing AEA proposals? Explain, and attach documentation where appropriate.**

With the exploration of energy and food independence by a neighboring community by the year 2025, this proposed AEA now has epic importance. With agriculture lands as the base of food production and now agricultures potential in providing energy sources, the preservation of Agricultural lands has never been more significant. The proposed AEA, if approved, will provide the staple for this energy and food independence by the year 2025 project. Please see the Osceola Energy and Food independence project flyer in the appendix (appendix I).

The following list includes additional reasons this proposed AEA will complement all aspects of agriculture preservation in this area:

1. Improvement and protection of 303d listed water resource.
  2. Much development pressure from Twin Cities
  3. Future expansion of Twin Cities is east (New Hwy 64, New Stillwater bridge)
  4. Exhibits prime agricultural lands in the area and all components of a sustainable agriculture community nearby:
    - Markets
    - Lime
    - Co-Ops
    - Implement dealers
    - Veterinarians
    - Livestock haulers
    - Seed dealers
    - Infrastructure
    - Very committed and motivated producers
- 

### **PART III. MAP AND SPATIAL LOCATION DATA**

Please send all of the following information, in electronic form, to: [DATCPWorkingLands@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DATCPWorkingLands@wisconsin.gov) (enter "AEA Petition" in the subject line):

1. A map of the proposed AEA that shows:
  - The proposed AEA boundary.
  - The boundaries of all land parcels within the proposed AEA.
  - Labels to identify farm parcels owned by persons signing this petition.
  - Major features such as roads and surface water resources.
  - Political boundaries lying within the proposed AEA, including any boundaries of counties, towns, villages, cities or drainage districts.
2. The spatial location data used to create the map. Please follow the attached MAP AND SPATIAL DATA GUIDELINES.

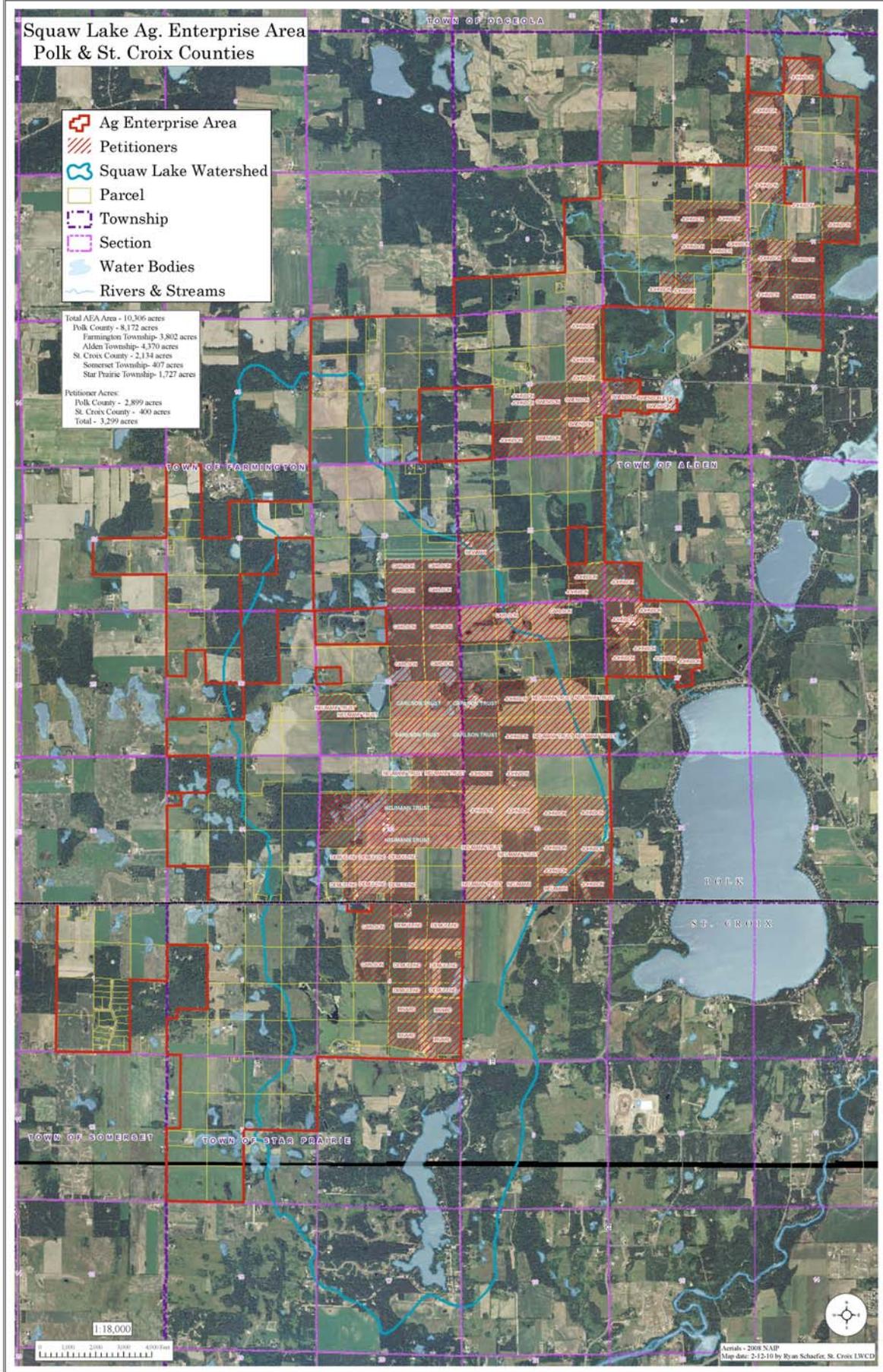
## *PART III. SQUAW LAKE AEA MAPS*

# Squaw Lake Ag. Enterprise Area Polk & St. Croix Counties

-  Ag Enterprise Area
-  Petitioners
-  Squaw Lake Watershed
-  Parcel
-  Township
-  Section
-  Water Bodies
-  Rivers & Streams

Total AEA Area - 10,306 acres  
 Polk County - 8,172 acres  
 Farmington Township- 3,802 acres  
 Alden Township- 4,370 acres  
 St. Croix County - 2,134 acres  
 Somerset Township- 407 acres  
 Star Prairie Township- 1,727 acres

Petitioner Acres:  
 Polk County - 2,899 acres  
 St. Croix County - 499 acres  
 Total - 3,399 acres

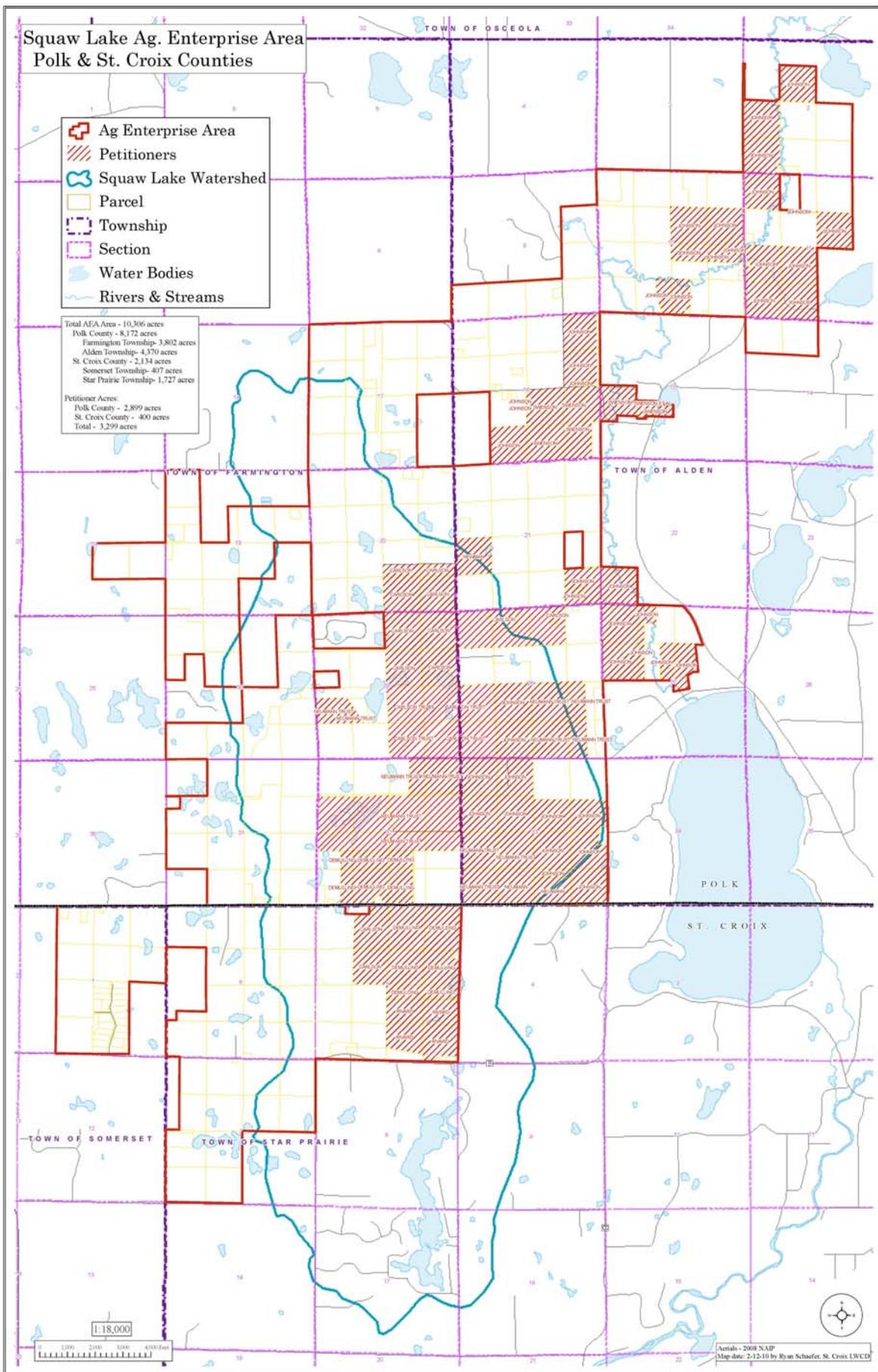


# Squaw Lake Ag. Enterprise Area Polk & St. Croix Counties

-  Ag Enterprise Area
-  Petitioners
-  Squaw Lake Watershed
-  Parcel
-  Township
-  Section
-  Water Bodies
-  Rivers & Streams

Total AEA Area - 10,306 acres  
 Polk County - 8,172 acres  
 Farmington Township - 3,802 acres  
 Alden Township - 4,370 acres  
 St. Croix County - 2,134 acres  
 Somerset Township - 407 acres  
 Star Prairie Township - 1,727 acres

Petitioner Acres:  
 Polk County - 2,899 acres  
 St. Croix County - 499 acres  
 Total - 3,399 acres



Aerials - 2008 NAIP  
 Map date: 2-12-10 by Ryan Schaefer, St. Croix LWCD

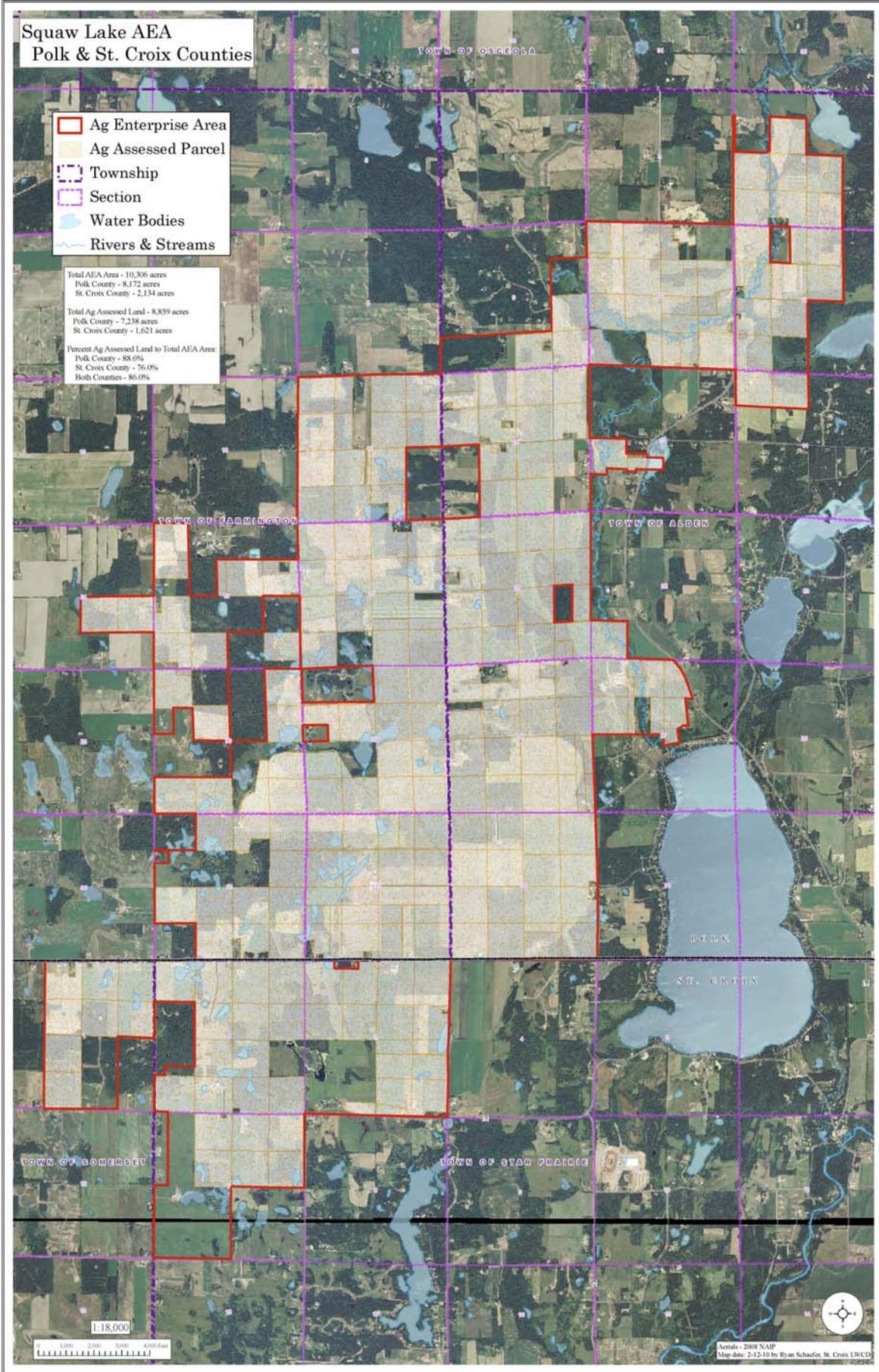
**Squaw Lake AEA**  
**Polk & St. Croix Counties**

- Ag Enterprise Area
- Ag Assessed Parcel
- Township
- Section
- Water Bodies
- Rivers & Streams

Total AEA Area - 10,306 acres  
 Polk County - 8,172 acres  
 St. Croix County - 2,134 acres

Total Ag Assessed Land - 8,859 acres  
 Polk County - 7,238 acres  
 St. Croix County - 1,621 acres

Percent Ag Assessed Land to Total AEA Area  
 Polk County - 88.6%  
 St. Croix County - 76.0%  
 Both Counties - 86.0%



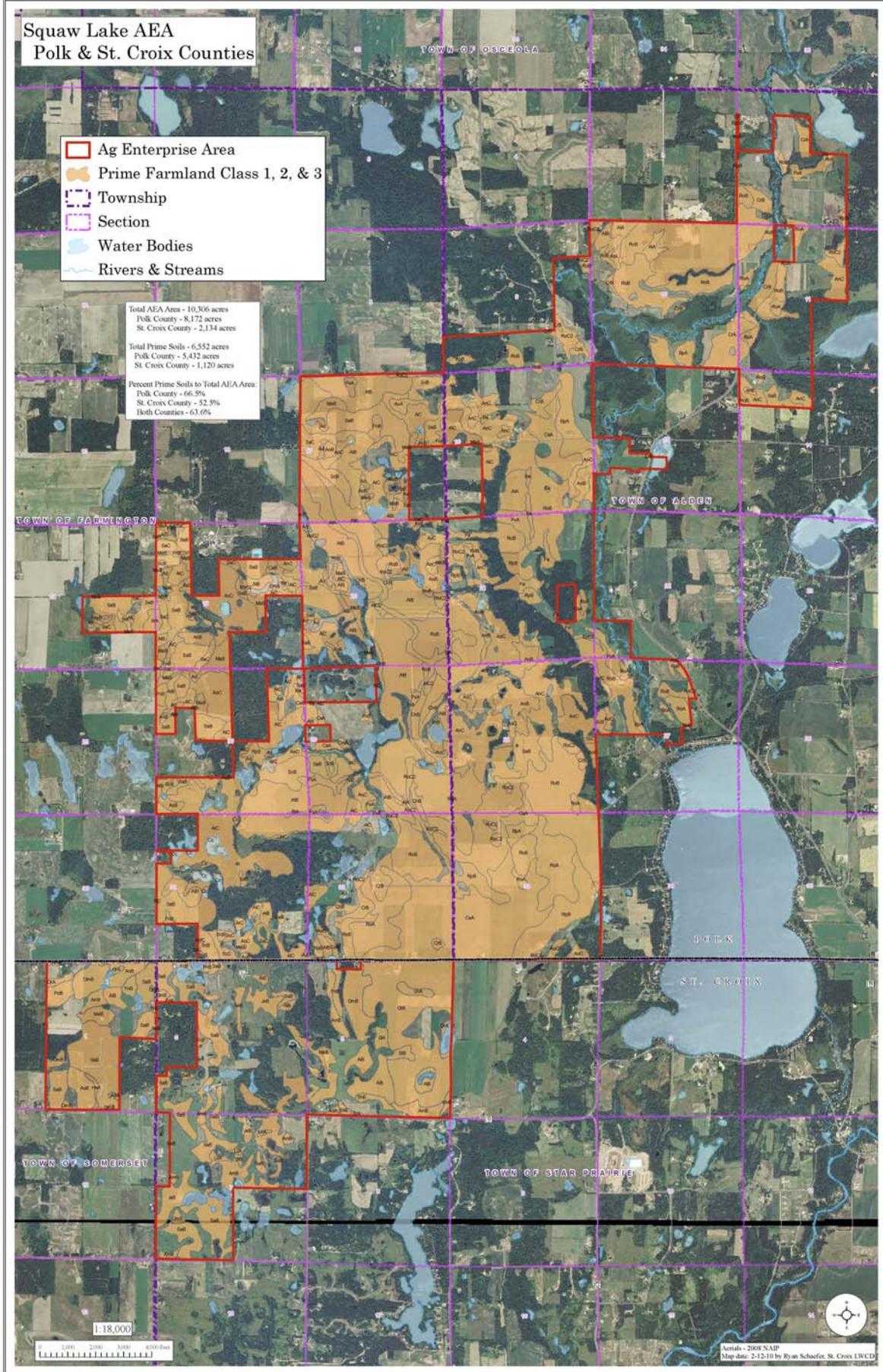
**Squaw Lake AEA**  
Polk & St. Croix Counties

- Ag Enterprise Area
- Prime Farmland Class 1, 2, & 3
- Township
- Section
- Water Bodies
- Rivers & Streams

Total AEA Area - 10,306 acres  
 Polk County - 8,172 acres  
 St. Croix County - 2,134 acres

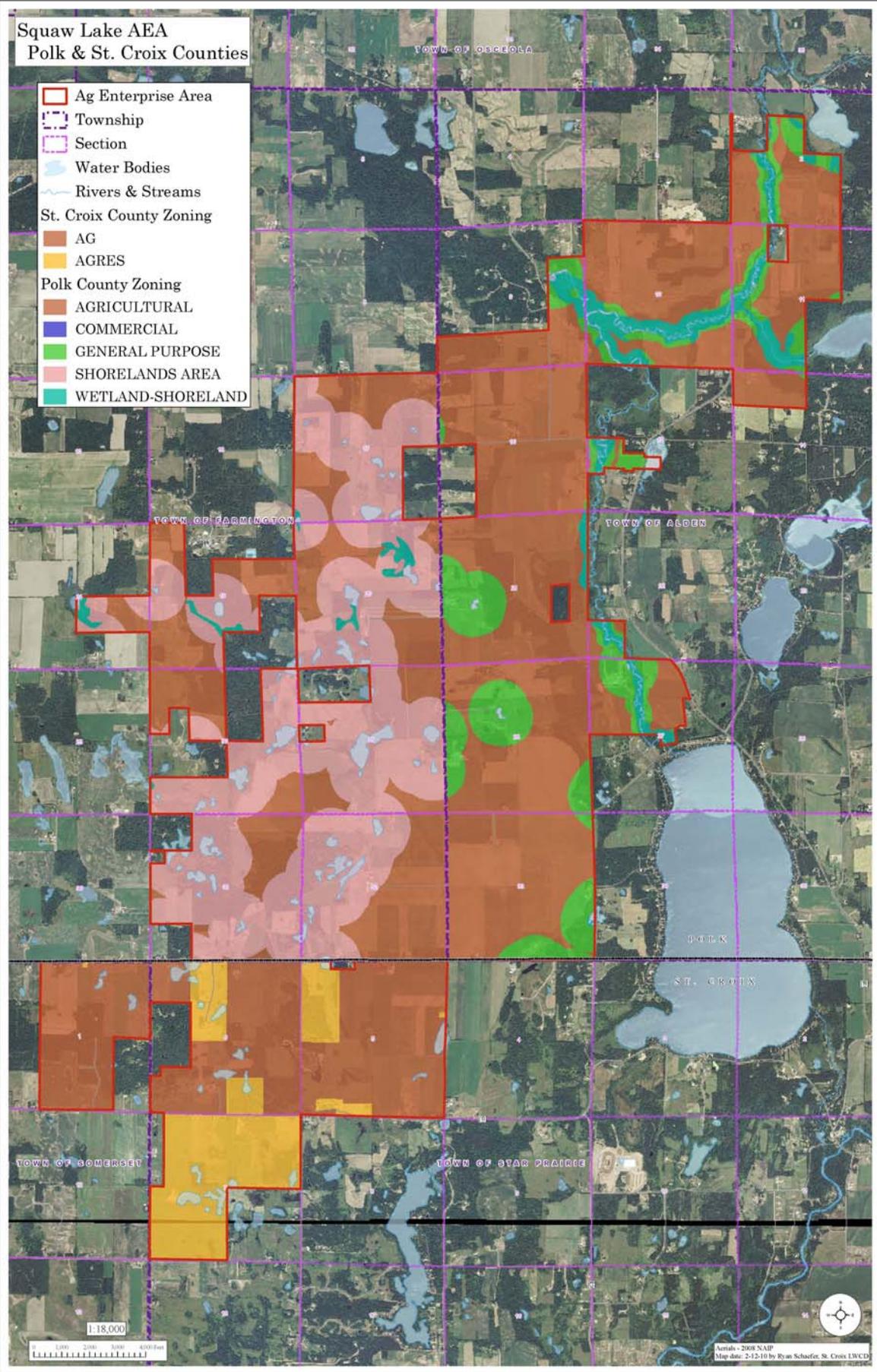
Total Prime Soils - 6,552 acres  
 Polk County - 5,432 acres  
 St. Croix County - 1,120 acres

Percent Prime Soils to Total AEA Area:  
 Polk County - 66.5%  
 St. Croix County - 52.5%  
 Both Counties - 63.6%



**Squaw Lake AEA  
Polk & St. Croix Counties**

- Ag Enterprise Area
- Township
- Section
- Water Bodies
- Rivers & Streams
- St. Croix County Zoning**
- AG
- AGRES
- Polk County Zoning**
- AGRICULTURAL
- COMMERCIAL
- GENERAL PURPOSE
- SHORELANDS AREA
- WETLAND-SHORELAND



1:18,000  
0 1000 2000 3000 4000 Feet

Aerials - 2008 NAIP  
Map date: 2-12-10 by Ryan Schaefer, St. Croix LWCD

# **LANDOWNER SIGNATURE PAGES**

**Landowner Signature Page**

The petition must be signed by the owners of at least 5 eligible farms within the proposed AEA. A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a husband and wife as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity): Randall J. & Mary E. Demullina

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple

Corporation

Partnership

LLC

Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized signature Randall J. Demullina Date 7/22/10

Print name of signer Randall J. Demullina

Authorized signature Mary E. Demullina Date 7/22/10

Print name of signer Mary E. Demullina

Farm address: 959 Polk/St. Croix Rd., New Richmond, WI 54017

Farm owner address: Same

Contact phone number: 715-248-3391

Petitioner information

I (we) already have a farmland preservation agreement with the state.

Yes  No

I (we) are interested in entering into a farmland preservation agreement.

(Note: To enter into a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)

Yes  No

Preserving land for agricultural use supports communities in a variety of ways. Our own dairy farm supports our surrounding community through the following business transactions:

- Banking business
- Veterinary
- Implement dealers, purchases and repair, parts and services
- Automobile dealers, purchases and repair, parts and services
- Freight trucking, commodities: milk, grain and cattle
- Co-operative purchases, seed, fertilizer, fuel and chemicals
- Insurance businesses, farm, vehicle and health
- Garbage removal business
- Labor paid to various individuals
- Miscellaneous purchases made at hardware stores
- Office products purchased
- Support of Church
- Real Estate Taxes paid to Township/County/State
- Federal and State Income Taxes
- Support of various agencies such as United Way, Salvation Army, etc.
- Tuition paid to Technical College
- Utilities
- Grocery stores and various other shops
- Support of County Fairs, 4-H and FFA

Randy and Mary Demulling  
959 Polk/St. Croix Rd.  
New Richmond, WI 54017

**Landowner Signature Page**

The petition must be signed by the owners of at least 5 eligible farms within the proposed AEA. A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a husband and wife as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity): \_\_\_\_\_

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple

Corporation

Partnership

LLC

Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized signature Lehman E. Carlson Date 2/15/10  
Print name of signer Lehman E Carlson

Authorized signature Judith K. Carlson Date 2/15/10  
Print name of signer Judith K. Carlson

Farm address: 134 220<sup>th</sup> St, New Richmond, WI 54017

Farm owner address: Same

Contact phone number: 715-248-3273

Petitioner information

I (we) already have a farmland preservation agreement with the state.  Yes  No

I (we) are interested in entering into a farmland preservation agreement.  Yes  No  
(Note: To enter into a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)

**Landowner Signature Page**

The petition must be signed by the owners of at least 5 eligible farms within the proposed AEA. A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a husband and wife as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity): Gary + Karolyn Demulling

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple

Corporation

Partnership

LLC

Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized signature Gary S. Demulling Date 2-20-10

Print name of signer Gary S. Demulling

Authorized signature Karolyn M Demulling Date 2-20-10

Print name of signer Karolyn M Demulling

Farm address: 2269 Polk Saint Croix County Line E  
New Richmond WI 54017

Farm owner address: Same as above

Contact phone number: 715-248-3974

Petitioner information

I (we) already have a farmland preservation agreement with the state.  Yes  No

I (we) are interested in entering into a farmland preservation agreement.  Yes  No  
(Note: To enter into a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)

**Landowner Signature Page**

*The petition must be signed by the owners of at least 5 eligible farms within the proposed AEA. A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a husband and wife as individuals, both must sign.*

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity): \_\_\_\_\_

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple

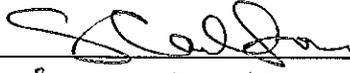
Corporation

Partnership

LLC

Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized signature  Date 2/16/10  
Print name of signer Scott Carlson

Authorized signature  Date 2-16-10  
Print name of signer Sara Carlson

Farm address: 134 270<sup>th</sup> St. New Richmond, WI 54017

Farm owner address: 2130 20<sup>th</sup> Ave Star Prairie, WI 54026

Contact phone number: 715-755-2246

Petitioner information

I (we) already have a farmland preservation agreement with the state.  Yes  No

I (we) are interested in entering into a farmland preservation agreement.  Yes  No  
*(Note: To enter into a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)*

**Landowner Signature Page**

The petition must be signed by the owners of at least 5 eligible farms within the proposed AEA. A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a husband and wife as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity): Timm & Helen Johnson

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple

Corporation

Partnership

LLC

Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized signature Timm Johnson Date 2-23-10

Print name of signer Timm Johnson

Authorized signature Helen Johnson Date 2-23-10

Print name of signer Helen Johnson

Farm address: 79 217th St. New Richmond, WI 54017

Farm owner address: 79 217th St. New Richmond, WI 54017

Contact phone number: 715-248-3277

Petitioner information

I (we) already have a farmland preservation agreement with the state.

Yes  No

I (we) are interested in entering into a farmland preservation agreement.  
(Note: To enter into a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)

Yes  No

**Landowner Signature Page**

The petition must be signed by the owners of at least 5 eligible farms within the proposed AEA. A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a husband and wife as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity): SPLIT-LEVEL REG. HOLSTEINS  
JOHN T NEWMAN

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple

Corporation

Partnership

LLC

Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized signature John T Newman Date 2-23-2010  
Print name of signer JOHN T NEWMAN

Authorized signature Kendra L Newman Date 2-23-2010  
Print name of signer KENDRA L NEWMAN

Farm address: 244 220<sup>th</sup> St. STAR PRAIRIE, WI 54026

Farm owner address: 244 220<sup>th</sup> St. STAR PRAIRIE, WI 54026

Contact phone number: 1-715-294-2957

Petitioner information

I (we) already have a farmland preservation agreement with the state.

Yes  No

I (we) are interested in entering into a farmland preservation agreement.  
(Note: To enter into a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)

Yes  No

Landowner Signature Page

The petition must be signed by the owners of at least 5 eligible farms within the proposed AEA. A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a husband and wife as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity): Clarence & Leona Neumann Trust

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple

Corporation

Partnership

LLC

Other (describe) Trust

Authorized signature Clarence Neumann Date 2-8-10  
Print name of signer Clarence Neumann

Authorized signature Leona Neumann Date 2-8-10  
Print name of signer Leona Neumann

Farm address: 2250 5th Ave

Farm owner address: New Richmond, WI 54017

Contact phone number: 715-248-3275

Petitioner information

I (we) already have a farmland preservation agreement with the state.  Yes  No

I (we) are interested in entering into a farmland preservation agreement.  Yes  No  
(Note: To enter into a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)

**Landowner Signature Page**

The petition must be signed by the owners of at least 5 eligible farms within the proposed AEA. A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a husband and wife as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity): Roger & Laurie Neumann Trust

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple

Corporation

Partnership

LLC

Other (describe) Trust

Authorized signature Roger Neumann Date 2-8-10  
Print name of signer Roger Neumann

Authorized signature Laurie Neumann Date 2-8-10  
Print name of signer Laurie Neumann

Farm address: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm owner address: 2183 Polk-St. C. Rd  
New Richmond, WI 54017

Contact phone number: 715-248-3549

Petitioner Information

I (we) already have a farmland preservation agreement with the state.  Yes  No

I (we) are interested in entering into a farmland preservation agreement.  Yes  No  
(Note: To enter into a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)

**Landowner Signature Page**

The petition must be signed by the owners of at least 5 eligible farms within the proposed AEA. A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a husband and wife as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity): Brett Neumann

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

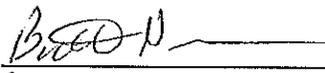
Individual or married couple

Corporation

Partnership

LLC

Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized signature  Date 2-8-10

Print name of signer Brett Neumann

Authorized signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print name of signer \_\_\_\_\_

Farm address: ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ City Line Ave.

Farm owner address: 2387 110<sup>th</sup> St. New Richmond, WI 54017

Contact phone number: 715-248-7849

Petitioner information

I (we) already have a farmland preservation agreement with the state.  Yes  No

I (we) are interested in entering into a farmland preservation agreement.  Yes  No  
(Note: To enter into a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)

**Landowner Signature Page**

The petition must be signed by the owners of at least 5 eligible farms within the proposed AEA. A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a husband and wife as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity): Bjorn + Jamie Neumann

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple

Corporation

Partnership

LLC

Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized signature Bjorn Neumann Date 2-8-10  
Print name of signer Bjorn Neumann

Authorized signature Jamie Neumann Date 2/8/10  
Print name of signer JAMIE Neumann

Farm address: 2149 County Line Rd New Richmond WI 54017

Farm owner address: same

Contact phone number: 715-248-7990

Petitioner information

I (we) already have a farmland preservation agreement with the state.  Yes  No

I (we) are interested in entering into a farmland preservation agreement.  Yes  No  
(Note: To enter into a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)

**Landowner Signature Page**

The petition must be signed by the owners of at least 5 eligible farms within the proposed AEA. A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a husband and wife as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity): Horse Creek Holsteins LLC

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

- Individual or married couple
- Corporation
- Partnership
- LLC
- Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized signature Ted Johnson Date 2-8-10  
Print name of signer Ted J Johnson

Authorized signature Gretchen K Johnson Date 2-8-10  
Print name of signer Gretchen K. Johnson

Farm address: 2080 20<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Star Prairie WI 54026

Farm owner address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Same as Above

Contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
715-294-3422

Petitioner information

I (we) already have a farmland preservation agreement with the state.  Yes  No

I (we) are interested in entering into a farmland preservation agreement.  Yes  No  
(Note: To enter into a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)

**Landowner Signature Page**

*The petition must be signed by the owners of at least 5 eligible farms within the proposed AEA. A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a husband and wife as individuals, both must sign.*

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity): **Johnson Revocable Trust Dated October 31, 2001**

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple

Corporation

Partnership

LLC

Other (describe) **Revocable Trust**

Authorized signature Bradley T. Johnson Date 2/8/2010

Print name of signer: **Bradley T. Johnson**

Authorized signature Susan M. Johnson Date 2/8/2010

Print name of signer: **Susan M. Johnson**

Farm address: **480 200<sup>th</sup> Street, Osceola, WI 54020**

Farm owner address: **Same as Above**

Contact phone number: **715-755-2170**

Petitioner information

I (we) already have a farmland preservation agreement with the state.  Yes  No

I (we) are interested in entering into a farmland preservation agreement. (Note: To enter into a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)  Yes  No

**Landowner Signature Page**

The petition must be signed by the owners of at least 5 eligible farms within the proposed AEA. A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a husband and wife as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity): Rimoe LLC

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple

Corporation

Partnership

LLC

Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized signature Rodney Rivard Date 2-8-10  
Print name of signer Rodney Rivard

Authorized signature Corina Rivard Date 2-12-10  
Print name of signer Corina Rivard

Farm address: 968 Cty Line RD New Richmond Wis 54017

Farm owner address: 1047 Cty Line RD New Richmond Wis 54017

Contact phone number: 715 248-3378

Petitioner information

I (we) already have a farmland preservation agreement with the state.  Yes  No

I (we) are interested in entering into a farmland preservation agreement.  Yes  No  
(Note: To enter into a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)

**Landowner Signature Page**

The petition must be signed by the owners of at least 5 eligible farms within the proposed AEA. A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a husband and wife as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity): ROCK RIDGE FARM

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple

Corporation

Partnership

LLC

Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized signature Leonard E. Swenson Date 2-15-2010  
Print name of signer Leonard E. Swenson JR

Authorized signature Merle Swenson Date 2-15-2010  
Print name of signer MERLE SWENSON

Farm address: 2106 COUNTY Road X Star Prairie, WI. 54026

Farm owner address: 2106 COUNTY Road X Star Prairie, WI 54026

Contact phone number: 715-294-2578

Petitioner information

I (we) already have a farmland preservation agreement with the state.  Yes  No

I (we) are interested in entering into a farmland preservation agreement.  Yes  No  
(Note: To enter into a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)

**Landowner Signature Page**

The petition must be signed by the owners of at least 5 eligible farms within the proposed AEA. A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a husband and wife as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity): ROCK RIDGE FARM

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple

Corporation

Partnership

LLC

Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized signature Leonard E. Swenson Jr Date 2-18-2010  
Print name of signer Leonard E. Swenson Jr

Authorized signature Edith M. Swenson Date 2-18-2010  
Print name of signer Edith M. Swenson

Farm address: 2106 County Road X Star Prairie WI, 54026

Farm owner address: 2106 County Road X Star Prairie, WI 54026

Contact phone number: 715-294-2578

Petitioner information

I (we) already have a farmland preservation agreement with the state.  Yes  No

I (we) are interested in entering into a farmland preservation agreement.  Yes  No  
(Note: To enter into a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)

**POLITICAL SUBDIVISION  
SIGNATURE PAGES**

**Political Subdivision Signature Page**

*The petition must be signed by every political subdivision (county, town, city or village) in which any part of the proposed AEA is included. A separate signature page, in the following form, must be attached for each political subdivision. This signature page must be signed by an authorized officer or representative of the political subdivision.*

Political subdivision name: Town of Alden-Polk County

Type (check one): County  Town X City  Village

Printed name of authorized officer or representative: Bradley Johnson

Title of authorized officer or representative: Chairman

Authorized signature: Bradley T. Johnson Date: February 12, 2010

Principal mailing Address: 183-155<sup>th</sup> Street, Star Prairie, WI 54026

Phone number: 715-248-7859

Acreage of land in proposed AEA located in political subdivision: 4370 acres

**Political Subdivision Signature Page**

The petition must be signed by every political subdivision (county, town, city or village) in which any part of the proposed AEA is included. A separate signature page, in the following form, must be attached for each political subdivision. This signature page must be signed by an authorized officer or representative of the political subdivision.

Political subdivision name: 70000 *Farmingtown Township*

Type (check one): County  Town  City  Village

Printed name of authorized officer or representative: 00000 *James LaRue*

Title of authorized officer or representative: 00000 *Chairman*

Authorized signature *James LaRue* Date: 020110  
00000

Principal mailing Address: 00000 *638 Ridge Road Oscoda, Wis. 54020*

Phone number: 00000 *715-294-3897*

Acreage of land in proposed AEA located in political subdivision: 3802  
00000 acres

FROM : THEBARRY'S

FAX NO. : 2399251381

Feb. 18 2010 11:27AM P1

**Political Subdivision Signature Page**

The petition must be signed by every political subdivision (county, town, city or village) in which any part of the proposed AEA is included. A separate signature page, in the following form, must be attached for each political subdivision. This signature page must be signed by an authorized officer or representative of the political subdivision.

Political subdivision name: Town of Star Prairie

Type (check one): County  Town  City  Village

Printed name of authorized officer or representative: Douglas Rivard

Title of authorized officer or representative: Chairman

Authorized signature: Douglas Rivard Date: 2-18-10

Principal mailing Address: 2286 100<sup>th</sup> ST  
New Richmond, Wis 54017

Phone number: 715-248-3741

Acreage of land in proposed AEA located in political subdivision: 1927  
acres

Town of Somerset  
P.O. Box 248  
Somerset, WI 54025

February 18, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

Attached is the Political Subdivision Signature Page for the AEA for Section 1 in the Town of Somerset.

This page will be invalid until approved at the Somerset Town Board meeting on March 3, 2010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Schachtner".

Ed Schachtner,  
Town Chairman

Enclosure: Signature page for AEA signed 2-18-2010

**Political Subdivision Signature Page**

*The petition must be signed by every political subdivision (county, town, city or village) in which any part of the proposed AEA is included. A separate signature page, in the following form, must be attached for each political subdivision. This signature page must be signed by an authorized officer or representative of the political subdivision.*

Political subdivision name: Somerset

Type (check one): County  Town  City  Village

Printed name of authorized officer or representative: Ed Schachtner

Title of authorized officer or representative: chairman

Authorized signature: Ed Schachtner Date: 2-17-10

Principal mailing Address: P. O. Box 248  
Somerset, WI 54025-0248

Phone number: (715) 247-3470

Acreage of land in proposed AEA located in political subdivision: 407 acres

**Political Subdivision Signature Page**

The petition must be signed by every political subdivision (county, town, city or village) in which any part of the proposed AEA is included. A separate signature page, in the following form, must be attached for each political subdivision. This signature page must be signed by an authorized officer or representative of the political subdivision.

Political subdivision name: Polk County

Type (check one): County  Town  City  Village

Printed name of authorized officer or representative: Larry Jepsen

Title of authorized officer or representative: Chair, LCC

Authorized signature: Larry Jepsen Date: 2-10-10

Principal mailing Address: 100 Polk County Plaza - Suite 120  
Balsam Lake WI 54810

Phone number: 715-755-3474

Acreage of land in proposed AEA located in political subdivision: 8,172 acres

Committee Members

Deanne Storking - Vice-Chair

Kathryn Kersh Secy.  
Bill Johnson FSA Representative

Deen Johnson

**Political Subdivision Signature Page**

*The petition must be signed by every political subdivision (county, town, city or village) in which any part of the proposed AEA is included. A separate signature page, in the following form, must be attached for each political subdivision. This signature page must be signed by an authorized officer or representative of the political subdivision.*

**Political subdivision name:** St. Croix County

Type (check one): County  Town  City  Village

Printed name of authorized officer or representative: Roger Rebholz

Title of authorized officer or representative: SCC – County Board Chairman

Authorized signature:  Date: 2-23-10

Principal mailing Address: St. Croix County Government Center

1101 Carmichael Road, Hudson, WI 54016

Phone number: 715.386.4605

Acreage of land in proposed AEA located in political subdivision: 2134 acres

**COOPERATOR PETITIONER  
SIGNATURE PAGES  
AND  
GENERAL LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

**Cooperator Petitioner Signature Page (optional)**

Other persons (cooperators) may sign in support of the petition. A separate signature page, in the following form, is required for each cooperator. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity.

Legal name of cooperator: Star Prairie Fish & Game Assoc.

Relevant interest (farm owner, business, nonprofit or community organization, government entity, other):  
non profit

Principal mailing Address: Star Prairie Fish & Game  
P.O. Box 42  
Star Prairie, WI 54026

Phone number: 715 246-4109 (m.j. Kelly - home)

Briefly describe your interest in signing this petition for designation of an agricultural enterprise area:

Potential for erosion control, water quality, and wildlife habitat improvements. This fits the clubs mission and geographical area of concern.

I have read this petition and support the designation of the proposed area as an AEA.

Print name Michael J. Kelly

Authorized signature: M J Kelly Date 2-17-2010  
Secretary SPF+G

# Star Prairie Fish & Game, Inc.

P.O. Box 42  
Star Prairie, WI 54026  
<http://fishandgame.starprairie.org>



Town of Alden  
183 155<sup>th</sup> St.  
Star Prairie, WI 54026

February 16, 2010

Dear Sirs;

The Star Prairie Fish & Game Association, is an all volunteer, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, whose mission is to provide, protect, and restore environmentally important land and water areas for fish, game, and wildlife, that will create recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities.

At our monthly February meeting, after a brief explanation of the Squaw Lake Watershed Agricultural Enterprise area, by Brad Johnson, the club unanimously voted to extend our support of the project.

The potential benefit for erosion control, water quality improvement, and habitat development from the Agricultural Enterprise area fits very well with the mission of our organization and our geographical area of concern.

This project has the full support of our Board of Directors and the membership.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael J. Kelly'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Michael J. Kelly  
Secretary, SPF&G

Phone : 715 246-4109

**Cooperator Petitioner Signature Page (optional)**

*Other persons (cooperators) may sign in support of the petition. A separate signature page, in the following form, is required for each cooperator. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity.*

Legal name of cooperator: Star Prairie land Preservation Trust

Relevant interest (farm owner, business, nonprofit or community organization, government entity, other):

Land Trust/Non-profit

Principal mailing Address: Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust  
PO Box 88

Star Prairie, WI 54026

Phone number: 715-248-7300

*Briefly describe your interest in signing this petition for designation of an agricultural enterprise area:*

The Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust supports the petition for designation of an agricultural enterprise area as we believe such a designation fully supports the mission of the land trust which is "to preserve environmentally sensitive land and to promote rural character while protecting water quality and wildlife habitat for future generations."

I have read this petition and support the designation of the proposed area as an AEA.

Print name Beth Wood  
President - Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust

Authorized signature: Beth Wood Date 2.21.10

**Cooperator Petitioner Signature Page (optional)**

*Other persons (cooperators) may sign in support of the petition. A separate signature page, in the following form, is required for each cooperator. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity.*

Legal name of cooperator: Cedar Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District

Relevant interest (farm owner, business, nonprofit or community organization, government entity, other):

Non-profit, quasi-governmental entity/Lake District

Principal mailing Address: Cedar Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District

PO Box 93

Star Prairie, WI 54026

Phone number: 715-248-7366

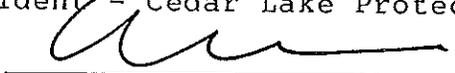
*Briefly describe your interest in signing this petition for designation of an agricultural enterprise area:*

The Cedar Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District strongly supports the Petition for designation as an Agricultural Enterprise area for the local area near Cedar Lake. We believe that the creation of the AEA is consistent with our mission to protect Cedar Lake, related shore lands and its drainage basin. The water quality of Cedar Lake would be maintained by cooperative efforts with nearby farmers in controlling erosion and preventing runoff into the lake. A well organized, viable AEA would help us preserve and protect the lake and surrounding area in preventing deterioration of the watershed and lake. Creation of the AEA would enhance our ability to preserve Cedar Lake as a multi-use recreational center for fishing, boating, swimming, and other water activities.

I have read this petition and support the designation of the proposed area as an AEA.

Print name Robert Goodlad

President - Cedar Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District

Authorized signature: *By:* 

Date 2/21/10

WARREN W. WOOD  
COMMISSIONER

**Cooperator Petitioner Signature Page (optional)**

*Other persons (cooperators) may sign in support of the petition. A separate signature page, in the following form, is required for each cooperator. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity.*

Legal name of cooperator: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Relevant interest (farm owner, business, nonprofit or community organization, government entity, other): Govt

Principal mailing Address: St. Croix Wetland Management District, 1764 95<sup>th</sup> Street, New Richmond, WI 54017

Phone number: 715-246-7784

*Briefly describe your interest in signing this petition for designation of an agricultural enterprise area:*

The St. Croix Wetland Management District is supportive of the Squaw Lake AEA proposal. Efforts to protect the area from development and maintain the rural integrity of the AEA will be very valuable if coupled with efforts to improve water quality and protect natural resources. Use of best management practices within the AEA and promotion of conservation programs such as CRP, will help with the local effort to protect the water quality of Squaw Lake as well as the wildlife value found in the wetlands in the project area.

I have read this petition and support the designation of the proposed area as an AEA. x

Print name Thomas M. Kerr/District Manager

Authorized signature: Tom Kerr Date 2/22/2010

**Cooperator Petitioner Signature Page (optional)**

Other persons (cooperators) may sign in support of the petition. A separate signature page, in the following form, is required for each cooperator. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity.

Legal name of cooperator: Countryside Cooperative - Lincum Ag

Relevant interest (farm owner, business, nonprofit or community organization, government entity, other):  
Business

Principal mailing Address: 2116 County Rd S  
New Richmond, WI 53017

Phone number: 715-246-9580

Briefly describe your interest in signing this petition for designation of an agricultural enterprise area:

This is an agriculture supply cooperative and one of the largest in the state. We depend on a stable, productive environment for this type of business.

I have read this petition and support the designation of the proposed area as an AEA.

Print name Tom Overby

Authorized signature: [Signature] Date 2/12/2010

Cooperator Petitioner Signature Page (optional)

Other persons (cooperators) may sign in support of the petition. A separate signature page, in the following form, is required for each cooperator. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity.

Legal name of cooperator: Birnett Dairy Cooperative

Relevant interest (farm owner, business, nonprofit or community organization, government entity, other): \_\_\_\_\_

Principal mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ 11631 State Rd 70 Cheese MAg

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Grantsburg, WI 54840  
715-689-2468

Briefly describe your interest in signing this petition for designation of an agricultural enterprise area:

To help ensure a stable, local milk supply for our cheese production.

I have read this petition and support the designation of the proposed area as an AEA.

Print name Dean Nelson

Authorized signature: Dean Nelson

Date 2-23-2010

**Cooperator Petitioner Signature Page (optional)**

*Other persons (cooperators) may sign in support of the petition. A separate signature page, in the following form, is required for each cooperator. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity.*

Legal name of cooperator: Polk County Economic Development

Relevant interest (farm owner, business, nonprofit or community organization, government entity, other): Non-profit

Principal mailing Address: 215 Main St., PO Box 181, Balsam Lake, WI 54810

Phone number: 715-405-7655

*Briefly describe your interest in signing this petition for designation of an agricultural enterprise area:*

It seems in the best interest of the parties to have access to this program.

I have read this petition and support the designation of the proposed area as an AEA. X

Print name \_\_\_\_\_ Trudy Popenhagen, Board President \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized signature: \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ Date 2/9/10

**Cooperator Petitioner Signature Page (optional)**

Other persons (cooperators) may sign in support of the petition. A separate signature page, in the following form, is required for each cooperator. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity.

Legal name of cooperator: West Wisconsin Land Trust, Inc.

Relevant interest (farm owner, business, nonprofit or community organization, government entity, other): Nonprofit conservation organization

Principal mailing Address: 500 East Main St. Ste. 307 Menomonie, WI 54751

Phone number: (715) 235-8850

Briefly describe your interest in signing this petition for designation of an agricultural enterprise area:

West Wisconsin Land Trust's mission is to protect & conserve the resources of western Wisconsin, including its farmland and agricultural soils. Adopting an AEA in the Squaw Lake watershed is a means to permanently protect important agricultural land in an area threatened by improper development.

I have read this petition and support the designation of the proposed area as an AEA.

Print name

Richard E. Gauger

Authorized signature:



Date 1-28-10

**Cooperator Petitioner Signature Page (optional)**

Other persons (cooperators) may sign in support of the petition. A separate signature page, in the following form, is required for each cooperator. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity.

Legal name of cooperator: Federated Co-ops Inc

Relevant interest (farm owner, business, nonprofit or community organization, government entity, other):

Business Farm Supply

Principal mailing Address: 502 S 2nd St  
Princeton, MN 55371

Phone number: 612-802 3682

Briefly describe your interest in signing this petition for designation of an agricultural enterprise area:

We are supporters of Agricultural Producers in Wisconsin because our customers in Osceola, Wisconsin who farm are essential to our business

I have read this petition and support the designation of the proposed area as an AEA.

Print name Tim Kavanaugh General MGR Federated Co-ops

Authorized signature: Tim Kavanaugh Date 1/17/2010

**Cooperator Petitioner Signature Page (optional)**

*Other persons (cooperators) may sign in support of the petition. A separate signature page, in the following form, is required for each cooperator. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity.*

Legal name of cooperator: Pioneer Dairy Farm Inc

Relevant interest (farm owner, business, nonprofit or community organization, government entity, other): \_\_\_\_\_

Principal mailing Address: 813 Polk St. Croix Rd New Richmond, WI 54017

Phone number: 715-294-3668

*Briefly describe your interest in signing this petition for designation of an agricultural enterprise area:*

To preserve farm land for the future.

I have read this petition and support the designation of the proposed area as an AEA.

Print name Craig Swanson

Authorized signature: Craig Swanson Date 2-15-10

**Cooperator Petitioner Signature Page (optional)**

Other persons (cooperators) may sign in support of the petition. A separate signature page, in the following form, is required for each cooperator. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity.

Legal name of cooperator: Andrew L Johnson

Relevant interest (farm owner, business, nonprofit or community organization, government entity, other): property

Principal mailing Address: 51 210th street New Richmond WI 54017 owner

Phone number: 715-2220491

Briefly describe your interest in signing this petition for designation of an agricultural enterprise area:

I am a property within the proposed AEA and am in favor of its creation

I have read this petition and support the designation of the proposed area as an AEA.

Print name Andrew L Johnson

Authorized signature: Andrew L Johnson Date 21 Feb 2010

**Cooperator Petitioner Signature Page (optional)**

Other persons (cooperators) may sign in support of the petition. A separate signature page, in the following form, is required for each cooperator. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity.

Legal name of cooperator: John R. Wolter

Relevant interest (farm owner, business, nonprofit or community organization, government entity, other):  
Farm owner

Principal mailing Address: 195-330th St  
Osceola, Wis  
54080-5958

Phone number: 715-294-2270

Briefly describe your interest in signing this petition for designation of an agricultural enterprise area:  
I want this farmland to no be developed into housing,

I have read this petition and support the designation of the proposed area as an AEA?

Print name John R. Wolter

Authorized signature: John R. Wolter Date 2-8-10

**Cooperator Petitioner Signature Page (optional)**

Other persons (cooperators) may sign in support of the petition. A separate signature page, in the following form, is required for each cooperator. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity.

Legal name of cooperator: Greg Nelson

Relevant interest (farm owner, business, nonprofit or community organization, government entity, other):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Principal mailing Address: 2320 Cold H 85th St.  
New Richmond  
WI 54017

Phone number: 715-248-3295

Briefly describe your interest in signing this petition for designation of an agricultural enterprise area:

Don't like all these houses

I have read this petition and support the designation of the proposed area as an AEA.

Print name Greg Nelson

Authorized signature: Greg Nelson Date 2

**Cooperator Petitioner Signature Page (optional)**

*Other persons (cooperators) may sign in support of the petition. A separate signature page, in the following form, is required for each cooperator. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity.*

Legal name of cooperator: Allen Campbell

Relevant interest (farm owner, business, nonprofit or community organization, government entity, other):

Farm owner

Principal mailing Address: 2311 100<sup>th</sup>

New Braunfels Wis.

54017

Phone number: 715-248-3903

*Briefly describe your interest in signing this petition for designation of an agricultural enterprise area:*

To keep farm hand on open space identifying woods

I have read this petition and support the designation of the proposed area as an AEA.

Print name Allen Campbell

Authorized signature: Allen Campbell Date 2-8-2010

**Cooperator Petitioner Signature Page (optional)**

Other persons (cooperators) may sign in support of the petition. A separate signature page, in the following form, is required for each cooperator. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity.

Legal name of cooperator: ROBERT NORLANDER

Relevant interest (farm owner, business, nonprofit or community organization, government entity, other):  
FARM OWNER

Principal mailing Address: 454 213th ST  
STAR PRAIRIE WI  
54026

Phone number: 715-2942798

Briefly describe your interest in signing this petition for designation of an agricultural enterprise area:

I FARM IN THIS AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE  
AREA ALDEN TOWNSHIP POLK COUNTY  
WI. MY FARM IS IN A FARM LAND  
PRESERVATION AGREEMENT AND I SUPPORT  
AGRICULTURAL AREAS IN ARE TOWNSHIP  
ALDEN WI, AND IN ALL OF WISCONSIN  
THANK YOU Robert Norlander

I have read this petition and support the designation of the proposed area as an AEA.

Print name ROBERT NORLANDER

Authorized signature: Robert Norlander Date 2-11-10

**Cooperator Petitioner Signature Page (optional)**

Other persons (cooperators) may sign in support of the petition. A separate signature page, in the following form, is required for each cooperator. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity.

Legal name of cooperator: Douglas H Rivard

Relevant interest (farm owner, business, nonprofit or community organization, government entity, other):

Principal mailing Address: 2286 100<sup>th</sup> St.  
New Richmond wis  
54017

Phone number: 715 248 3741

Briefly describe your interest in signing this petition for designation of an agricultural enterprise area:

I have land in section 4 next to section 5 that is exclusive Ag that I know should be in this also and want to be Thank-you

I have read this petition and support the designation of the proposed area as an AEA.

Print name Douglas H Rivard

Authorized signature: Douglas H Rivard Date 2-8-10

**Cooperator Petitioner Signature Page (optional)**

*Other persons (cooperators) may sign in support of the petition. A separate signature page, in the following form, is required for each cooperator. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity.*

Legal name of cooperator: St. Croix County

Relevant interest: Government Entity

Principal mailing Address: St. Croix County Government Center  
1101 Carmichael Road  
Hudson, WI 54016

Phone number: 715.386.4605

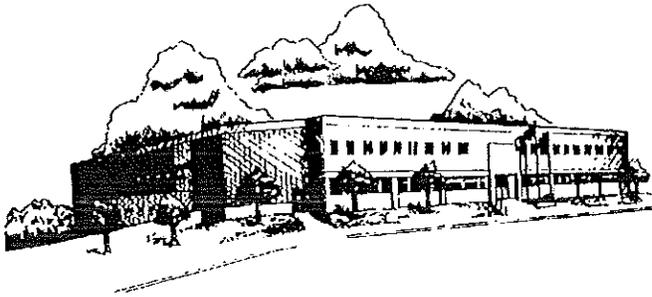
*Briefly describe your interest in signing this petition for designation of an agricultural enterprise area:*

Agriculture and agricultural business are very important to the economy of St. Croix County. Keeping productive agricultural land in agriculture is critical for the long term health of St. Croix County and our citizens. The St. Croix County Development Management Plan and the Land and Water Resource Management Plan both support the preservation of productive agricultural lands in St. Croix County. Therefore, St. Croix County is in support of the petition to establish an Agricultural Enterprise Area in the Squaw Lake Watershed.

I have read this petition and support the designation of the proposed area as an AEA.

Print name Roger Rebholz, County Board Chairman

Authorized signature:  Date 2-23-10



ST. CROIX COUNTY  
WISCONSIN  
**OFFICE OF COUNTY BOARD**  
ST. CROIX COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER  
1101 Carmichael Road  
Hudson, WI 54016-7710  
(715) 386-4605 FAX (715) 381-4400

February 23, 2010

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection  
Division of Agricultural Resource Management-Working Lands Program  
P.O. Box 8911  
Madison, WI 53708-8911

RE: Petition for Squaw Lake Agricultural Enterprise Area

Dear Petition Reviewers:

St. Croix County strongly supports the petition for the **Squaw Lake Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA)** located in the Towns of Somerset and Star Prairie in St. Croix County.

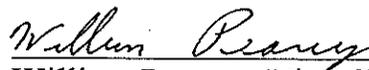
In St. Croix County alone, agriculture is responsible for more than \$500 million dollars of economic activity annually. However, our close proximity to the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area and excellent transportation system have resulted in more than 25,000 acres being converted from agriculture/recreational use to residential/commercial use between 2001 and 2007. The AEA designation is a valuable land-use tool that will allow stakeholders to balance future agricultural growth with residential and commercial development.

The AEA contains a majority of the Squaw Lake watershed, which is part of the St. Croix Lakes Priority Watershed project. Squaw Lake is classified by the state as an impaired water body due to nutrient and sediment runoff. In 1997, farmers, lake home owners and agency staff worked cooperatively to complete a non-point source reduction plan that met the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements for Squaw Lake. The non-point source reduction plan goals are complimentary to the St. Croix County Natural Resource Management Plan goals which are to preserve and protect agricultural land, groundwater, surface water and wildlife habitat. By establishing the AEA, local communities, resource managers and landowners will have more land use tools available and be better able to implement plan goals.

St. Croix County urges you to approve the Squaw Lake Agricultural Enterprise Area to assist local communities in growing the agricultural economy, protecting agricultural lands and the environment and improving the quality of life for its citizens.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roger Rebholz, Chair  
County Board of Supervisors

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William Peavey, Vice Chair  
Land & Water Conservation Committee

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon Norton-Baumann, Vice Chair  
Planning & Zoning Committee

**Cooperator Petitioner Signature Page (optional)**

*Other persons (cooperators) may sign in support of the petition. A separate signature page, in the following form, is required for each cooperator. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity.*

Legal name of cooperator: POLK COUNTY LAND AND WATER RESOURCES

Relevant interest (farm owner, business, nonprofit or community organization, government entity, other):  
GOVERNMENT

Principal mailing Address: Polk County Land and Water Resources  
100 Polk County Plaza-Suite 120  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

Phone number: 715-485-8699

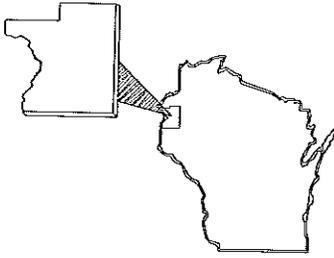
*Briefly describe your interest in signing this petition for designation of an agricultural enterprise area:*

\* See attached Letter of Support

I have read this petition and support the designation of the proposed area as an AEA. X

Print name Tim Ritten

Authorized signature:  Date 2/12/2010



**POLK COUNTY LAND & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

**100 POLK PLAZA - SUITE 120, BALSAM LAKE, WISCONSIN 54810**

**PHONE: 715-485-8699 FAX: 715-485-8601**

**TIMOTHY RITTEN, DIRECTOR 715-485-8631**

---

February 12, 2010

**Wisconsin DATCP**

**Attn: DARM AEA**

2811 Agriculture Dr.

PO Box 8911

Madison, WI 53708-8911

Re: Squaw Lake Agricultural Enterprise Area

To Whom It May Concern:

The Polk County Land & Water Resources Department enthusiastically supports the Petition request to designate the Squaw Lake Agricultural Enterprise Area.

The Squaw Lake AEA has many interested landowners and involves numerous acres of prime agricultural land. The Squaw Lake Watershed crosses the boundaries of the counties of St. Croix and Polk. This is a region rich with a history of water quality issues, including Squaw Lake being included in the list of 303(d) "impaired waters." The environmental benefit to this area, from the soil and water conservation compliance standards the landowners will have to implement in this program, will greatly minimize their environmental impacts.

It has been a rewarding experience for my staff to work with the dedicated landowners, as they put together their petition by participating in numerous calls, contacts and meetings. Please take into consideration the interest, responsible attitudes and combined commitment of the landowners in the Squaw Lake Agriculture Enterprise Area, and support their Petition, to ensure this prime farmland and agriculture can be preserved for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tim Ritten".

Tim Ritten

Director

TR/rmjf



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

941 Mallard Lane, Room 103  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

Phone: (715) 485-3138 ex.6  
Fax: (715) 485-9438  
Date: 02/17/10

To Whom It May Concern:

I am forwarding this note to support the Squaw Lake Agricultural Enterprise Area in the Southern part of Polk County.

This area has many acres of prime soils that are very productive when farmed with conservation in mind. This project will keep those acres, along with non prime farmlands, following a conservation plan that meets or exceeds the requirements set forth in the Food Security Act. These plans will also help protect the quality of surface and groundwater here in Polk County.

Our agency has been working hard to help people solve resource concerns like these all over Polk County and the State of Wisconsin.

Again, I support this project and feel it will help keep the waters of Polk County clean for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith J. Zygowicz", written over a horizontal line.

Keith J. Zygowicz  
District Conservationist

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service works hand-in-hand with the American people to conserve natural resources on private lands.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor  
Matt Frank, Secretary  
Scott Humrickhouse, Regional Director

890 Spruce Street  
Baldwin, Wisconsin 54002  
Telephone 715-684-2914  
FAX 715-684-5940

February 19, 2010

Mr. Eric Wojchik  
Polk County Land and Water Resources  
100 Polk County Plaza Suite 120  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

RE: Squaw Lake Agricultural Enterprise Area

Dear: Eric

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has strong interest in protecting grasslands and grassland-associated species in St. Croix County via our Western Prairie Habitat Restoration Area (WPHRA). We recognize agricultural lands are an important component of the WPHRA. Thus we are supportive of the establishment of the Squaw Lake Agricultural Enterprise Area.

The Department recognizes that, despite much environmental improvements within the watershed, in 1998 Squaw Lake was added to the WDNR 303(d) list of impaired waters. This AEA and participants involvement may directly improve the goals of the WPHRA and water quality of Squaw Lake.

With the potential improvement of a 303 (d) listed water resource, the WPHRA, and great grassland bird habitat restorations through effective conservation partnerships, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is supportive of this effort and is pleased to provide this letter of support.

Sincerely,

Harvey Halvorsen - CWB  
Senior Wildlife Biologist  
Project Leader - WPHRA

# APPENDICIES

## CONTENTS

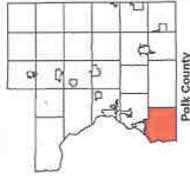
- Appendix A . County Zoning District Map - Town of Alden, Polk County
- Appendix B. Town Zoning District Map – Town of Farmington, Polk County
- Appendix C. County Zoning District Map – Town of Star Prairie, St. Croix County
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- Appendix I. Osceola Energy and Food Independence by 2025 flyer
- Appendix J. Squaw Lake AEA Land Cover/Land Use Map



# APPENDIX B

## EXISTING ZONING

### Town of Farmington Polk County Wisconsin

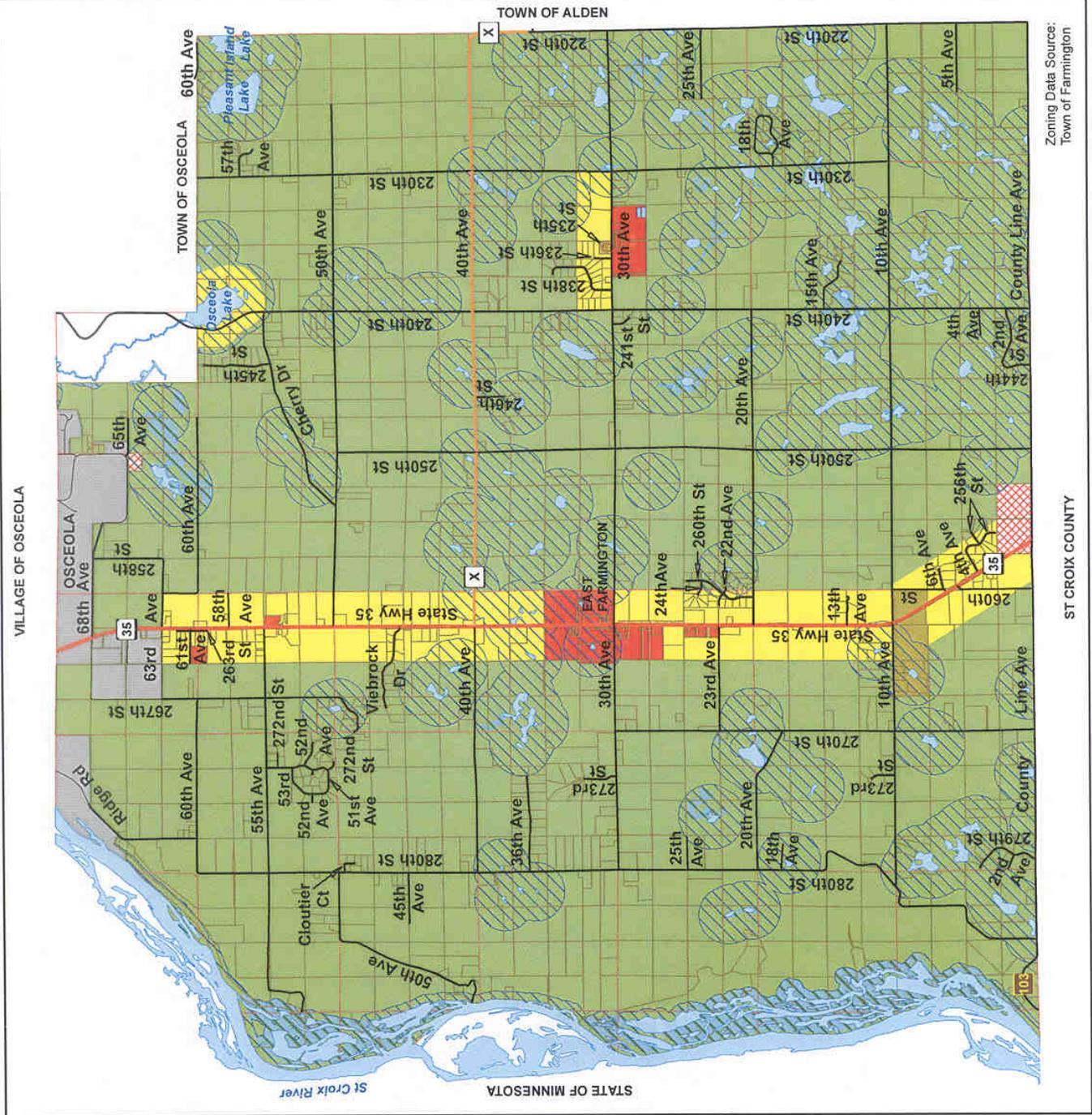


- AGRICULTURAL
- COMMERCIAL
- CONSERVANCY
- RESIDENTIAL
- RESTRICTED COMMERCIAL
- SHORELAND ZONING
- VILLAGE ZONING
- WETLAND-SHORELAND
- PARCELS
- SECTIONS
- HYDRO BODY
- RUSTIC ROAD SHIELD
- STATE HIGHWAY
- COUNTY ROAD
- TOWNSHIP ROAD
- VILLAGE ROAD
- PRIVATE ROAD
- HYDRO STREAM

Created by:  
Polk County Land Information Department  
100 Polk County Plaza, Suite 130  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810  
Ph: 715.485.9279  
Fax: 715.485.9246  
www.co.polk.wi.us

11/13/09

This drawing is the result of a compilation and reproduction of land records as they appear in various Polk County Offices. The drawing should be used for reference purposes only. Polk County is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.

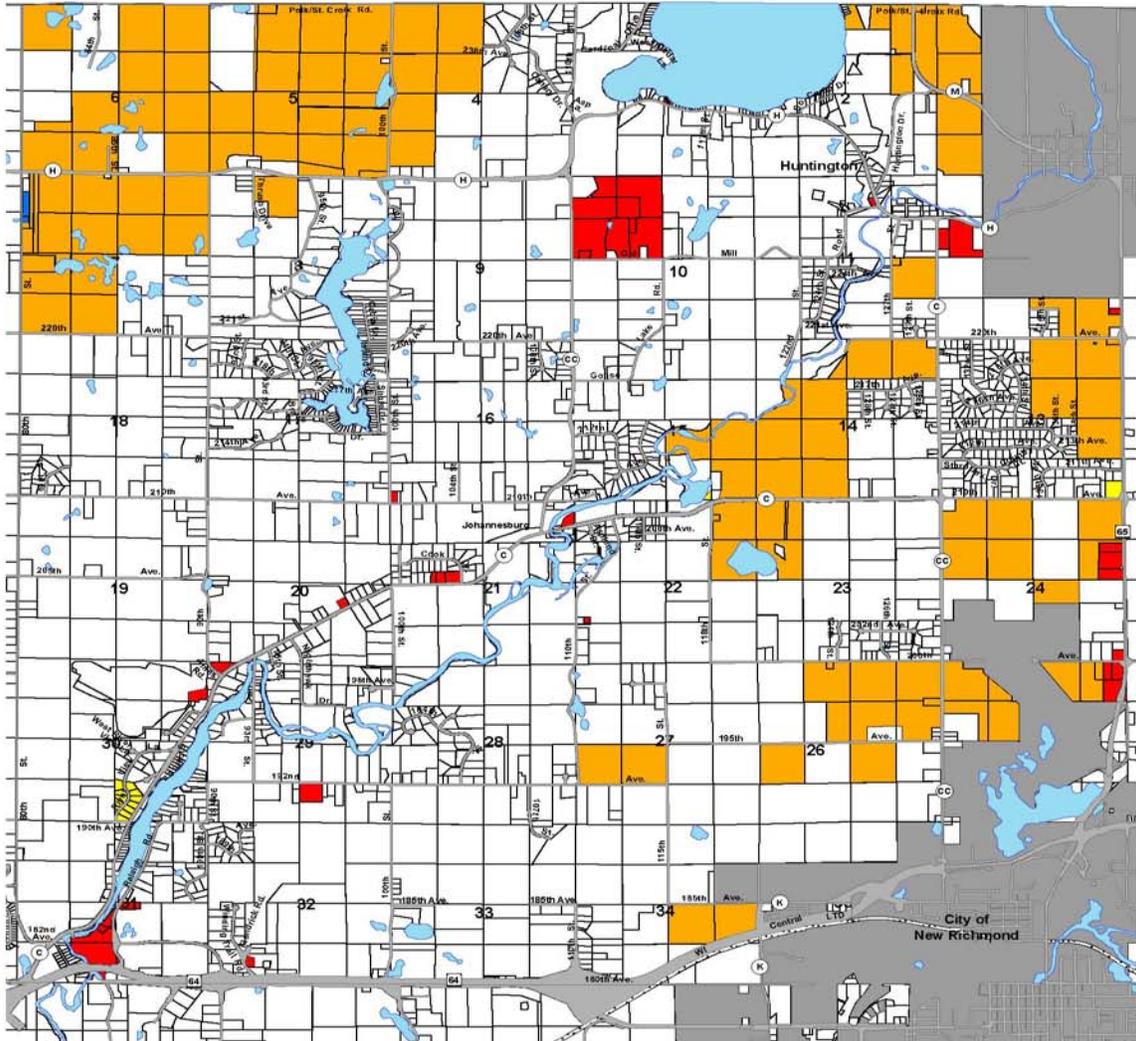


Zoning Data Source:  
Town of Farmington

# APPENDIX C

## Official Zoning

## Town of Star Prairie T31N,R18W



- Legend**
- Agriculture
  - Agriculture II
  - Agriculture - Residential
  - Commercial
  - Conservancy
  - Industrial
  - Residential

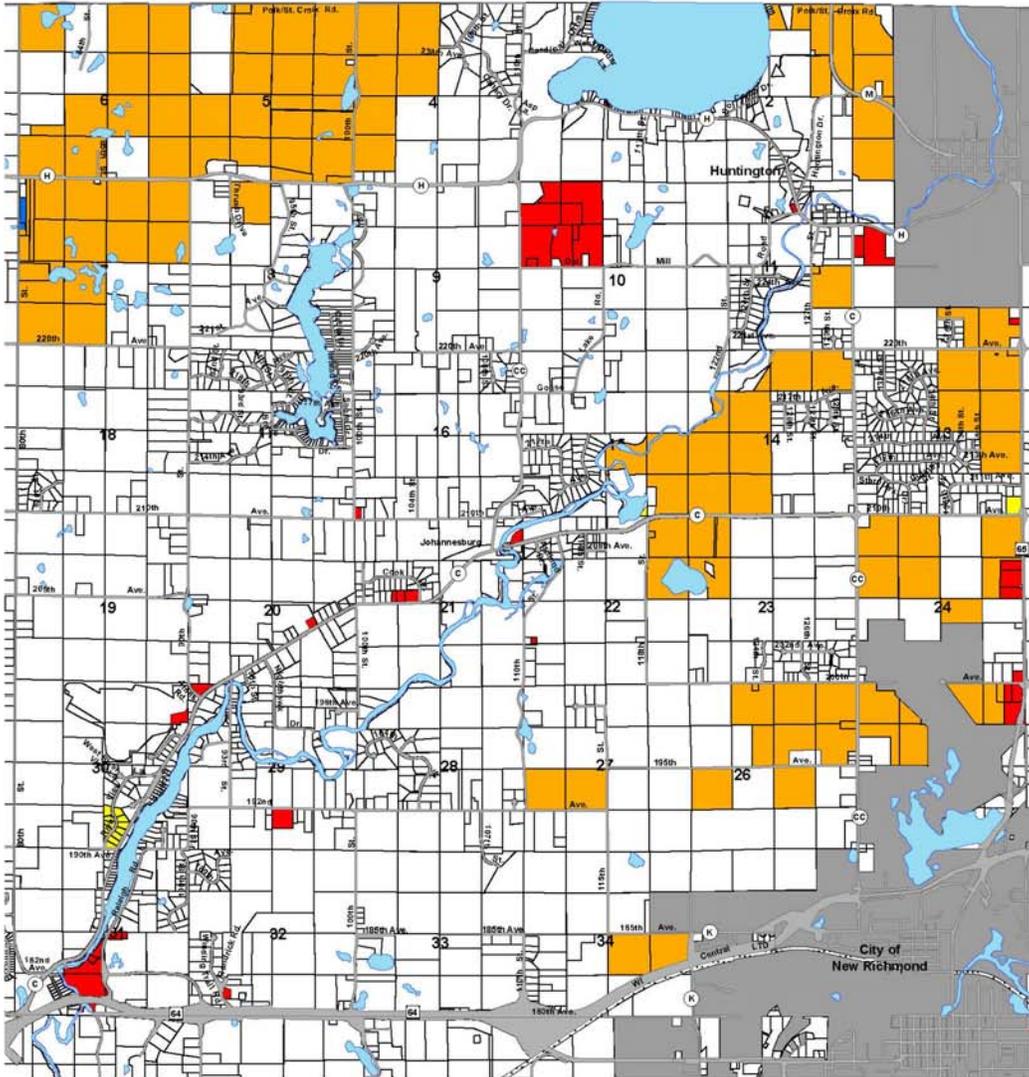


1 inch equals 4,000 feet  
Update: September 2006

# APPENDIX D

## Official Zoning

## Town of Star Prairie T31N,R18W



- Legend**
- Agriculture
  - Agriculture II
  - Agriculture - Residential
  - Commercial
  - Conservancy
  - Industrial
  - Residential



1 inch equals 4,000 feet

Update: September 2006

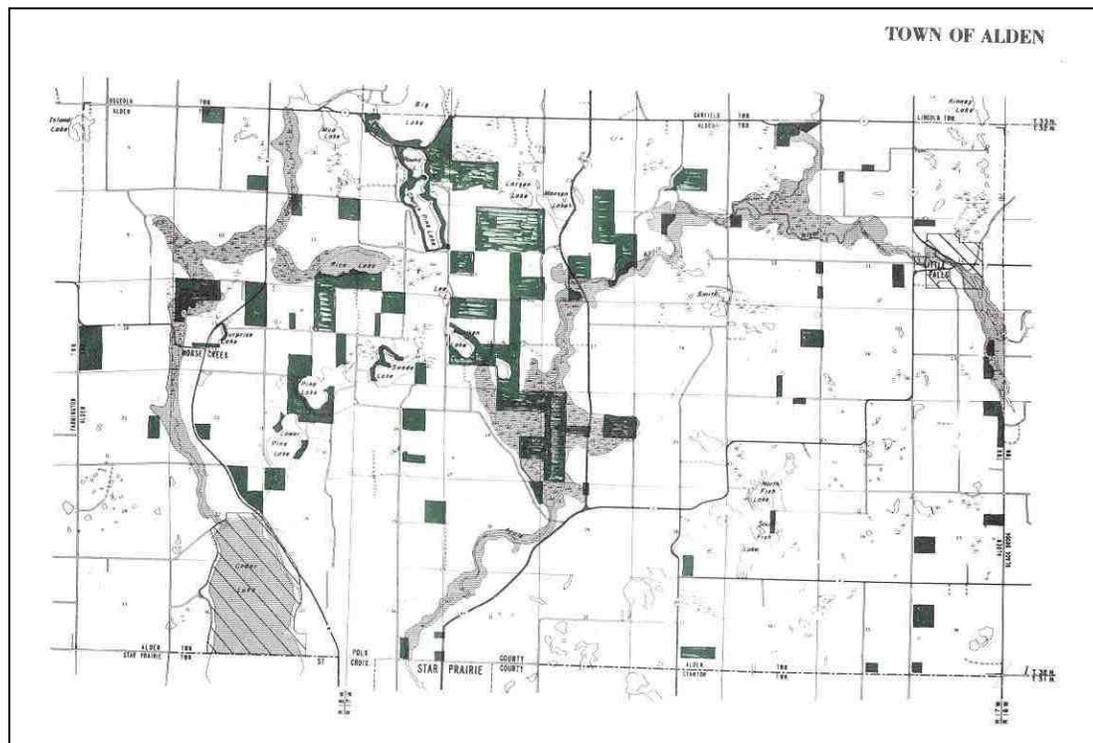
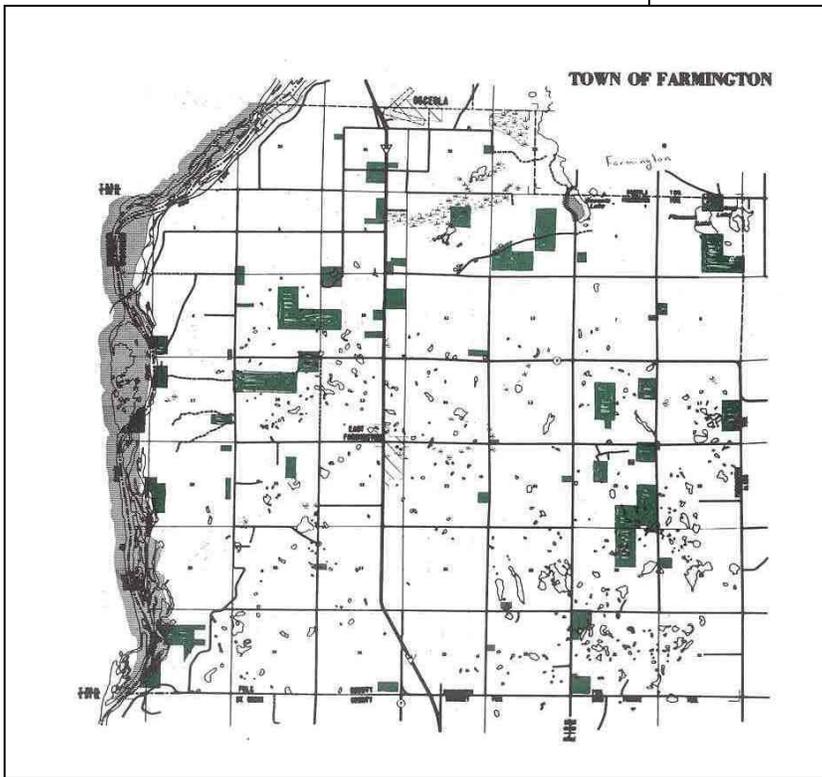
# APPENDIX E

## LEGEND FARMLAND PRESERVATION DISTRICTS

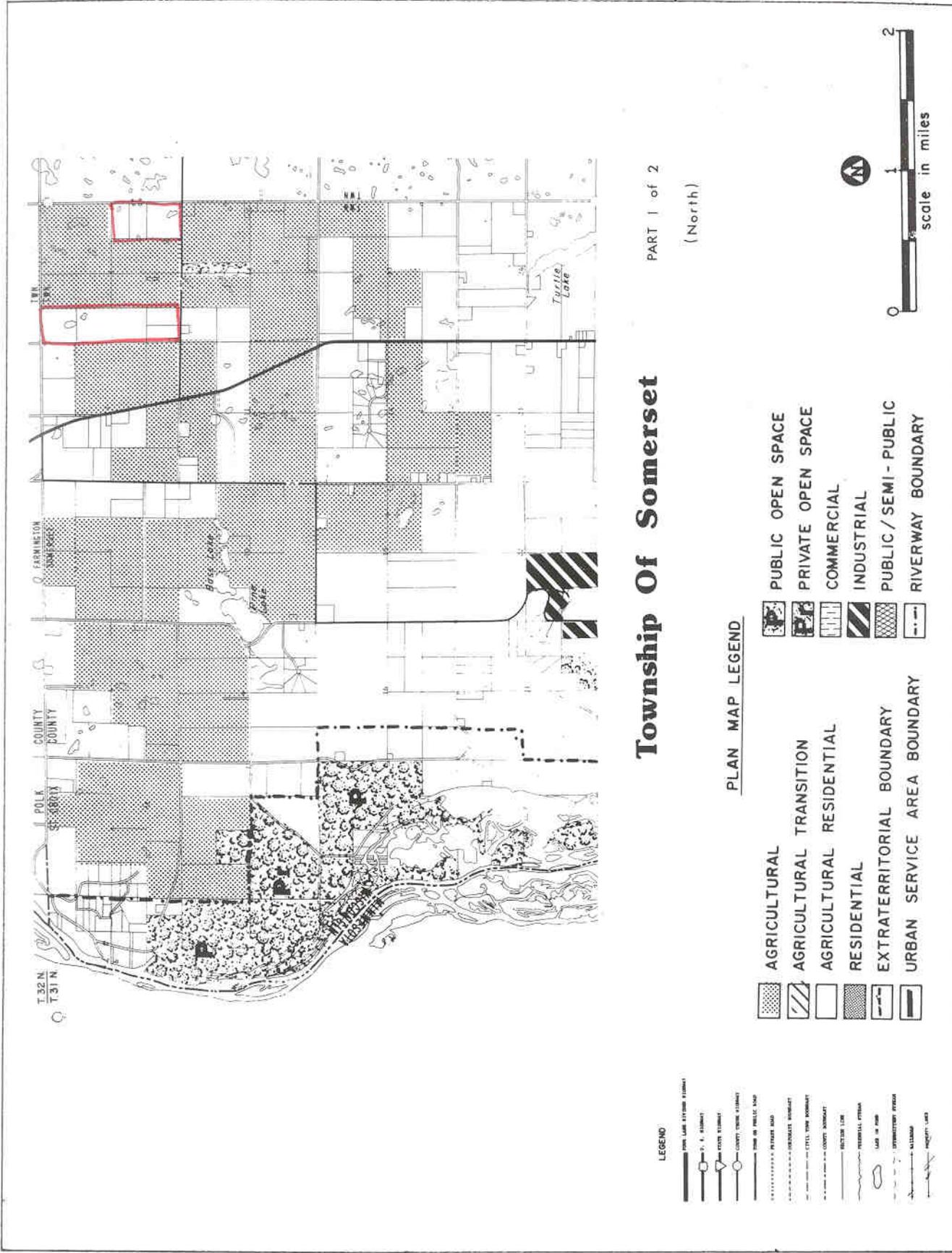
- FARMLAND TO BE PRESERVED
- DEVELOPMENT AREA
- RURAL LANDS EXCLUDED FROM FLP AGREEMENTS

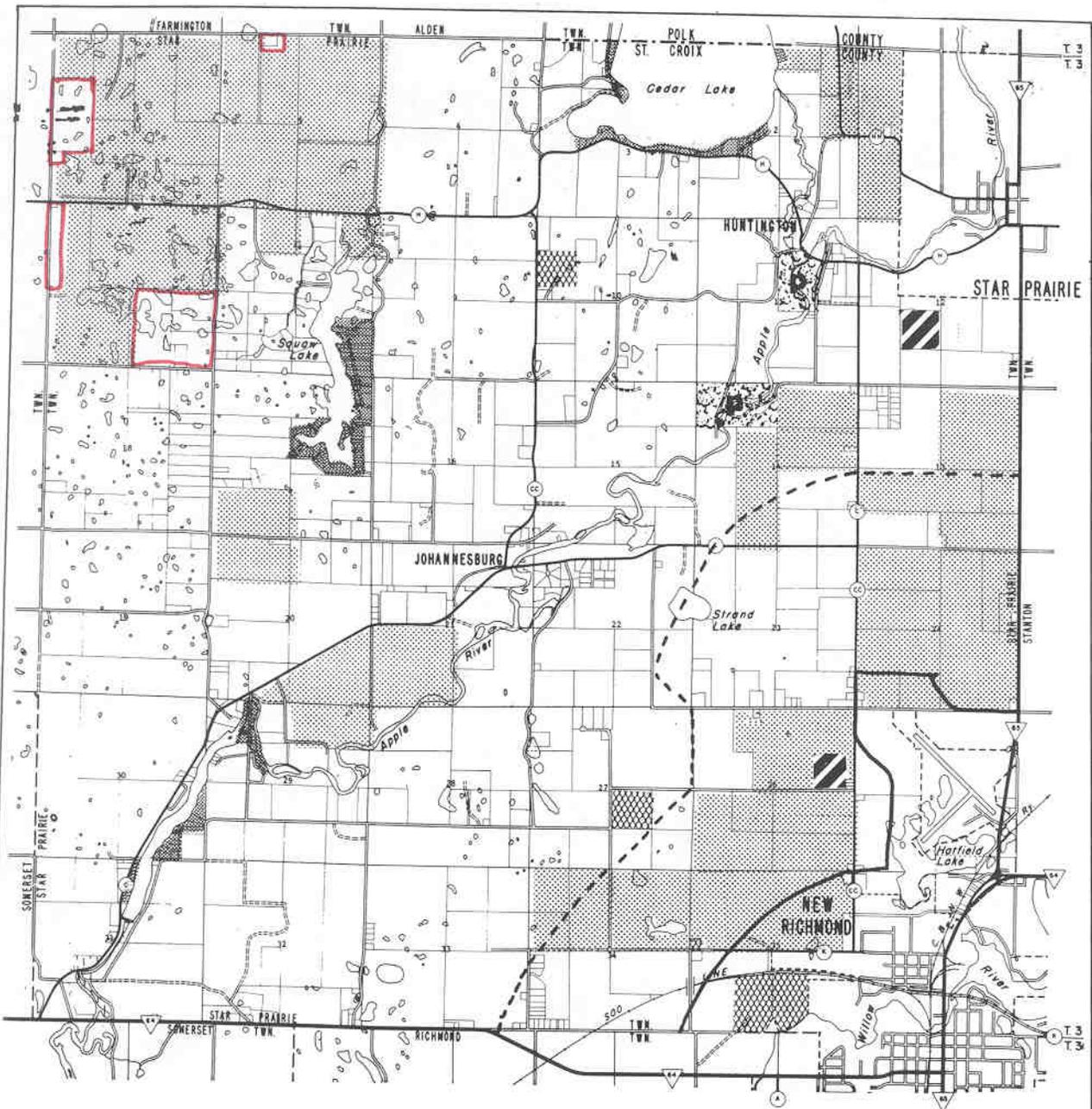
### ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

- COUNTY LANDS
- TOWN LANDS
- STATE LANDS
- COUNTY OR TOWN PARK
- MUNICIPAL PARK
- STATE PARK
- 100 YEAR FLOODPLAIN
- WILD AND SCENIC RIVERWAY BOUNDARY
- FEATURES OF SPECIAL NATURAL SIGNIFICANCE
- WETLANDS



# APPENDIX F





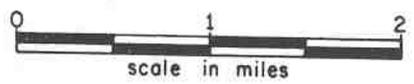
**LEGEND**

- POLY LINE ATTACHED ELEMENT
- U.S. HIGHWAY
- STATE HIGHWAY
- COUNTY TRUNK HIGHWAY
- TOWN OR PARCEL ROAD
- ..... TRAILER ROAD
- COOPERATE HIGHWAY
- CIVIL TOWN BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY
- SECTION LINE
- PERMANENT STRAIGHT
- LAKE OR POND
- SPERMATOPHYTES STRAIGHT
- RAILROAD
- PROPERTY LINE

# TOWNSHIP OF STAR PRAIRIE

**PLAN MAP LEGEND**

- |                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| AGRICULTURAL                | PUBLIC OPEN SPACE    |
| AGRICULTURAL TRANSITION     | PRIVATE OPEN SPACE   |
| AGRICULTURAL RESIDENTIAL    | COMMERCIAL           |
| RESIDENTIAL                 | INDUSTRIAL           |
| EXTRATERRITORIAL BOUNDARY   | PUBLIC / SEMI-PUBLIC |
| URBAN SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY | RIVERWAY BOUNDARY    |



# APPENDIX G

## TOWN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN EXCERPTS

The following detail excerpts from the Comprehensive Plans of the Towns and Counties in the proposed Squaw Lake AEA regarding their goals for the future of agriculture. They are not necessarily in the order found in their respective Comprehensive Plans, however, they are the sections that deal with farmland. The elements for the applicable towns are as follows:

---

### **Town of Alden, Polk County** **Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element**

#### **Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Goal:**

Agricultural activity is evident in the Town and the community's natural resources and cultural assets are protected.

#### **Objectives:**

- 1) Encourage farmland preservation, viable farm operations, and the maintenance of the Town's rural character.
- 2) Work cooperatively to protect natural resources.
- 3) Support efforts to preserve buildings and sites of historical or cultural significance.

#### **Policies:**

- 1) Implement those applicable policies in the Land Use Element of this Plan that will help preserve and protect the Town's working farmlands, productive forestlands and natural resources.
- 2) To show support for local farmers, while helping reduce nuisance complaints, require newly created residential lots within a mile of land zoned Exclusive Agriculture or other lands with an Agriculture assessment, to have recorded with the deed a covenant or deed restriction stating that the new lot created for residential purposes is in a pre-existing agricultural area where agricultural uses predominate and are favored by the Town and owners of said lot are forewarned they are moving into a pre-existing agricultural area with its associated accepted normal agricultural practices, including but not limited to, animal and plant husbandry, broad hours of operation, farm equipment traffic and farming debris on roads, farm equipment lights, odors, dust, smoke, noise, and manure, chemical, pesticide and herbicide application; OR, Adopt a Town "Right-to-Farm" resolution with similar language as above and provide a copy of the resolution with every building permit application and in general distribution to Town residents and landowners.
- 3) Support State tax programs which encourage the preservation of farmland and forest lands, such as farmland tax credits, use value assessment, forest crop law and other such farmland and forest land preservation programs.
- 4) Maintain communication with Polk County Land and Water Conservation Department and Polk County UW-Extension on efforts to protect surface water and groundwater quality, preserve farmlands, prevent soil erosion, and prevent the spread of invasive species.

- 5) Maintain communication with Polk County regarding the enforcement of the County Zoning Ordinance, Land Division Ordinance, Sanitation Ordinance, Floodplain Ordinance, and Shoreland-Wetland Ordinance.
- 6) Maintain communication with Polk County, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, watershed communities and interested private conservation organizations regarding the protection and water quality management of and future planning for the Apple River valley, Parker and Horse Creeks and the Town's lakes.
- 7) Provide community and resident input in decisions regarding the siting of large livestock feedlot operations. Urge Polk County to upgrade its ordinance in accordance with ATCP 51, Wisconsin Administrative Code, to establish nuisance standards and minimum distance requirements for the siting of large livestock operations such as factory farms or large feedlots operations that can be considered intensive industrial uses that are a potential threat to the surface waters and groundwater of the community.
- 8) Encourage conservation design subdivisions to help preserve natural resources and retain rural character.
- 9) Explore a Transfer of Development Rights program as outlined in the Land Use Element.
- 10) The Town of Alden should explore the issue of backlot development and determine if regulations to control it are necessary.

## **Economic Development Element**

The Economic Development Element is an opportunity for the Town of Alden, its citizens, and the local economic development and business community to clarify the categories or types of new businesses and industries that would be favorable to Alden's business climate, evaluate the Town's strengths and weaknesses for attracting and retaining business and industry, and determine if there are an adequate number of sites for such businesses and industries. The Town of Alden is a rural community and as such any economic activity must be compatible with its rural character.

### **Economic Development Goal:**

Agriculture, home occupations, and other businesses and industry compatible with the rural character of the Town or designated commercial and industrial areas of the Town will continue to be the primary economic activities within the Town.

### **Objectives:**

- 1) Promote the continued success of farming, forestry, farm-related, tourism and recreational businesses.

### **Policies:**

- 1) Implement the agricultural-related policies in the Agricultural Element that promote agricultural and forestry-related practices and industries.
- 2) Allow home occupations, cottage industries and recreational or tourism establishments that are compatible with the rural character of the community.

## **Land Use Element**

### **Land Use Goal:**

Maintain the rural character of the Town

**Agricultural Goals:**

- 1) The protection and maintenance of agricultural activities as the dominant, highest and best use where viable farm operations on the best agricultural soils in the Town have historically occurred.
- 2) The continuation of the family farm and accommodation of diversity in future agricultural operations.

**Agricultural Policies**

- 1) Agriculture will be recognized by the Town as the preferred land use in areas of the Town that have historically supported viable farm operations on the best agricultural soils in the Town.
- 2) Limit the location and density of non-farm development in the exclusive agricultural planning area to one new residence per 40 acres and off of productive agricultural lands.
- 3) In agricultural areas that can accommodate limited non-farm development due to location, soil characteristics and relatively low intensity of agricultural operations, limit the location and density of non-farm development in accordance with the density standards prescribed in the Town of Alden Land Division Ordinance.
- 4) To protect agricultural interests from public complaints associated with routine agricultural operations, covenants, deed restrictions or other legal instruments will be applied to all new residential developments in or near the agricultural areas stating that the new lot created for residential purposes is in or near a pre-existing agricultural area where agricultural uses predominate and are favored by the Town of Alden, and owners of said lot are forewarned they are moving into a pre-existing agricultural area with its associated, accepted normal agricultural practices, including but not limited to, animal and plant husbandry, broad hours of operation, farm equipment traffic and farming debris on roads, farm equipment lights, odors, dust, smoke, noise, and manure, sludge, chemical, pesticide and herbicide application.

---

**Town of Farmington, Polk County**  
**Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element**

Farmington’s plan for Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural preservation is to continue to provide a friendly relationship with area farmers. Our plan is to allow some kind of cluster development option to help preserve open spaces and save agricultural lands.

---

**Town of Star Prairie, St. Croix County**  
**Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources**

**Goal:**

Preserve the town’s agricultural character while allowing residential development. Protect high quality agricultural resources and farming as an occupation in the Town of Star Prairie.

## **Objectives:**

- 1) Allow development in locations, forms and densities, which supports the preservation of agriculture and rural character.
- 2) Encourage land preservation programs.
- 3) Preserve highly productive farmlands for continued agricultural use.
- 4) Discourage land uses that conflict with agriculture.
- 5) Encourage traditional and nontraditional farming.
- 6) Manage the pace of growth to help limit conflicts between agriculture and nonagricultural land uses.
- 7) Develop and support policies that strengthen and maintain a farm operator's right to farm with farm practices that do not threaten public health or safety.
- 8) Support preexisting farm operations in conflict with non-farm uses.
- 9) Protect surface and groundwater quality.

## **Policies:**

- 1) Support the continued operation and/or expansion of existing farms in Star Prairie.
- 2) Support exclusive ag zoning and other land use measures, which discourage non-farm development in identified Agricultural Preservation Areas, specifically the Star Prairie Flats in sections 4, 5, 6, & 7, the west half of section 14 and the east half of section 15 up to the Apple River, and the west half of section 1 and east half of section 2.
- 3) Support buffer zones around ag preservation areas and between these areas and rural residential subdivisions consisting of gradually larger lot, lower density development. The variety in zones will increase compatibility with agricultural uses, provide a range of agriculture uses and greater choices in housing options in the town. Work with St. Croix County to implement these buffer zones through amendments to the zoning ordinance.
- 4) Support farmland tax credits, use value assessments, and other programs that encourage the continued use of land for farming.
- 5) Promote agricultural practices, which protect surface and ground water quality, including proper erosion control, manure management, and storm water management strategies.
- 6) Support the economic health of alternative agriculture in the Town of Star Prairie.
- 7) Support fruit, vegetable and tree farms and greenhouses in the town, designed to supply food to local farmers markets and grocery stores in the area.
- 8) Discourage factory-type, large-scale farms such as confinement hog, poultry, and others that have the potential to degrade the air quality, water quality and current character of the town.
- 9) Develop and support policies that strengthen and maintain a farm operator's right to farm with farm practices that do not threaten public health or safety.
- 10) Notify all new building applicants about the Right to Farm Law and that this is a farming area with associated smell, noise, and dust.
- 11) Require that new residents receive a copy of the 'Rural Living Guide' that outlines the traditional community norms and expectations for rural residents.
- 12) Develop a Rural Living Guide insert and provide copies to all new residents as part of the building permit/inspection process.
- 13) Promote use of the forestry "best management practices" as minimum standards for logging.
- 14) Encourage forest landowners to enroll in the State's Managed Forest Land Program.
- 15) Restrict residential and commercial development to areas least suited for agricultural purposes because it is unproductive soils, there is no history of farming or it is inaccessible.
- 16) Direct development away from environmentally sensitive areas and productive farm and forest lands.
- 17) Promote conservation design development/clustering as a method to preserve open agricultural ground.

- 18) Protect the visual quality of scenic roadways through site planning, driveway location, landscaping, signage, and other standards.
- 19) Prevent the layout of streets or driveways across and adjacent to agricultural land in order to reach non-farm development, unless no other alignment is possible. Place driveways along property lines, fencerows, or existing vegetation wherever possible. Avoid stubbing roads for future development to agricultural land, especially agricultural preservation areas. Decrease conflicts between agricultural uses and non-farm uses by directing traffic to alternative routes.
- 20) Encourage St. Croix County to study a voluntary purchase of development rights program.
- 21) If authority is developed, establish a voluntary, market driven transfer of development rights program to discourage scattered development, promote rural residential development on the most suitable lands for development and encourage protection of prime agricultural lands. Generally sending areas would be those areas identified as remaining Agricultural/Forest/Grasslands or Open Space and the receiving areas would be the water service and Boundary Agreement areas.
- 22) Delineate, refine and protect “environmental corridors” as a composite of the Town’s most sensitive natural areas.
- 23) Identify environmentally sensitive areas most likely to be subject to rapid degradation and work to protect these areas first.
- 24) Prioritize the use of incentives and acquisition (land or easements) to protect environmentally sensitive areas, relying on regulations where necessary.
- 25) Before approving any changes in land use, consider the impact on wildlife habitat, rare plant and animal species, and archeological sites.
- 26) Undertake concerted efforts to improve water quality in the most impacted watersheds.
- 27) Protect and restore natural shoreline areas in the town.

## **Economic Development Element**

### **Goal:**

The Town of Star Prairie will support economic development activities appropriate to the resources, character and service levels of the town and that strengthen the local economy while maintaining its commitment to the town’s environmental needs. Large-scale industrial and commercial development should be directed to St. Croix County’s urban centers. Rural economic development should promote alternative agricultural and forestry-based opportunities and industrial and commercial development with minimal infrastructure needs.

### **Objectives:**

1. Identify locations for future environmentally-friendly businesses to locate within the Town.
2. Encourage the redevelopment and reuse of the town’s existing commercial sites.
3. Retain and help grow existing farms and businesses.
4. Support home-based businesses where there will be little impact on surrounding properties.
5. Plan for an adequate supply of developable land for commercial and industrial uses in logical areas consistent with the town’s plan elements.
6. Consider the conservation of non-renewable resources and the rural character when evaluating a commercial development request.
7. Support economic development efforts for farming and farm-related businesses.
8. Prevent unplanned commercial development along major roadways.

### **Policies:**

1. Support the continued operation and/or expansion of existing farms and businesses in Star Prairie.

2. Support the economic health of alternative agriculture in the Town of Star Prairie.
3. Support fruit, vegetable and tree farms and greenhouses in the town, designed to supply food to local farmers markets and grocery stores in the area.
4. Discourage factory-type, large-scale farms such as confinement hog, poultry, and others that have the potential to degrade the air quality, water quality and current character of the town.

## **Land Use Element**

### **Goals:**

1. The Town of Star Prairie will encourage a desirable mix of land uses that will maintain the town's rural character and preserve its agricultural heritage, while allowing moderate residential, commercial and industrial development.
2. Protect the town's abundant and high quality natural and agricultural resources to maintain the town's rural atmosphere and community character.
3. Promote the continuation of agriculture and farming as one of the primary land uses.

### **Objectives:**

1. Manage and control the rate of development to maintain a distinctive rural community in the Town of Star Prairie.
2. Retain rural features to protect rural character.
3. Minimize the visual impact of development to maintain rural, undeveloped character and feeling.
4. Discourage residential, commercial or industrial development that is incompatible with the rural character and agricultural heritage of the Town of Star Prairie or would cause land use conflicts and negative impacts to natural resources and agricultural.
5. Allow residential development in location, forms and densities, which supports the preservation of open space and prime agricultural soils.
6. Promote conservation design subdivisions as the preferred method for rural residential development.
7. Encourage land preservation programs.
8. Preserve highly productive farmlands for continued agricultural use.
9. Manage the pace of growth to help limit conflicts between agriculture and nonfarm land use.
10. Discourage land uses that conflict with agriculture.
11. Use density and minimum lot size regulations to allow growth and development while protecting productive farmlands on prime agricultural soils.
12. Discourage nonagricultural development on prime agricultural soils.
13. Preserve Star Prairie's most important and sensitive natural resources and areas.
14. Work with surrounding communities to encourage an orderly, efficient land use pattern that preserves farming and natural resources and minimizes conflicts between urban and rural uses.

### **Policies:**

1. Direct new residential, open space, agricultural, institutional, commercial and industrial land uses to those areas that are designated in this comprehensive plan.
2. Promote conservation design development in major subdivisions and common septic systems to protect natural resources and highly productive agricultural soils and provide services in a cost-effective manner.
3. Encourage home site design that achieves rural character and farmland preservation objectives and ensures that home sites are safe from seasonal flooding or ponding.

4. To reduce the conversion of prime agricultural land to other uses, request that St. Croix County amend the County zoning ordinance so that the exclusive agriculture-zoning district would regulate based on both density and lot size rather than just lot size.
5. Set the Town of Star Prairie's development density to one lot per quarter – quarter section or "platted 40 acres" on land zoned exclusive agriculture.
6. Encourage St. Croix County to study a voluntary purchase of development rights program.
7. Support exclusive ag zoning and other land use measures, which discourage nonfarm development in identified Agricultural Preservation Areas, specifically the Star Prairie Flats in sections 4, 5, 6, & 7, the west half of section 14 and the east half of section 15 up to the Apple River, and the west half of section 1 and east half of section 2.
8. Support buffer zones around ag preservation areas and between these areas and rural residential subdivisions consisting of gradually larger lot, lower density development zones. 38. Require new non-farm residential lots to be located adjacent to existing development or grouped to preserve larger tracts of agricultural land, protect natural resources and improve the design, layout and functionality of development.
9. Continue to use Agriculture zoning to promote and protect agriculture for its economic contribution to the economy and as one of the primary land uses in the Town of Star Prairie.
10. If authority is developed, establish a voluntary, market driven transfer of development rights program to discourage scattered development, promote rural residential development on the most suitable lands for development and encourage protection of prime agricultural lands. Generally sending areas would be those areas identified as remaining Agricultural/Forest/Grasslands or Open Space and the receiving areas would be the water service and Boundary Agreement areas.
11. Notify all new building applicants about the Right to Farm Law and that this is a farming area with associated smell, noise, and dust.
12. Guide the location and design of development to minimize any adverse impact on the quality of surface waters, aquifers, floodplains, wetlands, steep slopes, woodlands, prairie and agriculture.
13. Preserve and protect natural landscape features such as wetlands, floodplains, streams, lakes, steep slopes, woodlands, prairies and oak savannas as essential components of the hydrologic system, valuable wildlife habitat, to restore degraded resources where possible and to emphasize their value to the community as potential focal points of natural beauty and recreation.
14. Discourage and where possible, prevent the altering of wetlands and floodplains by filling or developing.
15. Before approving any changes in land use, consider the impacts on wildlife habitat, potential locations of rare plant and animal species and archeological sites.
16. Identify environmentally sensitive areas most likely to be subject to rapid degradation and work to protect these areas first.
17. Prioritize the use of incentives and acquisition (land or easements) to protect environmentally sensitive areas, relying on regulations where necessary.
18. Encourage and support a buffer zone around public lands to mitigate conflicts between property owners and citizens utilizing public lands for recreation. Such a zone could be created with a principal structure setback of 150 feet from the lot line on properties adjacent to publicly-owned lands.

---

## **Town of Somerset, St. Croix County**

### **AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES GOALS AND POLICIES**

#### **Goal 1**

To retain the rural character of the Town of Somerset landscape.

**Policy 1.1**

To encourage agricultural land use through support of land use policies that encourage farming the land.

**Policy 1.2**

To design and implement a carefully constructed conservation design development ordinance within one year of approval of the Comprehensive Plan.

**Policy 1.3**

Minimize the impact of development on environmentally sensitive areas such as excessive slopes, waterways, environmental corridors and wetlands.

**Goal 2**

To protect and maintain healthy ecological systems.

**Policy 2.1**

Develop a system of random well testing that would monitor the quality and safety of the local water supply.

**Policy 2.2**

Encourage the County to develop a system to analyze the effectiveness of private septic systems.

**Policy 2.3**

Encourage County to consider a required tank pumping system patterned after such systems in place in other Wisconsin counties.

**Policy 2.4**

Encourage the County to develop and implement guidelines and ordinances that will support conservation design development.

**Goal 3**

To retain and preserve the Town's historical and cultural resources.

**Policy 3.1**

To encourage and support the development of groups interested in the identification and preservation of lands or sites that are part of the Town history.

**Policy 3.2**

To investigate the possibilities of preserving the existing original Town Hall on its present site or on land adjoining the present Town Hall or other lands that might be appropriate. The Village should be involved in this project since the old Town Hall was the center of government for what is now the Village for more than 50 years.

**AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES IMPLEMENTATION**

1. Design a Conservation Development Ordinance with assistance from the St. Croix County Planning Department and the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission that will allow continuing development with less alteration of the existing landscape. This ordinance should be presented to the Town Board for approval within one year of approval of the Comprehensive Plan.
2. Appoint an on-going citizen advisory group made up of citizens representing various segments of the Town of Somerset community. This group would meet on a regular basis of their choosing and then join the Town Board and Planning Commission at least twice a year to share their concerns and ideas regarding the Town. Appointments to this group would be made by the Town Board in consultation with the Planning Commission.

## **LAND USE GOALS AND POLICIES**

### **AGRICULTURE**

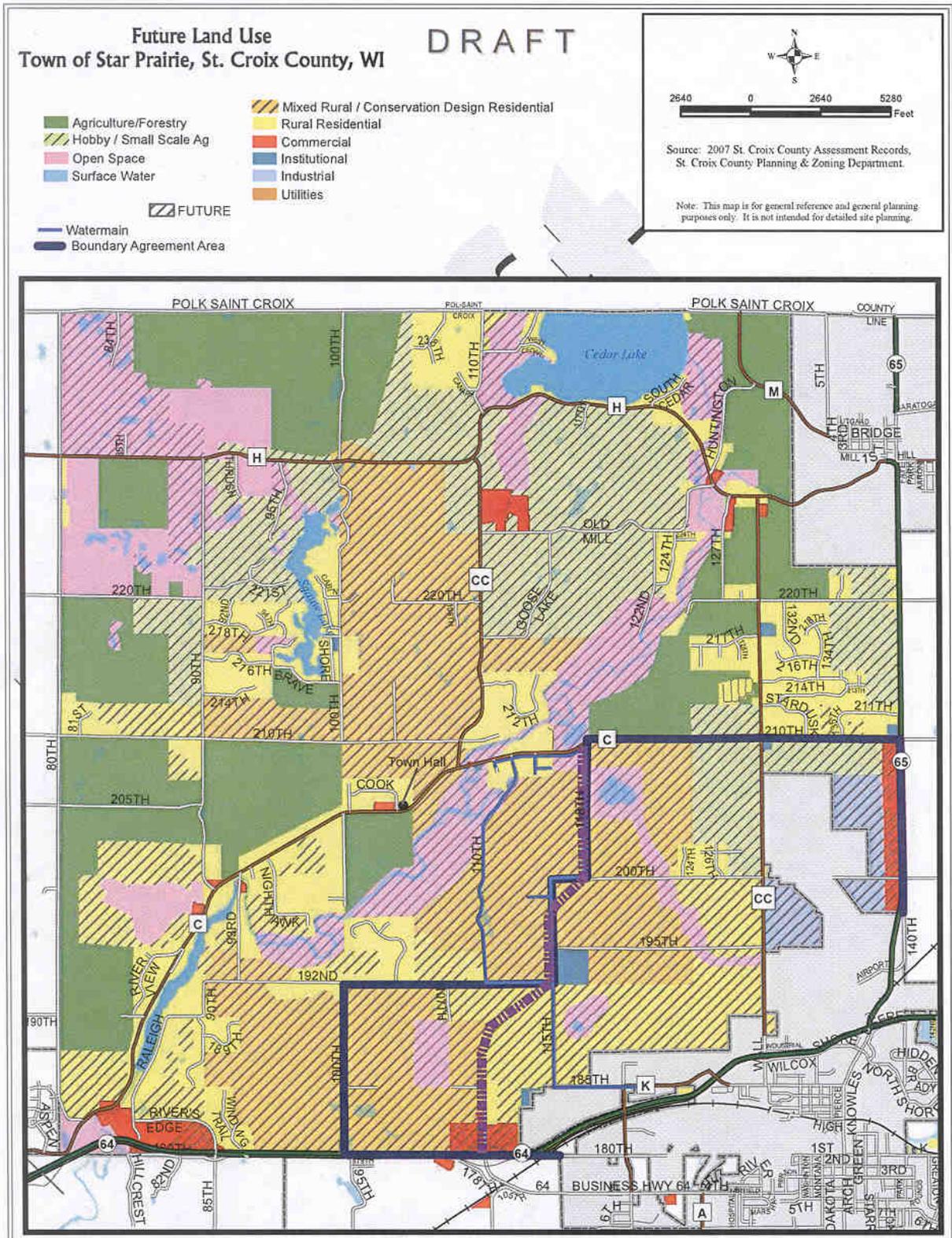
1. The Town of Somerset will pursue purchase and transfer of development rights programs to preserve the remaining agricultural lands in the Town and highly valued open space land.
2. The Town of Somerset Plan Commission will study funding mechanisms for a purchase of development rights program for agricultural land and highly valued open space land, and make a recommendation to the Town Board within two years of plan certification.
3. The Town of Somerset will investigate a transfer of development rights program with development rights "sending" areas of agricultural land and highly valued open space land and development rights "receiving" areas well suited for development within two years of plan certification.

# APPENDIX H

FIGURE 45 PLANNED LAND USE TOWN OF ALDEN







## APPENDIX I



### Village & School District of Osceola 100 X 25: Energy & Food Independence by 2025 Project (OEFIP)

**GOAL:** The goal of OEFIP is 100% energy and food self-sufficiency for our community by 2025. While some will say it can't be done, we take the stance that not only can it be done, but that it must be.

It is time to be not only ambitious, but provocatively bold. Wisconsin communities are losing the most fundamental capacity for sustainability, and long term economic prosperity, especially in regards to energy and food security. More importantly, communities are losing their capacity to secure the future for their children. In recognition of these trends, the Village of Osceola was the first community in Wisconsin to pass the Governor's 25 X 25 Energy Independent Community Resolution on May 1, 2008.

The 100 X 25 OEFIP is unique and establishes an unprecedented leadership role for the community. There are virtually no exemplary models currently in existence, consistent with the values, principles, and practices of *The Natural Step* for sustainable community development, that frame a comprehensive and holistically integrated plan for inter-generational energy and food self-sufficiency for small communities in the Upper Midwest, much less in the St. Croix Watershed of northwestern Wisconsin. The OEFIP project combines the proven skills of the Osceola Village staff, school district, and civic leadership, with that of the St. Croix Institute for Sustainable Community Development at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, and Environmental Intelligence, Inc. to establish "A Premier National Model for Cash Positive, Carbon Negative, Energy & Food Independence".

This model will:

- Showcase the development and a proof of concept model for The Natural Step;
- Maximize partnership synergies of local government, commercial, non-profit, and academic institutions;
- Establish a robust system for locally sourced employment and small business development;
- Provide an integrated macro level plan for "locally sourced" renewable energy that meets the current and projected demands for residential, commercial, industrial, and public electricity, space and water heating and cooling, transportation, and food production based on the carrying capacity of the native ecosystem;
- Optimizes the energy system design and economies of scale across the breadth and depth of renewable energy sources including solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass, with options for microgrid applications;
- Optimizes the food system design across the breadth and depth of fruits, vegetables, grain, meat, and dairy production to meet the basic dietary needs of every citizen, family, and institutionalized resident; and
- Further establish Osceola as one of the leading communities in the state and nation for demonstrating real solutions to the most fundamental needs of human subsistence and cultural advancement grounded in ecologic integrity, social ethics, and economic vitality.



# APPENDIX J

