



KEWAUNEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kewaunee County Passes the First County Ordinance Addressing Manure Irrigation in the State of Wisconsin

KEWAUNEE, WI – The Chapter 37 “Agricultural Waste and Process Wastewater Irrigation Ordinance” has received unanimous support from the Kewaunee County Board of Supervisors. It was passed with a 19-0 vote at the November 7, 2017 county board meeting with one supervisor excused.

“I want to congratulate everyone who helped to make this ordinance a reality,” says Kewaunee County Board Chairman Robert Weidner. “This ordinance is a true example of what can be accomplished when people collaborate to address a community problem.”

The vote follows months of hard work that included the formation of a technical workgroup made up of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Kewaunee County’s Land and Water Conservation Department. The drafted ordinance was then reviewed multiple times. And, on November 2, 2017, after hearing further input from concerned citizens and farmers, the Chapter 37 “Agricultural Waste and Process Wastewater Irrigation Ordinance” was unanimously agreed upon by Kewaunee County’s Land and Water Conservation Committee and Public Health Committee and given to the full county board for consideration.

The Kewaunee County Land and Water Conservation Department will administer, monitor and enforce the provisions of this ordinance that allows low pressure-drip irrigation at a height no greater than 18” to efficiently apply nutrients during the growing season.

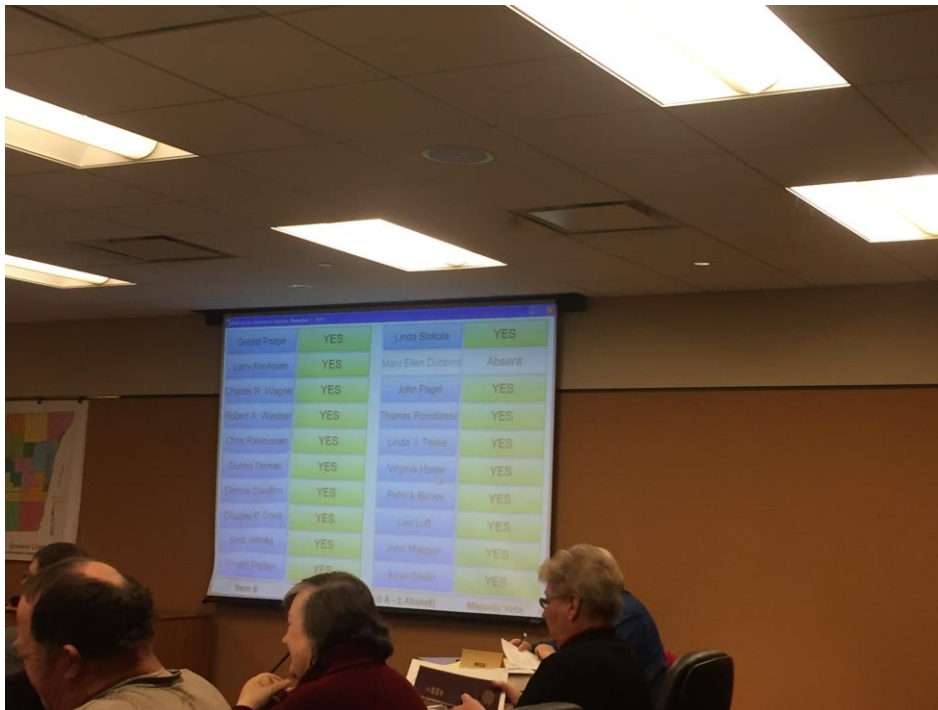
“By requiring these strict measures, I believe it is a tool that farmers can utilize while being protective of the public health concerns of the citizens,” says Davina Bonness, Director of Kewaunee County Land and Water Conservation Department. “This practice will alleviate the nutrient application during the groundwater recharge times of spring and fall when wells are the most vulnerable to contamination.” Bonness also applauds the Kewaunee County Board for their support in passage of the ordinance.

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“This ordinance puts another tool in the tool box of dairy producers to be able to spread nutrients on a growing crop in summer instead of only spring or fall through multiple applications at lower rates to reduce the chance of having any issues with water quality,” says Kewaunee County Board Supervisor John Pagel.

“The vote on the revised ordinance would not have been possible without the support of so many concerned citizens who are working and speaking out for cleaner water and air here in Kewaunee County,” says Kewaunee County Board Supervisor Lee Luft. “Please accept my sincere thanks and congratulations on this first-in-the-state manure irrigation ordinance and the protections it provides!”

To read the entire Chapter 37 “Agricultural Waste and Process Wastewater Irrigation Ordinance”, visit our website, www.kewauneeco.org.



(Kewaunee County Board Votes on Chapter 37 “Agricultural Waste and Process Wastewater Irrigation Ordinance”)

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