



**Champaign County Board  
Environment and Land Use Committee (ELUC)  
County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois**

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7 **MINUTES – Approved As Distributed February 6, 2025**

8 DATE: Thursday, January 9, 2025  
9 TIME: 6:30 p.m.  
10 PLACE: Shields-Carter Meeting Room  
11 Brookens Administrative Center  
12 1776 E Washington, Urbana, IL 61802

13 **Committee Members**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Aaron Esry (Vice-Chair)	
John Farney	
Jennifer Locke	
Emily Rodriguez	
Jilmala Rogers	
Chris Stohr	
Eric Thorsland (Chair)	

14

15 **County Staff:** John Hall (Zoning Administrator), Charlie Campo (Senior Planner) and Mary Ward (Recording  
16 Secretary)

17

18 **Others Present:** None

19 **MINUTES**

20 **I. Call to Order**

21

22 Committee Chair Thorsland called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

23

24 **II. Roll Call**

25

26 Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

27

28 **III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum**

29

30 **MOTION** by Ms. Locke to approve the agenda and seconded by Mr. Farney. Upon voice vote, the  
31 **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

32

33 **IV. Approval of Minutes**

34

35 **A. November 7, 2024 – Regular Meeting**

36

37 **MOTION** by Mr. Esry to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2024 meeting, seconded by Ms.  
38 Rogers. Upon voice vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

39 **V. Public Participation**

40

41 Norman Davis, Supervisor for Champaign Township spoke about the proposed text amendment  
42 regulating the keeping of animals in a residential area. He is the one that started the movement to curtail  
43 certain behaviors in residential areas that are more appropriate for farms and rural areas. These behaviors  
44 center around the thinking that residential property can and should be used for the raising of farmyard  
45 animals. These are behaviors that belong on a farm where there is some distance between homes and not  
46 in residential areas where the noise, smell, and animal waste impact people in a much greater density  
47 than in a rural area. This started with some people who used their backyard to raise chickens, including  
48 roosters, which crowed at all hours of the day and night. This impacted people as far as a block away.  
49 When an amendment was introduced prohibiting the roosters, they then introduced hogs into their half-  
50 acre property further aggravating their neighbors. Some of the problem was solved with a threatened  
51 lawsuit. It also prompted this committee to look into drafting an ordinance and codifying what is  
52 allowed and not allowed in residential areas. He feels the proposed text amendment is fair to all and  
53 urges the committee to pass this proposal. Mr. Davis also spoke about noxious weeds and stated that  
54 they are a problem in the county. It is a real and persistent problem and needs constant attention. Poison  
55 Hemlock is getting very bad and is highly poisonous. There are laws that control these plants. He urges  
56 the committee to give the letter and its recommendations serious consideration. He feels the townships  
57 will need to be enlisted to help with this problem.

58

59 Andy Hopper, resident of 2306 S. Mattis is the owner of the animals prompting the text amendment. He  
60 always thought of Champaign as a very agricultural community. There are lots of animals, some of  
61 which are kept in the city limits all summer long, at the Petting Zoo in Centennial Park. Calling livestock  
62 urban animals and restricting them this way for such a limited amount of the county, is maybe a waste of  
63 resources. He said it seems with covenants, most neighborhoods within the thousand-foot rule have  
64 covenants covering this. If people would bring up the covenants personally, it would probably work out  
65 different than requiring civil threats. He couldn't help but feel like he was targeted. Agriculture is  
66 protected in Champaign County unless you lived at his house. He had a fence for his animals. As he  
67 understands, he was the only person who received a letter to pay \$4,000 to keep their fence because he  
68 lives in a floodplain. All the adjacent neighbors have fences. He's not sure if the neighbors had to pay  
69 that fee.

70

71 Alison Harper, resident of 2306 S. Mattis. Her partner was at the property for 13 years before she came  
72 along. She is the one that wanted the animals. There are currently no animals at 2306 S. Mattis. The  
73 law has not changed; nothing has happened on the County's end. Was it the news crew that showed up  
74 on their property, was it the fence regulation, was it being served with a civil suit citing a neighborhood  
75 covenant? They can't have any buildings and they can't have any animals. They had to get rid of them.  
76 Regarding the fence regulation, they no longer have a fence. They were told on a Friday afternoon that  
77 all of the animals had to be moved by Sunday evening or a lawsuit would be proceeded with. They  
78 managed it and have been taking care of their animals. It was not ELUC that removed the animals. She  
79 has researched the Zoning Map. There are few neighborhoods that fall within the parameters of the  
80 proposed text amendment, and most of them have covenants or are an HOA, and thinks adding this to the  
81 Zoning Ordinance is maybe not necessary.

82

83 Eric Auth, 2220 S. Mattis, Champaign; lives in the neighborhood. This is a well-established urban  
84 residential neighborhood. He lives immediately adjacent to the property in question that housed farm  
85 animals on a half-acre lot. They had five roosters, forty chickens, twenty ducks, five turkeys, and three

86 hogs on a half-acre lot. It was not a pleasant experience. Mr. Auth urged that the ordinance be  
87 considered. He was happy that the rooster ordinance was passed earlier. Roosters crow at all times of  
88 the day. There are different types of behavior to be regulated in a community – industrial, commercial,  
89 residential or agricultural. If people live in an urban residential neighborhood, there are certain norms to  
90 be expected. When people cross a line of normal expected behaviors, we need to look at the ordinance  
91 and see if we need to modify it. He asked to restrict the number and types of animals. The City of  
92 Champaign allows up to 6 hens. The proposed text amendment in section 7.8.1. A(9) allows up to 18  
93 hens depending on lot size. He respectfully requested that number be lowered. He would like to keep it  
94 as low as possible. He said it also says it prohibits meat sales in section 7.8.1 D, unless approved by  
95 Champaign County Public Health but you can sell food items. What constitutes food items? Who  
96 regulates that? Also, section 7.8. 2 D(8) addresses the odor issue. This is a serious issue. He stated that  
97 there were times they had to close up their home and retreat inside. He asked how and who measures  
98 this? There also needs to be a mechanism to submit complaints.  
99

100 Johnathan Hettinger, resident of 402 S. Race, Urbana. Mr. Hettinger is with the Prairie Rivers Network  
101 and was here and available to answer questions regarding the Carbon Sequestration moratorium issue.  
102

103 Jeremy Ruhter, resident of 910 CR2200 E, Sidney spoke on the proposed Zoning Ordinance Text  
104 Amendment. He raises farm animals; chickens and pigs. You don't make a lot of money raising  
105 animals. The economics of owning large acreage is expensive. There is a dimension there that needs to  
106 be considered. If you are going to be taxed heavily on the acreage you live on, so you can do what you  
107 love, you have to have the means to actually produce that. People need to raise animals in respectful  
108 ways. If people are forced out to the middle of nowhere to raise animals, they're going to have huge tax  
109 bills. Trying to advocate for not telling people what you can and can't do. Tell them how they're  
110 impacting the people around you. Hoping people will see efficiencies on a small scale and do so in  
111 respectful ways.  
112

113 Seeing how no one else wanted to speak, Chair Thorsland closed public participation.  
114

## 115 VI. **Communications**

116  
117 Mr. Stohr spoke on two items from NACo that he is involved with. About a year-and-a-half ago, Mr.  
118 Stohr attended the National Association of Counties meeting. The first item is a resolution he had  
119 introduced on Ground Water Resource Assessment that was adopted by NACo. The adopted policy  
120 reads: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges federal government agencies with  
121 responsibilities to research and assess groundwater availability and sufficiency for public purposes  
122 (including United State Geological Survey, Bureau of Reclamation, National Aeronautics and Space  
123 Administration and Environment Protection Agency) to:

124 \*significantly increase coordination among themselves and with state and local agencies with like  
125 responsibilities,

126 \*quantify and characterize available groundwater nationwide inclusive of fractured rock systems and  
127 predict likely supplies (water access data),

128 \*develop more robust modeling and analytical techniques and

129 \*identify gaps in available data to better inform policies necessary to ensure continued availability and  
130 sufficiency of water necessary to support public health and food production.

131 \*NACo also calls on Congress to adequately fund these agencies for this purpose.  
132

133 The resolution is being submitted as part of the NACo Congressional Legislative initiative advocating on  
134 behalf of USA counties.

135  
136 Second, a resolution is being introduced to the NACo EELU (Energy Environment and Land Use  
137 committee) regarding protections for PFAS passive receivers. The proposed resolution read: NACO  
138 urges Congress to provide passive receiver protection for local governments from CERCLA liability. If  
139 not granted an exemption, counties could be forced to pay for the cleanup of hazardous PFAS substance  
140 they had no role in producing or distributing. In short, this means that it would protect local sanitary  
141 districts from prosecution for not meeting the 3 parts per trillion limit set by US EPA. It could create a  
142 terrific liability for local units of government.

143  
144 In conjunction with a local agency, Mr. Stohr proposed an amendment to the resolution that reads:  
145 NACo urges Congress to provide financial support for research and demonstration projects for  
146 toxicological studies and treatment and removal of medication, personal care products, and other  
147 chemical pollutants which occur in waste streams and stormwater. These pollutants degrade surface  
148 water adversely affecting aquatic ecosystems in every respect. Protection for local governments from  
149 CERCLA liability is sought for these contaminants as with PFAS.

150  
151 Seeing no more communications, Chair Thorsland closed communications.  
152

153 **VII. New Business: Items For Information Only**

154  
155 **A. Ted Hartke email**

156  
157 Mr. Hartke's email was regarding a zoning board meeting on the moratorium on Carbon  
158 Sequestration. Mr. Thorsland stated he had searched the image in the email that was an article from a  
159 Facebook page on British politics and found it to be questionable. Mr. Stohr stated that he had  
160 directed Mr. Hartke to an article from the 1970's that provided more accurate information.

161  
162 **B. Notice of Non-Compliance with Illinois Noxious Weed Law**

163  
164 Mr. Hall stated we had received this letter from the state. He only knows of one county that has not  
165 received this letter, so we are not alone. In Champaign County we deal with noxious weeds on a  
166 case-by-case basis. There were no complaints in 2024. There are a lot of noxious weeds that are not  
167 part of the Noxious Weed Law. There are nine plants covered in the noxious weed law and we  
168 typically only receive complaints about two; Canada Thistle and Johnson Grass.  
169

170 **VIII. New Business: Items to be approved by ELUC**

171  
172 **A. Recreation & Entertainment License:** Taylor Feldkamp for Demo Derby at the Champaign County  
173 Fairgrounds, 1302 North Coler Avenue, Urbana. 4/09/25- 4/13/25.

174  
175 **B. Recreation & Entertainment License:** Taylor Feldkamp for Demo Derby at the Champaign County  
176 Fairgrounds, 1302 North Coler Avenue, Urbana. 9/10/25- 9/14/25.

177  
178 **OMNIBUS MOTION** by Mr. Farney to approve the Recreation & Entertainment License for Taylor  
179 Feldkamp for a Demo Derby on 4/09/25-4/13/25 and one 9/10/25-9/14/25. Seconded by Ms. Locke. There  
180 was no discussion. Upon voice vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

181  
182 **C. Authorization for a proposed Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment to regulate the keeping of**  
183 **animals in Residential Districts within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality.**  
184

185 **MOTION** by Ms. Rogers to authorize a proposed Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment to regulate the  
186 keeping of animals in Residential Districts within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality. Seconded  
187 by Mr. Farney. Discussion followed:  
188

189 Ms. Rodriguez asked for a good visualization for 1,000 feet. Ms. Locke answered with 3 ½ football  
190 fields.  
191

192 Mr. Thorsland said that having tried and raised livestock on a small scale, he is in support of having a  
193 text amendment.  
194

195 Mr. Farney stated he is also in support of the text amendment. He is glad it is not too overbearing  
196 and allows for compromise. There needs to be some regulation on these things when in residential  
197 neighborhoods. The Zoning Ordinance is an ever-evolving document. He thinks we will hear from  
198 other areas regarding this.  
199

200 Ms. Locke said she sees no reason to delay this. She is in support of this and feels like we are  
201 reaching a compromise.  
202

203 Upon voice vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.  
204

205 **D. Annual Hotel/Motel License:** Urbana Motel Inc. dba Motel 6 at 1906 North Cunningham Avenue,  
206 Urbana for 01/01/25- 12/31/25.  
207

208 **MOTION** by Mr. Esry to approve the Hotel/Motel License for Urbana Motel Inc. Seconded by Ms.  
209 Rogers. Upon voice vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.  
210

211 **E. Recreation & Entertainment License:** Champaign County Fair with Calendar of Events, 1302 North  
212 Coler Avenue, Urbana. 1/01/25- 12/31/25.  
213

214 **MOTION** by Ms. Rogers to approve the Recreation & Entertainment License for the Champaign  
215 County Fair with Calendar of Events. Seconded by Ms. Locke. Upon voice vote, the **MOTION**  
216 **CARRIED** unanimously.  
217

218 **F. Recreation & Entertainment License:** Hudson Farm Wedding & Events, LLC, 1341 CR1800E,  
219 Urbana IL 61802. 01/01/22- 12/31/22. It was noted that the year should be updated to 2025.  
220

221 **MOTION** by Mr. Farney to approve the Recreation & Entertainment License for Hudson Farm  
222 Wedding & Events, LLC. Seconded by Mr. Esry. Upon voice vote, the **MOTION CARRIED**  
223 unanimously.  
224  
225  
226  
227

228 IX. **New Business: Items to be Recommended to the County Board**

229 A. **Zoning Case 157-AT-24.** Amend the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance as to add a temporary  
230 12-month safety moratorium on Carbon Sequestration Activity as described in the legal  
231 advertisement.

232  
233 **MOTION** by Mr. Farney to amend the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance as to add a temporary  
234 12-month safety moratorium on Carbon Sequestration Activity; seconded by Mr. Stohr.

235  
236 Mr. Stohr stated that this is important for protecting the Mahomet Aquifer. He feels we need a task  
237 force or group to look into this further. Mr. Thorsland said he appreciates what the Prairie Rivers  
238 Network and others who came to the early meetings and the Zoning Board itself have done so far.

239  
240 Mr. Esry asked if anyone had spoken against this at the ZBA hearings? The answer was no. This  
241 will give us more time to get into the details.

242  
243 Upon voice vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

244  
245 B. **Closed Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6) to consider the setting of a price for lease or sale**  
246 **of property owned by Champaign County.**

247  
248 **MOTION** by Mr. Esry to enter Closed Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6) to consider the setting  
249 of a price for lease or sale of property owned by Champaign County and that the following parties  
250 remain present: Planning & Zoning Director John Hall, Senior Planner Charlie Campo, Recording  
251 Secretary Mary Ward and Information Technology Rep Chris Fiorillo. The motion was seconded by  
252 Ms. Locke. Upon roll call vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

253  
254 The Environment and Land Use Committee entered close session at 7:15 p.m.

255  
256 The Environment and Land Use Committee resumed Open Session at 7:25 p.m.

257  
258 X. **Other Business**

259 A. **Monthly Reports** -None

260  
261 There was no other business and there were no monthly reports.

262  
263 XI. **Chair’s Report**

264  
265 There was no Chair’s report. Mr. Thorsland welcomed Ms. Locke to the committee.

266  
267 XII. **Designation of Items to be Placed on the Consent Agenda**

268  
269 Item 9.A. is to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

270  
271 XIII. **Adjournment**

272  
273 Chair Thorsland adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.