

Subject: NR115

Date: Tue, 18 Jan 2005 13:47:04 -0600

From: "Paul Kent" <pkent@andersonkent.com>

To: <tps@dewittross.com>

Vilas County to draft its own version of the NR 115 re-write

By: Jeff Starck

Tired of the overbearing influence of southern Wisconsin representatives and unclear wording of the proposed Department of Natural Resources (DNR) NR-115 re-write, Vilas County will prepare an alternative to the proposed rules change.

Vilas County Zoning Administrator Dawn Schmidt and County Conservationist Patrick Goggin presented the fifth and latest draft of the administrative rules change governing Wisconsin's shorelands. The document is a hefty 33 pages, far more than the original eight pages.

Supervisor Jay Verhulst, who has attended several conferences recently and spoken to other county officials statewide, said the DNR is not looking at the ordinances already in place in counties statewide, but compiling answers to problems found across the state.

In essence, he added, the DNR is attempting to write an ordinance that supercedes the county, rather than writing administrative rules.

Verhulst suggested that Schmidt and Goggin and their respective county committees, collaborate and write a draft that clarifies the ideas for the re-write.

Schmidt, who also works closely with her counterparts in the Wisconsin County Code Administrators, said other zoning officials in northern Wisconsin understand from where Vilas County is coming.

"We are the ones who are out in the field," Schmidt explained. "We know what can and can't be enforced. We have no monetary interest in this. We've thought from day one that (county code administrators) should have a bigger role in this."

Only three of the 30 current re-write committee members are county code administrators.

The draft would be taken to the state Legislature for its approval in the coming months.

The zoning committee approved a motion to participate in writing the draft. A similar motion is expected to pass at a future land and water conservation committee meeting, as well.

Posted: *January 11, 2005*

Paul G. Kent