

CHAPTER 5 Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Element

66.1001(2)(e) Wis. Stat.:

Agricultural, natural and cultural resources element. A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs for the conservation, and promotion of the effective management, of natural resources such as groundwater, forests, productive agricultural areas, environmentally sensitive areas, threatened and endangered species, stream corridors, surface water, floodplains, wetlands, wildlife habitat, metallic and nonmetallic mineral resources consistent with zoning limitations under s. 295.20 (2), parks, open spaces, historical and cultural resources, community design, recreational resources and other natural resources.

Section 5.1 Introduction

The agricultural, natural and cultural resources of the Town of Eau Pleine are perhaps the single most important reason why people choose to live here. Substantial natural areas, waterways, wildlife habitat, and productive farms and farmland all come together to create a desirable rural setting.

The residents of the Town of Eau Pleine recognize the value of their unique landscape and understand that it supports and sustains a way of life they are proud of. For those who choose to farm the land here, the community supports their efforts and works to minimize barriers that impede this important industry. This section contains a description of the existing conditions of the agricultural resources in the Town along with the goals, objectives and policies for maintaining or enhancing these valued resources.

Section 5.2 Agricultural Resources

A. Agricultural Potential Based on Land Evaluation Site Assessment Rating (LESA)

The Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) system is a point-based approach that is generally used for rating the relative value of agricultural land resources. In basic terms, a given LESA model is created by defining and measuring two separate sets of factors. The first set, **Land Evaluation**, includes factors that measure the inherent soil-based qualities of land as they relate to agricultural suitability. The second set, **Site Assessment**, includes factors that are intended to measure social, economic, and geographic attributes that also contribute to the overall value of agricultural land. The site assessment factors are further evaluated in the Land Use element of this plan.

A LE rating was developed for use across all of Portage County. **Higher numbers mean greater value for agriculture.** LE ratings reflect this productivity potential, as well as the economic and environmental costs of producing a crop. Possible LE ratings range from 0 to 100. Many physical and chemical soil properties are considered in the LE rating, either directly or indirectly, including soil texture and rock fragments, slope, wetness and flooding, soil erodibility, climate, available water capacity, pH (alkalinity versus acidity), and permeability. Three soil property indexes were combined to produce the LE rating; prime farmland classification, land capability class – natural condition, and productivity index. All three of these indexes are published by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

A SA (Site Assessment) rating was also developed for the Town of Eau Pleine. As with the LE rating, higher numbers mean a greater value for agriculture. The combined Land Evaluation factors are worth 100 points as are the combined Site Assessment factors. The LE and SA scores are added to yield a potential final score for each two acre block ranging between 0 and 200

points, with a score of 200 representing lands that are of the highest value for agriculture (excluding specialty crops such as cranberries). Communities will then determine an appropriate threshold for ranking lands recommended for protection (i.e. areas with a score higher than 150 and are greater than 40 contiguous acres). Weighting factors can be changed by each community to reflect its own priorities. See Appendix E for a complete explanation of this system.

The Town of Eau Pleine has decided to use the LESA model as an advisory tool to help identify productive agricultural areas in the community.

A. Highly Productive Agricultural Soils

Highly productive agricultural soils in the Town of Eau Pleine have been identified, with the assistance of the County Conservationist, based on highest productivity and lowest degree of limitations for farming (Map 5.1 Highly Productive Agricultural Soils). Slopes greater than 6% were excluded from the “highly productive” designation (due to severe hazard for water or wind erosion), along with small parcels and stony, rough, and eroded sites. Highly Productive Soils in Eau Pleine include:

- Dunnville very fine sandy loam, 2-6% slopes
- Mosinee sandy loam, 2-6% slopes
- Rockers loamy sand, 1-3% slopes
- Rozellville loam, 2-6% slopes
- Meadland loam, 1-3% slopes
- Point sandy loam, 1-3% slopes

B. Farming Systems, Demographics, and Land Tenure

The Town is located within one of the two major farm regions in Wisconsin. The first and most prominent is the dairy region, which includes Eau Pleine. In Wisconsin, dairying is most concentrated in a belt that begins near Hudson (St. Croix County), heads east to Wausau and Green Bay (Brown County), then turns southwest through Fond du Lac, Madison and ends near Dubuque (Iowa County). Wisconsin Department of Agriculture 2002 permit information listed eleven (11) grade-A dairy herds out of 21 dairy farms operating in the Town of Eau Pleine. To the south in Carson, there were forty-two (42) dairy farms; and to the east in Dewey, there were eleven (11) dairy operations.

The second farming region near Eau Pleine is that of fresh vegetable production. The irrigated soils of the “Golden Sands” region of Wisconsin are situated east and south of the Wisconsin River between Amherst, the Stevens Point area, and south into Waushara County.

There were 45 persons employed in an agriculturally-related field in the Town of Eau Pleine in 2000 (Table 1.9, Issues and Opportunities section). This represented 9.7% of employment for the Town. Although this is down substantially from the 1980 figure of 126 persons (36%), Eau Pleine does still have a higher percentage of agriculture-related employment in 2000 when compared to the Portage County Town average (6.8%). Decreasing farm employment is not a unique trend by any means. The number of farms is decreasing, while acreage per farm is up. Farm consolidation is a common practice in this industry.

Map 5.1 Highly Productive Ag Soils

The amount of land dedicated to agricultural production can and often does change from one year to the next. In 2000, the Portage County Planning and Zoning Department analyzed aerial photography of Eau Pleine to identify active farmland within the Town. The land in farms was broken down by presence of irrigation, 0 acres; use for row crops or hay, 8,113 acres; used for cranberry production, 289 acres; and permanent pasture, 250 acres. Total agricultural acres identified for 2000 were 8,652.

C. Farm Economy and Infrastructure

Because of the lack of farm economy information available at the town level, a detailed discussion of the farm economy at the town level is not practical. Please see the complete discussion of the Portage County farm economy in the Agriculture, Natural and Cultural Resource element of the Portage County Comprehensive Plan.

D. Other Local Influences on Agriculture

The Eau Pleine area has historically not seen great pressure for the development of rural residential properties. However, increased interest in Eau Pleine can bring more homes onto the agricultural landscape, which in turn could lead to increased potential for life-style conflicts; increased assessed value of non-farm lands; and most importantly, an increase in the sale price per acre of land beyond the point of being economically viable for purchase as farmland. Other factors include: the completion of the upgrade to USH 10 to a four lane facility; an aging agricultural workforce; and a desire to subdivide small portions of farmland.

In addition, low profitability of farming operations in this area is causing operators to look to other means to make a living. Unfortunately, this often means selling the land for residential or other types of development.

Section 5.3 Agricultural Programs

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The Conservation Reserve Program, administered through the Farm Service Agency (FSA), is a voluntary program for agricultural landowners. Through CRP, one can receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. Participants enroll in CRP for 10 to 15 years.

- Environmental Quality Incentives Programs (EQIP)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program. It supports production agriculture and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP, farmers may receive financial and technical help with structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land.

EQIP may pay up to 75 percent of the costs of eligible conservation practices. Incentive payments may be made to encourage a farmer to adopt land management practices, such as nutrient management, manure management, integrated pest management, and wildlife habitat management.

Section 5.4 Agricultural Issues

The following agricultural issues were identified through the course of the planning process:

- To what extent can the Town minimize conflicts between farm and non-farm uses?
- Why is land that is not considered prime ag land zoned A-1?

- How will the Town address the impacts to farmland resulting from the new USH 10 corridor?
- How can the Town address damage to local roads from substandard entrance and exit points to agricultural fields?
- To what extent will new or expanding large animal operations have on the Town? (i.e. road maintenance, conflicts with non farm residences, impacts on ground and surface water)
- What impact will the purchase of agricultural land by the State have on resident's taxes?

The Town doesn't get any Town tax to help pay for road maintenance of public roads.

Section 5.5 Agricultural Goals, Objectives and Policies

Goal 1: Agriculture remains an integral part of the economy.

Objective: Encourage a diversity of farming practices including, organic, grazing, market gardens, etc.

Policies:

1. Allow residents to continue the use of A-1 zoning.
2. Incorporate a Land Evaluation Site Assessment system to help identify productive agricultural lands.
3. Work to limit the acquisition of farmland by the DNR, including additions to the Mead Wildlife Area, where such acquisitions would cause productive croplands to be taken out of agricultural use. It is also the desire of the Town Board to be notified by the DNR prior to any proposed land acquisitions in the Town.

Goal 2: Conflicts between farm and non-farm uses are minimized.

Objectives:

1. Existing residential development is taken into consideration when locating new or replacement agricultural buildings.
2. Residents and potential land owners are aware of Wisconsin's Right to Farm law and other aspects of living in a rural agricultural area.

Policies:

1. Inconveniences, such as aerial spraying, dust, noise, odors, etc. that come from agricultural operations and aren't a major threat to public health or safety, shall not be considered a nuisance.
2. Standards set forth in the Town's Driveway Ordinance regarding entrances and exits to residential lands, fields, pastures, or other agricultural lands must be adhered to.

Section 5.6 Natural Resources Inventory

Natural resources in the Town serve as the foundation for residents physical and economic well being – from groundwater quality to land suitability for recreational, agricultural, residential, or commercial development. According to the results of the 2001 Comprehensive Planning and

Zoning Survey, a majority of Town residents favored managing the natural resources that support and sustain them.

This section will describe the existing natural resources inventory and state the issues, goals, objectives, and policies that were identified and adopted by the Town of Eau Pleine Plan Commission and Town Board.

A. Geomorphology

The present Portage County landscape primarily reflects the last or Wisconsin stage of the pleistocene or glacial epoch (Holt, 1965). The glacial ice transported large amounts of rock debris known as drift. The drift is called till if deposited directly by the ice, and outwash if placed by glacial meltwater.

Glacial presence is less noticeable in the drift-crystalline rock province in the northwestern portion of the County, which includes the Town of Eau Pleine. Although this area is mapped as part of the driftless or unglaciated area of Wisconsin, there are thin, heterogeneous till and outwash deposits of clay, silt, sand, and gravel from an earlier glacial period. The average thickness of these materials is only four feet. The topography is controlled primarily by the shallow granitic bedrock, and soil properties reflect the underlying bedrock residuum and the loamy, silty nature of the unconsolidated materials.

Areas identified as alluvium are post-glacial deposits of materials eroded from uplands and accumulated in lower areas such as marshes (organic-rich clay, silt, sand, and peat) and stream valleys (well-sorted silt, sand, and gravel). These alluvial deposits range from a few feet to over 60 feet in thickness.

The topography of the Town is generally flat to slightly rolling and includes many lowland wet areas. The elevation ranges from 1,120 feet above sea level in the northeast part of the Town to 1,160 feet above sea level in the southwest corner (Map 5.2) while depth to bedrock is generally shallow, ranging from 0 – 35 feet.

B. Soils

Soils in the Town can be grouped into three soil associations (Map 5.3), as follows:

- Meadland-Rozeville-Dolph association: Soils in this association are generally deep, with bedrock occurring at depths from 5 to 20 feet. Most areas of this association are used for crops. Characteristically, both the Meadland and Dolph soils are nearly level, somewhat poorly drained, and are saturated with water at a depth of less than 3 feet during wet periods. Rozellville soils are gently sloping, moderately to well drained, and are subject to water erosion when cropped.
- Point-Dancy-Mosinee association: Soils in this association are generally deep, with bedrock occurring at depths of 4 to 20 feet. Most areas of this association are used for pasture or woodland, but some areas are used for crops. Stones and outcrops are hazards to cultivation in this association. Agricultural productivity is dependent on weather cycles and is limited during wet years. The Point soils are nearly level, somewhat poorly drained and are saturated with water at a depth of less than 3 feet during periods of wetness. Dancy soils are poorly drained and occur in drainage ways and depressions. They are saturated with water at a depth of less than 1 foot during periods of wetness. Mosinee soils are gently sloping and well drained. They occur on broad ridges and are subject to erosion.

- Alluvial or Organic Soils: Although less extensive than the upland soils previously described, organic soils also occur in the Town, primarily in conjunction with floodplain and wetland areas. These soils range from very fine sandy loams to muck. Some of these areas are used for dryland crops, or cranberries in the case of muck soils. Most areas are subject to occasional or frequent flooding.

Soil testing by a certified soil tester is strongly recommended for more detailed, site specific information.

C. Surface Water, Wetlands, and Flood plains

The major surface water bodies that are present in the Town of Eau Pleine are the Wisconsin River, Little Eau Pleine River, and Lake Du Bay. The Wisconsin River flows from the north to the south and serves as the eastern boundary of the Town. The Little Eau Pleine River is located along the northern portion of the Town and flows into Lake Du Bay, located in the far northeastern corner of the Town. Other surface water features in the Town includes: several tributaries that branch off the Wisconsin River and Lake Du Bay and several man-made drainage ways that branch off the Little Eau Pleine River.

The Town is situated in two watersheds: the Little Eau Pleine River and the Mill Creek watersheds (Map 5.4). A watershed can be defined as interconnected areas of land draining from surrounding ridge tops to a common point such as a lake or stream junction with a neighboring land area.

Wetlands are an important part of the watershed, as they act as a filter system for pollutants, nutrients, and sediments, along with serving as buffers for shorelands and providing essential wildlife habitat, flood control and groundwater recharge. Wetlands are very prominent in the Town of Eau Pleine (Map 5.4) and comprise a large portion of the Mead Wildlife Area. They are grouped into three general types: forested, scrub or shrub, and emergent/wet meadow.

- Forested wetlands are the predominant type. This includes bogs and forested floodplain complexes that are characterized by trees 20 feet or more in height such as, tamarack, white cedar, black spruce, elm, black ash, and silver maple. These wetlands are located primarily along the edge of the Little Eau Pleine River, southwest of Lake Du Bay (near the cranberry bogs), and are randomly disbursed throughout the Town.
- Scrub/shrub wetlands are the second most abundant type. These wetlands, which include bogs and alder thickets, are characterized by wood shrubs and small trees such as tag aster, bog birch, willow and dogwood. These are also found primarily in the westcentral part of the Town, near the man-made drainage ways, with inclusions scattered throughout Eau Pleine.
- Emergent/wet meadow, the third most numerous type of wetland within Eau Pleine, consists of areas that may have saturated soils more often than having standing water. Vegetation includes sedges, grasses and reeds as dominant plants, but may also include blue flag iris, milkweed, sneezeweed, mint and several species of goldenrod and aster. These types of wetlands are found throughout the Town, primarily along the Little Eau Pleine River, along the Wisconsin River tributaries, and along intermittent and ephemeral drainage ways.

Map 5.2 Topography

Map 5.3 General Soils Associations

Map 5.4 Wetlands and Watersheds

A floodplain is defined as that which has been or may be covered by floodwater during the regional flood. The flood plain includes the floodway and flood fringe areas. A 100-year Flood is defined as a flood event having a one percent chance of reaching the 100-year flood elevation in any given year. Contrary to popular belief, it is not a flood occurring once every 100 years. A 100-Year Floodplain then, is the area adjoining a river, stream, or watercourse covered by water in the event of a 100-year flood.

Floodplains provide many benefits including: natural flood and erosion control, water quality maintenance, groundwater recharge, and fish and wildlife habitat. Some of these areas are also desirable for residential development due to aesthetic reasons, and agricultural development due to the presence of nutrient rich soils. If development in these areas increases, the benefits listed above will decrease. Floodplains in Eau Pleine are illustrated on Map 5.5.

D. Groundwater

The Town of Eau Pleine is located in a geologic province known as the drift-crystalline rock province. The drift-crystalline rock province is considerably different from the rest of the County in that the basement granitic bedrock is close to the surface, and the unconsolidated aquifers above it are very limited. The depth to bedrock is generally less than 20 feet, and the depth to groundwater is generally less than 10 feet. Seasonally, depths to groundwater can decrease to less than one foot. Groundwater flow is shown on Map 5.6. Data collection for groundwater monitoring is an on-going process and the Town should work with the County and other research organizations to maintain the most current information possible. Knowing groundwater flow can be a helpful piece of information when determining proper siting of well and on-site waste systems.

All Town residential water use comes from groundwater sources; therefore, protection of this resource is important. Given the very thin or nonexistent unsaturated zone, there exists little or no second line defense against pollutants regardless of the nature of the subsurface materials. Although some of the soils ranked moderate to good in pollution attenuation, this area of the County should be considered vulnerable overall given the shallow depth to groundwater and bedrock. The Town of Eau Pleine is currently involved in the Groundwater Guardian Program.

Potential pumping yield rates for groundwater are generally less than or equal to 20 gallons per minute throughout the Town. This rate is low when compared to areas east of the Wisconsin River where rates can exceed 1,000 gallons per minute.

In March, 2004 the Portage County Board of Supervisors adopted the Portage County Groundwater Management Plan. The Plan outlines goals and specific action recommendations for groundwater protection and management in the County, along with providing a technical basis and justification for the recommendations based on the best available information. Contact the Portage County Planning and Zoning Department for more information about obtaining a copy of the plan.

1. Atrazine Prohibition Areas

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is researching the health effects of atrazine in water. Drinking water that contains atrazine will not cause an immediate sickness or health problems (acute toxicity). However, consuming low levels of atrazine over time may cause health problems (chronic toxicity). The EPA is also concerned that atrazine may be an endocrine disruptor which can cause unintentional hormone-like activity in the body.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is responsible for protecting Wisconsin's groundwater from contamination by pesticides and fertilizers. Their authority to restrict the use of a pesticide that is contaminating groundwater at levels above health-based standards is found in the Wisconsin Groundwater Law, Chapter 160 of the Wisconsin Statutes, and by department rule in ATCP 31, Groundwater Protection Program.

The rules for restricting the use of atrazine and other pesticides in Wisconsin are part of ATCP 30 - Pesticide Product Restrictions and the county maps showing the location of the prohibition areas can also be found in the rule in ATCP 30.

No atrazine has been detected above the Enforcement Standard of 3 micrograms per liter in wells within the Town of Eau Pleine and because of this; no prohibition area has been defined within the community.

E. Wildlife Habitat and Forested Areas

When people think about wildlife, birds, fish, and mammals most likely come to mind. It is important, however, to consider all organisms that make up an ecosystem in order for that system to continue providing the maximum benefit to humans and the environment. Town residents recognize the fact that human beings play a role in protecting or restoring, as well as, degrading or destroying wildlife and its habitat. They also recognize that it will be very difficult to preserve all ecosystems in the Town from human encroachment or interaction, therefore, it is the desire of residents to protect wildlife habitat where practicable.

The biggest threats to wildlife are loss of habitat quality and quantity. These threats can be attributed primarily to fragmentation, invasive species, and pollution. Fragmentation refers to the loss of large, contiguous sections of land through subdivision into smaller parts. These subdivisions can lead to an alteration and possible degradation of the native plant and animal communities. Invasive species, both plant and animal, tend to out compete or prey on native species also altering the native ecosystem. Pollution can lead to habitat degradation and cause birth defects and increased mortality rates in animal species.

Habitat areas are important for providing food and cover for nesting, brooding, and sheltering. Farmland is one type of habitat that also provides food, as well as, travel corridors between wetlands and woodlands.

Woodlands or forested lands comprise 34% of the land area in Eau Pleine (Map 5.6) while wetlands make up 36%. Woodlands that exist in the Town are attributed primarily to an inability to sustain successful agricultural practices.

One option open to all private landowners owning ten or more acres of woodlands is the Managed Forest Law Program. The MFL program is intended to foster timber production on private forests while promoting other benefits that forested lands provide. Participants in this program have the option to choose a 25 or 50 year contract period and pay property taxes at a reduced rate on enrolled lands. A portion of the difference in property taxes is recouped by the state at the time of a timber harvest when a yield tax is imposed based on the volume of timber removed. For more information regarding specific requirements and how to enroll in this program, contact the WI Department of Natural Resources.

Map 5.5 Floodplain

Map 5.6 Groundwater Flow

Map 5.7 Forested Land

According to 2001 County survey data, 73% of respondents felt that an effort should be made to identify and protect woodlands, and 69% felt the same about wetlands and floodplains. Loss of these habitat types can threaten the viability of certain species.

1. Threatened and Endangered Species

Known rare and endangered animal species identified by the Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) that are located within the Town of Eau Pleine (Townships 2506 and 2507) include: Greater Prairie Chicken, Arctic Shrew, Bald Eagle, Red Shouldered Hawk, Pugnose Minnow, Stygian Shadowfly, and the Blanding's Turtle. Rare and endangered plant types include: Northern Mesic Forest, Emergent aquatic, Northern Wet Forest, Sand Violet, Pale Beardtongue, and Dwarf Huckleberry. These elements should be taken into consideration when development and protection measures are considered. A detailed description of rare and endangered plants and animals can be obtained from the WI DNR.

F. Air Quality

The following information comes from the WI DNR and the Environmental Protection Agency:

A few common air pollutants are found all over the United States. These pollutants can injure health, harm the environment and cause property damage. The Environmental Protection Agency calls these pollutants **criteria air pollutants** because the agency has regulated them by first developing health-based **criteria** (science-based guidelines) as the basis for setting permissible levels. These pollutants include: ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, and lead. One set of limits (**primary standard**) is designed to protect public health, including the health of "sensitive" populations such as asthmatics, children, and the elderly; another set of limits (**secondary standard**) is intended to protect public welfare, including protection against decreased visibility and damage to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings. A geographic area that meets or does better than the primary standard is called an **attainment area**; areas that don't meet the primary standard are called **nonattainment areas**.

All of Portage County, including the Town of Eau Pleine, is listed as an attainment area by the WI DNR.

G. Non-Metallic Mining

The glacial and geologic history of Portage County has made conditions suitable for certain types of non-metallic mining. Along the moraines in the eastern third of the County, glacial deposits have resulted in some lands that are desirable for gravel and aggregate extraction. This is in contrast with lands west of the Wisconsin River where soils are heavier and have higher clay content.

With the heavy soils and higher clay content, the Town of Eau Pleine has very limited resources for mineral extraction. However, there is potential for limited nonmetallic mineral extraction such as clay, sand, and gravel. There is currently one active sand pit and one active gravel extraction pit located adjacent to each other in the Town of Eau Pleine. These are located in the central part of the Town. Closed mines in the Town include an abandoned soapstone mine located near Cty Rd H, one mile east of the Wood County line and a former graphite mine near Cty Rd G, ½ mile north of the Carson town line.

H. Natural Resources Programs

- Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

The Wetlands Reserve Program is a voluntary program to restore and protect wetlands on private property. It is an opportunity for landowners to receive financial incentives to restore wetlands that have been drained for agriculture.

Landowners who choose to participate in WRP may sell a conservation easement or enter into a cost-share restoration agreement with USDA to restore and protect wetlands. The landowner voluntarily limits future use of the land, yet retains private ownership. The landowner and NRCS develop a plan for the restoration and maintenance of the wetland.

The program offers landowners three options: permanent easements, 30-year easements, and restoration cost-share agreements of a minimum 10- year duration

- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop or improve wildlife habitat on private lands. It provides both technical assistance and cost sharing to help establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat.

Landowners agree to prepare and implement a wildlife habitat development plan. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to implement the wildlife habitat restoration practices.

- Groundwater Guardian Program

The Wisconsin Groundwater Guardian Program (GG Program) is a program of The Groundwater Foundation, an international non-profit organization dedicated to educating and motivating people to care for and about groundwater. This is a voluntary membership program where participating communities gain information for proactive steps toward comprehensive groundwater protection.

Section 5.7 Natural Resource Issues

- How can logging be promoted while minimizing impacts from diseases such as oak wilt?
- How can the Town minimize crop damage from deer, turkeys, and cranes?
- How can the Town protect its soil and water resources?
- How many homes should be allowed in an area before a residential well is affected?

Section 5.8 Natural Resources Goals, Objectives and Policies

Goal 1: Conserve the Town's environmental and recreational resources.

Objectives:

1. Support efforts to protect the quality of the surface water and groundwater resources.

Policies:

1. Limit cultivated agriculture adjacent to water bodies.

2. Reclamation procedures for non metallic mining operations are enforced to protect public safety and valued natural resources.
3. Limit residential densities in accordance with soil suitability to ensure groundwater quality and quantity.
4. Identify and protect environmentally sensitive areas through the use of Lot Averaging, Conservancy Zoning, and Planned Developments. These areas include certain shorelands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat, including the present Mead Wildlife Area.
5. Encourage the DNR to properly manage wildlife resources including removal of road kill and reducing the carp population in the Little Eau Pleine and Wisconsin Rivers.
6. The Town recommends against the filling of wetlands. Naturally occurring wetlands should remain in their natural state.
7. Encourage tree cutting when trees are dormant to prevent spread of diseases.

Section 5.9 Cultural Resources

How can you know where you're going if you don't know where you've been? Cultural and historic resources often help link the past with the present and can give a community a sense of place or identity. These resources can include historic buildings and structures along with ancient and archeological sites.

Burial sites are one example of a resource that can add to a community's sense of history as well as provide a great deal of genealogical information. Formally catalogued burial sites are protected from disturbance in Wisconsin and are given tax treatment equal to that of operating cemeteries.

Information regarding cultural and historic resources in the Town is constrained to limited financial and human resources. This section will provide goals and policies that promote the effective management of historic and cultural resources.

A. Cultural and Historic Resources Inventory

A wide range of historic properties have been documented that help create Wisconsin's distinct cultural landscape . Descriptions of existing locations are identified on the list of historic places by the Wisconsin Historical Society. Keep in mind many of the properties included in this inventory are privately owned and not necessarily open to the public. At this time, there are seven listings in Eau Pleine, which include houses, a bridge that has been replaced, a town hall which has burned down, and other buildings.

Another source of information comes from the National and State Register of Historic Places. There are currently fourteen sites listed throughout Portage County, however, none of them are located in the Town of Eau Pleine.

There are two cemeteries located in the Town: Runkle Cemetery, located on Cty Rd H; and Buelow Cemetery, located just northeast of the Village of Junction City on Oak Hill Road. For further information about this topic, see the Utilities and Community Facilities chapter of this Comprehensive Plan.

B. Cultural Resource Programs

At the state level, the Wisconsin Historical Records Advisory Board (WHRAB) works in association with the Wisconsin Historical Society. The Board's activity falls primarily into three

areas: it provides guidance and assistance to archives and records management programs in Wisconsin, promotes the value of historical records as keys to our cultural heritage and works through partnerships with statewide organizations whose purpose and goals support that end, and to bring federal grant funds to Wisconsin for improving access and preservation of historical records.

Section 5.10 Cultural Resource Issues

There were no issues or concerns regarding cultural resources identified by the Town of Eau Pleine Plan Commission.

Section 5.11 Cultural Resource Goals, Objectives and Policies

Goal 1: Encourage the preservation of historical and cultural resources in the Town of Eau Pleine.

Objective:

1. Work with the Portage County Historical Society to provide guidance in the identification and protection of historic and cultural resources.

Goal 2: Encourage someone to draft a history of the Town of Eau Pleine.

Objective: Work with the interested party or parties to initiate this project as soon as possible.