

Becker County Planning Commission
August 27th, 2025

An audio recording of the meeting is available at:
https://www.co.becker.mn.us/government/meetings/planning_zoning/planning_commission/

Members Present: Chairman Dave Blomseth, Commissioner Phil Hansen, Kim Mattson, Tommy Ailie, Harvey Aho, Tom Disse, Commissioner Erica Jepson, Craig Hall, Steve Lindow, Mary Seaberg, John Okeson and Zoning Administrator Kyle Vareberg. **Members Absent:** Kohl Skalin and Jeff Moritz.

Chairman Dave Blomseth called the Planning Commission meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Becker County Zoning Technician Nicole Bradbury recorded the minutes.

Harvey Aho made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 30, 2025, meeting. Ailie second. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Dave Blomseth explained the protocol for the meeting and stated that the recommendations of the Planning Commission will be forwarded to the County Board of Commissioners for final action.

It was decided to start the meeting with Agenda Item number three (3) Zoning Ordinance Amendments.

Zoning Ordinance Amendments

1. Requirements regulating retaining walls to include but not limited to the permitting process through Becker County.

Willis Mattison shared his concerns and recommendations to continue having all retaining walls be reviewed through the public hearing process.

Marsha Watland stated the importance of property owners having as much information as possible and shared concerns about the amount of verbiage proposed to be removed from the ordinance.

Erika Gilsdorf shared her concerns. She asked that the proposal be opposed and suggested that new wording be created for the amendment.

Sally Hausken shared her concerns as well as suggestions on protecting the environment and wildlife.

47 Bryan Malone with Becker Soil and Water stated that Letter B 1-4 are valid. He suggested that
48 more time and input be given to the proposal.
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50 Vareberg suggested that all retaining walls require a permit through the Zoning office, even if
51 they are under two (2) feet, that the proposed wording in letter B be changed from “Becker Soil
52 and Water and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Area Hydrologist” to just say
53 Tech Panel, and to keep Section 8 Letter A.
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55 Jepson would like the tech panel to review the proposal and approve it before the
56 recommendation goes before the County Board for final decision.
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59 **MOTION: Hall motioned to approve the application with the proposed**
60 **suggestions from Vareberg. Aho second. Roll Call; Disse, Mattson, Ailie,**
61 **Seaberg, Okeson, Hall, and Aho in favor. Lindow opposed. Motion carried.**
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64 **New Business:**
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- 66 1. **APPLICANT: James R & Rebecca A Thibert** 409 Rensvold Blvd Moorhead, MN 56560
67 **Project Location:** 34327 Strawberry Ln S Ogema, MN 56569 **LEGAL LAND**
68 **DESCRIPTION:** Tax ID Number: **20.0429.000** Section 35 Township 142 Range 040; PT
69 LOT 3 N 75' OF S 580' E OF PRIVATE RD KNOWN AS LOT 5 & N1/2 OF LOT 4.
70 **APPLICATION AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:** Request an after-the-fact
71 Conditional Use Permit for retaining walls.
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74 Willis Mattison said he does not believe the applicant qualifies for a retaining wall and that the
75 application should be denied.
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78 **MOTION: Aho motioned to approve the application. Disse second. Roll Call;**
79 **Disse, Mattson, Ailie, Seaberg, Okeson, Hall, and Aho in favor. Lindow opposed.**
80 **Motion carried.**
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83 **Other Business:**
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- 85 I) **Tentative Date for the Next Informational Meeting: September 17th, 2025; 8:00 am; 3rd**
86 **Floor Meeting Room in the Becker County Courthouse, Detroit Lakes, MN.**
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89 **Since there was no further business to come before the Board, Okeson made a motion to**
90 **adjourn. Ailie second. All in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.**
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David Blomseth, Chairman

Jeff Moritz, Secretary

ATTEST

Kyle Vareberg, Zoning Administrator