



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

5A
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: May 24, 2022

Title of Item: Zoning Ordinance Amendment- New CERVID Farms

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	Action Requested: <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*
Submitted by: Andrew Carlstrom	Department: Planning & Zoning	
Presenter (Name and Title): Andrew Carlstrom, Environmental Services Director		Estimated Time Needed: 5
Summary of Issue: During the Public Hearing held on May 16, 2022 before the Aitkin County Planning Commission, the commission voted unanimously to amend Appendix A of the Aitkin County General Zoning Ordinance, restricting all new CERVID Farms within Aitkin County. Please see attached resolution.		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments: Deny proposed resolution.		
Recommended Action/Motion: Adopt Resolution to amend Appendix A of the Aitkin county General Zoning Ordinance to include restricting all new CERVID farms.		
Financial Impact: <i>Is there a cost associated with this request?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$</i> <i>Is this budgeted?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i>		

Legally binding agreements must have County Attorney approval prior to submission.

By Commissioner: xx

20220524-xxx

Zoning Ordinance Amendment-Restricting New CERVID Farms

WHEREAS, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a contagious fata neurodegenerative disease afflicting white tailed deer (cervids), and

WHEREAS, CWD is caused by misfolded proteins called prions, which attack the brain of infected animals, result in death, and

WHEREAS, CWD has spread to 26 states, three Canadian provinces, several counties in Southeast Minnesota, and now one county in Northern Minnesota (Beltrami), and

WHEREAS, nearly all CWD-infected cervids (deer) originate in captive commercial farms, of which 259 are located in Minnesota, and

WHEREAS, Minnesota wild deer are an important source of food, recreation, and tradition for our nearly 500,000 firearm and archery hunters who in turn, generate over a half billion dollars in economic activity in rural counties, and

WHEREAS, CWD spread reached a crisis level in Minnesota in the spring of 2021 after several CWD infected deer were found on a Beltrami County deer farm, and

WHEREAS, the owners of the Beltrami County deer farm disposed several CWD-infected deer carcasses on nearby tax-forfeited land where disease carrying prion were found in the soil, allowing for their ongoing and indefinite viability.

WHEREAS, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing on March 8, 2022 to discuss cervid farms, CWD, and adopted a cervid farm legislation support resolution.

WHEREAS, the Aitkin County Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on May 16, 2022 to discuss regulating cervid farms, and voted unanimously to restrict any new cervid farms.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners does hereby adopt this resolution and change to Aitkin County Zoning Ordinance.

Commissioner xx moved the adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote

FIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

All Members Voting Yes

STATE OF MINNESOTA}
COUNTY OF AITKIN}

I, Jessica Seibert, County Administrator, Aitkin County, Minnesota do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in the Administration Office of Aitkin County in Aitkin, Minnesota as stated in the minutes of the proceedings of said Board on the 24th day of May 2022, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand and seal this 24th day of May 2022

Jessica Seibert
County Administrator

Game Preserve – A privately operated facility where wild animals are protected and enjoyed by the public, and in order to preserve a specific species.

Game Farm (with hunting) – A shooting preserve that is privately operated facility where protected animals are released for shooting outside regularly established seasons and regulations. Only species authorized on the game farm license may be released and taken. A person, corporation, or partnership may not operate a game farm without a valid state license. There are two classes of game farm, private and commercial, as provided by Minnesota Statutes.

Game Farm (Cervid/Deer) – A commercial or privately operated facility where any ruminant mammal of the family Cervidae, including deer, are raised for commercial or private use.

	FR	R	C	M	P	O
Game Preserve	P	C	C	NP	P	P
Game Farm (with hunting)	C	NP	C	NP	C	C
Game Farm (Cervid/Deer)	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP

FR – Farm Residential

R – Residential

C – Commercial

M – Manufacturing

P – Public

O - Open

NOTICE OF HEARING

The Aitkin County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the adoption of amendments to the Aitkin County Zoning Ordinance regarding eliminating any new captive cervid (deer) farms in Aitkin County. Nearly all Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) cervids in Minnesota originate from captive commercial farms. The hearing will be conducted on May 16, 2022, at 4:00pm in the Aitkin County Board Room at the Government Center. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation on the proposed ordinance and ordinance amendments to the County Board of Commissioners for final review at a regularly scheduled board meeting on or after May 24, 2022.

A summary of the sections of the Aitkin County Zoning Ordinance proposed for amendment are: Section 3 (Definitions) - add Game Preserve, Game Farm, and Game Farm (Cervid/Deer); and Appendix A (Classification List) – Game Preserve and Game Farm no change. Game Farm (Cervid/Deer) not permitted in any zone.

The above is only a summary; a full text version is available for public review at the Aitkin County Planning and Zoning Office and the Aitkin County Auditor's Office in the Aitkin County Courthouse during regular business hours. A copy of the proposed ordinance amendments can also be viewed in its entirety on the Aitkin County website at www.co.aitkin.mn.us. Comments can be submitted in writing to the Aitkin County Planning and Zoning Office: 307 2nd St NW, Rm 219, Aitkin, MN 56431, by facsimile (218) 927-4372, or by e-mail to aitkinpz@co.aitkin.mn.us before 4:00pm on May 13, 2022. Please include a full name and complete mailing address with all correspondences.