

Final Report, January 4, 2007

RESOLUTION OF THE AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PRESERATION COMMITTEE
CITY OF VERONA/TOWN OF VERONA CONSOLIDATION ADVISORY GROUP

In 2006, the leadership of both the City of Verona and the Town of Verona began serious discussions about the possibilities of consolidating these two governments into one. To examine various components of such a consolidation, committees were set-up to create recommendations for items such agriculture and environmental preservation.

The City Consolidation Agriculture and Environmental Preservation Committee members are:

Bob Rego, Town (Chairperson)
Brad Stiner, City
Pete Ragotzkie, Town
Cheryl Christensen, City
Mark Osten, City
Ray Wagner, Town
Scott Manley, City
DuWayne Hoffman, Town

Assisted by the Staff of both the City of Verona and the Town of Verona:
Rose Johnson, Town
Larry Saeger, City

The following is a resolution of the Agriculture and Environmental preservation Committee (AEPC) of the City of Verona/Town of Verona Advisory Group (CVTVAG).

WHEREAS the AEPC was formed to provide advisory direction and guidance to the CVTVAG regarding agriculture and environmental preservation for and potential City and Town merger; and

WHEREAS, the AEPC has met a number of times to discuss the many topics and points of view on the topics of how to address the future of both agriculture and the environment under a merged City/Town, and

NOW THEREFORE, the members of the AEPC advise the following:

1. Preserve open space and agricultural lands consistent with the need of the community to develop from both a residential and non-residential perspective.
2. Consider/implement different rules for the current urban (present City of Verona) and rural areas (future urban, low density, rural and undeveloped areas) for uses such as farming activities, hunting and brush burning.
3. Create an Ad Hoc Agriculture and Environmental Advisory Board to provide the Council with input on agricultural and environmental issues. We recommend that this board be charged with the identification of new open and

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green spaces that may be considered for acquisition, preservation, enhancement or expansion.

4. Encourage the use of a mechanism such as Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) or similar programs in the rural areas as a means of conserving agricultural land and open space.

NOTE: A PDR is a voluntary program that compensates owners of agricultural property for their willingness to accept a permanent deed restriction on their land that limits future development of the land for non-agricultural purposes. Landowners are compensated for the fair market value of their land, based on the difference between what it could be sold for on the open market with no restrictions and what it can be sold for as farmland. Independent, professional appraisers determine these values and an agreement is negotiated on an individual basis with the farmer. Once an easement is in place, the landowner may still sell the land on the open market as farmland. All other private property rights remain intact.

5. Maintain existing designated parks and forests.
6. Maintain respect for property owner rights including notification of property owners prior to their property or an adjacent property being studied, or otherwise burdened by potential regulatory requirements.
7. Strive to develop residential, industrial and commercial properties contiguous to existing development for ease of water and sewer service to best manage the merged city resources and minimize environmental impacts.
8. Support the existing storm water management ordinances to minimize impacts to surface and ground waters.
9. Support uniform requirements for developing properties that will preserve, enhance or create green space or parkland. Set-aside properties need not be contiguous to developments. Adding to existing green space and parkland may be a better option than creating numerous small tracts of land.

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IN WHITNES WHEREOF, the below members of the AEPC have review, voted and approved the above motions by and through their duly authorized position this 4th day of January, 2007.

By: _____

By: _____

Name: Bob Rego, Town

Name: Brad Stiner, City

By: _____

By: _____

Name: Pete Ragotzkie, Town

Name: Cheryl Christensen, City

By: _____

By: _____

Name: DuWayne Hoffman, Town

Name: Scott Manley, City

By: _____

By: _____

Name: Mark Osten, City

Name: Ray Wagner, Town