

Oronoco Township Planning Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2024

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Paige Collins at 6:02 PM.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the Flag, of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

III. Roll Call

Last	First	Present	Absent	
Albrecht	Rich	X		TCPA Rep
Berg	Lori		X	
Collins	Cindy	X		
Collins	Paige	X		Chairperson
Matzke	Tammy	X		Township Board Rep
Rucker	Adam	X		Vice-Chair
Smith	Angela	X		
Koenig	Lynn	X		Special Projects
Ruppe	Bob		X	Twp Attorney
Staton	Jered	X		TCPA
Johanningmeier	Joel	X		Township Board

IV. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Tonight's meeting agenda was reviewed. Motion to approve the meeting agenda was offered by Mr Rucker, seconded by Mr Albrecht. Motion carried.

V. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from the March 18, 2024 meeting were discussed. Motion for approval of the minutes was offered by Mr Rucker, seconded by Ms Collins. Motion carried.

VI. TCPA Update

Mr Albrecht reported that based on the March TCPA meeting, they will be doing a bylaws update to accommodate Townships who don't have an elected Board member as their representative. They also had their annual election of officers and also had a brief discussion on paying the Board members. Finally, Jered Staton is doing some work on a Shoreland Ordinance memorandum.

VII. Public Hearings

None

VIII. Old Business

a) T&M Properties – Jered Staton

Mr Staton stated that they have asked for the plans for the building modifications be forwarded to TCPA for review. One important note is that the County Building Inspector has agreed to hold further inspections until the township and property owner have come to an agreement regarding the current CUP conditions.

b) Shoreland Ordinance – Jered Staton

In follow-up to discussion at our March 2024 meeting, Mr Staton contacted Kristi Gross. It was determined that Section 3.10 only applies to variances that affect shoreland regulations, such as OHWL setback, etc. According to Mr Staton, the Township would still have control over the underlying variances, CUPs, etc that would require the shoreland variance as an initial first step.

Also, as mentioned above, Mr Staton is working on a Memorandum of Understanding with the County that will require approval from the Townships belonging to TCPA.

IX. New Business

a) Feedlot Discussion – Martin Larsen

Mr Larsen attended our meeting to help us better understand rules and regulations regarding feedlots. We touched on a number of things including the number of feedlots (both active and phantom) and what the different cap levels are, and who is responsible for regulation and registration. Mr Larsen will provide us an actual list of the feedlots in Oronoco Township. His view is that we have somewhere between 10 and 20 active feedlots.

We also had a significant discussion regarding the questions that Ms Smith had previously submitted. These included a range of topics including nitrate and phosphorous levels, manure management, effects on air and water quality, and the process for new feedlot requests and feedlot proximity to each other.

X. Discussion Items

a) River Corridor Map – Jered Staton

At our March OTPAC meeting we discussed the possibility of expanding our current river corridor. Mr Staton provided a GIS map showing the existing corridor and what it would look like if it was expanded from 1000' to half mile from the high water mark. After staring at for a bit, there was general agreement that it would have too big of an impact and it was decided to leave it as is for now. Although we will look at the ordinances to see if we need to change anything, such as allowed uses, etc.

b) Continued Land Use Plan / Zoning Ordinance Discussion

One other item that was discussed was a review of our current moratorium. After re-reading it, it appears that we can extend it up to an additional 18 months. Ms Matzke is going to check with the MN Association of Townships to see what the guidelines/rules are for extending it.

We also discussed the fact that we are all working from different versions of the current Oronoco Township Zoning Ordinance. The current version is dated 2022. Ms Koenig is going to get copies made for everyone so we can all work from the same version. These will hopefully be distribute later this week.

Finally, our next step is to review the ordinance language for A2, A3 and ARC. Our goal is to tweak/rewrite any sections we deem necessary at our May meeting so we can send it forward to the Town Board at their June meeting for approval. Everyone has the to-do to review these three sections and bring forward any changes you would like to see.

XI. Open Forum

Nothing raised.

XII. As May Be Brought Up by Members

Nothing raised.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion for adjournment was offered by Mr Rucker, seconded by Ms Collins. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Collins
Chair

Officers:	Chair	Paige Collins	(2026 – term expiration)
	Vice-Chair	Adam Rucker	(2026 – term expiration)
Commissioners:	Member	Rich Albrecht	(2025 – term expiration)
	Member	Lori Berg	(2027 – term expiration)
	Member	Cindy Collins	(2025 – term expiration)

Other:

Member
Member

Angela Smith
Tammy Matzke
Lynn Koenig

(2027 – term expiration)
(Town Board representative)
(Special Projects Administrator)