

**SHORELAND AND WETLAND ZONING ORDINANCE FOR  
FLORENCE COUNTY**

**CHAPTER 10 SUBCHAPTER 2  
CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE COUNTY OF FLORENCE,  
WISCONSIN**

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WISCONSIN  
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## **1.0 STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION, FINDING OF FACT, STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND TITLE**

### **1.1 STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION**

This ordinance is adopted pursuant to the authorization in ss.59.692 Wis. Stats to implement 59.692, and 281.31.

### **1.2 FINDING OF FACT**

Uncontrolled use of the shorelands and pollution of the navigable waters of Florence County would adversely affect the public health, safety, convenience, and general welfare and impair the tax base. The legislature of Wisconsin has delegated responsibility to the counties to further the maintenance of safe and healthful conditions; prevent and control water pollution; protect spawning grounds, fish and aquatic life; control building sites, placement of structures and land uses; and to preserve shore cover and natural beauty. This responsibility is hereby recognized by Florence County, Wisconsin.

### **1.3 PURPOSE AND INTENT**

For the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, convenience and welfare, and promote and protect the public trust in navigable waters, this ordinance has been established to:

#### **1.3.1 FURTHER THE MAINTENANCE OF SAFE AND HEALTHFUL CONDITIONS AND PREVENT AND CONTROL WATER POLLUTION THROUGH:**

- (1) Limiting structures to those areas where soil and geological conditions will provide a safe foundation.
- (2) Establishing minimum lot sizes to provide adequate area for private on-site waste treatment systems.
- (3) Controlling filling and grading to prevent serious soil erosion problems.
- (4) Limiting impervious surfaces to control runoff which carries pollutants.

#### **1.3.2 PROTECT SPAWNING GROUNDS, FISH AND AQUATIC LIFE THROUGH:**

- (1) Preserving wetlands and other fish and aquatic habitat.
- (2) Regulating pollution sources.
- (3) Controlling shoreline alterations, dredging and lagooning.

**1.3.3 CONTROL BUILDING SITES, PLACEMENT OF STRUCTURES AND LAND USES THROUGH:**

- (1) Separating conflicting land uses.
- (2) Prohibiting certain uses detrimental to the shoreland area.
- (3) Setting minimum lot sizes and widths.
- (4) Setting the maximum height of near shore structures.

**1.3.4 PRESERVE AND RESTORE SHORELAND VEGETATION AND NATURAL SCENIC BEAUTY THROUGH:**

- (1) Restricting the removal of natural shoreland cover.
- (2) Preventing shoreline encroachment by structures.
- (3) Controlling shoreland excavation and other earth moving activities.
- (4) Regulating the use and placement of boathouses and other structures.

**1.4 TITLE**

Shoreland and Wetland Zoning Ordinance for Florence County, Wisconsin.

**1.5 FLORENCE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE**

Except as otherwise noted in this ordinance, the Florence County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance provisions shall apply to the shoreland area and in the instance of conflicting requirements, the more restrictive of the conflicting requirements shall apply.

## **2.0 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **2.1 AREAS TO BE REGULATED**

Areas regulated by this ordinance shall include all the lands (referred to herein as shorelands) in the unincorporated areas of Florence County which are:

- 2.1.1 Within one thousand (1,000) feet of the ordinary high-water mark of navigable lakes, ponds or flowages.
- 2.1.2 Within three hundred (300) feet of the ordinary high-water mark of navigable rivers or streams, or to the landward side of the floodplain, whichever distance is greater.
- 2.1.3 The provisions of this chapter apply to regulation of the use and development of unincorporated shoreland areas. Shoreland zoning requirements in annexed or incorporated areas are provided in s. 61.353 and s. 62.233 Stats. Unless specifically exempted by law, all cities, villages, towns, counties and, when s. 13.48 (13), Stats., applies, state agencies are required to comply with, and obtain all necessary permits under, local shoreland ordinances. The construction, reconstruction, maintenance or repair of state highways and bridges carried out under the direction and supervision of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is not subject to local shoreland zoning ordinances if s. 30.2022(1), Stats., applies.
- 2.1.4 Determinations of navigability and ordinary high-water mark location shall initially be made by the planning and zoning administrator. When questions arise, the planning and zoning administrator shall contact the appropriate office of the Department for a final determination of navigability or ordinary high-water mark. The county may work with surveyors with regard to s. 59.692 (1h) Wis. Stats.
- 2.1.5 Under s.281.31(2m), Wis. Stats., notwithstanding any other provision of law or administrative rule promulgated thereunder, this shoreland zoning ordinance does not apply to:
  - (a) Lands adjacent to farm drainage ditches if:
    - 1. Such lands are not adjacent to a natural navigable stream or river;
    - 2. Those parts of such drainage ditches adjacent to such lands were not navigable streams before ditching; and
  - (b) Lands adjacent to artificially constructed drainage ditches, ponds or stormwater retention basins that are not hydrologically connected to a natural navigable water body.

### **2.2 OFFICIAL MAPS**

The maps designated below are hereby adopted and made part of this ordinance. They are on file in the office of the planning and zoning administrator for Florence County.

- (1) United States Geological Survey Quadrangle Maps for Florence County dated September 1974.
- (2) Wisconsin Wetland Inventory as depicted on the Department of Natural Resources Surface Water Data Viewer for your mapping reference. The maps can be viewed at <http://dnrmaps.wi.gov/SL/Viewer.html?Viewer=SWDV&runWorkflow=Wetland>
- (3) Floodplain zoning maps identified as Florence County Flood Boundary and Flood Way Maps dated May 1, 1978.

### **2.3 COMPLIANCE**

The use of any land or water, the size, shape and placement of lots, the use, size, type and location of structures on lots, the installation and maintenance of water supply and waste disposal facilities, the filling, grading, lagooning, dredging of any lands, the cutting of shoreland vegetation, the subdivision of lots, shall be in full compliance with the terms of this ordinance and other applicable local, state or federal regulations. (However, see Section 14.00 standards applicable to nonconforming uses and structures.) Buildings, signs and other structures shall require a permit unless otherwise expressly excluded by a provision of this ordinance. Property owners, builders and contractors are responsible for compliance with the terms of this ordinance.

### **2.4 MUNICIPALITIES AND STATE AGENCIES REGULATED**

Unless specifically exempted by law, all cities, villages, towns, and counties are required to comply with this ordinance and obtain all necessary permits. State agencies are required to comply when s. 13.48(13), Wis. Stats., applies. The construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair of state highways and bridges by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation are exempt when s. 30.2022(1) Stats., applies.

### **2.5 ABROGATION AND GREATER RESTRICTIONS**

The provisions of this ordinance supersede all the provisions of any county zoning ordinance adopted under s59.692, Wis. Stats., which relate to shorelands. However, where an ordinance adopted under a statute other than 59.692, Wis. Stats., is more restrictive than this ordinance, that ordinance shall continue in full force and effect to the extent of the greater restrictions, but not otherwise.

- 2.5.1 This ordinance shall not require approval or be subject to disapproval by any town or town board.
- 2.5.2 If an existing town ordinance relating to shorelands is more restrictive than this ordinance or any amendments thereto, the town ordinance continues in all respects to the extent of the greater restrictions but not otherwise.
- 2.5.3 This ordinance is not intended to repeal, abrogate or impair any existing deed restrictions, covenants or easements. However, where this ordinance imposes

greater restrictions, the provisions of this ordinance shall prevail.

- 2.5.4 The provisions of the Florence County Zoning, Sanitation and Minimum Housing Code Standards Ordinances are hereby incorporated by reference; these provisions shall only apply to the shoreland area where they impose greater restrictions than this ordinance otherwise imposes.
- 2.5.5 This ordinance may establish standards to regulate matters that are not regulated in NR 115, but that further the purposes of shoreland zoning as described in Section 1.3 of this ordinance.
- 2.5.6 Counties may not establish shoreland standards in a shoreland zoning ordinance that requires any of the following:
- (1) Approval to install or maintain outdoor lighting in shorelands, impose any fee or mitigation requirement to install or maintain outdoor lighting in shorelands, or otherwise prohibits or regulates outdoor lighting in shorelands if the lighting is designed or intended for residential use.
  - (2) Requires any inspection or upgrade of a structure before the sale or other transfer of the structure may be made.
- 2.5.7 (s.59.92(7) Wis. Stats) The construction and maintenance of a facility is considered to satisfy the requirements of a shoreland zoning ordinance if:
- (1) The department has issued all required permits of approvals authorizing the construction or maintenance under ch. 30, 31, 281, or 283.

A “facility” means any property or equipment of a public utility, as defined in s. 196.01 (5), or a cooperative association organized under ch. 185 for the purpose of producing or furnishing heat, light, or power to its members only, that is used for the transmission, delivery, or furnishing of natural gas, heat, light, or power.

## **2.6 INTERPRETATION**

In their interpretation and application, the provisions of this ordinance shall be liberally constructed in favor of the county and shall not be deemed a limitation or repeal of any other powers granted by Wisconsin Statutes. Where a provision of this ordinance is required by statute and a standard in ch. NR 115, Wis. Adm. Code, and where the ordinance provision is unclear, the provision shall be interpreted in light of the statute and ch. NR 115 standards in effect on the date of the adoption of this ordinance or in effect on the date of the most recent text amendment to this ordinance.

## **2.7 SEVERABILITY**

If any portion of this ordinance is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected.

### **3.0 LAND DIVISION REVIEW AND SANITARY REGULATIONS**

#### **3.1 LAND DIVISION REVIEW**

The county shall review, pursuant to s. 236.45, Wis. Stats., all land divisions in shoreland areas which create 3 or more parcels or building sites of 5 acres each or less within a 5-year period. In such review the following factors shall be considered:

- 3.1.1 Hazards to the health, safety or welfare of future residents.
- 3.1.2 Proper relationship to adjoining areas.
- 3.1.3 Public access to navigable waters, as required by law.
- 3.1.4 Adequate storm drainage facilities.
- 3.1.5 Conformity to state law and administrative code provisions.

#### **3.2 LIMITED REZONING TO ACHIEVE REDUCED LOT SIZES AND SETBACKS**

##### **3.2.1 PURPOSE**

In some instances where an individual lot or small tract of land has unique characteristics, such as unique terrain, which would result in unnecessary hardship as defined in Section 20.0 if the owner were required to comply with one or more of the requirements for minimum lots sizes, width and setback, the board of adjustment may grant a variance. In other instances where larger areas are involved, the appropriate method for seeking a relaxation of the same minimum standards is by rezoning to establish a Planned Residential Unit Development overlay. The Planned Residential Unit Development is intended to permit smaller lots and setbacks where the physical layout of the lots is so arranged (often by setting them back farther from navigable water) as to better assure the control of pollution and preservation of ground cover than would be expected if the lots were developed with the normal lot sizes and setbacks and without special conditions placed upon the Planned Residential Unit Development at the time of its approval. A condition of all Planned Residential Unit Development is the preservation of certain open space, preferably on the shoreland, in perpetuity.

##### **3.2.2 REQUIREMENTS FOR PLANNED RESIDENTIAL UNIT DEVELOPMENT**

The County Board may at its discretion, upon its own motion or upon petition, approve a Planned Residential Unit Development either by approving first an overlay district and then a plat or by approving only a plat for the specific planned residential project upon finding, after a public hearing, that all of the following facts exist:

- (1) Area. The area proposed for the Planned Residential Unit Development

shall be at least 2 acres in size or have a minimum of 200 feet of frontage on navigable water.

- (2) **Pollution Control.** The location and nature of the septic systems which will serve the home sites individually or collectively will assure that effluent from the septic systems will not reach the ground or surface waters in a condition which would contribute to health hazards, taste, odor, turbidity, fertility or impair the aesthetic character of navigable waters.
- (3) **Preservation of Ground Cover.** The location of homesites and the dedication of part of the land for use by the public or residents of the Planned Residential Unit Development will preserve the ground cover of the shoreland and scenic beauty of the navigable water; prevent erosion, and other pertinent factors. Land not used for lots and streets shall be dedicated in perpetuity to remain in open space. This may be accomplished by conveyance in common to each of the owners of lots in the development or to a corporation formed by them, or by dedication to the county, town or municipality. Lands dedicated to the public must be accepted by action of the governing body of the accepting unit of government. If the land is to be conveyed to owners of lots in the development, a homeowner's association or similar legally constituted body shall be created to maintain the open space land. Any restriction placed on platted land by covenant, grant of easement or any other manner which was required by a public body or which names a public body as grantee, promisee or beneficiary, shall vest in the public body the right to enforce the restriction at law or in equity against anyone who has or acquires an interest in the land subject to the restriction.
- (4) **Density.** The number of platted home sites shall not exceed 150% of those which would have been possible if the same land were platted in accordance with the minimum lot sizes, setbacks and widths provided by the applicable provisions of the zoning ordinance. This figure shall be determined by dividing the total area of the subdivision, excluding streets, by the minimum lot sizes required by Section 4.00 of this ordinance.
- (5) **Lot Sizes, Widths, Setbacks, and Vegetation Removal.** When considering approval of a Planned Residential Unit Development, the governing body shall consider whether proposed lot sizes, widths, and setbacks are of adequate size and distance to prevent pollution or erosion along streets or other public ways and waterways. Increased shoreland setbacks shall be a condition of approval as a way of minimizing adverse impacts of development. Shore cover provisions in Section 8.0 shall apply except that maximum width of a lake frontage opening shall be 100 feet and minimum vegetative protection area depth shall be increased to offset the impact of the proposed development. Any proposed lot in the Planned Unit Development that does not meet the minimum size standards of sections 5.2 and 5.3 shall be a non-riparian lot.

### 3.2.3 PROCEDURE FOR ESTABLISHING A PLANNED RESIDENTIAL UNIT DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT.

The procedure for establishing limited rezoning in the form of a Planned Residential Unit Development district shall be as follows:

- (1) **Petition.** A petition setting forth all of the facts required in 3.2.2 shall be submitted to the county clerk with sufficient copies to provide for distribution by the clerk as required by Section 3.2.3.
- (2) **Review and Hearing:** The petition shall be submitted to the county zoning agency established as required by s. 59. 69(3)(d), Wis. Stats., which shall hold a public hearing and report to the county board as required by law. Copies of the petition and notice of the hearing shall also be sent to the appropriate office of the Department as described in Section 20.2 of this ordinance.
- (3) The county zoning agency's report to the county board shall reflect the recommendations of any federal, state or local agency with which the county zoning agency consults. If a petition seeks approval of a Planned Residential Unit Development plat without first seeking the granting of an overlay district, a hearing shall be held on such plat as in any regular amendment to the zoning ordinance. If, however, a hearing is first held on the overlay for a Planned Residential Unit Development district, a second public hearing need not be held in connection with the approval of a subsequent plat or plats which comply with the overlay district as approved.
- (4) **Findings and Conditions of Approval.** The county board shall make written findings as to the compliance or noncompliance of the proposed overlay district with each of the applicable requirements set forth in Section 3.2.2. If the petition is granted in whole or part, the county board shall attach such written conditions to the approval as are required by and consistent with Section 3.2.2. The conditions of approval shall in all cases establish the specific restrictions applicable with regard to minimum lot sizes, width, setbacks, dimensions of vegetative protection area and open space requirements.
- (5) **Planning Studies.** A landowner or petitioner may at their own expense develop the facts required to establish compliance with the provisions of Section 3.2.2 or may be required to contribute funds to the county to defray all or part of the cost of such studies being undertaken by the county or any agency or person with whom the county contracts for such work.

### **3.3 SANITARY REGULATIONS AND MINIMUM HOUSING CODE ORDINANCES**

For the preservation and enhancement of water quality, refer to the Florence County Sanitary and Minimum Housing Code Ordinances when they are more restrictive than this ordinance.

3.31 Where public water supply systems are not available, private well construction shall be required to conform to ch. NR812, Wis. Adm. Code.

3.32 Where a public sewage collection and treatment system is not available, design and construction of private sewage disposal systems shall be governed by a private sewage system ordinance adopted by the county under s.59.70(5), Wis. Stats.

### **3.4 BACK/ACCESS LOTS**

All private lake accesses providing access to more than two dwelling units on back lots which do not front directly on the water shall meet the following requirements.

3.4.1 Shall require a conditional use permit

3.4.2 The access shall meet the minimum lot requirements contained in Section 4.0 of this Ordinance. However, in no circumstance shall the lot width be less than 100 feet at the ordinary high water mark.

3.4.3 No structures are permitted.

3.4.4 There shall be a maximum of three residential units served by each access lot.

3.4.5 The back lots having access to the water over the access lot must be situated so that they are contiguous to each other, excepting roadways and their furthest point must be no more than 1000 feet from the nearest lot line of the access lot.

3.4.6 There shall be a 25-foot vegetative protection area along all side lot lines.

3.4.7 The owner of the access lot shall show evidence that the proposed access lot is subject to enforceable deed restrictions, which restrictions shall:

3.4.8 Recite in reasonable detail the specific purpose and use of said access lot if the conditional use is granted.

3.4.9 List the number of existing and potential back lot dwellings whose owners or tenants are to use the access lots.

3.5.0 State the violation of the deed restrictions shall subject the owner of the access lot to revocation of the conditional use permit and/ or penalties set forth in this Ordinance.

- 3.5.1 Conditions that shall be required for an access lot shall include and are not limited to waste containment, sanitary facility, noise limits, screening, parking, parking controls, there shall be no parking within 75 feet of the ordinary high water mark, time requirements, lighting and identification of sites, fish cleaning, gasoline and oil handling and disposition of all waste materials. Any conditional use permit shall include approval as per Chapter 30 of the Wisconsin Statutes and NR 326.

## **4.0 DIMENSIONS OF BUILDING SITES**

All building and structure development, (accessory, main or principal) shall meet the dimensional requirement in Table 1, Dimensions of Building Sites.

### **4.1 SUBSTANDARD LOTS**

A legally created lot or parcel that met the minimum area and average width requirements when created, (see table 2 ), but does not meet the current lot size requirements, may be used as a building site if all the following apply:

- 4.1.1 The substandard lot or parcel was never reconfigured or combined with another lot or parcel by plat, survey, or consolidation by the owner into one property tax parcel.
- 4.1.2 The substandard lot or parcel has never been developed with one or more structures placed partly upon an adjacent lot or parcel.
- 4.1.3 Such use is permitted in the zoning district.
- 4.1.4 The substandard lot is developed to comply with all other ordinance requirements.

**Table 1: Dimensions of Building Sites**

Use	Minimum Lot Size for Each Main Building				Yard Requirements <sup>3, 4, 11</sup>									
	Total Area (sq. ft.) <sup>1</sup>	Width at building line (feet)	Width, Average at Mid Point (feet)	Width, Public Access (feet) <sup>2</sup>	Setback OHWM <sup>5</sup>						Side Yard			
					Width at OHWM (feet)	Principal Building Use (feet)	Height Limitations Principal Building in 75' setback (feet)	Accessory Use (feet)	Vegetation Protection Area <sup>6</sup> (feet)	POWTS <sup>7</sup> (feet)	Lots not abutting Navigable Water Principal Use (feet) <sup>10</sup>	Lots abutting navigable water Principal Use	Height Limitations Accessory Structure in 75' setback (feet)	Lots abutting Navigable Water Accessory Use (feet)
<b>Lots not Served By Public Sewer</b>														
Multi-Family for each main building	20,000 sq. ft. plus 10,000 sq. ft. for each additional unit over 2 units	100	100	30	150 plus 15' for each additional unit (over 2 units)	75	35	75	35	50		10 one side; 25 combined	35	5
All Other Uses Not Otherwise Specified	20,000 sq. ft.	100	100	30	100	75	35	75	35	50		10 one side; 25 combined	35	5
Business, Commercial, Manufacturing, Public, Semi Public	20,000 sq. ft.	100	100	30	100	75	35	75	35	50		10 one side; 25 combined <sup>3</sup>	35	5
Laundries, Laundromats	20,000 sq. ft.	100	100	30	100	75	35	75	35	50		10 one side; 25 combined <sup>3</sup>	35	5
All uses open to the public serving food or drink	20,000 sq. ft.	100	100	30	100	75	35	75	35	50		10 one side; 25 combined <sup>3</sup>	35	5
All uses employing more than 50 persons on the premises or with a capacity of more than 50 persons open to the public serving food or drink	20,000 sq. ft.	100	100	30	100	75	35	75	35	50		10 one side; 25 combined <sup>3</sup>	35	5
Motels and Resorts	20,000 sq. ft.	100	100	30	100	75	35	75	35	50		10 one side; 25 combined <sup>3</sup>	35	5
One and Two Family Residence <sup>8</sup>	20,000 sq. ft.	100	100	30	100	75	35	75	35	50		10 one side; 25 combined	35	5
<b>Lots Served by Public Sewer</b>														
All Other Uses Not Otherwise Specified	10,000	65	65	30	65	75	35	75	35	50		8 one side, 20 combined	35	5
<b>OW Wild Rivers Zone</b>														
Single Family Residence	20,000 sq. ft.	100	100	30	100	75	35	75	35	50		10 one side; 25 combined	35	5

**Notes**

1. In square feet unless otherwise noted.
2. Lot width at Public Street or approved Private Street in a Planned Residential Unit Development subdivisions.
3. See Section 5.7 for additional setbacks for business, commercial and manufacturing structures served by POWTS.
4. See Sections 5.3 through 5.6 for additional setback requirements from OHWM for Boathouses, Livestock Housing, Sawdust, Dumping and Disposal.
5. OHWM-Ordinary High Water Mark
6. See Section 8.2
7. POWTS – Private on site wastewater treatment system.
8. Transient Occupancy – See Section 3.25, Subchapter 1, Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance.
9. Reserved
10. Most restrictive of this Ordinance and the Florence County Zoning Ordinance
11. All lots must comply with setbacks from highways provisions of Florence County Zoning Ordinance

**TABLE 2: Building Lots of Record**

	On record prior to December 15, 1967	On record after December 15, 1967 and prior to November 12, 2003	On record on or after November 12, 2003
Lots served by Public Sanitary Sewer	No minimum width, no minimum square footage	Minimum 65 feet. width, minimum 10,000 square feet	Minimum 65 feet. width, minimum 10,000 square feet
Lots Not Served by Public Sanitary Sewer	No minimum width, no minimum square footage	Minimum 100 feet. width, minimum 20,000 square feet	Minimum 100 feet. width, minimum 43,560 square feet

NOTE: For the time period between December 15, 1967 and July 15, 1986, the lots or parcels contiguous to a body of water lying in the Open Forest Zone were required to be a minimum of one acre in size and a minimum width of 150 feet.

## 5.0 BUILDING SETBACKS

Building setbacks shall be established to conform to health, safety and welfare requirements, preserve natural beauty, reduce flood hazards and avoid water pollution.

### 5.1 SHORELAND SETBACK

Unless reduced under Section 5.2, or exempt under Section 5.4, a setback of 75 feet from the ordinary high-water mark of any navigable water to the nearest part of a building or structure shall be required for all buildings and structures.

### 5.2 REDUCED PRINCIPAL STRUCTURE SETBACK

A setback less than the 75' required setback from the ordinary high water mark shall be permitted for a proposed principal structure and shall be determined as follows:

- (1) Where there are **existing principal structures in both directions**, the setback shall equal the average of the distances the two existing principal structures are set back from the ordinary high water mark provided all of the following are met:
  - (a) Both of the existing principal structures are located on adjacent lot to the proposed principal structure.
  - (b) Both of the existing principal structures are located within 250' of the proposed principal structure and are the closest structure.
  - (c) Both of the existing principal structures are located less than 75' from the ordinary high water mark.
  - (d) The average setback shall not be reduced to less than 35' from the ordinary high water mark of any navigable water.
  - (e) Measurements are to be taken from the nearest distance from the ordinary high water mark to the nearest portion of the principal structure (vertical wall or eave/overhang).
- (2) Where there is an **existing principal structure in only one direction**, the setback shall equal the distance the existing principal structure is set back from the ordinary high water mark and the required setback of 75' from the ordinary high water mark provided all of the following are met:
  - (a) The existing principal structure is located on adjacent lot to the proposed principal structure.

- (b) The existing principal structure is located within 250' of the proposed principal structure and is the closest structure.
- (c) The existing principal structure is located less than 75' from the ordinary high water mark.
- (d) The average setback shall not be reduced to less than 35' from the ordinary high water mark of any navigable water.
- (e) Measurements are to be taken from the nearest distance from the ordinary high water mark to the nearest portion of the principal structure (vertical wall or eave/overhang).

### 5.3 FLOODPLAIN STRUCTURES

Buildings and structures to be constructed or placed in a floodplain shall be required to comply with any applicable floodplain zoning ordinance. (NR 115.05(1)(b)2)

### 5.4 EXEMPT STRUCTURES

5.4.1 **Exempt Structures – New Construction:** All of the following structures are exempt from the shoreland setback standards in Section 5.1 and as referenced in NR115.05(1)(b)1m) and s. 59.692(1k)(a)(6).

- (a) **New Boathouses** may be constructed to the following standards:
  - (1) Located entirely above the ordinary high water mark including floor or top of footing.
  - (2) The construction of a boathouse is confined to the viewing corridor and shall be at least 35 feet from the side yard lot line.
  - (3) Boathouses shall not be placed waterward beyond the ordinary high water mark, or more than 6 feet to the landward side of the ordinary high water mark.
  - (4) Shall not contain plumbing or fixtures and cannot be used for human habitation.
  - (5) Designed and constructed solely for the storage of boats and related equipment.
  - (6) One boathouse is permitted on a lot as an accessory structure.
  - (7) Shall be constructed in conformity with local floodplain zoning standards.

- (8) Boathouses shall not exceed one story, 200 square feet in floor area, nor may the wall height exceed 10 feet.
  - (9) Roofs shall be constructed with a pitched roof that equals or exceeds a 4/12 rise to run but not steeper than 6/12 rise to run.
  - (10) Roofs shall not be designed or used as decks, observation platforms or for other similar uses.
  - (11) Earth toned colors to blend in with the natural landscapes shall be required for all exterior surfaces of a boathouse.
  - (12) The main door shall face the water.
  - (13) Patio doors, fireplaces, plumbing, living facilities and other features inconsistent with the use of the structure exclusively as a boathouse are not permitted.
- (b) **Open-sided and screened structures** - such as gazebos, decks, patios and screen houses in the shoreland setback area that satisfy the requirements in s. 59.692(1v), Wis. Stats may be constructed with an approved permit or special zoning permit subject to the following standards:
- (1) The part of the structure that is nearest to the water is located at least 35 feet landward from the ordinary-high water mark.
  - (2) The total combined footprint of all the structures in the shoreland setback area will not exceed 200 square feet. Walkways, stairways, and boathouses shall be excluded in calculating the combined footprint.
  - (3) The structure that is the subject of the request for special zoning permission has no sides or has open or screened sides.
  - (4) The county must approve a plan that will be implemented by the owner of the property to preserve or establish a vegetative buffer zone that covers at least 70% of the half of the shoreland setback area that is nearest to the water.
  - (5) The exempt structure, if free standing, may not have a wall height exceeding ten feet.
- (c) Broadcast signal receivers, including satellite dishes or antennas that are one meter or less in diameter and satellite earth station antennas that are 2 meters or less in diameter.
- (d) Utility transmission and distribution lines, poles, towers, water towers, pumping

stations, well pumphouse covers, private on-site wastewater treatment systems that comply with ch. SPS Comm 383, Wis. Adm. Code, and other utility structures that have no feasible alternative location outside of the minimum setback and that employ best management practices to infiltrate or otherwise control storm water runoff from the structure.

- (e) Devices or systems used to treat runoff from impervious surfaces.
- (f) Stairways, Walkways, and Lifts – Stairways, walkways and rail systems that are necessary to provide safe pedestrian access to the shoreline and are a maximum of 60-inches in width.
  - (1) The Zoning Administrator may permit a stairway, walkway or lift in the shoreland setback area only when it is essential to provide safe pedestrian access to the shoreline, pier, boat hoist or boathouse because of steep slopes, rocky or wet, unstable soils, and when the following conditions are met:
    - (a) Where there is an existing stairway, a lift may be mounted to or adjacent to the existing stairway, if the lift would be necessary for a disabled person. See Section 5.4.1 (b), (f), (2), Accommodations for disabled persons.
    - (b) Such structures shall be placed on the most visually inconspicuous route to the shoreline and shall avoid environmentally sensitive areas.
    - (c) Vegetation which stabilizes slopes or screens structural development from view shall not be removed.
    - (d) Canopies, roofs and sides are prohibited. Open railings may be provided where required for safety.
    - (e) A maximum width of five (5) feet (outside dimensions) is allowed for stairways, walkways and lifts.
    - (f) Landings are allowed where required for safety purposes and shall not exceed 40 square feet. Attached benches, seats, tables, etc. are prohibited.
    - (g) Stairways, walkways and lifts shall be supported on piles or footings. Any filling, grading or excavations that are proposed must meet the requirements of Section 9.0 of this ordinance.
  - (2) Accommodations for disabled persons. Where strict interpretation of this ordinance would effectively deny disabled persons equal housing opportunity, and where the property does not meet the criteria for a variance under Section 17.5 of this ordinance, the Planning and Zoning Committee may grant a Conditional Use Permit to provide reasonable accommodations

as required by the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act, the Federal Fair Housing Act or the Wisconsin Fair Housing Act. The permit shall be subject to the following conditions:

- (a) Only the minimum relaxation of dimensional standards needed to provide reasonable accommodation shall be approved.
- (b) No use, structure or other relaxation of standards shall be approved that would violate or undermine the stated purposes of this ordinance.
- (c) The improvement authorized by this provision shall be removed when the premises are no longer occupied or frequented by a disabled person.

5.4.2 **Exempt Structures – Existing:** Existing exempt structures may be maintained, repaired, replaced, restored, rebuilt and/or remodeled in compliance with the following standards:

- (1) Provided the activity does not expand the footprint and does not go beyond the three-dimensional building envelope of the existing structure.
- (2) Expansion of a structure may be permitted beyond the existing footprint if the expansion is necessary to comply with applicable state or federal requirements.
- (3) An existing boathouse must be located entirely within the access and viewing corridor.
- (4) An existing boathouse must not contain plumbing or plumbing fixtures and cannot be used for human habitation.
- (5) An existing boathouse may use the roof as a deck provided that:
  - (a) The existing boathouse has a flat roof.
  - (b) The roof of the existing boathouse has no side walls or screens.
  - (c) The roof may have a railing system that meets Department of Safety and Professional Services standards.

## 5.5 SAWDUST

The depositing or burning of sawdust is prohibited within 300 feet of navigable waters. All areas for burning of sawdust shall be surrounded by an unobstructed plowed fire break 16 feet wide.

## **5.6 DUMPING AND DISPOSAL**

The dumping or disposal of any fluid or viscous materials that are toxic, or in any manner would create a health hazard or a nuisance including the surface irrigation, lagooning or burial of sewage or other similar waste effluents or materials, is prohibited within 300 feet of a navigable waters and/or within the natural resource preservation zone. This provision does not include the spreading of fertilizer or the proper application of farm chemicals.

## **6.0 BUILDING ELEVATION**

All structures intended for human habitation or occupancy shall have the lowest inhabitable floor constructed not less than two feet above the ordinary high watermark. Refer to Florence County Floodplain Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 10, Subchapter 4, of the Code of Ordinances.

## **7.0 STORAGE OF MATERIAL**

Storage of material within the shoreland area shall meet the following and when applicable the requirements of the Florence County Flood Plain ordinance.

### **7.1 ACCESSORY USE**

All storage facilities shall be permitted only as an accessory use.

### **7.2 GRADE**

Storage facilities shall not be less than two feet above elevation of the ordinary high water mark except underground tanks.

### **7.3 BULK MATERIALS**

Bulk Materials, such as coal, sand, gravel, limestone or similar materials subject to erosion, shall be enclosed on three sides by a retaining wall in such a manner as to prevent erosion and it shall be drained away from navigable waters. Retaining walls shall meet the required setback to the ordinary high water mark.

### **7.4 INDOOR STORAGE**

Petroleum products, chemicals and chemical compounds, packages in paper, cardboard, glass or metal which do not require outdoor storage; plaster, lime and cement or similar products packaged in paper or cardboard containers shall be stored in an enclosed building when located within 300 feet of navigable waters. Storage buildings shall meet the required setback to the ordinary high water mark.

### **7.5 OUTDOOR STORAGE**

7.5.1 Petroleum products, chemicals, chemical compounds and inflammables packaged in any type of container or delivered in bulk which may not be stored indoors by reason of fire codes, insurance or bulk, when stored above ground must have protective containment measures installed to prevent any spillage or leakage of the materials from entering any body of water or watercourse; or must be stored in an underground tank.

7.5.2 In the interest of the public health, safety and general welfare and specifically for fire protection, outside bulk storage above ground of all volatile and highly flammable petroleum products in excess of ten gallons shall be kept locked by the owner and stored not less than 100 feet from any dwelling.

## 8.0 PRESERVATION AND REMOVAL OF SHORELAND VEGETATIVE COVER

### 8.1 PURPOSE

To protect natural scenic beauty, fish and wildlife habitat, and water quality, Florence County shall regulate removal of vegetation in shoreland areas, consistent with the standards that consider sound forestry and soil conservation practices, as well as the effect of vegetation removal on water quality, including soil erosion, and the flow of effluents, sediments and nutrients.

### 8.2 ACTIVITIES ALLOWED WITHIN THE VEGETATIVE BUFFER ZONE

To protect water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and natural scenic beauty, and to promote preservation and restoration of native vegetation, this ordinance shall designate land that extends from the ordinary high water mark to a minimum of 35 feet inland as a vegetative buffer zone.

The following activities **are allowed** within the shoreland vegetative buffer zone, subject to the following standards:

- (1) The routine maintenance of vegetation consistent with the following standards:
  - a. Landscaping and lawns that extend into the required shoreland vegetative buffer zone that were in place prior to the adoption of this chapter may be maintained but shall not be extended further into the required shoreland vegetative buffer zone.
  - b. Pruning, trimming or other generally accepted horticultural practices which do not result in the loss of plant densities within the required shoreland vegetative buffer zone.
  - c. The removal of trees and shrubs in the shoreland vegetative buffer zone to create access and viewing corridors per s. 59.692(1f)(b), Stats.:
  - d. The access and viewing corridor may be at least 35 feet wide for every 100 feet of shoreline frontage.
  - e. The access and viewing corridor may run contiguously for the entire maximum width of the shoreline frontage owned for the parcel.
  - f. The cleared area of the access and viewing corridor must be maintained with some form of vegetation that prevents bank or overland erosion and sedimentation of the waterway. Sand, gravel, rock or other similar activities shall be prohibited as an alternative to vegetation unless otherwise allowed by this ordinance.

- (2) The removal of trees and shrubs in the vegetative buffer zone on a parcel with 10 or more acres of forested land consistent with “generally accepted forestry management practices” as defined in s. NR 1.25 (2) (b), and described in Department publication “Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines” (publication FR-226), provided that vegetation removal be consistent with these practices.
- (3) The removal of vegetation within the vegetative buffer zone to manage exotic or invasive species, provided that any vegetation removed be replaced with native vegetation or approved cultivars of native stock that is equally effective in fulfilling the purposes of the vegetative buffer zone, as soon as practicable.
- (4) The removal of dead, diseased, dying or damaged trees or branches that present an imminent safety hazard to structures or persons, provided they are replaced with native vegetation or approved cultivars of native stock that is equally effective in fulfilling the purposes of the vegetative buffer zone, as soon as practicable.
- (5) Cutting more than 35 feet inland. From the inland edge of the 35 foot area to the outer limits of the shoreland zone, the cutting of vegetation shall be allowed when accomplished using accepted forest management and soil conservation practices which protect water quality as outlined in the Department of Natural Resources Publication [“Wisconsin’s Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality”](#).

### **8.3 ACTIVITIES REQUIRING A PERMIT WITHIN THE SHORELAND VEGETATIVE BUFFER ZONE**

Where a shoreland vegetative buffer zone is required, the buffer shall be designed using the guidance of NRCS Interim Standard No.643A and NRCS Wisconsin Biology Technical Note 1: Shoreland Habitat. In cases where these standards provide options, the Planning & Zoning Department shall make the determination which option is most appropriate in the design and execution of the project.

- (1) The permit shall require an enforceable restriction to preserve the newly restored area.
- (2) The following instances require an affidavit recorded in the register of deeds to serve as an official notice of the shoreland vegetative buffer zone requirements:
  - a. Where vegetative buffer zone requirements or cutting limitations are a component of proposed mitigation as required by Section 15.0.
  - b. When cutting and clearing activities take place within the vegetative buffer zone in violation of 8.2, a shoreland vegetative buffer zone restoration is a component of resolving the violation.

## **9.0 FILLING, GRADING, LAGOONING, DREDGING, DITCHING AND EXCAVATING**

### **9.1 GENERAL STANDARDS**

Filling, grading, lagooning, dredging, ditching or excavating which does not require a permit under Section 9.2 may be permitted in the shoreland area provided that:

- 9.1.1 It is done in a manner designed to minimize erosion, sedimentation and impairment of fish and wildlife habitat.
- 9.1.2 Filling, grading, lagooning, dredging, ditching or excavating in a shoreland-wetland district meets the requirements of Sections 12.41 and 12.42 of this ordinance.
- 9.1.3 All applicable federal, state and local authority is obtained in addition to a permit under this ordinance.
- 9.1.4 Any fill placed in the shoreland area is protected against erosion by the use of riprap, vegetative cover or a bulkhead.

### **9.2 PERMIT REQUIRED**

Except as provided in Section 9.3, a Conditional Use permit is required:

- 9.2.1 For any filling or grading of any area which is within 300 feet landward of the ordinary high-water mark of navigable water and which has surface drainage toward the water and on which there is either:
  - (1) Any filling or grading on slopes of more than 20%.
  - (2) Filling or grading of more than 1,000 sq. ft. on slopes of 12%-20%.
  - (3) Filling or grading of more than 2,000-sq. ft. on slopes less than 12%.
- 9.2.2 For any construction or dredging commenced on any artificial waterway, canal, ditch, lagoon, pond, lake or similar waterway which is within 300 feet landward of the ordinary high-water mark of a navigable body of water or where the purpose is the ultimate connection with a navigable body of water.
- 9.2.3 For excavating or grading of more than 2,000 sq. ft. and less than 43,560 sq. ft. in area, which is greater than 300 feet and less than 1,000 feet landward of the ordinary high-water mark of navigable water.
  - 9.2.3.1 Road building, utility construction and site preparation for structure construction is exempt from 9.2.3.

### **9.3 SOIL CONSERVATION PRACTICES AND AGRICULTURAL DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE**

- 9.3.1 Soil conservation practices such as tiled terraces, runoff diversions and grassed waterways used for erosion control shall not require a permit under Section 9.2 when designed and constructed to Natural Resources Conservation Service technical standards.
- 9.3.2 The maintenance of existing agricultural drainage systems shall be permitted in conformity with the following construction standards:
- (1) The maintenance dredging of farm drainage ditches is limited to reestablishing the original ditch cross section unless a Conditional Use permit under Section 16.3 is obtained.
  - (2) Ditch banks shall be constructed at a slope of 2 horizontal to 1 vertical (50% grade) or flatter.
  - (3) Ditch banks shall be maintained in a sod cover and free of woody vegetation.

### **9.4 PERMIT CONDITIONS**

In granting a Conditional Use permit under Section 9.2, the Planning and Zoning Committee shall attach the following conditions, where appropriate, in addition to those provisions specified in Sections 15.3 and 16.3.

- 9.4.1 The smallest amount of bare ground shall be exposed for as short a time as feasible.
- 9.4.2 Temporary ground cover (such as mulch or jute netting) shall be used and permanent vegetative cover shall be established.
- 9.4.3 Diversion berm or bales, silting basins, terraces, filter fabric fencing, and other methods shall be used to prevent erosion.
- 9.4.4 Lagoons shall be constructed to avoid fish trap conditions.
- 9.4.5 Fill shall be stabilized according to accepted engineering standards.
- 9.4.6 Filling shall comply with any local floodplain zoning ordinance and shall not restrict a floodway or destroy the flood storage capacity of a floodplain.
- 9.4.7 Channels or artificial watercourses shall be constructed with side slopes of two (2) units horizontal distance to one (1) unit vertical or flatter which shall be promptly vegetated, unless bulkheads or riprap are provided.

## **10.0 IMPERVIOUS SURFACE STANDARDS**

### **10.1 PURPOSE**

Establish impervious surface standards to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat and to protect against pollution of navigable waters. County impervious surface standards shall apply to the construction, reconstruction, expansion, replacement or relocation of any impervious surface on a riparian lot or parcel and any nonriparian lot or parcel that is located entirely within 300 feet of the ordinary high-water mark of any navigable waterway.

### **10.2 CALCULATION OF PERCENTAGE IMPERVIOUS SURFACE**

Percentage of impervious surface shall be calculated by dividing the surface area of existing and proposed impervious surfaces on the portion of a lot or parcel that is within 300 feet of the ordinary high water mark, by the total surface area of the lot or parcel, and multiplied by 100. Impervious surfaces described in Section 10.6 shall be excluded from the calculation of impervious surface on the lot or parcel. If an outlot lies between the ordinary high water and the developable lot or parcel, and both are in common ownership, the lot or parcel and the outlot, shall be considered one lot or parcel for the purpose of calculating the percentage of impervious surface.

### **10.3 GENERAL IMPERVIOUS SURFACE STANDARD**

Allow up to 15% impervious surface on the portion of a lot or parcel that is within 300 feet of the ordinary high water mark.

### **10.4 MAXIMUM IMPERVIOUS SURFACE**

A property may exceed the impervious surface standard under Section 10.3 provided the following standards are met:

10.4.1 For properties where the general impervious surface standard applies under Section 10.3, a property owner may have more than 15% impervious surface but not more than 30% impervious surface on the portion of a lot or parcel that is within 300 feet of the ordinary high-water mark.

10.4.2 For properties that exceed the standard under Section 10.3 but do not exceed the maximum standard under 10.4 a permit can be issued for development with a mitigation plan that meets the standards found in Section 15.0.

### **10.5 TREATED IMPERVIOUS SURFACES**

Impervious surfaces that can be documented to show they meet either of the following standards shall be excluded from the impervious surface calculations under Section 10.2.

10.5.1 The impervious surface is treated by devices such as stormwater ponds, constructed wetlands, infiltration basins, rain gardens, bio-swales or other engineered systems.

10.5.2 The runoff from the impervious surface discharges to an internally drained pervious area that retains the runoff on or off the parcel and allows infiltration into the soil.

10.5.3 To qualify for the statutory exemption, property owners shall submit a complete permit application that is reviewed and approved by the county. The application shall include the following:

- (1) A calculation showing how much runoff is coming from the impervious surface area.
- (2) Documentation that the runoff from the impervious surface is being treated by a proposed treatment system, treatment device or internally drained area.
- (3) An implementation schedule and enforceable obligation on the property owner to establish and maintain the treatment system, treatment devices or internally drained area. The enforceable obligations shall be evidenced by an instrument recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds prior to the issuance of the permit (Appendix A of this ordinance).

## **10.6 EXISTING IMPERVIOUS SURFACE**

For existing impervious surfaces that were lawfully placed when constructed but that do not comply with the standards in Sections 10.2 and 10.3, the property owner may do any of the following:

10.5.1 Maintenance and repair of all impervious surfaces.

10.5.2 Replacement of existing impervious surfaces with similar surfaces within the existing building envelope.

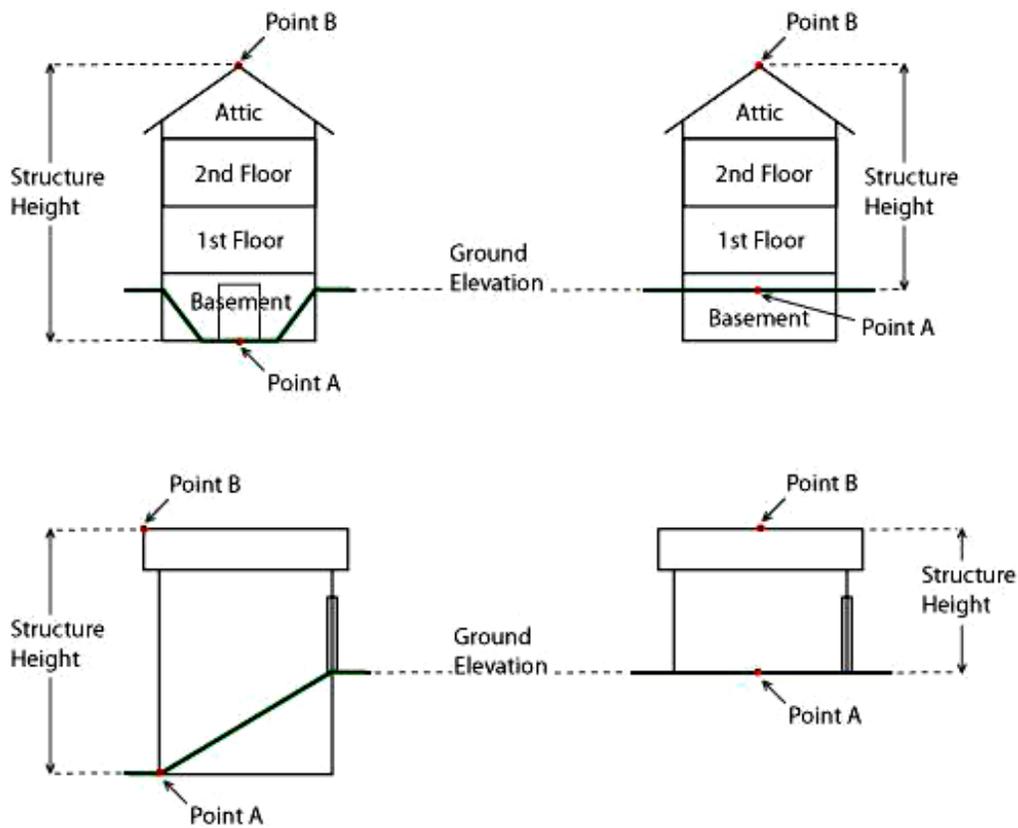
10.5.3 Relocation or modification of existing impervious surfaces with similar or different impervious surfaces, provided that the relocation or modification does not result in an increase in the percentage of impervious surface that existed on December 16, 2014.

10.5.4 This section of the ordinance shall not be construed to supersede other provisions in the county shoreland ordinance. Maintenance, reconstruction, replacement, relocation and expansion of existing structures must comply with other provisions in the county shoreland ordinance, the shoreland setback standards in Section 5.1 and the nonconforming structure provisions of Section 14.0.

## 11.0 HEIGHT

To protect and preserve wildlife habitat and natural scenic beauty, structures shall not be permitted taller than 35 feet in height, including structures located within 75 feet of the ordinary high water mark of any navigable waters.

- 11.1 Structure height is the measurement of the vertical line segment starting at the lowest point of any exposed wall and its intersect with the ground (Point A in the following diagram) to a line horizontal to the highest point of a structure (Point B in the following diagram), unless specified under other sections of this code or the Florence County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance.



## **12.0 SHORELAND-WETLAND DISTRICT**

### **12.1 DESIGNATION**

This district shall include all shorelands within the jurisdiction of this ordinance which are designated as wetlands on the most recent version of the Wisconsin Wetland Inventory as depicted on the Department of Natural Resources Surface Water Data Viewer for your mapping reference. The maps can be viewed at <http://dnrmaps.wi.gov/SL/Viewer.html?Viewer=SWDV&runWorkflow=Wetland>

### **12.2 LOCATING SHORELAND-WETLAND BOUNDARIES**

Where an apparent discrepancy exists between the shoreland-wetland district boundary shown on the Wisconsin Wetland Inventory and actual field conditions, the county shall contact the Department to determine if the map is in error. If the Department determines that a particular area was incorrectly mapped as wetland or meets the wetland definition but was not shown as wetland on the map, the county shall have the authority to immediately grant or deny a shoreland zoning permit in accordance with the applicable regulations based on the Department determination as to whether the area is wetland. In order to correct wetland mapping errors on the official zoning map, an official zoning map amendment must be initiated within a reasonable period of time, following the discovery of the mapping error.

### **12.3 PURPOSE**

This district is created to maintain safe and healthful conditions, to prevent water pollution, to protect fish spawning grounds and wildlife habitat, to preserve shore cover and natural beauty and to control building and development in wetlands whenever possible. When development is permitted in a wetland, the development should occur in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts upon the wetland. Wetlands are seldom suitable as building sites for the following reasons:

12.3.1 Septic tanks systems will not function because of high groundwater;

12.3.2 Water supplies are often polluted by septic tank wastes that have not been adequately absorbed by the soil;

12.3.3 Foundations and road crack due to poor support capabilities and frost action;

12.3.4 Flooding is common in spring and other times of high water.

### **12.4 PERMITTED USES**

The following uses shall be allowed, subject to general shoreland zoning regulations contained in this ordinance, the provisions of chs. 30, 31 and 281.36 Wis. Stats., and the provisions of other applicable local, state and federal laws:

12.4.1 Activities and uses which do not require the issuance of a zoning permit, but which must be carried out without any filling, flooding, draining, dredging,

ditching, tiling or excavating except as allowed under Sections 12.4.2 and 12.4.3.

- (1) Hiking, fishing, trapping, hunting, swimming, and boating;
- (2) The harvesting of wild crops, such as marsh hay, ferns, moss, wild rice, berries, tree fruits, and tree seeds, in a manner that is not injurious to the natural reproduction of such crops;
- (3) The pasturing of livestock;
- (4) The cultivation of agricultural crops;
- (5) The practice of silviculture, including the planting, thinning, and harvesting of timber; and
- (6) The construction or maintenance of duck blinds.

12.4.2 Uses which do not require the issuance of a zoning permit and which may include limited filling, flooding, draining, dredging, ditching, tiling, or excavating but only to the extent specifically provided below:

- (1) Temporary water level stabilization measures necessary to alleviate abnormally wet or dry conditions that would have an adverse impact on silvicultural activities if not corrected;
- (2) The cultivation of cranberries including flooding, dike and dam construction or ditching necessary for the growing and harvesting of cranberries,
- (3) The maintenance and repair of existing agricultural drainage systems including ditching, tiling, dredging, excavating and filling necessary to maintain the level of drainage required to continue the existing agricultural use. This includes the minimum filling necessary for disposal of dredged spoil adjacent to the drainage system provided that dredged spoil is placed on existing spoil banks where possible;
- (4) The construction or maintenance of fences for the pasturing of livestock, including limited excavating and filling necessary for such construction or maintenance;
- (5) The construction or maintenance of piers, docks or walkways built on pilings, including limited excavating and filling necessary for such construction and maintenance; and
- (6) The maintenance, repair, replacement or reconstruction of existing town and county highways and bridges, including limited excavating and filling necessary for such maintenance, repair, replacement or reconstruction.

12.4.3 Uses which require the issuance of a conditional use permit under Section 15.3 and which may include limited filling, flooding, draining, dredging, ditching, tiling or excavating, but only to the extent specifically provided below:

- (1) The construction and maintenance of roads which are necessary to conduct silvicultural activities or agricultural cultivation; provided that:
  - (a) The road cannot as a practical matter be located outside the wetland;
  - (b) The road is designed and constructed to minimize adverse impact upon the natural functions of the wetland enumerated in Section 12.6.2;
  - (c) The road is designed and constructed with the minimum cross-sectional area practical to serve the intended use;
  - (d) Road construction activities are carried out in the immediate area of the roadbed only.
  
- (2) The construction or maintenance of nonresidential buildings, provided that:
  - (a) The building is essential for and used solely in conjunction with the raising of waterfowl, minnows or other wetland or aquatic animals; or some other use permitted in the shoreland-wetland district;
  - (b) The building cannot, as a practical matter, be located outside the wetland;
  - (c) Such building is not designed for human habitation and does not exceed 500 sq. ft. in floor area; and
  - (d) Only limited filling or excavating necessary to provide structural support for the building is authorized.
  
- (3) The establishment of public and private parks and recreation areas, natural and outdoor education areas, historic and scientific areas, wildlife refuges, game bird and animal farms, fur animal farms, fish hatcheries, and public boat launching ramps and attendant access roads, provided that:
  - (a) Any private development is used exclusively for the permitted use and the applicant has received a permit or license under ch. 29, Wis. Stats., where applicable;
  - (b) Filling or excavating necessary for the construction or maintenance of public boat launching ramps or attendant access roads is allowed only where such construction or maintenance meets the criteria in Section 12.4.3(1)(a)-(d) and;

- (c) Ditching, excavating, dredging, or dike and dam construction in public and private parks and recreation areas, natural and outdoor education areas, historic and scientific areas, wildlife refuges, game bird and animal farms, fur animal farms, and fish hatcheries is allowed only for the purpose of improving wildlife habitat and to otherwise enhance wetland values.
- (4) The construction or maintenance of electric, gas, telephone, water and sewer transmission and distribution facilities, by public utilities and cooperative associations organized for the purpose of producing or furnishing heat, light, power or water to their members and the construction or maintenance of railroad lines provided that:
  - (a) The transmission and distribution facilities and railroad lines cannot, as a practical matter, be located outside the wetland;
  - (b) Such construction or maintenance is done in a manner designed to minimize adverse impact upon the natural functions of the wetland enumerated in Section 12.6.2.

## **12.5 PROHIBITED USES**

Any use not listed in Sections 12.4, is prohibited, unless the wetland or portion of the wetland has been rezoned by amendment of this ordinance in accordance with Section 12.6 of this ordinance and s. 59. 69(5)(e), Wis. Stats.

12.5.1 No excavation or vegetative removal within a 20-foot setback of all wetlands.

## **12.6 REZONING OF LANDS IN THE SHORELAND-WETLAND DISTRICT**

12.6.1 For all proposed text and map amendments to the shoreland-wetland provisions of this ordinance, the appropriate office of the Department shall be provided with the following:

- (1) A copy of every petition for a text or map amendment to the shoreland-wetland provisions of this ordinance, within 5 days of the filing of such petition with the county clerk. Such petition shall include a copy of the Wisconsin Wetland Inventory map adopted as part of this ordinance describing any proposed rezoning of a shoreland-wetland;
- (2) Written notice of the public hearing to be held on a proposed amendment at least 10 days prior to such hearing;
- (3) A copy of the county zoning agency's findings and recommendations on each proposed amendment within 10 days after the submission of those findings and recommendations to the county board; and

- (4) Written notice of the county board's decision on the proposed amendment within 10 days after it is issued.

12.6.2 A wetland or a portion thereof, in the shoreland-wetland district shall not be rezoned if the proposed rezoning may result in a significant adverse impact upon any of the following:

- (1) Storm and flood water storage capacity;
- (2) Maintenance of dry season stream flow, the discharge of groundwater to a wetland, the recharge of groundwater from a wetland to another area, or the flow of groundwater through a wetland;
- (3) Filtering or storage of sediments, nutrients, heavy metals or organic compounds that would otherwise drain into navigable waters;
- (4) Shoreline protection against soil erosion;
- (5) Fish spawning, breeding, nursery or feeding grounds;
- (6) Wildlife habitat; or
- (7) Wetlands both within the boundary of designated areas of special natural resource interest and those wetlands which are in proximity to or have a direct hydrologic connection to such designated areas as defined in NR 103.04 which can be accessed at the following web site: [https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/nr/100/103.pdf](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/nr/100/103.pdf)

12.6.3 If the Department notifies the county zoning agency that a proposed text or map amendment to the shoreland-wetland provisions of this ordinance may have a significant adverse impact upon any of the criteria listed in Section 12.6.2 of this ordinance, that amendment, if approved by the county board, shall contain the following provision:

12.6.4 "This amendment shall not take effect until more than 30 days have elapsed after written notice of the county board's approval of this amendment is mailed to the Department of Natural Resources. During that 30-day period the Department of Natural Resources may notify the county board that it will adopt a superseding shoreland ordinance for the county under s. 59.692(6), Wis. Stats. If the Department does so notify the county board, the effect of this amendment shall be stayed until the s. 59.692(6) adoption procedure is completed or otherwise terminated."

**13.0 WILD RIVERS ZONE**

**13.1 PURPOSE**

This zone provides for the orderly and progressive re-establishment and maintenance of free flowing, relatively unpolluted, primarily primitive, generally inaccessible and esthetically attractive Wild Rivers in congruence with Wisconsin Statute 30.26.

**13.2 ZONE AREA**

This Zone embraces all land within three hundred (300) feet of the water area, or to the visible horizon from the water, whichever is greater on either side of the river.

**13.3 LOT SIZE REGULATIONS**

Minimum Area: 20,000 sq. ft.

Minimum Width: 100 Feet

**13.4 HEIGHT REGULATIONS**

No structure shall exceed 35 feet in height.

**13.5 YARD AND SETBACK REGULATIONS**

Minimum front yard: Section 2.06 (Highway Setback) Comprehensive Ordinance.

Minimum side yard: 25 feet

Minimum rear yard: 50 feet

Minimum water setback: 75 feet

**13.6 PERMITTED USES**

13.6.1 Forestry practices that retain, preserve and continue a minimum of ninety square feet basal area vegetation growing stock within 100 feet of the river.

13.6.2 Single family residence if rustic in design, unobtrusive in body and trim coloration, and at least 75% screened by vegetation as seen from the water during summer months.

## **14.0 NONCONFORMING USES AND STRUCTURES IN THE SHORELAND ZONE**

The provisions of this section are intended to regulate nonconforming uses and structures so as to protect water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and natural scenic beauty as provided in the purpose statement of Section 1.3 of this ordinance and 281.31, WI Stats.

### **14.1 DISCONTINUED NONCONFORMING USE**

If a nonconforming use is discontinued for a period of 12 months or more, any future use of the building, structure or property shall conform to the ordinance.

### **14.2 MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, REPLACEMENT OR VERTICAL EXPANSION OF NONCONFORMING STRUCTURES**

An existing principal structure that was lawfully placed when constructed but does not comply with the required shoreland setback may be maintained, repaired, replaced, restored, rebuilt or remodeled subject to the following standards:

14.2.1 The activity does not expand the footprint of the nonconforming structure.

14.2.2 An existing structure that was lawfully placed when constructed but that does not comply with the required shoreland setback may be vertically expanded unless the vertical expansion would extend more than 35 feet above grade level.

14.2.3 The expansion of a structure beyond the existing footprint within the required setback is allowed only if the expansion is necessary to comply with applicable state or federal requirements.

### **14.3 LATERAL EXPANSION OF A NONCONFORMING PRINCIPAL STRUCTURE WITHIN THE SETBACK**

An existing principal structure that was lawfully placed when constructed but does not comply with the required building setback per Section 5.1 may be expanded laterally, provided all of the following requirements are met.

14.3.1 The use of the principal structure has not been discontinued for a period of 12 months or more if the use is nonconforming.

14.3.2 The existing principal structure is at least 35 feet from the ordinary high-water mark.

14.3.3 Lateral expansions are limited to a maximum of 200 square feet over the life of the structure. No portion of the expansion may be any closer to the ordinary high-water mark than the closest point of the existing principal structure.

14.3.4 The county shall issue a permit that requires a mitigation plan that shall be approved by the county and implemented by the property owner by the date specified in the permit. The mitigation plan shall meet the standards in Section 15.0.

14.3.5 All other provisions of the shoreland ordinance shall be met.

#### **14.4 EXPANSION OF A NONCONFORMING PRINCIPAL STRUCTURE BEYOND SETBACK**

An existing principal structure that was lawfully placed when constructed but does not comply with the required building setback under Section 5.1, may be expanded horizontally, landward, or vertically, provided the expanded area meets the building setback requirements in Section 5.1 and that all other provisions of the shoreland ordinance are met. A mitigation plan is not required solely for expansion under this paragraph, but may be required per Section 15.0.

#### **14.5 REPLACEMENT OR RELOCATION OF NONCONFORMING PRINCIPAL STRUCTURE**

An existing principal structure that was lawfully placed when constructed but does not comply with the required building setback per Section 5.1 may be relocated on the property provided all of the following requirements are met:

14.5.1 The use of the structure has not been discontinued for a period of 12 months or more if a nonconforming use.

14.5.2 The existing principal structure is at least 35 feet from the ordinary high-water mark.

14.5.3 No portion of the replaced or relocated structure is located any closer to the ordinary high-water mark than the closest point of the existing principal structure.

14.5.4 The county determines that no other location is available on the property to build a principal structure of a comparable size to the structure proposed for replacement or relocation that will result in compliance with the shoreland setback requirement per Section 5.1.

14.5.5 The county shall issue a permit that requires a mitigation plan that shall be approved by the county and implemented by the property owner by the date specified in the permit. The mitigation plan shall meet the standards found in Section 15.0 and include enforceable obligations of the property owner to establish or maintain measures that the county determines are adequate to offset the impacts of the permitted expansion on water quality, near-shore aquatic habitat, upland wildlife habitat and natural scenic beauty. The mitigation measures shall be proportional to the amount and impacts of the replaced or relocated structure being permitted. The obligations of the property owner under the mitigation plan shall be evidenced by an instrument recorded in the office of the County Register of Deeds.

14.5.6 All other provisions of the shoreland ordinance shall be met.

## **14.6 MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, REPLACEMENT OR VERTICAL EXPANSION OF STRUCTURES THAT WERE AUTHORIZED BY VARIANCE**

A structure, of which any part has been authorized to be located within the shoreland setback area by a variance granted before July 13, 2015 may be maintained, repaired, replaced, restored, rebuilt or remodeled subject to the following standards:

- 14.6.1 The activity does not expand the footprint of the authorized structure.
- 14.6.2 The structure may be vertically expanded unless the vertical expansion would extend more than 35 feet above grade level.
- 14.6.3 The expansion of a structure beyond the existing footprint within the required setback is allowed only if the expansion is necessary to comply with applicable state or federal requirements.

## **14.7 BURDEN OF PROOF**

- 14.7.1 Any property owner asserting a defense to a charge of violating this ordinance that the property was a valid nonconforming use has the burden of demonstrating to a reasonable certainty by the greater weight of credible evidence that:
  - (1) The nonconforming use was legally in existence at the time the ordinance was passed or amended, and
  - (2) That the use of the property prior to the ordinance was so active and actual that it can be said the property owner acquired a vested interest in its continuance. For purposes of this ordinance, a property owner shall be deemed to have vested right in the use of the property where that use at the time of the effective date of this ordinance or amendment thereto is both active and actual (not just contemplated) and a substantial degree of activity or expense had been undertaken prior to the effective date of this ordinance or amendment thereto.
  - (3) That the use is substantially the same use that existed prior to the enactment of the ordinance or amendments thereto.

## **14.8 CHANGES AND SUBSTITUTION**

Once a non-conforming use has been changed to a conforming use or a nonconforming structure has been altered so as to comply with the yard, height, parking, loading, and access provision of this ordinance, it shall not revert back to a non-conforming use or nonconforming structure. Once the Board of Adjustment has permitted the substitution of a more restrictive non-conforming use for the existing non-conforming use, the prior existing use shall lose its status as a legal non-conforming use and the substituted use shall become subject to all the conditions required by the Board.

## 15.0 MITIGATION

When the county issues a permit requiring mitigation under Section 10.4, Section 14.3 and Section 14.5 the property owner must submit a complete permit application that is reviewed and approved by the county. The application shall include the following:

15.0.1 A site plan that describes the proposed mitigation measures.

- (1) The site plan shall be designed and implemented to restore natural functions lost through development and human activities
- (2) The mitigation measures shall be proportional in scope to the impacts on water quality, near-shore aquatic habitat, upland wildlife habitat and natural scenic beauty.

15.0.2 An implementation schedule and enforceable obligation on the property owner to establish and maintain the mitigation measures.

- (1) The enforceable obligations shall be evidenced by an instrument recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds.
- (2) All shoreland mitigation activities must begin within one year of the recording date of the mitigation affidavit or in accordance with the timeline that is written into the mitigation plan and must be completed in accordance with said timeline or within 2 years of the recording date if a timeline has not been established.

## 15.1 MITIGATION POINT REQUIREMENTS

15.1.1 Mitigation points are required for developing property under the following conditions:

- (a) Impervious Surface coverage is greater than 15% but less than 20% - **(2 points)**
- (b) Impervious Surface coverage is from 20% to 30% - **3 points**
- (c) Lateral expansion of nonconforming principal structure within the shoreland setback under Section 14.3 – **3 points**
- (d) Relocation of Nonconforming principal structure within the shoreland setback under Section 14.5 – **1 point**

## 15.2 MITIGATION OPTIONS

15.2.1 Mitigation point options include:

- (a) Active restoration (accelerated recovery) of a vegetative shoreland buffer **(3 points)**
- (b) Increasing depth of a compliant existing vegetative shoreland buffer **(1 point)** for every 15 feet of depth)
- (c) Passive restoration (natural recovery) of a vegetative shoreland buffer **(1 point)**
- (d) Existing compliant shoreland buffer **(2 points)**
- (e) Install rain gutters/down spouts to divert water to a naturally vegetated area, rain garden or subsurface infiltration. **(1 point)**
- (f) Install a rain garden in accordance with [UWEX Publication GWQ037](#) or storm water infiltration system and direct runoff from impervious surfaces to rain garden. **(up to 3 points)**
- (g) Removal of a structure located within 75 ft. of the OHWM **(2 points)**
- (h) Removal of a structure located within 35 ft. of the OHWM **(3 points)**
- (i) Reducing the allowable viewing and access corridor **(1 point)** for every 15 feet of depth)
- (j) **(½ - Max 3 points)** At the discretion of the Planning and Zoning Staff mitigation measures not specifically identified above which are likely to provide significant benefits in meeting the objectives of this ordinance may be approved. (Example: construction of water detention basin or implementation of other storm water management activities.)

### **15.3 MITIGATION PLAN REQUIREMENTS**

The mitigation measures shall be maintained in perpetuity, unless the property owner receives approval of a new mitigation plan. In cases where a buffer restoration plan per Section 10.4, 14.3 and 14.5 is required, one plan may be prepared provided the requirements of both plans are met.

15.3.1 Mitigation plans submitted for review and approval shall include the following:

- (1) Name of Property Owner
- (2) Property Address
- (3) Legal description of the property or Volume and Page of the instrument that shows the platted area.
- (4) Lot Boundaries
- (5) All Impervious Surfaces Shown
- (6) Total Impervious Surface Area with Dimensions
- (7) Total Lot Area (measured from Right-of-Way to OHWM)
- (8) Location of OHWM
- (9) Vegetative Buffer Zone Shown with Dimensions
- (10) Viewing Access Corridor Shown with Dimensions
- (11) Scale (e.g. 1 inch = 10 ft.)
- (12) North Arrow
- (13) List of Mitigation Options Selected and Associated Points Utilized
- (14) All Mitigation Options Utilized Shown in Detail
- (15) Erosion Control Measures Shown (if applicable)
- (16) List of all Selected Plants (if applicable)
- (17) Implementation Schedule (implementation shall be completed within 12 months of the issuance of the relate shoreland land use permit)
- (18) Certificates of Approval (if applicable)
- (19) An Affidavit describing the mitigation actions and maintenance required.

For mitigation options where plantings are required, plant species shall be selected from the [Wisconsin Botanical Information System](#) list and approved by Planning and Zoning staff. Substitutions to the list will be allowed in the event of lack of plant stock or seed availability on a case-by-case basis. All plants may be transplanted from areas outside of the buffer zone or mitigation area.

## **16.0 ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS**

### **16.1 PLANNING AND ZONING ADMINISTRATOR**

The planning and zoning administrator shall have the following duties and powers:

- 16.1.1 Advise applicants as to the provisions of this ordinance and assist them in preparing permit applications and appeal forms.
- 16.1.2 Issue permits and certificates of compliance and inspect properties for compliance with this ordinance.
- 16.1.3 Keep records of all permits issued, inspections made, work approved and other official actions.
- 16.1.4 Provide copies of variances, conditional uses and decisions on appeals for map or text interpretations and map or text amendments within 10 days after they are granted or denied to the appropriate office of the Department.
- 16.1.5 Investigate and report violations of this ordinance to the appropriate county zoning committee and the district attorney or corporation counsel.

### **16.2 ZONING PERMITS**

- 16.2.1 **WHEN REQUIRED.** Except where another Section of this ordinance specifically exempts certain types of development from this requirement, a zoning permit shall be obtained from the planning and zoning administrator before any new development, as defined in Section 20.0, or any change in the use of an existing building or structure, is initiated.
- 16.2.2 **APPLICATION.** An application for a zoning permit shall be made to the planning and zoning administrator upon forms furnished by the county and shall include for the purpose of proper enforcement of these regulations, the following data:
  - (1) Name and address of applicant and property owner.
  - (2) Legal description of the property and type of proposed use.
  - (3) A sketch of the dimensions of the lot and location of buildings relative to the lot lines, center line of abutting highways and the ordinary high-water mark of any abutting watercourses and water level on a date specified.
  - (4) Location and description of any existing private water supply or sewage system or notification of plans for any such installation.

- (5) Location of existing vegetation, date of construction of each structure on the lot, location and type of materials of any, deck, patios, driveways or parking areas.

16.2.3 EXPIRATION OF PERMIT. Zoning permits shall expire 12 months from date issued if no substantial work has commenced.

## **16.3 CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS**

16.3.1 APPLICATION FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT. Any use listed as a Conditional Use in this ordinance shall be permitted only after an application has been submitted to the planning and zoning administrator and a Conditional Use permit has been granted by the Planning and Zoning Committee.

16.3.2 STANDARDS APPLICABLE TO ALL CONDITIONAL USES. In passing upon a Conditional Use permit, the Planning and Zoning Committee shall evaluate the effect of the proposed use upon:

- (1) The maintenance of safe and healthful conditions.
- (2) The prevention and control of water pollution including sedimentation.
- (3) Compliance with local floodplain zoning ordinances and opportunity for damage to adjacent properties due to altered surface water drainage.
- (4) The erosion potential of the site based upon degree and direction of slope, soil type and vegetative cover.
- (5) The location of the site with respect to existing or future access roads.
- (6) The need of the proposed use for a shoreland location.
- (7) Its compatibility with uses on adjacent land.
- (8) The amount of liquid and solid wastes to be generated and the adequacy of the proposed disposal systems.
- (9) Location factors under which:
  - (a) Domestic uses shall be generally preferred;
  - (b) Uses not inherently a source of pollution within an area shall be preferred over uses that are or may be a pollution source;
  - (c) Use locations within an area tending to minimize the possibility of pollution shall be preferred over use locations tending to increase that possibility.

16.3.3 **CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO CONDITIONAL USES.** Upon consideration of the factors listed above, the Planning and Zoning Committee shall attach such conditions, in addition to those required elsewhere in this ordinance, as are necessary to further the purposes of this ordinance. Violations of any of these conditions shall be deemed a violation of this ordinance. Such conditions may include specifications for, without limitation because of specific enumeration: type of shore cover; specific sewage disposal and water supply facilities; landscaping and planting screens; period of operation; operational control; sureties; deed restrictions; location of piers, docks, parking and signs; and type of construction. To secure information upon which to base its determination, the Planning and Zoning Committee may require the applicant to furnish, in addition to the information required for a zoning permit, the following information:

- (1) A plan of the area showing surface contours, soil types, ordinary high-water marks, ground water conditions, subsurface geology and vegetative cover.
- (2) Location of buildings, parking areas, traffic access, driveways, walkways, piers, open space and landscaping.
- (3) Plans of buildings, sewage disposal facilities, water supply systems and arrangement of operations.
- (4) Specifications for areas of proposed filling, grading, lagooning or dredging.
- (5) Other pertinent information necessary to determine if the proposed use meets the requirements of this ordinance.

16.3.4 **NOTICE, PUBLIC HEARING AND DECISION.** Before passing upon an application for a Conditional Use permit, the Planning and Zoning Committee shall hold a public hearing. Notice of such public hearing, specifying the time, place and matters to come before the board, shall be given as a Class 2 notice under ch. 985, Wis. Stats. Such notice shall be provided to the appropriate office of the Department at least 10 days prior to the hearing. The board shall state in writing the grounds for granting or refusing a conditional use permit.

16.3.5 **RECORDING.** When a conditional use permit is approved, an appropriate record shall be made of the land use and structures permitted and such permit shall be applicable solely to the structures, conditional use and property so described. A copy of any decision on a permit shall be provided to the appropriate office of the Department within 10 days after it is granted or denied.

16.3.6 **REVOCATION.** Where the conditions of a conditional use permit are violated, the conditional use permit shall be revoked by the Planning and Zoning Committee.

## **17.0 BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

### **17.1 CREATION**

There is hereby created a Board of Adjustment as authorized by s. 59.694, Wis, Stats. The County Board shall adopt such rules for the conduct of business of the board of adjustment as required by s. 59.694 (3), Wis. Stats .

### **17.2 MEMBERSHIP**

- 17.2.1 Size and appointment: The Chairperson of the County Board shall appoint a board of adjustment consisting of three members and two alternate members with the approval of the County Board of Supervisors under s. 59.694(2), Wis. Stats. Annually, the Chairperson of the County Board shall designate one of the alternate members as the first alternate and the other, the second alternate.
- 17.2.2 Eligibility. Members of the Board of Adjustment shall reside in the unincorporated areas of the Florence County and no two members shall reside in the same town.
- 17.2.3 Terms of office. The term of office shall be three years beginning July 1. However, these terms of office shall be staggered such that no more than one members' term of office expires in any one year.
- 17.2.4 Officers. The Board of Adjustment shall choose its own chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary.
- 17.2.5 Removal. Members may be removed by the chairperson of the County Board of Supervisors for cause upon written charges. Cause may include excessive absenteeism.

### **17.3 ORGANIZATION**

The Board of Adjustment shall organize and adopt rules for the conduct of its business and to carry out into effect the provisions of this ordinance and s. 59.694, Wis. Stats.

- 17.3.1 Meetings of the board of adjustment shall be held at the call of the chairperson and at such other times as the Board of Adjustment may determine, at a fixed time and place.
- 17.3.2 Open meetings: All meetings of the Board of Adjustment shall be open to the public, unless otherwise authorized by Wisconsin law.
- 17.3.3 Minutes. The Board of Adjustment shall keep minutes of its proceedings showing the vote of each member upon each question, or if absent or failing to vote, indicating such fact, and shall keep records of its examinations and other official

actions, all of which shall be immediately filed in the office of the board of adjustment and shall be public record.

#### 17.3.4 Voting.

- (1) Majority Rule: A majority vote of the board of adjustment shall be necessary to reverse any order, requirement, decision or determination of any such administrative official, or to decide in favor of the applicant on any matter which it is required to pass under this ordinance to effect any such variation to this ordinance.
- (2) The first alternate shall act, with full power, only when a member of the board of adjustment refuses to vote because of a conflict of interest or when a member is absent. The 2nd alternate shall act only when the first alternate refuses to vote because of a conflict of interest or is absent, or if more than one member of the board of adjustment refuses to vote because of a conflict of interest or is absent.
- (3) The chairperson or in his or her absence the acting chairperson, may administer oaths and compel the attendance of witnesses.

### **17.4 POWERS OF THE BOARD**

The Board of Adjustment shall have the following powers:

- 17.4.1 To hear and decide appeals when it is alleged there is error in any order, requirement, decision or determination made by an administrative official in the enforcement of Section 59.69 or of any ordinance adopted pursuant thereto. In exercising the above-mentioned powers, the Board of Adjustment may, in conformity with the provisions of this Section, reverse or affirm, wholly or partly, or may modify the order, requirement, decision or determination as ought to be made, and to that end shall have all powers of the officer from whom the appeal is taken.
- 17.4.2 To authorize upon appeal in specific cases such variance from the terms of the ordinance as will not be contrary to the public interest, where, owing to special conditions, a literal enforcement of the provisions of the ordinance will result in unnecessary hardship, and so that the spirit of the ordinance shall be observed and substantial justice done.
- 17.4.3 To grant variances for renewable energy resource systems as provided in s. 59.694(7) (d), Wis. Stats. If the board denies an application for variance for such a system, the board shall provide a written statement of its reasons for denying the application. In this paragraph, “renewable energy resource system” means a solar energy system, a waste conversion energy system, a wind energy system or any other energy system which relies on a renewable energy resource.

- 17.4.4 A variance shall not grant or increase any use of property which is prohibited in the zoning district.
- 17.4.5 The Board of Adjustment may grant a variance from the dimensional standards of this ordinance.
- 17.4.6 The power to grant special exceptions and conditional uses is a power granted by the County Board solely to the Planning and Zoning Committee.
- 17.4.7 The Board of Adjustment is bound to accept the zoning ordinance and map as being correct.

## **17.5 VARIANCE FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ORDINANCE**

### **17.5.1 Petition**

A petition for a variance shall be filed by the property owner, or the owner's agent, using forms furnished by the Florence County Planning and Zoning Department. Such petition shall include the following:

- (1) Name and address of the property owner and petitioner (if different).
- (2) Signature of petitioner.
- (3) Location of property involved in the petition.
- (4) Proposed structure in question, including a site plan showing the preferred arrangement for which the variance is sought.
- (5) Sections(s) of this Ordinance from which a variance is requested.
- (6) Details as to the narrowness, shallowness, shape, topography, or other characteristics of the land or the physical conditions applying to the building or structure which make it not merely inconvenient but extremely difficult, if not impossible, to comply with the provisions of the Ordinance.
- (7) A statement that the conditions detailed above are unique to this property and are not generally existing on other properties in the same zoning district.
- (8) A statement that shows there is unnecessary hardship and was not caused by the applicant or by any persons still having an interest in the property.
- (9) Fee. A petition for a variance shall be accompanied by a fee established by the County Board of Supervisors.

## 17.5.2 Processing

- (1) *Public hearing.* The Board of Adjustment shall fix a reasonable time for the hearing of the appeal and publish a class 2 notice thereof under ch 985 Wis. Stats., as well as give due notice to the parties in interest, and decide the same within a reasonable time. The Board shall send written notice to the appropriate office of the Department of Natural Resources at least 10 days prior to the hearing. Upon the hearing, a party may appear in person or by agent or attorney.
- (2) *Decision.* Within a reasonable time, the Board of Adjustment shall render a decision to either grant or deny the request for variance.
  - (a) A variance granted shall be the minimum relief granted to permit and may contain conditions or guarantees attached thereto by the Board of Adjustment.
  - (b) A variance denied shall be accompanied by the reasons for denial.
  - (c) In an action involving a historic property, as defined in s. 44.31 (3) Wis. Stats., the board of adjustment shall consider any suggested alternatives or recommended decision submitted by the landmarks commission or the planning and zoning committee.
- (3) *Standards for variance.* The Board of Adjustment shall consider the following standards for granting a variance. The burden of proof at all times remains with the applicant to establish that the proposed variance meets the following standards:
  - (a) *Unnecessary hardship.* That there are present actual physical conditions applying to the lot, parcel, building, structure, use or intended use on that parcel which are creating the unnecessary hardship in the application of this Ordinance, as distinguished from a mere inconvenience to the owner if the strict letter of the regulations are required.
  - (b) *Unique condition.* That the conditions described in par. (a) are unique, exceptional, extraordinary, or unusual circumstances applying only or primarily to the property under consideration and are not of such a general or recurrent nature elsewhere in the same zoning district as to suggest or establish the basis for Ordinance changes or amendments, or of having that effect if relied upon as the basis for granting a variance.

- (c) *Conditions not self-created.* That the condition creating the hardship or difficulty was not caused by the petitioner nor by any person still having an interest in the property.
- (d) *Public interest.* That in granting the variance there will not be a substantial detriment to neighboring property and the grant of variance will not be contrary to the purpose of this Ordinance and the public interest.

### 17.5.3 Department of Natural Resources Notification

A copy of any variance decision of the Board of Adjustment which affects shorelands shall be provided to the office of the Department of Natural Resources within 10 days of the date such decision is rendered.

### 17.5.4 Resubmission

A variance petition that has been heard and decided shall not be eligible to be resubmitted during the 6 months following the decision. The 6 month period may be waived by the Board of Adjustment provided that the petitioner submits a written report identifying how the new petition differs materially from the previous petition or identifying substantial new evidence that will be offered and provided that the Board of Adjustment votes by simple majority that the changes or new evidence would be of such significance that the Board might consider changing the previous decision.

### 17.5.5 Road Projects

When a structure becomes a nonconforming structure as to setback from a road, because the road was widened or relocated by the county, a town, or the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, such structure shall not require a variance and shall not be considered a nonconforming structure in regards to setback from a road or highway. However, no such structure shall thereafter be enlarged or rebuilt in such a manner that it will be closer to the right-of-way of the road.

### 17.5.6 Repairs and Restoration

A structure that was authorized by a variance that is damaged or destroyed by fire, explosion, flooding, storm damage, or similar calamity may be repaired or restored provided either 1) the repair or restoration would bring the structure into compliance with this Ordinance; or 2) the repair or restoration of the structure conforms fully to the structure authorized by the variance.

## 17.6 APPEALS

### 17.6.1 General Provisions

- (1) Where it is alleged there is error in any order, requirement, decision, or determination made by the , Planning and Zoning Administrator or Planning and Zoning Committee, an appeal may be taken to the Board of Adjustment by any person aggrieved, or by any officer, department, board, or bureau of the municipality affected.
- (2) Such appeals shall be filed with the Planning and Zoning Department within 30 days after the date of written notice of the decision or order of the Planning and Zoning Administrator, or Planning and Zoning Committee.
- (3) Stays. An appeal shall stay all proceedings in furtherance of the action appealed from, unless the officer from whom the appeal is taken shall certify to the Board of Adjustment, after the notice of appeal shall have been filed, that by reason of facts stated in the certificate a stay would cause imminent peril to life or property. In such case, proceedings shall not be stayed other than by a restraining order, which may be granted by the Board of Adjustment or by a court of record on application on notice to the officer from whom the appeal is taken and on due cause shown.

### 17.6.2 Appeal Petition

Petitions for appeals shall include:

- (1) Name, address, and signature of the appellant.
- (2) Location of property affected by the appeal.
- (3) The decision being appealed and the grounds claimed for the appeal. The burden of proof at all times remains with the appellant.
- (4) Such additional information as may be required by the Board of Adjustment.
- (5) Fee. An appeal shall be accompanied by a fee established by the County Board of Supervisors.
- (6) The Florence County Planning and Zoning Department shall forthwith transmit to the Board of Adjustment the appeal and all the documents constituting the record upon which the action appealed from was taken.

### 17.6.3 Appeal Public Hearing and Decision

- (1) Public hearing. The Board of Adjustment shall fix a reasonable time for the hearing of the appeal and publish a class 2 notice thereof under ch 985 Wis. Stats., as well as give due notice to the parties in interest, and decide the

same within a reasonable time. The Board shall send written notice to the appropriate office of the Department of Natural Resources at least 10 days prior to the hearing. Upon the hearing, a party may appear in person or by agent or attorney.

- (2) In an action involving a historic property, as defined in s. 44.31 (3) Wis. Stats., the board of adjustment shall consider any suggested alternatives or recommended decision submitted by the landmarks commission or the planning and zoning commission.
- (3) Decision. The Board of Adjustment decision of the appeal shall be rendered in writing within 30 days after the public hearing. Such decision shall:
  - (a) State the specific facts which are the basis for the Board's decision.
  - (b) Either affirm, reverse, vary, or modify the order, requirement, decision or determination appealed from. The Board may also dismiss the appeal for lack of jurisdiction.

#### 17.6.4 Department of Natural Resources Notification.

A copy of any appeal decision of the Board of Adjustment which affects shorelands shall be provided to the regional office of the Department of Natural Resources within 10 days of the date such decision is rendered.

### **17.7 COURT REVIEW**

Any person or persons, jointly or severally, aggrieved by any decision of the Board of Adjustment, or any taxpayer, or any officer, department, board or bureau of the municipality, may present to a court of record a petition, duly verified, setting forth that such decision is illegal, in whole or in part, specifying the grounds of illegality. Such petition shall be presented to the court within thirty days after the filing of the decision of the Board of Adjustment.

### **17.8 CERTIORARI**

Upon the presentation of such petition the court may allow a writ of certiorari directed to the Board of Adjustment to review such decision of the Board of Adjustment, and shall prescribe therein the time within which a return thereto must be made and served upon the realtor's attorney, which shall not be less than ten days and may be extended by the court. The allowance of the writ shall not stay proceedings upon the decision appealed from, but the court may on application, on notice to the board and on due cause shown, grant a restraining order.

### **17.9 RETURN WRIT**

The Board of Adjustment shall not be required to return the original papers acted upon it, but shall be sufficient to return certified or sworn copies thereof or of such portions thereof as may be called for by such writ. The return shall concisely set forth such other facts as may be pertinent and material to show the grounds of the decision appealed from and shall be verified.

## **17.10 COURT DECISION**

If, upon the hearing, it shall appear to the court that testimony is necessary for the proper disposition of the matter, it may take evidence or appoint a referee to take such evidence as it may direct and report the same to the court with his findings of fact and conclusions of law, which shall constitute a part of the proceedings upon which the determination of the court shall be made. The court may reverse or affirm, wholly or partly, or may modify the decision brought up for review.

## **17.11 COSTS**

Costs shall not be allowed against the board unless it shall appear to the court that it acted with gross negligence, or in bad faith, or with malice in making the decision appealed from. All issues in any proceeding under this Section shall have preference over all civil action and proceedings.

**18.0 FEES. GENERAL**

The county board may, by resolution, adopt fees for the following:

**18.1 LAND USE PERMITS.**

**18.2 BUILDING PERMITS.**

**18.3 SPECIAL REQUEST INSPECTIONS.**

**18.4 PLANNED RESIDENTIAL UNIT DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS.**

**18.5 PUBLIC HEARINGS.**

**18.6 LEGAL NOTICE PUBLICATIONS.**

**18.7 CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS.**

## **19.0 CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS**

The county board may from time to time, alter, supplement or change the boundaries of use districts and the regulations contained in this ordinance in accordance with the requirements of s.59.69(5)(e), Wis. Stats, ch. NR 115, Wis. Adm. Code and Section 12.6 of this ordinance where applicable.

- 19.1.1 Amendments to this ordinance may be made on petition of any interested party as provided in s. 59.69(5)(e), Wis. Stats.
- 19.1.2 Every petition for a text or map amendment filed with the county clerk shall be referred to the county zoning agency. A copy of each petition shall be mailed to the appropriate office of the Department within 5 days of the filing of the petition with the county clerk. Written notice of the public hearing to be held on a proposed amendment shall be provided to the appropriate office of the Department at least 10 days prior to the hearing.
- 19.1.3 A copy of the county board's decision on each proposed amendment shall be forwarded to the appropriate office of the Department within 10 days after the decision is issued.

## **20.0 ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES**

Any development, any building or structure constructed, moved or structurally altered, or any use established after the effective date of this ordinance in violation of the provisions of this ordinance, by any person, firm, association, corporation (including building contractors or their agents) shall be deemed a violation. The planning and zoning administrator or the county zoning agency shall refer violations to the district attorney or corporation counsel who shall expeditiously prosecute violations. Any person, firm, association or corporation who violates or refuses to comply with any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a forfeiture of not less than ten (\$10.00) dollars nor more than two hundred (\$200.00) dollars per offense, together with the taxable costs of action. Each day which the violation exists shall constitute a separate offense. Every violation of this ordinance is a public nuisance and the creation thereof may be enjoined and the maintenance thereof may be abated pursuant to s. 59.69(11), Wis. Stats.

## **20.1 STATUTES OF LIMITATIONS**

20.1.1 As required by s. 59.692(1t), Wis. States., where a building or structure violates the dimensional or use standards of this ordinance, and the violating building or structure has been in place more than 10 years before an enforcement action is initiated, such building or structure shall not be pursued as a violation or require removal from the parcel but will not be considered a nonconforming structure according to the definition found in Section 21.0 of this ordinance. The provisions of Section 14.0 of this ordinance do not apply to illegally constructed buildings or structures.

20.1.2 Any property owner asserting as a defense to a charge of violating this ordinance that the alleged violation has been in place more than ten (10) years before enforcement action was initiated has the burden of proving that:

- (1) The building or structure that is in violation has been in place more than 10 years before enforcement action was initiated;
- (2) That the building or structure (and its use, if the use is nonconforming) has remained essentially unchanged for at least 10 years;
- (3) That the use of the building or structure has been active and continual for 10 years or more. If use was discontinued for more than twelve months, that use shall not be considered active and continual.

## **21.0 DEFINITIONS**

### **21.1 INTERPRETATION**

For the purpose of administering and enforcing this ordinance, the terms or words used herein shall be interpreted as follows: Words used in the present tense include the future; words in the singular number include the plural number; and words in the plural number include the singular number. The word "shall" is mandatory, not permissive. All distances, unless otherwise specified, shall be measured horizontally.

### **21.2 THE FOLLOWING TERMS USED IN THIS ORDINANCE MEAN:**

**ACCESS AND VIEWING CORRIDOR** - A strip of vegetated land that allows safe pedestrian access to the shore through the vegetative buffer zone.

**ACCESS SITE OR LOT** - A parcel of land which is contiguous to a body of water (lake or river) which provides a means for waterfront access for back lot development.

**ACCESSORY STRUCTURE** - see STRUCTURE, ACCESSORY

**BACK LOT** - A parcel of any size, whether or not improved or subdivided or platted, which does not abut the shoreline or ordinary high water mark of a lake.

**BACKLOT DEVELOPMENT** - also known as “lot pyramiding”, “keyhole development” or “development funneling” is the practice whereby a lot, lots, outlot or common open space or commonly owned lot is used for waterfront access by a number of parcels or lots located away from or not contiguous to the water body.

**BASEMENT** - The portion of a dwelling below the first floor or ground floor with its entire floor below grade.

**BLUFF FACE** - That area riverward from the bluff line where slope toward the river equals 12 percent or more with the horizontal interval of measurement not exceeding 50 feet.

**BLUFF LINE** - A line along the top of a slope, connecting the points at which the slope, proceeding away from a river or adjoining watershed channel and which is not visually inconspicuous, becomes less than 12 percent.

**BOATHOUSE** - A permanent structure used for the storage of watercraft and associated materials and includes all structures which are totally enclosed, have roofs or walls or any combination of these structural parts.

**BUFFER STRIP** - A parcel of land abutting a lake on either side of an access lot. It may be used for any purpose permitted by the zoning ordinance.

**BUILDING ENVELOPE** - The three dimensional space within which a structure is built.

**CLASS 2 NOTICE** - A notice that must be published in an official newspaper or paper of general circulation in the county. It must be published once a week for 2 weeks with the last publication being 1 week prior to the hearing.

**CONDITIONAL USE (SPECIAL EXCEPTION)** - A use which is permitted by this ordinance provided that certain conditions specified in the ordinance are met and that a permit is granted by the board of adjustment or, where appropriate, the planning and zoning committee or county board.

**CONSTRUCTION** - Building, erecting, or placing a structure on a parcel of land.

**COUNTY ZONING AGENCY:** That committee or commission created or designated by the county board under s. 59.69(2)(a), Wis. Stats, to act in all matters pertaining to county planning and zoning.

**DECK** - An outdoor platform usually above ground grade, intended to support persons and outdoor furniture such as chairs or a picnic table. It also includes flat roofs over other legal structures if the intention is the same.

**DEPARTMENT** - The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources(WDNR.)

**DEVELOPMENT** - Any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including, but not limited to the construction of buildings, structures or accessory structures; the construction of additions or substantial alterations to buildings, structures or accessory structures; the placement of mobile homes; ditching, lagooning, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations, and the deposition or extraction of earthen materials.

**DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS** - The part of the zoning ordinance that applies to elements including setback, height, lot coverage, and side yard.

**DRAINAGE SYSTEM** - One or more artificial ditches, tile drains or similar devices which collect surface runoff or groundwater and convey it to a point of discharge.

**EXISTING DEVELOPMENT PATTERN** - That principal structures exist within 250 feet of a proposed principal structure in both directions along the shoreline.

**FIREPIT** - A structure used to contain an outdoor fire and constructed to have a permanent location on the landscape such as a depression surrounded by pavers, gravel or other impervious surfaces. Metal fire rings or other moveable vessels intended to contain an outdoor fire are not considered fire pits for regulatory purposes.

**FACILITY** - Any property or equipment of a public utility, as defined in s. 196.01 (5), or a cooperative association organized under ch. 185 for the purpose of producing or furnishing heat, light, or power to its members only, that is used for the transmission, delivery, or furnishing of natural gas, heat, light, or power.

**FLOODPLAIN** - The land which has been or may be hereafter covered by flood water during the regional flood. The floodplain includes the floodway and the flood fringe as those terms are defined in ch. NR 116, Wis. Adm. Code.

**FLOOR AREA** - The total area of the structure footprint, including all area encompassed by foundations, basement walls, exterior walls, roof overhangs greater than 24 inches in width, support structures, and any attachments or appurtenances. Floor area, as calculated for the minimum living space of a dwelling unit, shall be completely enclosed, considered habitable under the building and mechanical code requirements, and be at least 7 feet in height from floor to ceiling. Such things as attached garages, open decks and floors with a wall height under 7 feet in height are not considered floor area.

**FOOTPRINT** - The land area covered by a structure at ground level measured on a horizontal plane. The footprint of a residence or building includes the horizontal plane bounded by the furthest exterior wall and eave if present, projected to natural grade. For structures without walls (decks, stairways, patios, carports) – a single horizontal plane bounded by the furthest portion of the structure projected to natural grade. Note: For the purposes of replacing or reconstructing a nonconforming building with walls, the footprint shall not be expanded by enclosing the area that is located within the horizontal plane from the exterior wall to the eaves projected to natural grade. This constitutes a lateral expansion under NR 115 and would need to follow NR 115.05 (1)(g)5.

**GENERALLY ACCEPTED FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES** - Forestry management practices that promote sound management of a forest. Generally accepted forestry management practices include those practices contained in the most recent version of the department publication known as Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines and identified as PUB FR-226.

**IMPERVIOUS SURFACE** - An area that releases as runoff all or a majority of the precipitation that falls on it. “Impervious surface” excludes frozen soil but includes rooftops, sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, and streets unless specifically designed, constructed, and maintained to be pervious. Roadways as defined in s. 340.01(54), Wis. Adm. Code, or sidewalks as defined in s. 340.01(58) Wis. Adm. Code, are not considered impervious surfaces.

**LOT** - A continuous parcel of land, not divided by a public right-of-way, and sufficient in size to meet the lot width and lot area provisions of this ordinance.

**LOT AREA** - The area of a horizontal plane bounded by the front, side, and rear lot lines of a lot, but not including the area of any land below the ordinary high water mark of navigable waters.

**LOT OF RECORD** - Any lot, the description of which is properly recorded with the Register of Deeds, which at the time of its recordation complied with all applicable laws, ordinances, and regulations.

**MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR** - Includes such activities as interior remodeling, exterior remodeling, and the replacement or enhancement of plumbing or electrical systems, insulation, windows, doors, siding, or roof within the existing building envelope.

**MITIGATION** - Balancing measures that are designed and implemented to restore natural functions and values that are otherwise lost through development and human activities.

**NAVIGABLE WATERS** - Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, all natural inland lakes within Wisconsin and all streams, ponds, sloughs, flowages and other waters within the territorial limits of this state, including the Wisconsin portion of boundary waters, which are navigable under the laws of this state. Under s. 281.31(2)(d), Wis. Stats, notwithstanding any other provision of law or administrative rule promulgated thereunder, shoreland ordinances required under s. 59.692, Wis. Stats, and ch. NR 115, Wis. Adm. Code, do not apply to lands adjacent to farm drainage ditches if:

- (1) Farm drainage ditches where such lands are not adjacent to a natural navigable stream or river and such lands were not navigable streams before ditching; and
- (2) Artificially constructed drainage ditches, ponds or stormwater retention basins that are not hydrologically connected to a natural navigable water body.

**NONCONFORMING STRUCTURE** - A dwelling or other building that existed lawfully before the current zoning ordinance was enacted or amended, but that does not conform to one or more of the development regulations in the current shoreland zoning ordinance.

**NONCONFORMING USE** - An existing lawful use or accessory use of a structure, building or development which is not in conformity with the provisions of this ordinance.

**OPEN SPACE** - Any parcel or area of land essentially unimproved and set aside, dedicated, designated or reserved for public or private use or enjoyment of owners or occupants of lands adjoining such open space.

**ORDINARY HIGH-WATER MARK (OHWM)** - The point on the bank or shore up to which the presence and action of surface water is so continuous as to leave a distinctive mark such as by erosion, destruction or prevention of terrestrial vegetation, predominance of aquatic vegetation, or other easily recognized characteristics.

**OUTLOT** - A parcel of land, other than a buildable lot or block, so designated on the plat, which is used to convey or reserve parcels of land. Outlots may be created to restrict a lot which is unbuildable due to high groundwater, steep slopes, or other physical constraints, or to create common open space. Outlots may also be parcels of land intended to be re-divided into lots or combined with lots or outlots in adjacent land divisions in the future for the purpose of creating buildable lots. An outlot may also be created if a lot fails to meet requirements for a private onsite wastewater treatment system, but which may be buildable if public sewer is extended to the lot or land division.

Section 236.13(6) of the Wisconsin Statutes prohibits using an outlot as a building site, unless it complies with all the requirements imposed for buildable lots. The County will generally require that any restrictions related to an outlot be included on the face of the plat.

**PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED** - A lot or parcel that was developed with a structure legally placed upon it.

**PRINCIPAL STRUCTURE** – see STRUCTURE, PRINCIPAL

**PYRAMIDING** - The act of obtaining or providing access to public bodies of water across private lots, or lands in a manner in which increases the number of families which have access to that water, to a degree greater than what would occur with individual riparian owners having individual lots fronting on the water. The effect of pyramiding is to funnel backlot development from offshore lands or residences via a narrow parcel of land to provide access to the water. Publicly owned access points shall not fall within this definition.

**RAIN GARDEN** – An excavated area of natural vegetation to which surface water runoff is directed with the purpose of slowing and filtering runoff and allowing for runoff infiltration. Refer to "Rain Gardens: A How -To Manual for Homeowners" by University of Wisconsin. [UWEX Publication GWQ037](#)

**REGIONAL FLOOD** - A flood determined to be representative of large floods known to have generally occurred in Wisconsin and which may be expected to occur on a particular stream because of like physical characteristics, once in every 100 years.

**REPLACEMENT CONSTRUCTION** - In which the principal building or portion thereof is torn down and replaced by a new structure or building or portion thereof. (Also known as Reconstruction or Rebuild).

**RETAINING WALL** - A vertical structure or near vertical structure, located above the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM), constructed of rock, stone, wood, blocks or other similar material that is built to resist lateral pressure.

**ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF VEGETATION** - Normally accepted horticultural practices that do not result in the loss of any layer of existing vegetation and do not require earth disturbance.

**SHORELAND** - Lands within the following distances from the ordinary high-water mark of navigable waters: 1,000 feet from a lake, pond or flowage; and 300 feet from a river or stream or to the landward side of the floodplain, whichever distance is greater.

**SHORELAND SETBACK** - Also known as the “shoreland setback area” in s. 59.692(1)(bn) Wis. Stats. means an area in a shoreland that is within a certain distance of the ordinary high-water mark in which the construction or placement of buildings or structures has been limited or prohibited under an ordinance enacted under s. 59.692 Wis. Stats.

**SHORELAND-WETLAND DISTRICT** - The zoning district, created as a part of this shoreland zoning ordinance, comprised of shorelands that are designated as wetlands on the

wetland maps which have been adopted and made a part of this ordinance.

**SLASH MATERIAL**- Any tree tops, limbs, bark, abandoned forest products, windfalls or other debris left on the land after timber or other forest products have been cut.

**STRUCTURE** - A principal structure or any accessory structure including a garage, shed, boathouse, sidewalk, walkway, patio, deck, retaining wall, porch or firepit. Any human man-made object with form, shape, and utility, either permanently or temporarily attached to, or placed upon the ground, river bed and stream, or lake bed.

**STRUCTURE, ACCESSORY** - A subordinate structure on the same property as the principal structure which is devoted to a use incidental to the principal use of the property. Accessory structures include, but are not limited to, detached garages, sheds, barns, gazebos, patios, decks (both detached and attached), swimming pools, hot tubs, retaining walls, fences, playground apparatus, driveways, parking lots and parking facilities, sidewalks, stairways, lifts, recreational courts and private emergency shelters.

- (a) In a Residential District within the shoreland area, no accessory building, structure or use shall be used for human habitation.
- (b) In a Residential District within the shoreland area, no accessory building, structure or use shall contain living quarters.
- (c) In a Residential District within the shoreland area, the combined total floor area of such accessory buildings shall not exceed the area of the building foot print of the principal on the lot.

**STRUCTURE, PRINCIPAL** – The main structure not including accessory structures on a lot, intended for primary use as permitted by the regulations of the district in which it is located. A lot on which more than one principal use is permitted may have more than one principal structure.

**STRUCTURE, TEMPORARY** – A structure which is built of such materials and in such a way that it would commonly be expected to have a relatively short useful life, or is built for a purpose that would commonly be expected to be relatively short-term.

**SUBSTANDARD LOT** - A legally created lot or parcel that met minimum area and minimum average width requirements when created, but does not meet current lot size requirements for a new lot.

**UNNECESSARY HARDSHIP** - A circumstance where special conditions, which were not self-created, affect a particular property and make strict conformity with restrictions governing area, setbacks, frontage, height or density unnecessarily burdensome or unreasonable in light of the purposes of this ordinance.

**VARIANCE** - An authorization granted by the board of adjustment to construct, alter or use a building or structure in a manner that deviates from the dimensional standards of this ordinance.

**VEGETATIVE BUFFER ZONE** – An area of “natural” or “restored to natural” shoreland vegetation extending from the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) inland 35 ft. The buffer zone is comprised of vegetation that is critical to protecting natural scenic beauty, fish & wildlife habitat, and water quality for the adjacent public waters.

**WETLANDS** - Those areas where water is at, near or above the land surface long enough to be capable of supporting aquatic or hydrophytic vegetation and which have soils indicative of wet conditions.

**22.0 SCENIC BEAUTY PROTECTION (RESERVED)**

**23.0 REGULATION BELOW THE OHWM (RESERVED)**

**23.1 PIERS WHARVES AND BERTHS STRUCTURES (RESERVED)**

**23.2 BOATING REGULATIONS (RESERVED)**

**24.0 APPENDIXES: APPENDIX A, SHORELAND MITIGATION AGREEMENT FORMS**

## 24.1 APPENDIX A, SHORELAND MITIGATION AGREEMENT, FORM 27, REPLANT

Document Number/Plan I.D. No.	Appendix A <b>SHORELAND MITIGATION AGREEMENT</b> This agreement is made between the government unit and property owner(s)	
Name and Address:		
Parcel identifier number (PIN)	Agreement Date	
Governmental Unit <b>FLORENCE COUNTY</b>	Owner(s)	
I (We) acknowledge that application is being made for a Code Permit on the following property:  <b>SECTION:                      TOWN:                      RANGE:</b>  <b>LEGAL DESCRIPTION:</b>		<b>Document Recording Area</b>  <b>Return to:</b> <b>Florence County Zoning Department</b>

As inducement to the **County of Florence** to issue a code permit for the above described property, we agree to do the following:

1. The owner (s) hereby acknowledges and agrees to conform to the conditions of the aforementioned Code Permit. If these conditions are not met, Florence County does have the right to revoke said Permit.
2. Said Permit shall remain and be preserved upon this property in perpetuity.
3. The owner(s) agree to allow authorized representatives of Florence County to enter upon the owner's property at the above description to inspect the property authorized by the permit and to determine if agreed upon conditions are being met.
4. This agreement shall be binding under the owner(s), the heirs of the owner, and assignees of the owner. The owner shall submit the agreement to the register of deeds, and the agreement shall be recorded by the register of deeds in a manner which will permit the existence of the agreement to be determined by reference to the property where the permit is issued.

Upon inspection of the property, the Zoning Department staff has determined that mitigation is required. The owner(s) have agreed to the following conditions to authorize the project:

- 1). **Replant** the vegetative buffer zone with vegetation natural to the area, to a depth of 35 feet from the ordinary high water mark and allow the vegetation to remain in the entire frontage. The access and viewing corridor must be maintained with some form of vegetation that prevents bank or overland erosion and sedimentation of the waterway.

Owner(s) Name(s) - Please Print	Governmental Unit Official Name - Please Print	Subscribed and sworn to before me on this date:
Notarized Owner(s) Signature(s)	Governmental Unit Official Title - Please Print <b>ZONING ADMINISTRATOR</b>	Notary Public
	Governmental Unit Official Signature	My Commission Expires

Drafted by the Florence County Zoning Department, personal information you provide may be used for secondary purpose [Privacy Law, s15.04(1)(m)]

Form 27 (Flor. Zone) 12-20-16 (SMA-Replant)

**24.2 APPENDIX A, SHORELAND MITIGATION AGREEMENT, FORM 28, REMAIN**

Document Number/Plan I.D. No.	Appendix A <b>SHORELAND MITIGATION AGREEMENT</b> This agreement is made between the government unit and property owner(s)	
Name and Address:		
Parcel identifier number (PIN)	Agreement Date	
Governmental Unit <b>FLORENCE COUNTY</b>	Owner(s)	
I (We) acknowledge that application is being made for a Code Permit on the following property:  <b>SECTION:                      TOWN:                      RANGE:</b>  <b>LEGAL DESCRIPTION:</b>		<b>Document Recording Area</b>  <b>Return to:</b> <b>Florence County Zoning Department</b>

As inducement to the **County of Florence** to issue a code permit for the above described property, we agree to do the following:

1. The owner (s) hereby acknowledges and agrees to conform to the conditions of the aforementioned Code Permit. If these conditions are not met, Florence County does have the right to revoke said Permit.
2. Said Permit shall remain and be preserved upon this property in perpetuity.
3. The owner(s) agree to allow authorized representatives of Florence County to enter upon the owner's property at the above description to inspect the property authorized by the permit and to determine if agreed upon conditions are being met.
4. This agreement shall be binding under the owner(s), the heirs of the owner, and assignees of the owner. The owner shall submit the agreement to the register of deeds, and the agreement shall be recorded by the register of deeds in a manner which will permit the existence of the agreement to be determined by reference to the property where the permit is issued.

Upon inspection of the property, the Zoning Department staff has determined that mitigation is required. The owner(s) have agreed to the following conditions to authorize the project:

- 1). Allow the vegetative buffer zone, to a depth of 35 feet from the ordinary high water mark **remain** natural vegetation of the entire frontage. The access and viewing corridor must be maintained with some form of vegetation that prevents bank or overland erosion and sedimentation of the waterway.

Owner(s) Name(s) - Please Print	Governmental Unit Official Name - Please Print	Subscribed and sworn to before me on this date:
Notarized Owner(s) Signature(s)	Governmental Unit Official Title - Please Print <b>ZONING ADMINISTRATOR</b>	Notary Public
	Governmental Unit Official Signature	My Commission Expires

Drafted by the Florence County Zoning Department, personal information you provide may be used for secondary purpose [Privacy Law, s15.04(1)(m)]

Form 28 (Flor. Zone) 12-20-16 (SMA-Remain)

**24.3 APPENDIX A, SHORELAND MITIGATION AGREEMENT, FORM 29, RETURN**

Document Number/Plan I.D. No.	Appendix A <b>SHORELAND MITIGATION AGREEMENT</b> This agreement is made between the government unit and property owner(s)	
Name and Address:		
Parcel identifier number (PIN)	Agreement Date	
Governmental Unit <b>FLORENCE COUNTY</b>	Owner(s)	
<b>I (We) acknowledge that application is being made for a Permit on the following property:</b>  <b>SECTION:                      TOWN:                      RANGE:</b>  <b>LEGAL DESCRIPTION:</b>		<b>Document Recording Area</b>  <b>Return to:</b> <b>Florence County Zoning Department</b>

As inducement to the **County of Florence** to issue a code permit for the above described property, we agree to do the following:

1. The owner (s) hereby acknowledges and agrees to conform to the conditions of the aforementioned Code Permit. If these conditions are not met, Florence County does have the right to revoke said Permit.
2. Said Permit shall remain and be preserved upon this property in perpetuity.
3. The owner(s) agree to allow authorized representatives of Florence County to enter upon the owner’s property at the above description to inspect the property authorized by the permit and to determine if agreed upon conditions are being met.
4. This agreement shall be binding under the owner(s), the heirs of the owner, and assignees of the owner. The owner shall submit the agreement to the register of deeds, and the agreement shall be recorded by the register of deeds in a manner which will permit the existence of the agreement to be determined by reference to the property where the permit is issued.

Upon inspection of the property, the Zoning Department staff has determined that mitigation is required. The owner(s) have agreed to the following conditions to authorize the project:

- 1). Allow the vegetative buffer zone, to a depth of 35 feet from the ordinary high water mark **return** to natural vegetation of the entire frontage. The access and viewing corridor must be maintained with some form of vegetation that prevents bank or overland erosion and sedimentation of the waterway.

Owner(s) Name(s) - Please Print	Governmental Unit Official Name - Please Print	Subscribed and sworn to before me on this date:
Notarized Owner(s) Signature(s)	Governmental Unit Official Title - Please Print <b>ZONING ADMINISTRATOR</b>	Notary Public
	Governmental Unit Official Signature	My Commission Expires

Drafted by the Florence County Zoning Department, personal information you provide may be used for secondary purpose [Privacy Law, s15.04(1)(m)]

Form 29 (Flor. Zone) 12-20-16 (SMA-Return)

24.4 APPENDIX A, REASONABLE ACCOMODATION FOR HANDICAPPED OR DISABLED PERSON

Document Number/Plan I.D. No.	Appendix A <b>ZONING COVENANT AFFIDAVIT AGREEMENT</b> This agreement is made between the government unit and property owner(s)	
Name and Address:		
Parcel identifier number (PIN)	Agreement Date	
Governmental Unit  FLORENCE COUNTY	Owner(s)	
<b>I (We) acknowledge that application is being made for a Reasonable Use for a Handicapped or Disabled Person on the following property:</b> <b>SECTION:            TOWN:            RANGE:</b>  <b>LEGAL DESCRIPTION:</b>		Return to: Florence County Zoning Department

As inducement to the **County of Florence** to issue a code permit for the above described property, we agree to do the following:

1. The owner (s) agrees that the improvement/structure authorized by the Planning and Zoning Committee under the Federal Fair Housing Act: 42 United States Code ss. 3601 to 3661 and Wisconsin Open Housing Law ss 106.04, Wis. Statutes; is allowed for the period of time that a handicapped or disabled person who requires the improvement/structure occupies the property, and
2. The improvement/structure shall be removed when the handicapped or disabled person no longer occupies the property, and
3. This agreement shall be binding under the owner(s), the heirs of the owner, and assignees of the owner. The owner shall submit the agreement to the register of deeds, and the agreement shall be recorded by the register of deeds in a manner which will permit the existence of the agreement to be determined by reference to the property where the permit is issued.

**Description of reasonable accommodation agreed to:**

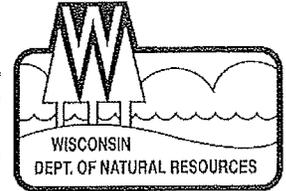
Owner(s) Name(s) - Please Print	Governmental Unit Official Name - Please Print	Subscribed and sworn to before me on this date:
Notarized Owner(s) Signature(s)	Governmental Unit Official Title - Please Print <b>ZONING ADMINISTRATOR</b>	Notary Public
	Governmental Unit Official Signature	My Commission Expires

Drafted by the Florence County Zoning Department Personal information you provide may be used for secondary purpose [Privacy Law, s15.04(1)(m)]

Form 31 (Flor. Zone) 12-19-17 (ADA-ZCAA)

State of Wisconsin  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
101 S. Webster Street  
Box 7921  
Madison WI 53707-7921

Scott Walker, Governor  
Cathy Stepp, Secretary  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
FAX 608-267-3579  
TTY Access via relay - 711



March 8, 2017

Rich Wolosyn/Trish Kelly  
Florence County Planning and Zoning  
PO Box 410  
Florence, WI 54121

Dear Mr. Wolosyn and Ms. Kelly:

Re: Approval of the Florence County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance

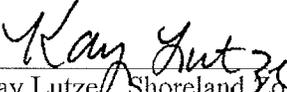
The amendments to the Florence County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance adopted by the Florence County Board of Supervisors on December 20, 2016, comply with the current requirements of Chapter 115, Wisconsin Administrative Code and Section 59.692, Wisconsin Statutes. A Certificate of Compliance is enclosed with this correspondence.

We appreciate the county's efforts in adopting this ordinance. Successful shoreland management and implementation of these regulations will depend on effective administration and enforcement of the ordinance. Department staff will audit county shoreland zoning programs from time to time to assure continued compliance with the objectives of Wisconsin's Shoreland Management Program.

In the mean time, I am available at 920-755-1521 or at [Kay.Lutze@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Kay.Lutze@wisconsin.gov), to assist you with technical and administrative scenarios. Thank you for your assistance in continuing our partnership in the protection of Wisconsin's surface water resources.

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
For the Secretary

By

  
Kay Lutze, Shoreland Zoning Policy Coordinator

BEFORE THE  
STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

In the Matter of Compliance )  
with Shoreland Zoning ) Decision  
Standards in Florence )  
County, Wisconsin DNR )

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On December 20, 2016, the Florence County Board of Supervisors adopted shoreland zoning map and text amendments to the Florence County Zoning Ordinance by ordinance number 2016-17 following public notice and hearing.
2. The Department has compared the shoreland zoning ordinance enacted by the county with the standards for shoreland regulation contained in ch. NR 115, Wis. Adm. Code and S. 59.692.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Florence County has complied with the procedural requirements for shoreland zoning ordinance adoption and amendment required by s. 59.69, Wis. Stats., and NR 115, Wis. Adm. Code.
2. The current shoreland zoning ordinance enacted by the county complies with s. 59.692, Wis. Stats. and ch. NR 115, Wis. Adm. Code.

DECISION

The current shoreland zoning regulations enacted by Florence County including recent amendments are hereby deemed compliant in accordance with ch. NR 115.06(2)(b)2.b., Wis. Adm. Code.

NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

If you believe that you have a right to challenge this decision, you should know that the Wisconsin statutes and administrative rules establish time periods within which requests to review Department decisions must be filed. For judicial review of a decision pursuant to sections 227.52 and 227.53, Wis. Stats., you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to file your petition with the appropriate circuit court and serve the petition on the Department. Such a petition for judicial review must name the Department of Natural Resources as the respondent.

To request a contested case hearing pursuant to section 227.42, Wis. Stats., you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to serve a petition for hearing on the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. All requests for contested case hearings must be made in accordance with section NR 2.05(5), Wis. Adm. Code, and served on the Secretary in accordance with section NR 2.03, Wis. Adm. Code. The filing of a request for a contested case hearing does not extend the 30 day period for filing a petition for judicial review.

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
For the Secretary

By Kay Lutze  
Kay Lutze, Shoreland Zoning Policy Coordinator

3-8-17  
Date