

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
July 30, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the St. Joseph County Planning Commission was held on Wednesday, July 30, 2025 in the MSU Extension Office, 612 East Main Street, Centreville, Michigan. Chairman Horton presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Warren Atkins, Edward Bell, Robert Horton, Lon Huffman, Elena Meadows, Doug Pagels, Mark Ripplinger, Rick Shaffer and Joe Woodin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gregg Dohm

OTHERS PRESENT: Richard Anderson, Derek Debiak, Paige Willis and Pat Kulikowski

Chairman Horton called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Warren Atkins, supported by Lon Huffman. Motion carried. A motion to approve the minutes of May 28, 2025 as presented was made by Rick Shaffer, supported by Ed Bell. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Paige Willis commented on Master Plan.

OLD BUSINESS:

County Master Plan Update. Public hearing delayed until August. Notice of the hearing will be published in Sturgis Journal on August 6.

Planning Commission Annual Report – Chair Horton said he made the presentation to Board of Commissioners on June 17.

NEW BUSINESS:

Village of Colon – New Zoning Ordinance. A motion was made by Lon Huffman, supported by Doug Pagels to forward SMPC's comments to Village of Colon for their review and consideration. Motion carried.

River Country Recreational Authority – Parks and Recreation Plan. Members felt the document was very impressive. No action necessary but Pat will acknowledge receipt of document.

Citizen Interest Forms. Chair Horton said we have two applicants but one vacancy. Richard Anderson and Derek Debiak both introduced themselves and gave brief background of their qualifications. Doug Pagels said when his term expires at the end of this year, he will not seek reappointment. His wife is now retired and he said he needs to eliminate some of his commitments. Members said Doug would be greatly missed. A motion was made by Lon Huffman, supported by Doug Pagels, to recommend the appointment of Richard Anderson and hope Derek can hold on until January to fill that vacancy. Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pat Kulikowski provided members with copy of letter from Doug Kuhlman announcing his retirement effective December 31, 2025. Rick Shaffer said it would be a nice gesture to send Doug a thank you note. All members agreed.

Being no further business, a motion was made by Warren Atkins, supported by Mark Ripplinger, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Kulikowski". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Patricia Kulikowski
Secretary