

WOODBURY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM(S) REQUEST FORM

Date: 6/25/25

Weekly Agenda Date: 7/1/25 4:45

ELECTED OFFICIAL / DEPARTMENT HEAD / CITIZEN: Dan Priestley

WORDING FOR AGENDA ITEM:

- a. Conduct the 3rd and Final Public Hearing for a Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment to revise the Land Use Summary Table of Allowed Uses (Section 3.03.4), to classify "Borrow pits for earth materials" as a conditional use within the Agricultural Estates (AE) Zoning District.
- b. Approve the 3rd Reading as the Final Reading of the Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment.
- c. Adopt the Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment to revise the Land Use Summary Table of Allowed Uses (Section 3.03.4), to classify "Borrow pits for earth materials" as a conditional use within the Agricultural Estates (AE) Zoning District.

ACTION REQUIRED:

Approve Ordinance ☒

Approve Resolution ☐

Approve Motion ☒

Public Hearing ☒

Other: Informational ☐

Attachments ☒

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing at 4:45 PM to discuss a proposed Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment to revise the Land Use Summary Table of Allowed Uses (Section 3.03.4), to classify "Borrow pits for earth materials" as a conditional use within the Agricultural Estates (AE) Zoning District.

Section 3.03.4 of the Woodbury County Zoning Ordinance prohibits borrow pits in the Agricultural Estates (AE) Zoning District, limiting property owners' ability to excavate earth materials for construction, improve land usability, or enhance road safety through strategic grading. We propose amending the ordinance to allow conditional use permit applications for borrow pits in AE zones, per Section 2.02.9, enabling case-by-case reviews by the Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustment. This change ensures community input and evaluates impacts on environment, traffic, and neighborhood compatibility, aligning with county goals. The amendment promotes equity, as borrow pits are permitted in adjacent Agricultural Preservation zones, and supports agricultural, safety, and infrastructure objectives while maintaining oversight.

Following the public hearing, the Board of Supervisors may:

- (1) Defer consideration of the matter for further study; or
- (2) Reject the proposed amendment; or
- (3) Adopt the ordinance amending the text of this title.

BACKGROUND:

The Woodbury County Zoning Ordinance, specifically Section 3.03.4, prohibits borrow pits for extracting earth materials in the Agricultural Estates (AE) Zoning District. This restriction prevents property owners, including farmers, from excavating and transferring significant volumes of earthen material to support local construction projects. However, strategic grading and dirt removal in certain county locations could benefit farmers by improving land usability and support regional development by providing materials for infrastructure. Additionally, excavation in and around right-of-way areas could enhance sight distances and mitigate snow accumulation along roads, improving safety and maintenance.

The outright prohibition of borrow pits in AE zones may hinder these maintenance and development objectives. Amending the ordinance to allow conditional use permits application consideration for borrow pits in AE districts would provide a balanced solution. This change would enable property owners, not limited to farmers, to propose borrow pit projects, subject to review by the Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustment. The conditional use permit process, outlined in Section 2.02.9, offers community input opportunities and evaluation based on criteria such as environmental impact, traffic, and compatibility with the surrounding area.

Allowing conditional use permit application consideration does not guarantee widespread borrow pit development in AE zones. Instead, it removes the blanket prohibition, enabling case-by-case assessments to determine if a proposed borrow pit aligns with neighborhood character and county goals. Notably, the current ordinance already permits borrow pit consideration in Agricultural Preservation (AP) zones, which are often adjacent to AE parcels. This adjacency creates inconsistencies, as borrow pits may be approved near AE properties but not within them. Amending the ordinance to extend conditional use permit opportunities to AE zones would create a more equitable and flexible framework.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

0

IF THERE IS A CONTRACT INVOLVED IN THE AGENDA ITEM, HAS THE CONTRACT BEEN SUBMITTED AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR AND ANSWERED WITH A REVIEW BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE?

Yes ☐ No ☐

RECOMMENDATION:

Open and close the public hearing. (Set Time: 4:45 PM)

Conduct and approve the 3rd Reading as the Final Reading of the Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment.

Adopt the Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment to revise the Land Use Summary Table of Allowed Uses (Section 3.03.4), to classify "Borrow pits for earth materials" as a conditional use within the Agricultural Estates (AE) Zoning District.

ACTION REQUIRED / PROPOSED MOTION:

a. Conduct the 3rd and Final Public Hearing for a Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment to revise the Land Use Summary Table of Allowed Uses (Section 3.03.4), to classify "Borrow pits for earth materials" as a conditional use within the Agricultural Estates (AE) Zoning District.

b. Approve the 3rd Reading as the Final Reading of the Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment.

c. Adopt the Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment to revise the Land Use Summary Table of Allowed Uses (Section 3.03.4), to classify "Borrow pits for earth materials" as a conditional use within the Agricultural Estates (AE) Zoning District.

ORDINANCE NO. ____

WOODBURY COUNTY, IOWA

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TEXT OF THE WOODBURY COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE TO AMEND PORTIONS OF ARTICLE 3, SECTION 3.03.4 ENTITLED: *LAND USE SUMMARY TABLE OF ALLOWED USES IN EACH ZONING DISTRICT.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF WOODBURY COUNTY, IOWA THAT THE BELOW ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENTS BE MADE:

Amendment #1:

The Woodbury County Zoning Ordinance, Article 3, Section 3.03.4, Land Use Summary Table of Allowed Uses in each Zoning District on Page 37, is hereby amended to revise the classification of "Borrow pits for earth materials" from a prohibited use to a conditional use in the following zoning district:

- AE — Agricultural Estates Zoning District

The Land Use Summary Table of Allowed Uses in each Zoning District (Section 3.03.4) shall be amended to reflect the following:

- In the row for "Borrow pits for earth materials," repeal and replace the designation "--" (Prohibited use) with the designation "C" (Conditional use) in the column for the AE Zoning District.

Explanation: this Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment establishes the use of "Borrow pits for earth materials" as a Conditional Use in the Agricultural Estates (AE) Zoning District.

Dated this ____ day of _____, 2025.

THE WOODBURY COUNTY, IOWA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Daniel Bittinger II, Chairman

Mark Nelson, Vice-Chairman

Kent Carper

Attest:

David Dietrich

Michelle K. Skaff, Woodbury County Auditor

Matthew Ung

Adoption Timeline:

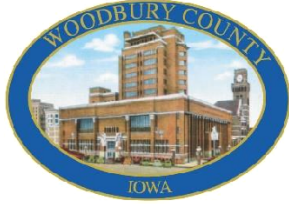
Date of Public Hearing and First Reading _____

Date of Public Hearing and Second Reading _____

Date of Public Hearing and Third Reading _____

Date of Adoption _____

Published/Effective Date _____



**WOODBURY COUNTY
ZONING COMMISSION**

WOODBURY COUNTY COURTHOUSE
620 DOUGLAS STREET
SIOUX CITY, IA 51101

To: Woodbury County Board of Supervisors
620 Douglas Street
Sioux City, Iowa 51101

From: Christine Zellmer Zant, Chair
Woodbury County Zoning Commission

Date: May 29, 2025

Subject: Zoning Commission Recommendation concerning Borrow Pits as Conditional
Uses in the AE Zoning District

On May 28, 2025, the Woodbury County Zoning Commission held a public hearing to consider the proposed amendment to the Woodbury County Zoning Ordinance, specifically to revise the Land Use Summary Table of Allowed Uses (Section 3.03.4) to classify “Borrow pits for earthen materials” as a conditional use within the Agricultural Estates (AE) Zoning District, as directed by your Board on April 29, 2025. Following a thorough review of the provided background materials, staff analysis, and public testimony, the Zoning Commission unanimously voted (4-0) to recommend approval of the proposed amendment.

The Commission recognizes that the current prohibition of borrow pits in AE zones, as outlined in Section 3.03.4, limits property owners’ ability to excavate and transfer earthen materials for purposes such as supporting local construction projects, improving land usability, or enhancing road safety through strategic grading. The proposed amendment to allow conditional use permit applications for borrow pits in AE zones, per the process outlined in Section 2.02.9, provides a balanced approach. This change enables case-by-case evaluations by the Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustment, ensuring community input and scrutiny based on criteria such as environmental impact, traffic, and compatibility with the surrounding area.

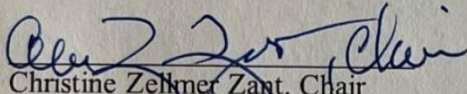
During the public hearing, the Commission heard testimony from a community member who shared a personal experience with unpermitted borrow pit activity on their property, highlighting the need for a clear permitting process to address such activities. The discussion also emphasized the broad definition of “borrow pit” in the current ordinance, which lacks intermediary thresholds or provisions for smaller-scale grading projects. The Commission believes that designating borrow pits as a conditional use in AE zones allows for tailored oversight, ensuring that projects align with neighborhood character and county goals without permitting widespread or unchecked development.

The Commission noted that the current ordinance permits borrow pit consideration in Agricultural Preservation (AP) zones, which are often adjacent to AE parcels, creating inconsistencies in land use policy. Allowing conditional use permits in AE zones promotes

equity and flexibility, aligning with the Board's objectives to support agricultural safety, infrastructure development, and economic opportunities for property owners. Importantly, the conditional use permit process ensures that each proposal is rigorously evaluated, with conditions such as time limits, dust mitigation, and stormwater management plans (e.g., DNR's NPDES Number 2 requirements) imposed as needed to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

The Zoning Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve the amendment to revise Section 3.03.4 of the Woodbury County Zoning Ordinance to designate "Borrow pits for earthen materials" as a conditional use (denoted by "C") in the Agricultural Estates (AE) Zoning District. This recommendation reflects the Commission's commitment to fostering a fair and transparent process that balances development needs with community concerns. We encourage the Board to conduct the required public hearings to further engage the public and finalize this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,


Christine Zellmer Zant, Chair
Woodbury County Zoning Commission

Dated this 29 day of May, 2025

Woodbury County Zoning Commission Special Meeting Minutes

Date: May 28, 2025

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: Board of Supervisors' Meeting Room, Basement, Woodbury County Courthouse, 620 Douglas Street, Sioux City, IA

MEETING AUDIO:

For specific content of this meeting, refer to the recorded video on the Woodbury County Zoning Commission "Committee Page" on the Woodbury County website:

- County Website Link:
 - o https://www.woodburycountyiowa.gov/committees/zoning_commission/
- YouTube Direct Link:
 - o <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HoUh4lVeBol>

Attendees

- **Commissioners Present:** Chris Zellmer Zant - Chair, Tom Bride – Vice Chair, Corey Meister, Steve Corey
- **Commissioner Absent:** Jeff Hanson
- **Staff Present:** Dan Priestley - Zoning Coordinator, Dawn Norton – Senior Clerk
- **Public Attendees:** Alan Fagan (Land Surveyor), Jason Reynoldson (Morningside University), Steven Sitzmann, Debbie De Forrest, Chad Hofer, Jim McCullough, Frank Huseman, Dale Drees, Lynn Drees, Adam Boeve

Call to Order

Chair Chris Zellmer Zant called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM on May 28, 2025, noting that the meeting would be audio-recorded and minutes prepared. Attendees were asked to silence cell phones and complete the attendance sheet. Zellmer Zant outlined the commission's procedures, emphasizing public hearing protocols, including staff reports, public comments limited to three minutes, and the process for closing hearings and deliberating motions. She noted that ex-parte communications must be disclosed before deliberations.

Roll Call

Zellmer Zant conducted a roll call, confirming the presence of all commissioners except Jeff Hanson. The record reflected a quorum.

Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda (Information Item)

Zellmer Zant opened the floor for public comments on non-agenda items. No comments were received.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting: March 24, 2025 (Action Item)

Zellmer Zant presented the minutes from the March 24, 2025, meeting for approval.

- **Motion:** Commissioner Corey moved to approve the minutes.
- **Second:** Commissioner Meister seconded the motion.
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval (4-0, all present saying "aye").
- **Outcome:** The minutes were approved.

5. Items of Business

a. Public Hearing: Proposed Washburn Addition Minor Subdivision, Parcel #894635200009 (Michael W. and Janine J. Washburn) (Action Item)

Staff Presentation (Dan Priestley):

Priestley introduced the proposal for a three-lot minor subdivision on parcel #894635200009, owned by Michael W. and Janine J. Washburn, to divide 8.088 acres into Lot 1 (3.56 acres), Lot 2 (2.5 acres), and Lot 3 (2.03 acres). The property, located in the Agricultural Estates (AE) Zoning District, facilitates potential housing development. The proposal complied with Iowa Code closure requirements, as confirmed by County Engineer Laura Sievers, who outlined access criteria for the lots. The City of Lawton approved the final plat, and all stakeholders were notified with no objections received. Priestley recommended approval to the Board of Supervisors.

- **Public Comments:**
 - o Alan Fagan (Surveyor) clarified that the septic system for Lot 2 is self-contained, Lot 3 is to be sold to the adjacent western property owner with no building planned, and Lot 1 is for sale. No further questions were raised.
- **Motion to Close:** Commissioner Bride moved to close the public hearing.
- **Second:** Commissioner Corey seconded.

- **Vote:** Unanimous (4-0).

Deliberation and Motion:

No further discussion occurred.

- **Motion:** Commissioner Corey moved to recommend approval of the Washburn Addition minor subdivision to the Board of Supervisors.
 - **Second:** Commissioner Bride seconded.
 - **Vote:** Unanimous (4-0, all saying “aye”).
- Outcome:** The commission approved recommending the Washburn Addition minor subdivision to the Board of Supervisors.

b. Public Hearing: Proposed Zoning Ordinance Map Amendment (Rezone) from Agricultural Preservation (AP) to General Industrial (GI), Parcel #864629351012 (New Cooperative, Inc.) (Action Item)

Staff Presentation (Dan Priestley):

Priestley presented New Cooperative, Inc.’s application to rezone parcel #864629351012 from AP to GI, located near the city limits of Sloan, adjacent to their existing GI-zoned grain facility. The rezoning would enable a temporary grain storage facility with a 1.7-million-bushel corn capacity, aligning with county land use guidelines for grain terminals in GI zones. The proposal was advertised in the Sioux City Journal on May 13, 2025, and neighbors were notified by letter on May 12, 2025, with no direct objections received. Stakeholders, including government agencies, were notified, and the proposal met zoning ordinance criteria. Priestley recommended approval, pending public testimony.

- **Public Comments:**
 - Frank Huseman from New Cooperative confirmed the facility is for temporary grain storage located just outside Sloan’s city limits. No other public comments were received.
- **Motion to Close:** Commissioner Meister moved to close the public hearing.
- **Second:** Commissioner Corey seconded.
- **Vote:** Unanimous (4-0, all saying “aye”).

Deliberation and Motion:

No further discussion occurred.

- **Motion:** Commissioner Bride moved to recommend approval of the rezoning from AP to GI for parcel #864629351012 to the Board of Supervisors.
 - **Second:** Commissioner Meister seconded.
 - **Vote:** Unanimous (4-0, all saying “aye”).
- Outcome:** The commission approved recommending the rezoning to the Board of Supervisors.

c. Public Hearing: Consideration of Borrow Pit for Earthen Material in Agricultural Estates (AE) Zoning District, Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment (Action Item)

Staff Presentation (Dan Priestley):

Priestley explained the Board of Supervisors’ April 29, 2025, directive to amend the zoning ordinance to allow borrow pits as a conditional use in the AE Zoning District, currently prohibited under Section 3.03(4). The amendment, proposed under Section 2.02(9), would enable case-by-case reviews by the Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustment, addressing environmental, traffic, and neighborhood impacts. The change aims to promote equity, as borrow pits are permitted in AP zones, and support agricultural safety and infrastructure. Priestley provided background on the 2008 ordinance, noting AE districts’ higher housing density raised concerns about borrow pits’ compatibility. He highlighted the broad definition of “borrow pit,” which lacks size thresholds, complicating enforcement. Conditional use permits would allow scrutiny of temporary projects, ensuring public input and mitigation measures (e.g., dust control, stormwater plans). Priestley referenced agricultural exemptions allowing farmers to move dirt without permits, contrasting with economic borrow activities requiring permits.

- **Public Comments:**
 - Steve Sitzman (Sioux City) described a personal experience where a contractor removed a hill on his property without a permit, later requiring a grading permit. He supported borrow pits for development, citing Sioux City’s need to expand outward.
 - Alan Fagan suggested the county purchase right-of-way for road projects, remove dirt, and sell it back, avoiding borrow pit classification. Priestley noted this could be explored but emphasized private property triggers conditional use review.
- **Motion to Close:** Commissioner Corey moved to close the public hearing.
- **Second:** Commissioner Bride seconded.

- **Vote:** Unanimous (4-0, all saying “aye”).

Deliberation:

Commissioners discussed the lack of a clear borrow pit size definition, with Bride noting the 2008 prohibition in AE aimed to protect residential areas. Meister supported conditional use permits for case-by-case evaluation, addressing neighbor concerns. Priestley emphasized notification requirements and mitigation conditions (e.g., dust control, haul routes) via Board of Adjustment resolutions. The commission agreed one public hearing was sufficient, given the Board of Supervisors’ three additional hearings.

Motion:

- **Motion:** Commissioner Bride) moved to recommend including borrow pits for earthen materials as a conditional use in the AE Zoning District, subject to scrutiny via the conditional use process.
 - **Second:** Commissioner Corey seconded.
 - **Vote:** Unanimous (4-0, all saying “aye”).
- Outcome:** The commission approved recommending the ordinance amendment to the Board of Supervisors, with staff and the chair drafting a letter to the board.

d. Review of Conditional Use Permit: Competitive Athletic Baseball Field, Morningside University, Parcel #884714300005 (Action Item)

Note: The commission unanimously approved reordering the agenda to address this item before the nuclear energy discussion, via a motion and second (4-0 vote).

Staff Presentation (Dan Priestley):

Priestley clarified this was a review session, not a public hearing, to assess the completeness of Morningside University’s conditional use permit application for a baseball stadium on parcel #884714300005 in the AP Zoning District, where such uses are eligible. Jason Reynoldson, representing Morningside, proposed a facility to support organized sports, health, wellness, and community events, with minimal environmental impact through permeable surfaces, native landscaping, and noise/light controls. The project aims to attract visitors, boost local businesses, and foster social interaction. Priestley requested an updated staff analysis be entered into the record, correcting inaccuracies in the packet. He noted the proposal aligns with the county’s comprehensive plan but emphasized the need for public input at the Board of Adjustment’s public hearing on June 2, 2025.

Motion to Accept Updated Staff Analysis:

- **Motion:** Commissioner Bride moved to accept the updated staff analysis into the record.
 - **Second:** Commissioner Meister seconded.
 - **Vote:** Unanimous (4-0, all saying “aye”).
- Outcome:** The updated analysis was accepted. The updated analysis is available in the appendix.

Comments (Review Session):

- **Jason Reynoldson (Morningside University):** Estimated 50 games annually, mostly afternoon games in March, with rare night games (one per season potentially past 10 PM). Parking is planned for the southeast corner, with traffic directed to minimize impact. The field’s orientation (south/west) reduces light impact on neighbors. The remaining 54-56 acres are for agricultural programs.
- **Chad Hofer (nearby property owner):** Expressed concerns about night game time restrictions, water usage affecting neighbors’ wells, and septic system proximity. Noted the property was initially for agricultural use, not a baseball field, and raised traffic concerns on County Road 141.
- **Commissioner Comments:** Meister highlighted potential non-college use (e.g., high school teams), suggesting Board of Adjustment conditions. Corey emphasized addressing traffic and event scope.
- **Jim McCullough (nearby property owner):** Questioned why Morningside wasn’t using Sioux City Explorers’ field, citing underuse. Reynoldson explained failed negotiations with the Explorers’ owners.
- **Debbie De Forrest (nearby property owner):** Raised concerns about noise and asked about lighting strategies, and other events being allowed at stadium.

Deliberation and Motion:

The commission found the application complete and sufficient for Board of Adjustment review, noting public concerns (traffic, time restrictions, event scope) to be addressed in a letter from Chair Zellmer Zant.

- **Motion:** Commissioner Corey moved to recommend forwarding the application to the Board of Adjustment, based on the application’s criteria.
- **Second:** Commissioner Bride seconded.

- **Vote:** Unanimous (4-0, all saying “aye”).
Outcome: The commission approved forwarding the application, with a letter reflecting public concerns.

e. Public Hearing: Consideration of Nuclear Energy Facilities and Nuclear Waste Storage in Zoning Ordinance (Action Item)

Staff Presentation (Dan Priestley):

Priestley outlined the ongoing discussion, initiated by the Board of Supervisors in 2024, to include “nuclear energy facilities” and “nuclear waste storage” as land use options in the zoning ordinance, likely as conditional uses in the General Industrial (GI) Zoning District. The hearing addressed nuclear energy generation, modular systems, and related technologies. Assistant County Attorney Joshua Widman memos emphasized defining these terms explicitly to avoid legal challenges, as the current “electrical energy generation” category could lead to interpretation disputes with a 500-foot notification radius. Priestley proposed a 10-mile notification zone for nuclear uses. He consulted the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) via Brian Bergeon, who detailed NRC’s regulatory role, licensing requirements, and federal oversight of reactors, materials, and waste (per Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations). The NRC’s process involves rigorous safety and business model reviews, complementing local conditional use scrutiny. Recent executive orders (May 2025) by the President aim to streamline NRC processes, targeting 400 gigawatts of nuclear capacity by 2050. Priestley suggested drafting ordinance language with Widman’s guidance for further review.

- **Public Comments:**
 - **Lynn Drees (resident):** Supported clarifying nuclear uses, favoring a 10-mile or larger notification radius due to long-term risks (e.g., waste seepage). Expressed concern about rezoning agricultural land to industrial, which Priestley countered with protections against spot zoning via the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and future land use map.
 - **Alan Fagan (Sioux City):** Opposed nuclear facilities, citing federal oversight failures, flood risks in industrial areas, and long-term storage uncertainties (300 vs. 10,000 years). Questioned the need for nuclear in densely populated Woodbury County versus sparsely populated states.
- **Public Hearing Closed:** The public hearing was closed and the commission transitioned to deliberation.

Deliberation:

Commissioners discussed the NRC’s timeline (unclear but multi-year), driven by AI and data center energy demands. Corey noted small modular reactors’ potential (e.g., powering Las Vegas). The commission agreed more public input was needed, given increased participation. Priestley suggested enumerating nuclear terms in the land use summary table with a 10-mile notification radius, prohibiting them elsewhere, and relying on federal compliance.

Motion:

- **Motion:** Commissioner Coery moved to continue the discussion for one month to draft ordinance language with Joshua Widman for further public review.
- **Second:** Commissioner Meister seconded.
- **Vote:** Unanimous (4-0, all saying “aye”).
Outcome: The commission approved continuing the discussion, with staff to prepare draft language.

f. Accessory Second Dwelling, Senate File 592 (Information Item)

Staff Presentation (Dan Priestley):

Priestley discussed Senate File 592, signed May 1, 2025, amending Iowa Code Section 331.301 to mandate counties allow accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on single-family lots, either attached or detached, with minimal restrictions (e.g., setbacks, 50% size ratio, 1,000 sq ft minimum). Previously, ADUs required conditional use permits for relatives or workers. The law limits county restrictions, potentially requiring ordinance amendments to remove prohibitions. Priestley foresaw issues with lot splits, septic systems, and real estate market impacts, suggesting strategic placement to facilitate future subdivisions. He planned to consult Joshua Widman on compliance.

Discussion:

Commissioners raised concerns about setback enforcement (e.g., 10 feet between houses) and lot split challenges. Priestley noted ADUs could lead to unpermitted rentals or tax burdens, impacting property values. The commission anticipated ordinance updates to align with state law.

g. Variance Legislation (Information Item)

Staff Presentation (Dan Priestley):

Priestley outlined changes to variance criteria at the Board of Adjustment, shifting from economic hardship to practical

difficulty for setbacks, lot sizes, and measurements (not use variances, which are barred). He cited a successful variance case involving a two-acre lot with a creek, where a reduced setback was approved after stakeholder input. The new criteria aim to make variances more flexible while maintaining oversight.

Discussion:

No questions or comments were raised.

Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda

No additional comments were received.

Staff Update

Priestley reiterated plans to work with Joshua Widman and the Board of Supervisors to amend the zoning ordinance in response to Senate File 592 and variance legislation, potentially by striking restrictive language. He suggested a streamlined amendment process to comply with state law.

Commissioners' Comments or Inquiries

No comments were recorded.

Adjournment

- **Motion:** Commissioner Meister moved to adjourn.
 - **Second:** Commissioner Corey seconded.
 - **Vote:** Unanimous (4-0, all saying "aye").
- Outcome:** The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DIRECTIVE ON APRIL 29, 2025:

On April 29, 2025, the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors initiated the consideration of an amendment to the Woodbury County Zoning Ordinance, specifically to revise the Land Use Summary Table of Allowed Uses (Section 3.03.4), to classify “Borrow pits for earth materials” as a conditional use within the Agricultural Estates (AE) Zoning District. The following content is provided directly or verbatim from their direction:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Section 3.03.4 of the Woodbury County Zoning Ordinance prohibits borrow pits in the Agricultural Estates (AE) Zoning District, limiting property owners' ability to excavate earth materials for construction, improve land usability, or enhance road safety through strategic grading. We propose amending the ordinance to allow conditional use permit applications for borrow pits in AE zones, per Section 2.02.9, enabling case-by-case reviews by the Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustment. This change ensures community input and evaluates impacts on environment, traffic, and neighborhood compatibility, aligning with county goals. The amendment promotes equity, as borrow pits are permitted in adjacent Agricultural Preservation zones, and supports agricultural, safety, and infrastructure objectives while maintaining oversight. Under Section 2.02.3 A of the Woodbury County Zoning Ordinance, the Board of Supervisors has the authority to initiate amendments to the text. This directive tasks the Zoning Commission to conduct a public hearing to perform their function of reviewing the amendment and any supporting information prior to considering and providing their recommendation to either approve or disapprove the proposed amendment. Draft Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment attached for consideration.

BACKGROUND:

The Woodbury County Zoning Ordinance, specifically Section 3.03.4, prohibits borrow pits for extracting earth materials in the Agricultural Estates (AE) Zoning District. This restriction prevents property owners, including farmers, from excavating and transferring significant volumes of earthen material to support local construction projects. However, strategic grading and dirt removal in certain county locations could benefit farmers by improving land usability and support regional development by providing materials for infrastructure. Additionally, excavation in and around right-of-way areas could enhance sight distances and mitigate snow accumulation along roads, improving safety and maintenance.

The outright prohibition of borrow pits in AE zones may hinder these maintenance and development objectives. Amending the ordinance to allow conditional use permits application consideration for borrow pits in AE districts would provide a balanced solution. This change would enable property owners, not limited to farmers, to propose borrow pit projects, subject to review by the Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustment. The conditional use permit process, outlined in Section 2.02.9, offers community input opportunities and evaluation based on criteria such as environmental impact, traffic, and compatibility with the surrounding area.

Allowing conditional use permit application consideration does not guarantee widespread borrow pit development in AE zones. Instead, it removes the blanket prohibition, enabling case-by-case assessments to determine if a proposed borrow pit aligns with neighborhood character and county goals. Notably, the current ordinance already permits borrow pit consideration in Agricultural Preservation (AP) zones, which are often adjacent to AE parcels. This adjacency creates inconsistencies, as borrow pits may be approved near AE properties but not within them. Amending the ordinance to extend conditional use permit opportunities to AE zones would create a more equitable and flexible framework.

Under Section 2.02.3 A of the Woodbury County Zoning Ordinance, the Board of Supervisors has the authority to initiate amendments to the text. This directive tasks the Zoning Commission to conduct a public hearing to perform their function of reviewing the amendment and any supporting information prior to considering and providing their recommendation to either approve or disapprove the proposed amendment. Draft Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment attached for consideration.

STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS:

Daniel Priestley

From: Meinen, Casey (MidAmerican) <Casey.Meinen@midamerican.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 1:37 PM
To: Daniel Priestley
Subject: RE: [INTERNET] Comments Requested Borrow Pits in AE Zoning District

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from **OUTSIDE** of the organization. Please verify the sender and use caution if the message contains any attachments, links, or requests for information as this person may NOT be who they claim. **If you are asked for your username and password, please call WCICC and DO NOT ENTER any data.**
Daniel,

I have reviewed the attached proposed zoning amendment for MEC electric distribution and we have no conflicts.

Psychology is more contagious than the flu.

Casey Meinen
Lead, Electric Distribution Engineering
Casey.meinen@midamerican.com

Phone (712-233-4831)
MIDAMERICAN
ENERGY COMPANY



Daniel Priestley

From: Patrick Proski <PGPROSOS@UP.COM>
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 2:22 PM
To: Daniel Priestley
Subject: Re: Comments Requested Borrow Pits in AE Zoning District

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from **OUTSIDE** of the organization. Please verify the sender and use caution if the message contains any attachments, links, or requests for information as this person may NOT be who they claim. **If you are asked for your username and password, please call WCICC and DO NOT ENTER any data.**

Dan, remarks from UPRR in blue below.

- Do you support allowing conditional use permits for borrow pits in the AE Zoning District? Why or why not? Yes, No objections provided the existing drainage pattern(s) are not impacted.
- What potential benefits or concerns do you foresee with this amendment (e.g., economic, environmental, or community impacts)? Concern if it will change the flow of storm drainage or impact vehicular traffic patterns.
Patrick

Daniel Priestley

From: Craig ANDERSON <craignan@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 2:05 PM
To: Daniel Priestley
Subject: Re: Comments Requested Borrow Pits in AE Zoning District

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from **OUTSIDE** of the organization. Please verify the sender and use caution if the message contains any attachments, links, or requests for information as this person may NOT be who they claim. **If you are asked for your username and password, please call WCICC and DO NOT ENTER any data.**

We value your perspective on this proposed change. Please consider the following questions in your response:

- Do you support allowing conditional use permits for borrow pits in the AE Zoning District? Why or why not? I support conditional use permits for borrow pits in lands within this zoning district. There are situations where removing material improves the site for development. With oversight and conditions granted by the BoA the existing landowners have protection against negative impact. In Plymouth county Borrow pits and Extraction are subject to conditional use, with the exception of land under the Loess Hills Conservation Overlay. This area is in the southwest part of the county. The soils under the Overlay are extremely fragile, erosion is difficult to control, and a proper cover is difficult to reestablish.
- What potential benefits or concerns do you foresee with this amendment (e.g., economic, environmental, or community impacts)? Benefits are mostly economic, allowing the landowner to remove material for sale or to improve the site. Reshaping the land may help with storm water drainage. It really comes down to the character of the developer. It is important that the BoA knows how long the project will take, how much material will be removed and what is the plan for reestablishing a proper cover when the project is finished. Existing landowner rights should be taken into consideration when conditional uses are permitted. However, I don't think existing landowners should be able to nix a project if the project will be done quickly and without a lot of disturbance.

Daniel Priestley

From: Stockfleth, Neil <NStockfleth@cfindustries.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 11:46 AM
To: Daniel Priestley
Subject: RE: Comments Requested Borrow Pits in AE Zoning District

CAUTION: This email originated from **OUTSIDE** of the organization. Please verify the sender and use caution if the message contains any attachments, links, or requests for information as this person may NOT be who they claim. **If you are asked for your username and password, please call WCICC and DO NOT ENTER any data.**

Dan:

The WCSWCD has no comments regarding this proposal.

Neil

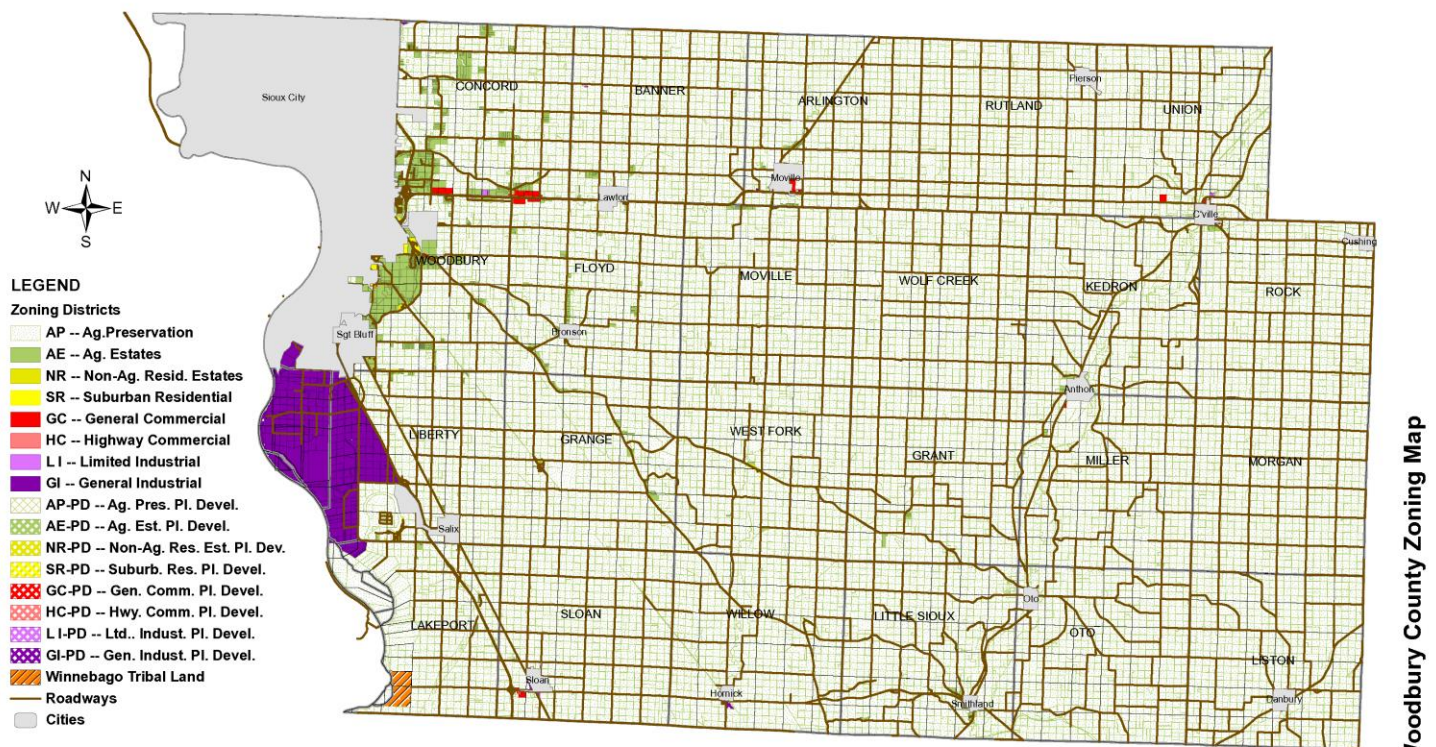


Neil Stockfleth
Environmental Superintendent, Port Neal Complex
Office: 1.712.233.6276
Cell: 1.712.251.5155
nstockfleth@cfindustries.com



Conditional Use Permit applications for borrow pits are allowed for consideration in only the AP and GI Zoning Districts as illustrated below:

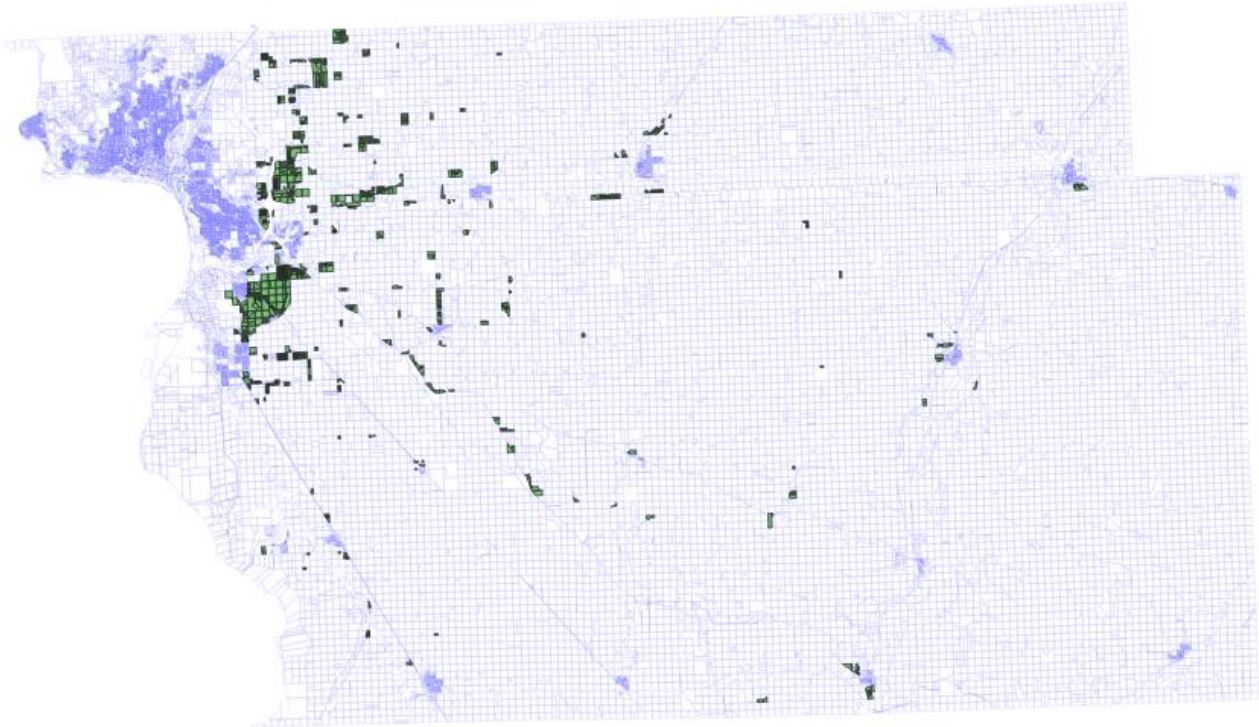
Zoning Map of Woodbury County, Iowa



Adopted July 22, 2008

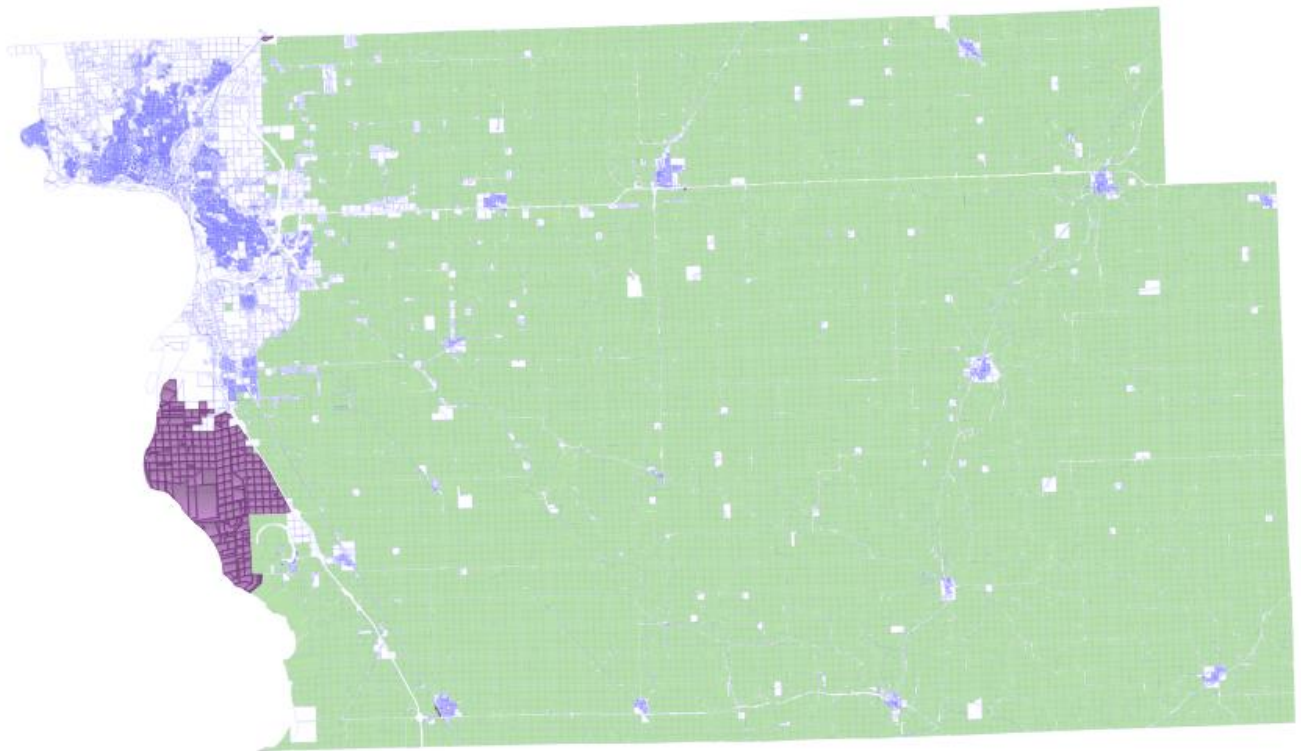
*This map may not necessarily represent the current districts due to subsequent rezones since 2008.

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT PROHIBITED IN THE GREEN AREAS
AGRICULTURAL ESTATES (AE) ZONING DISTRICT LOCATIONS (ESTIMATE)



*Some parcels may be missing due to software issues.

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT ALLOWED IN THE GREEN AND PURPLE AREAS
AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION (AP) AND GENERAL INDUSTRIAL (GI) ZONING DISTRICT LOCATIONS (ESTIMATE)



*White Parcels or Regions are missing due to software issues.

Sioux City Journal
AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Sioux City Journal
2802 Castles Gate Drive
Sioux City 51106
(712) 293-4250

State of Florida, County of Broward, ss:

Ankit Sachdeva, being first duly sworn, deposes and says: That (s)he is a duly authorized signatory of Column Software, PBC, duly authorized agent of Sioux City Journal, printed and published by Journal Communications, in Sioux City in Woodbury County and issued daily and Sunday and that this affidavit is Page 1 of 2 with the full text of the sworn-to notice set forth on the pages that follow, and the hereto attached:

PUBLICATION DATES:
May. 13, 2025

NOTICE ID: dkZ10Ad0Y6egfblwzYPC
PUBLISHER ID: COL-IA-501790
NOTICE NAME: ZC-2025-05-28
Publication Fee: \$117.84

Ankit Sachdeva

(Signed) _____



VERIFICATION

State of Florida
County of Broward

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me on this: **05/20/2025**

S. Smith

Notary Public

Notarized remotely online using communication technology via Proof.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
DURING A SPECIAL PUBLIC
MEETING BEFORE THE
WOODBURY COUNTY ZONING
COMMISSION**

The Woodbury County Zoning Commission will have a special public meeting and will hold public hearings on the following items hereinafter described in detail on **Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at 5:00 PM** or as soon thereafter as the matters may be considered.

Said public hearings will be held in the Board of Supervisors' meeting room in the basement of the Winthrop County Courthouse, 4501 Douglas Street, Sioux City, Iowa. Copies of said items may now be examined at the office of the Woodbury County Community and Economic Development, on the 6th floor of said courthouse by any interested persons. All persons who wish to be heard in respect to these matters should appear at the aforesaid public hearings in person or call 712-454-1133 and enter the Conference ID: 276-446-7529 during the meeting to listen or comment. However, it is recommended to attend in person as there is the possibility for technical difficulties with phone and computer systems. You may forward your written comments by mail or email to: Woodbury County Community and Economic Development, 6th Floor, Woodbury County Courthouse, 4501 Douglas St., Sioux City, IA 51101. Emails should be sent to Daniel Priestley at: dpristley@woodburycountyia.gov. Only signed comments will be considered and should be received no later than 10:00 AM on Friday, May 23, 2025.

**Item One (1)
CONSIDERATION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY
FACILITIES, NUCLEAR WASTE STORAGE
AND/OR RELATED USES, ZONING
ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENTS FOR A
RECOMMENDATION TO THE WOODBURY
COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

The Woodbury County Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing to discuss the potential inclusion of nuclear energy facilities, nuclear waste storage, and/or related uses as land use options in the Woodbury County Zoning Ordinance. The hearing will address various aspects of permitting these facilities, including nuclear energy generation, modular nuclear energy systems, nuclear waste storage, and other related nuclear technologies. The Commission will consider options such as amending the Land Use Summary Table of Allowed Uses (Section 3.03.4) to designate nuclear energy facilities, nuclear waste storage and/or related uses as either allowed or conditional uses in specific zoning districts such as the General Industrial (G) Zoning District within Woodbury County. Additionally, the discussion may include amendments to add new sections related to nuclear energy facilities and nuclear waste storage and/or related uses, update definitions, enumerate annexes, sections, and pages, and/or reorganize the content of the Zoning Ordinance as necessary. The goal of the hearing is to gather public input and determine the appropriate way to address the potential inclusion of nuclear-related land uses in the Woodbury County Zoning Ordinance in terms of preparing a recommendation to the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors.

**Item Two (2)
CONSIDERATION OF BORROW PITS FOR
EARTHEN MATERIALS IN THE AE ZONING
DISTRICT ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT
AMENDMENT FOR A RECOMMENDATION
TO THE WOODBURY COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS**

The Woodbury County Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider a proposed amendment to Article 3, Section 3.03.4 of the Woodbury County Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendment would revise the Land Use Summary Table of Allowed Uses to change the classification of "Borrow pits for earth materials" from a prohibited use to a conditional use in the Agriculture Estates (AE) Zoning District. Specifically, the amendment would update the table by replacing the "(prohibited)" designation with a "C" (conditional use) in the AE zoning district column for "Borrow pits for earth materials."

**Item Three (3)
ZONING ORDINANCE MAP AMENDMENT
(REZONE)**

Pursuant to Section 535 of the Code of Iowa, the Woodbury County Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the application for a zoning ordinance map amendment (rezoning) to the Woodbury County Zoning Ordinance and/or Map for the Unincorporated Area of Woodbury County Iowa by New

operative, Inc., 2626 1st Ave. South, Fort Dodge, IA 50501.

The proposal is to rezone from the Agricultural Preservation (AP) Zoning District to the General Industrial (GI) Zoning District for a 12.32-acre portion of the property located in the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 29, T89N R46W (Sloan Township) in the County of Woodbury and State of Iowa. The property is known as GIS Parcel #66462351012 and is described as:

WIG TRACT One (1) in the Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of the Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of Section Twenty-nine (29), Township Eighty-six (86) North, Range Forty-six (46) West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, Woodbury County, Iowa, more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows:

Commencing at the Southwest Corner of said Section; thence North Eighty-eight Degrees Twenty Minutes Fifty-six Seconds (N 88°20'56") East along the South line of said Section, a distance of Two Hundred feet (200.00') to the Point of Beginning; thence North Two Degrees Seventeen Minutes Thirty-eight Seconds (N 02°17'38") West, a distance of One Thousand Three Hundred Four and Forty-one Hundredths feet (1304.41') to the North line of the Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of the Southwest Quarter (SW1/4); thence North Eighty-eight Degrees Fifty-two Minutes Fifty-five Seconds (N 88°52'55") East, along said North line a distance of Two Hundred Forty-eight and Three Hundredths feet (248.03') to the West line of a tract of land described in a Plat of Survey, filed in Roll 243, Image 1217 of the Woodbury County Recorder's Office, thence South Sixteen Degrees Four Minutes Three Seconds (S 16°04'03") East along said West line, a distance of Nine Hundred Twenty-five and Thirty-four Hundredths feet (925.34'); thence South Nineteen Degrees Eighteen Minutes Forty-two Seconds (S 19°18'42") East, along said West line, a distance of Four Hundred Twenty-five and Eighty-nine Hundredths feet (425.89') to the South line of said Section; thence South Eighty-eight Degrees Twenty Minutes Fifty-six Seconds (S 88°20'56") West, along the South line of said Section, a distance of Five Hundred Ninety-two and Ninety-seven Hundredths feet (592.97') to the Point of Beginning, containing an area of 12.32 acres, more or less.

Petitioner Applicant(s): New Cooperative, Inc., 2626 1st Ave. South, Fort Dodge, IA 50501.

Item Four (4)

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED MINOR SUBDIVISION

A PUBLIC HEARING FOR A PROPOSED MINOR SUBDIVISION: To be known as Washburn Addition, A Minor Subdivision to Woodbury County, Iowa, a three-lot minor subdivision in an 8.088-acre more or less portion of T89N R46W (Concord Township) in Section 35 in the SE ¼ of the NE ¼ on Parcel #994636200009. The property is approximately two-miles west of the City of Lawton and 3.5 miles east of Sioux City. The property is located in the Agricultural Estates (AE) Zoning District. Owner/Applicant: Michael W. Washburn and Janine J. Washburn, 1545 Dallas Ave., Lawton, IA 51030. OOL-IA-501790

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Sioux City Journal
2802 Castles Gate Drive
Sioux City 51106
(712) 293-4250

State of Florida, County of Broward, ss:

Rachel Cozart, being first duly sworn, deposes and says: That (s)he is a duly authorized signatory of Column Software, PBC, duly authorized agent of Sioux City Journal, printed and published by Journal Communications, In Sioux City in Woodbury County and issued daily and Sunday and that this affidavit is Page 1 of 1 with the full text of the sworn-to notice set forth on the pages that follow, and the hereto attached:

PUBLICATION DATES:

Jun. 12, 2025

NOTICE ID: ouKoWzouZ4oMfFDMAhfd

PUBLISHER ID: COL-IA-501898

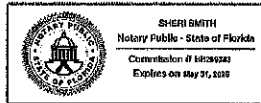
NOTICE NAME:

BOS_BORROW_PUBLIC_HEARINGS_PUB_61225_61462471

Publication Fee: \$46.34

Rachel Cozart

(Signed)_____



VERIFICATION

State of Florida
County of Broward

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me on this: 06/13/2025

S. Smith

Notary Public

Notarized remotely online using communication technology via Proof.

NOTICE REGARDING PUBLIC HEARINGS BEFORE THE WOODBURY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR A ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT CONCERNING BORROW PITS FOR EARTH MATERIALS AS A CONDITIONAL USE IN THE AGRICULTURAL ESTATES (AE) ZONING DISTRICT

The Woodbury County Board of Supervisors will hold public hearings on the following item of business, described in detail below, on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 4:45 PM, Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at 4:45 PM, and Tuesday, July 1, 2025, at 4:45 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be considered. Pursuant to Iowa Code Section 331.302, the Board of Supervisors may waive the second and third public hearings and readings if deemed appropriate.

Said hearings and readings will be held at the Woodbury County Courthouse, 620 Douglas Street, Sioux City, Iowa, in the Board of Supervisors' meeting room in the basement. Persons wishing to participate in the public hearings may attend in person to provide comments.

Copies of the proposed amendment are available for review at the Woodbury County Auditor's Office, located at the Woodbury County Courthouse, 620 Douglas Street, Sioux City, Iowa. Written comments may be submitted by mail or email to: Woodbury County Community and Economic Development, 6th Floor, Woodbury County Courthouse, 620 Douglas St., Sioux City, IA 51101, or to Daniel Priestley at dpriestley@woodburycountyia.gov. For questions, contact Daniel Priestley at 712-279-6609.

All persons wishing to be heard regarding this matter are encouraged to attend and participate in the aforesaid hearing(s).

Item One (1)

CONSIDERATION OF BORROW PITS FOR EARTH MATERIALS IN THE AE ZONING DISTRICT ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT

SUMMARY OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT (ORDINANCE): The Woodbury County Board of Supervisors will hold public hearings to consider a proposed amendment to Article 3, Section 3.03.4 of the Woodbury County Zoning Ordinance on Page 37. The proposed amendment would revise the Land Use Summary Table of Allowed Uses to change the classification of "Borrow pits for earth materials" from a prohibited use to a conditional use in the Agricultural Estates (AE) Zoning District. Specifically, the amendment would update the table by replacing the "P" (Prohibited use) designation with a "C" (Conditional use) designation in the AE Zoning District column for "Borrow pits for earth materials."

Explanation: this Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment establishes the use of "Borrow pits for earth materials" as a Conditional Use in the Agricultural Estates (AE) Zoning District, COL-IA-501898