



Saint Louis County

Planning and Community Development Department
www.stlouiscountymn.gov

Matthew E. Johnson
Director

TO: St. Louis County Cities, Organized Towns and Interested Parties

FROM: Matthew Johnson, Director, St. Louis County Planning & Community Development Department

DATE: June 10, 2022

RE: Planning Commission Public Hearing Thursday, July 14, 2022, for St. Louis County Zoning Ordinance 62 proposed amendments-Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON **THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2022, AT 9:00 AM**, AT THE GOVERNMENT SERVICES CENTER, 201 SOUTH 3RD AVENUE WEST, VIRGINIA, MN, REGARDING THE FOLLOWING:

The Planning Commission will consider comments on proposed amendments to the St. Louis County Zoning Ordinance 62. St. Louis County is working to prevent/mitigate CWD locally. The emergence of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a prion disease that fatally affects cervids, including deer, elk, and moose, has prompted the St. Louis County Board to examine the crisis and consider options on how best to prevent and or mitigate CWD locally. On September 28, 2021, the St. Louis County Board adopted Ordinance 66, which placed a one-year moratorium on the creation or expansion of any new or existing captive cervid farms in St. Louis County to prevent the spread of CWD. The County indicated the moratorium and associated planning process were needed to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of citizens.

Ordinance 66 also authorized a CWD Planning Study in which the St. Louis County Planning and Community Development Department further educated themselves on the disease and reviewed current CWD data and resources. The Planning Study examined different reasons why proactively responding to the potential introduction of CWD in St. Louis County is so important, including the devastating health impacts to deer population within the county, the economic impact and the cultural significance of cervids, and the potential to effect public health.

The St. Louis County Planning Commission held a workshop on March 3, 2022, to discuss the details of the ordinance language and has periodically discussed revisions during their monthly

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business meetings. The CWD Planning Study Progress Report was thereafter presented to the County Board on May 10, 2022, and was met with a positive response to continue to move forward with the suggested implementation steps. The next step will be for the St. Louis County Planning Commission to examine ordinance language to prohibit new or expansion of existing cervid farms in St. Louis County.

For additional information on the St. Louis County's Planning Study, CWD research and resources, please visit www.stlouiscountymn.gov/cwd:

- [St. Louis County Chronic Wasting Disease Study](#)
- [CWD Ordinance 66](#)
- [MN Statutes Farmed Cervidae](#)
- [Economic Impact Studies](#)
- [Draft Ordinance 62 proposed amendments – Chronic Wasting Disease \(CWD\)](#)

Your input is important to us. It is not necessary that you comment; however, if you wish to, you can do so by attending the hearing, sending a letter, or e-mailing Jenny Bourbonais, Land Use Manager, at bourbonaisj@stlouiscountymn.gov prior to the hearing. All letters must be signed and received in our office by noon on July 11, 2022. All correspondence will be presented to the Planning Commission as part of the hearing. Please email Jenny Bourbonais or call at 218-749-0629 if you have any questions.

Please confirm receipt of this email by June 27, 2022.

If you wish to be provided a hard copy of this notice, additional research information or draft ordinance amendments, please contact our office.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for this meeting should notify the Planning Department 72 hours prior to the meeting at (218) 749-7103

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