

**Town of Big Flats Plan Commission
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, August 19, 2025, 6:00 pm

Big Flats Town Hall

1104 County Rd. C, Arkdale, WI 54613

1. Call to order by Chairperson Wendy at 6 pm
2. Roll Call: Wendy Goerke PC Chair, Mike Clark PC, Pam Marquardt PC, Bylle Skoczek PC, Joe Thomas PC, Richard Westover ZA were Present, 6 Citizen Guests
3. Approval of Meeting Agenda: Bylle Approved, Joe Second, All in Favor.
4. Approval of Public Hearing Meeting Minutes dated June 3, 2025: Joe Approved, Mike Second, All in Favor. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes dated June 6, 2025: Joe Approved, Bylle Second, All in Favor.
5. Resource Conservationist, Tyler, Assistant County Forest Administrator to present plans for Adams County to purchase land in Big Flats. Discuss plans for County Forest Program in our town: This discussion is for informational purposes only. Tyler Torstenson-Harris presented that through the assistance of a DNR grant (Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant) at 0% interest, the county would like to purchase 17 40-acre lots in Big Flats for the purpose of keeping public access for all to enjoy. They plan to set up a good system of trails (gravel or mulch, with gates closing areas that are off limits to stop potential motorized traffic if trails are approved for such use) for hiking, biking, snowshoeing, and potential ATV or snowmobile use. He discussed potential options for each of the sections of land they are looking at purchasing. They would like to better the natural habitats (ie: Improve habitat in wetland areas and re-introduce native species of fish, set up pollinator routes to encourage native bird/butterfly species return, etc) through a diverse agricultural structure with better management designed to draw/protect endangered or threatened species.

It was discussed that this land is currently in MFL, and not providing any tax income to the town. While this purchase would have zoning changed to County Forest, it would also not provide any tax income to the town, however, the town would receive 10% of logging profits when a section is logged. All land would be purchased from Media Timber, who will only sell the lands to government or conservation groups. Questions from citizens were also addressed:

Q: Have other purchases been made in the county? A: Yes, purchases have been made in Monroe, and they are looking into potential purchases in Rome, as well. Anywhere that Timber Media Co. is selling in the county is being considered.

Q: Why does the county want to purchase this land? A: The goal is to keep public access for all to enjoy. They desire for people to get out and enjoy nature.

Q: Don't we have enough ATV trails in Big Flats? A: This is a proposal, public input would be further sought as plans develop, to determine if motorized use will be allowed.

Q: Would cuttings take place every 20 years? A: Not necessarily, as this is determined by the Forestry Dept. Cuttings would likely be staggered among the plots of land.

Q: Is this list a complete list of potential land purchases? A: Yes, this is a complete list of desired purchases in Big Flats

Q: Who would be patrolling these lands? A: Active county managers and/or county police would patrol and enforce laws, DNR would patrol potential ATV/Snowmobile trails.

Q: Will there be public knowledge about these lands and what they offer?

A: Yes. Trails will be listed on the County website, and potential kiosks at the various sites to show the trails. The land will be surveyed, with boundary markers and signs indicating where public use land ends and private land begin.

6. Set next meeting date if needed: September 16, 2025 at 6pm, if needed

7. Adjourn: 6:42 pm Joe Approved, Mike Second, All in Favor.