

REDWOOD COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

MINUTES

Meeting Date: June 18, 2026



A special meeting of the Redwood County Planning Commission convened on Thursday, the 18th day of June, 2026, at the Redwood County Government Center.

The following members of the Redwood County Planning Commission were present: Mike Kaufenberg, Jeff Huseby, DeVonna Zeug, Jon Tauer, Mike Scheffler, Rick Maurer, and County Commissioner Corey Theis. Also present were the following individuals: Jeff Knott, Bruce Flesner, Clayton Chastain, Mike Boerboom, Environmental Director Nick Brozek, and Land Use and Zoning Supervisor Jeanette Pidde.

At 1:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Huseby.

Chair Huseby read the Planning Commission rules and procedures. Printed copies were available to the public.

At 1:03 p.m. Chair Huseby called to order a public hearing on Animal Confinement Feedlot Conditional Use Permit Application #7-26, submitted by Jeff Knott.

Prior to the Planning Commission meeting, the Planning Commission members were provided with an informational packet, which included the following information regarding the matter:

1. Knott proposes to construct a new 123'x230' total confinement barn with under-barn, concrete manure storage area for 3300 head of swine 55-300 pounds. After construction, the total animal units will be 990.
2. The site is located on 150th St. in Section 5 of Springdale Township. The property is zoned Agricultural. Feedlots are a conditional use in the Agricultural District. A conditional use permit is required for any new feedlot over 300 animal units.
3. A new well will be constructed more than 100 feet from the barn. There is an unnamed stream approximately 1,300 feet northwest of the proposed barn. There is a cemetery located 2,640 feet northeast of the proposed barn. There are no nearby county tile lines or county ditches.
4. The closest third-party dwellings to the site are as follows: (1) 12218 150th St., about 2,740 feet east of the site; (2) 11067 150th St., about 3,185 feet west of the site; and (3) 14331 Aspen Ave., about 4,420 feet southwest of the site.
5. The University of Minnesota OFFSET odor ratings for the neighboring dwellings are as follows:
12218 150th St.: 97% Annoyance-free
11067 150th St.: 98% Annoyance-free
14331 Aspen Ave.: 98% Annoyance-free
6. Copies of the Conditional Use Permit application, maps, plans, and proposed permit conditions were enclosed.

Knott was in attendance to present the project to the Planning Commission. He made the following statements to the Commission:

- He would like to build a 3,300 head wean to finish barn for research.
- He built his first research barn about eight years ago. In that barn, he's done forty different nursery or grow/finish trials
- Nutrition trials included investigating bakery byproduct meal, fat levels, hybrid rye, soybean levels, supplemental drinker needs and copper reduction.
- He grew up in Springdale township, he lives in Gales Township, and he has a Ph.D. in swine nutrition.
- Universities are running out of funding, and private trials are important, as they generate a lot of data.
- The barn will have an impact on farmers throughout the U.S. and potentially the world.
- The pit at the current barn is treated with additives twice every year, which metabolizes nutrients and cuts down on smell.

The Planning Commissioners had the following questions and comments:

- The carbon footprint must be lower with less manure generated. Is the data marketed or what's the advantage of doing the research?
 - o Knott responded that having more knowledge gives him a competitive advantage over other suppliers. He has done contracted research, but his trials are about raising pigs more efficiently.
- Does the average water usage listed on the permit include supplemental drinkers or wet/dry feeders?
 - o Knott responded that it is the average usage with wet/dry feeders only.
- Has he read the conditions?
 - o Knott responded that yes, they seem standard.
- Has he spoken to the neighbors?
 - o Knott responded that he has spoken a couple of times with the closest neighbor. The home to the east is vacant. He hasn't spoken to the people to the southwest.

Chair Huseby asked if anyone was present to speak in support of the project. Bruce Flesner made the following statements to the Commission:

- He lives within 2,500 feet of Knott's other hog barn.
- He has maybe smelled it three times in the last seven years.
- He walks by the barn every day, and he doesn't smell the pit odor.
- He finds the fact that there is research being done in the neighborhood incredibly encouraging.

There was no one present to speak in opposition to the project.


Chair Huseby then closed the public hearing at 1:15 p.m.

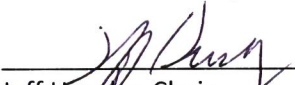
Chair Huseby directed Pidde to lead the Commissioners through the Findings of Fact Worksheet. The Planning Commissioners discussed the factors.

Zeug made a motion to approve Application for Conditional Use Permit #7-26, with the conditions proposed by staff. The motion was seconded by Theis and passed unanimously.

The Commissioners reviewed and discussed the minutes from the May 26, 2026, Planning Commission meeting. Kaufenberg made a motion to approve the May 26, 2026, Planning Commission minutes. Zeug seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Following a motion by Kaufenberg and second by Zeug, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 1:24 p.m.


Jeanette Pidde
Land Use and Zoning Supervisor
Redwood County Environmental Office


Jeff Huseby, Chair
Redwood County Planning Commission