

Traverse County Commission
Public Hearing for Dollymount Dairy
January 29, 2015
9:00-11:00 AM
American Legion Wheaton

The hearing was opened at 9:00AM by Commission Chair Kevin Leininger. Other commissioners present included Dave Salberg, Tom Monson, Mark Gail, and Todd Johnson. The pledge was recited. Sara Gronfeld presented a letter from Jerome Deal, Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission, approving the conditional use permit application for the Dollymount Dairy LLP. Gronfeld also presented a list of the following documents that were received and are included for review of the County Board and part of the official record:

- An application for modification of an existing Conditional Use Permit dated October 2, 2014 and letter dated September 24, 2014,
- The Environmental Assessment Worksheet Findings and Conclusions with all attachments dated July 29, 2009,
- General Permit Number: MNG440668 issued by the MN Pollution Control Agency dated August 10, 2009 with attachments,
- The Renewal of General Permit Number: MNG440668 issued by the MN Pollution Control Agency dated December 7, 2010 with attachments,
- The Permit Coverage Modification of General Permit Number: MNG440668 issued by the MN Pollution Control Agency dated October 2, 2014,
- A detailed map of the proposed site design with setbacks indicated,
- A sketch indicating the proposed parking and loading areas at the site,
- An aerial photograph of the SW ¼ of Section 4, Dollymount Township, and surrounding quarter sections of land,
- A project manual for Dollymount Dairy dated September 16, 2008 with a site plan and splash pad designs,
- A letter from Project Engineer, Steve Westerbuhr, dated October 14, 2014,
- Signed agreements for spreading manure on cropland,
- A Construction Inspection Plan signed by the Project Engineer,
- A Statement of Authorization dated October 10, 2014,
- An Ag Waste Management System Operation and Maintenance Plan dated October 10, 2014,
- Written comments submitted to the Traverse County Planning Commission and presented at the Public Hearing on November 17, 2014, and
- A signed Dead Animal Disposal Plan.

Dollymount Dairy representative Anthony Ekren provided a power point presentation. He presented the original Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and history of the permits they've received. He emphasized the project has been recommended for approval from the planning commission. What they are here for today is to approve a CUP for a new structure of the building and various upgrades. The upgrades include a synthetic covered basin, a new barn design and location of storm water basins, a new location of the feed pad with a pipe pumping water to the synthetic covered basin, and the addition of an

Anaerobic Digester. What stayed the same is the number of animal units, manure storage capacity, manure output, and the location of the barn and manure basins.

Marilyn Mathias then presented a power point with concerns for the project. She was asked to present concerns from some of the neighbors and neighboring townships. Her concerns included wells and water usage, increased traffic, 2,000 more mature cows instead of calves, air emissions, flooding of the proposed site, the likelihood of expansion, and the ten criteria for the approval of the 2005 CUP.

Keith Bongard expressed support.

Craig Lichtsinn expressed support of the Dollymount Township.

Mark Baldry spoke as a 3rd generation farmer whom lives in Dollymount Township. He said the hog farm generates smell. He questioned why the MPCA isn't in charge of the design change and approval and suggested the State approve the change. He questioned whether any of the commissioners are structural engineers and suggested it be turned over to the Department of Agriculture. He emphasized that when the design is already being changed, the permit is too old. He believed the timeline on permit has expired. He expressed that the roads from Stevens County are in poor shape and full of ruts, around their dairy operation. Not only are the roads suffering, but there are real dangers of trucks and drivers and Traverse County should take a stand in protecting our environment. He also suggested the county adopt an Ordinance on the number of animals in one location.

Rick Mathias spoke and suggested Dollymount Dairy seems apprehensive about the digester. Dollymount assured them it will be built when they receive their permit. He also commented that the road traffic is taking a different route than what they applied for and it seems like big changes.

Tyler Scott spoke and just purchased farm site and plans to build. He lives one mile west of the proposed Dairy. He works for Riverview and commented that they provide employment. He supports it and is thankful we have dairys and livestock in general. He has children and they play outside, and fish and swim in the nearby pond. He believes the Dairy impacts their lives in a positive way.

Jim Larson, a farmer from Kandiyohi County, also spoke. They have Middle Star Dairy there and went through similar process in 2008. It was approved unanimously at the Township level, Planning Commission level and County level. He acknowledges the county structure is very different but the project is similar. He believes it's a true agricultural project and fits here. He said there are a lot of questions and they should be answered, but this is one of the best operations you will find.

Sara Gronfeld read a letter addressed to the Traverse County Board from Jim Peters and also a legal memorandum from Matt Franzese.

Mike Yost spoke in support of the proposed Dairy. He farms in Swift County between two dairy sites.

Todd Johnson, Traverse County Commissioner did a site visit to Stevens County with fellow commissioner Mark Gail. He did a lot of research and found high marks. He believes they will do a good job environmentally. He said there is already an established weakness on the land scape. There are

already impairments in two of the water ways. Landscape and Water tests show we need to improve how we do things. Encroachment on the roads has to end. The needs to support a facility like this need to be enforced. Right-away setbacks will go a long way in helping this business be the best that it can be. He emphasized that it serves an environmental and economic purpose. In all his research with the experts, they ended with, if this is done correctly, this can be a win/win. If the issues are dealt with and everyone does the right thing, this proposed industry can reach its full economic potential and improve the environment. There cannot be any weak links in the chain.

Salberg made a motion to approve the CUP as presented but then withdrew.

Kevin Leininger presented the findings of 14.02 Traverse County Ordinance:

1. **Not a Burden.** The use will not create an excessive burden on existing parks, schools, streets and other public facilities and utilities which serve or are proposed to serve the area.
2. **Compatible with Adjacent Uses.** The use will be sufficiently compatible or separated by distance or screening from adjacent agricultural or residential zoned or used land so that existing homes will not be depreciated in value and there will be no deterrence to development of vacant land in a similar context of the uses in the vicinity.
3. **No Adverse Effect on Adjacent Properties.** The structure and site will not have an appearance, traffic, noise, and emission levels that will have an adverse effect upon adjacent properties.
4. **Relates to the Needs of the County.** The use is reasonably related to the overall needs of the County and to existing land uses.
5. **Consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.** The use is consistent with the purposes of the Zoning Ordinances and the purposes of the zoning district in which the applicant intends to locate the proposed use and the use is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.
6. **Not a Traffic Hazard.** The use will not cause a traffic hazard or congestion.
7. **No Adverse Effect on Existing Business.** Existing nearby businesses will not be adversely affected because of curtailment of customer trade brought about by intrusion of noise, glare, or general unsightliness.
8. **Floodplain.** For property located in Floodplain districts, the criteria set out in the Floodplain Ordinance will be met.
9. **Shoreland.** For property located in Shoreland districts, the criteria set out in the Shoreland Ordinance will be met.
10. **Feedlots.** Feedlots will meet the requirements of the Feedlot Ordinance.

Matthew Franzese asked the Board if the new barn design complies with all aspects of the ordinance. T. Johnson emphasized the purpose today was to address the structure and that it is in compliance with all provisions of 14.02.

On motion by T. Johnson and seconded by Salberg, the findings presented by Leininger were adopted, and the Dollymount Dairy, LLP CUP was approved unanimously under the conditions set forth and with the addition that they are compliant with all Federally required permits, in addition to the state permits and that any violation shall constitute a violation of the permit.

Attested to by:

Rhonda Antrim/County Coordinator

Kevin Leininger/Board Chair