



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Winona County Planning Commission and Winona County Board

FROM: Michael Darrow, Project Manager

DATE: July 8, 2008

RE: Winona County Zoning Ordinance  
SEH No. A-WINOC1703.00

Attached to this memorandum is an executive summary of the Winona County Zoning Ordinance prepared by Brian Bender. The updated ordinance reflects the hard work of the entire county planning department, the zoning ordinance task force, the general public and you. As the project manager, I wish to thank you for your continued efforts on this important project.

As I have indicated over the past couple of months, a zoning ordinance is never truly complete. Good planning must allow policies and ordinances to continue to evolve based on updated statutes, best management practices, mandates from elected officials and input from the public. With that said, I believe that the updated zoning ordinance reflects all of these elements.

Throughout the past year, the County has made a considerable investment in both time and money to update the ordinance. Over the course of the past year, over 350 people have attended a series of public meetings to learn more about the ordinance and related text. (If you were unable to attend the last two open house meetings, video of the meetings have been posted on the project website). In addition to these meetings, there have been countless conversations in person, over the phone or through e-mail regarding this process. The project website along with consistent coverage through the press has also added to updating people on this project.

At this point, the updated draft ordinance is in draft form and ready for a public hearing. Each of you will be asked to review the ordinance, receive public comment and make a recommendation on the ordinance. To assist you in this process, we have prepared an executive summary as well as a zoning comparison for your review.

If you have any questions with regard to the updated draft, we welcome your thoughts prior to the public hearing on July 17<sup>th</sup>. Again, thank you for the opportunity to update the County's Zoning Ordinance.