

## STAFF REPORT

Planning Department File No. 2023-09-018

### CONDITIONAL USE APPLICATION FOR ONE NON-FARM DWELLING

Planning Commission Meeting Date: October 26, 2023

1. **APPLICANT:** Tracy & Caroline Boster  
1825 Boster Ln  
Adrian OR 97901
2. **OWNER OF RECORD:** Tracy & Caroline Boster  
1825 Boster Ln  
Adrian OR 97901
3. **PROPOSED ACTION:** Conditional Use approval for one non-farm dwelling.
4. **PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION:** Tax Lot 1700, T21S, R46E, Sec. 34; Assessors Map 21S46E34; Malheur County Reference #10786.
5. **PROPERTY LOCATION AND DIRECTIONS:** The property is located about 4½ miles south of Adrian, off Big Bend Rd, next to 1825 Boster Ln, in Adrian, OR: from Adrian, head south on US Hwy 201 for about ½ mile. Turn left on Hwy 452 for ½ mile and then turn right onto Hwy 454. Keep right to continue on Big Bend Rd. Continue for 1.1 miles, then turn right onto Redtop Rd. Continue for ¾ of a mile. The destination will be on the right, just before Boster Ln.
6. **ZONING:** Exclusive Farm Use (C-A1).
7. **PARCEL SIZE:** The parcel is 5.00 acres.
8. **PARCEL USE:** Vacant, irrigated land being used for row crops.
9. **SURROUNDING USE:** All the surrounding properties are employed in farm use.
10. **ACCESS:** Redtop Rd. (Exhibit #4)
11. **SANITATION REQUIREMENTS:** A DEQ approved sanitation system would be required.
12. **FIRE PROTECTION:** The parcel is within the Adrian Rural Fire Protection District. (Exhibit #3).

**13. NATURAL HAZARDS:** None.

**14. WATER RIGHTS:** The property is located within Riverside Irrigation District and currently has 5 acres of water rights. The applicant has requested that the District would move 1 acre of water rights to the adjacent property to the west (tax lot 1600), owned by the applicant as well, to accommodate the construction of the non-farm dwelling. (Exhibit #2).

**15. SOIL TYPE:** The majority of the soils on the property are predominately class IV, with a very insignificant amount of soils class III on the northeast side of the property. The proposed site of the proposed dwelling is currently irrigated and is covered in soils of class IV.

**16. ZONING HISTORY:** There is no known zoning history.

#### **GENERAL CONDITIONAL USE CRITERIA**

**MCC 6-6-7 - GENERAL CRITERIA TO EVALUATE SUITABILITY:** In considering the suitability of proposed conditional uses, the Planning Commission shall base its decision upon the following criteria:

A. Comprehensive Plan goals and policies, as applicable.

B. Specific plan recommendations

**Proposed Finding: MCC 6-6-8-1 regulates the conditional use process for a non-farm dwelling.**

C. Existing development and viewpoints of property owners in the surrounding area.

**Proposed Finding: Letter notice was sent to adjoining landowners on October 6<sup>th</sup> and published in the Argus Observer on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. No comments were received.**

D. Availability of services and utilities.

**Proposed Finding: The parcel is located within the Adrian Rural Fire Protection District. All services and utilities are available.**

E. The effect of the proposed use on the stability of the community's social and economic characteristics.

**Proposed Finding: The proposed dwelling will have a negative effect on the farming/ranching practices that would interfere with the stability of the community's social and economic characteristics, due to the fact that the proposal is to displace current and active water rights. This criterion is not met.**

- F. It does not interfere with traditional fish and wildlife use of habitats determined critical or sensitive in the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Protection Plan for Malheur County.

**Proposed Finding: The proposed dwelling is not located in an area that contains fish or wildlife deemed critical or sensitive, and will not interfere with traditional fish and wildlife.**

G. General Criteria

1. Increasing setbacks of structures to reduce possibilities of overshadowing adjoining property, noise, odor or night lighting nuisances.

**Proposed Finding: The proposal is to build a house on this parcel. The proposed residence will not overshadow adjoining property. The closest existing residence is more than 500 ft away from the proposed home site. This criterion is met.**

2. Landscaping improvements for the visual benefits of the subject site and for the improved appearance of the neighborhood and County.

**Proposed Finding: The proposed dwelling will not deteriorate the appearance of the neighborhood. This criterion is met.**

3. Location and size of driveway access points and right-of-way widening and improvement for present and future traffic circulation and safety.

**Proposed Finding: The subject parcel has direct access from Redtop Rd. No new access must be obtained and no culvert must be put into the approach. (Exhibit #4). This criterion is met.**

4. Visual screening of outdoor waste and storage areas.

**Proposed Finding: The proposed development is for a dwelling. Outdoor waste storage will be minimal. This criterion is met.**

5. Control and focusing of outdoor lighting to avoid glare being directed beyond property limits.

**Proposed Finding: Control of outdoor lighting will not be necessary.**

6. Special criteria listed below, as applicable:

- H. Allowance of Certain Uses: A use allowed under Section 6-3A-3 of this Title shall be approved only where it is found that the use will not:

1. Force a significant change in accepted farm or forest practices on surrounding lands devoted to farm or forest use; or

**Proposed Finding: The granting of the proposed non-farm dwelling may force a significant change in accepted farm practices on surrounding land. The impact includes the addition of a new approach off Red Top Rd for a single-family dwelling, as well as a potential change in the existing farming practices pattern.**

2. Significantly increase cost of accepted farm or forest practices on surrounding lands devoted to farm or forest use. (Ord. 86, 12-7-1993)

**Proposed Finding: This home may have an impact to any current use in the area by forcing a change in the farming practice patterns, such as aerial spray consideration. The applicants will continue to farm the irrigated acreage and relocate 1 acre of water rights to an adjacent property to retain said water right.**

#### **SPECIFIC CONDITIONAL USE CRITERIA**

#### **MMC 6-6-8-1 - NONRESOURCE DWELLINGS IN EFU, ERU OR EFFU ZONES:**

##### **A. The use:**

1. Is compatible with farm uses and is consistent with ORS 215.243; and

**Proposed Finding: The granting of this application will result in loss of natural resources, and the amount of open land used for agriculture use will be decreased by at least one acre. Therefore, the proposed use is not compatible with farm use.**

2. Does not interfere seriously with accepted farming practices on adjacent lands; and

**Proposed Finding: The proposal is for a non-farm dwelling along with row crops – an approved farm use. Due to the location of the proposed building site and the distance to other existing developments, this will not interfere seriously with the accepted farming practices on adjacent land.**

3. Does not materially alter the stability of the overall land use pattern of the area; and

**Added by OAR 660-033-130(4)(a)(D) - June 1, 1998:** In determining whether a proposed non-farm dwelling will alter the stability of the land use pattern in the area, a county shall consider

the cumulative impact of possible new non-farm dwellings and parcels on other lots or parcels in the area similarly situated. To address this standard, the county shall;

- i. Identify a study area for the cumulative impacts analysis. The study area shall include at least 2000 acres or a smaller area not less than 1000 acres, if the smaller area is a distinct agricultural area based on topography, soil types, land use pattern, or the type of farm or ranch operations or practices that distinguish it from other adjacent agricultural areas. Findings shall describe the study area, its boundaries and the location of the subject parcel within this area, why the selected area is representative of the land use pattern surrounding the subject parcel and is adequate to conduct the analysis required by this standard. Lands zoned for rural residential or other urban or non-resource uses shall not be included in the study area.
  - ii. Identify within the study area the broad types of farm uses (irrigated or non-irrigated crops, pasture or grazing lands), the number, location and type of existing dwellings (farm, non-farm, hardship, etc.), and the dwelling development trends since 1993. Determine the potential number of non-farm / lot-of-record dwellings that could be approved under subsections (3)(a), (3)(d) and section (4) of this rule, including identification of predominant soil classifications, the parcels created prior to January 1, 1993, and the parcels larger than the minimum lot size that may be divided to create new parcels for non-farm dwellings under ORS 215.263(4). The findings shall describe the existing land use pattern of the study area including the distribution and arrangement of existing uses and the land use pattern that could result from approval of the possible non-farm dwellings under this subparagraph:
  - iii. Determine whether approval of the proposed non-farm / lot-of-record dwellings together with existing non-farm dwellings will materially alter the stability of the land use pattern in the area. The stability of the land use pattern will be materially altered if the cumulative effect of existing and potential non-farm dwellings will make it more difficult for the existing types of farms in the area to continue operation due to diminished opportunities to expand, purchase or lease farmland, acquire water rights or diminish the number of tracts or acreage in farm use in a manner that will destabilize the overall character of the study area.
4. Is situated on generally unsuitable land for the production of farm crops or livestock considering the terrain, adverse soil or land conditions, drainage and flooding, location and size of tract.

**Proposed Finding: The proposed non-farm dwelling will be sited on soils of class IV. The entire site of the proposed non-farm dwelling is currently being irrigated and farmed. This criterion is not met.**

- B. As a condition of approval, the owner is required to allow the following statement to be entered into the chain of title for the non-farm parcel: (the use of a straw-man may be necessary):

“The property herein described is situated in or near a resource (farm or ranch) zone, where the intent is to encourage agricultural use and minimize conflicts with non-resource uses. Non-resource residents may be subjected to common, customary and accepted farm and ranch practices that are conducted in accordance with federal and state laws but ordinarily and necessarily produce noise, dust, smoke and other impacts. The grantees, including their heirs, assigns and lessees, by the recording of this statement, and in return for allowing a non-resource dwelling on this property, hereby accept the potential impacts of accepted farm and ranch practices as normal and necessary and part of the risk of establishing a dwelling in this area, and grantee acknowledges the need to avoid activities that conflict with nearby resource uses.” Evidence shall be provided showing the lot or parcel upon which the dwelling is proposed to be located has been disqualified for valuation at true cash value for farm use under ORS 308.113.

## **OTHER PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT**

The proposal is for a non-farm dwelling to be sited on currently farmed and irrigated ground. The entire (100%) subject parcel is currently being irrigated. The proposed use will result in a net loss of farm land, as well as displacement of at least 1-acre of water rights. The soils on the site of the proposed non-farm dwelling are of class IV, and not identified as high-valued farmland.

## **EXHIBITS**

- Exhibit 1: Conditional Use Permit Application
- Exhibit 2: Letter from Riverside Irrigation District
- Exhibit 3: Letter from Adrian Rural Fire Protection District
- Exhibit 4: Letter from Malheur County Roadmaster