

MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026 – 8:30 AM
LAND & WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE
OF OCONTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
301 WASHINGTON STREET, COURTHOUSE BUILDING "A" ROOM #3041
OCONTO WI 54153
www.co.oconto.wi.us
(Draft minutes, not approved by Committee)

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Tim Cole, Pat Scanlan, Mike Beyer, Keith Schneider and Wayne Kaczrowski

OTHERS PRESENT: Dave Poffinbarger, GIS/LIO/LIS Administrator; Patrick Virtues, Planning, Zoning and Solid Waste Administrator; Chris Firgens, Forest, Parks & Recreation Administrator; Ken Dolata, Land & Water Conservationist; Michelle Seefeldt, Account Specialist; Al Sleeter, County Board Chair; Richard Heath, County Administrator; Dave Behrend, Supervisor District #8; Drew Koenigs, Assistant Forest, Parks & Recreation Administrator; Katie Daul; Human Development & Relationship Educator; Sarah Schindel; Health and Wellbeing Educator, Administrative Specialist; Brenda Carey Mielke, and others present.

1. Call to Order

Chair Cole called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM and read the Mission Statement.

2. Approval of Agenda

2.1. Change of Sequence - None

2.2. Removal of Items – None

Motion by Scanlan/Beyer to approve the agenda. Motion voted on and carried.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion by Kaczrowski/Schneider to approve the minutes of December 2, 2025. Motion voted on and carried.

4. Previous Month's Vendor Payments

The committee reviewed the previous month's vendor payments. Information only.

5. Communications

None

6. 2025 Carry-Overs

6.1. Register of Deeds

Register of Deeds carryover accounts were outlined in correspondence included in the agenda packet. Motion by Beyer/Scanlan to approve the carryover request as presented. As this is a non-lapsing account, a motion was not required.

6.1. LIS/Land Records

Dave Poffinbarger presented the Request for Account Carry-Over Form 204 listing accounts to carry over for 2026. Discussion held. Motion by Scanlan/Kaczrowski to approve the carryover request as presented on the 2026 Request for Account Carry-Over Form 204. Motion voted on and carried.

6.2. Land & Water Conservation

Ken Dolata presented the Request for Account Carry-Over Form 204 listing accounts to carry over for 2026. Discussion held. Motion by Schneider/Kaczrowski to approve the carryover request as presented on the 2026 Request for Account Carry-Over Form 204. Motion voted on and carried.

6.3. Forest, Parks & Recreation

Chris Firgens presented the Request for Account Carry-Over Form 204 listing accounts to carry over for 2026. Discussion held. Motion by Beyer/Schneider to approve the carryover request as presented on the 2026 Request for Account Carry-Over Form 204. Motion voted on and carried.

7. Extension

7.1. Department Report

The department reports were enclosed. Katie Daul, Human Development & Relationship Educator, spoke on the enclosed Human Development and Relationships report along with a handout on information on upcoming workshops on using technology, the senior wellness fair and strong bodies. Discussion held.

8. LIS/Land Records Department

8.1. Department Report

Discussion held on the enclosed department report along with highlighting the following:

- Update on the Next Gen 911 Grant. Spillman training is necessary as part of the Law Enforcement server rebuild. The department will be hosting a training session that will be completed before the grant expiration.
- Working on reviewing the orthophoto's. Very pleased and impressed with the pixel detail.

9. Land & Water Conservation Department

9.1. Lake Michigan Area Conservation Association Meeting, January 9th in Brown County

Ken Dolata asked if anyone was interested in attending the meeting. Discussion held. Pat Scanlan and Tim Cole will attend. Wayne Kaczrowski and Keith Schneider will get in touch with Ken if they attend.

9.2. Resource, Conservation & Development Meeting on January 29th in Oconto County

Ken Dolata asked if anyone was interested in attending the meeting. Tim Cole and Wayne Kaczrowski will attend. Discussion held on Tim Cole will be the voting member in Pat Scanlan's absence.

9.3. Approval of Office Furniture Purchase

Ken Dolata presented an office furniture quote of \$1,632 to be paid from carry over account NRCS – Administration. Discussion held. Motion by Scanlan/Schneider to approve the office furniture purchase from the NRCS – Administration carry over account. Motion voted on and carried.

9.4. Department Report

Ken Dolata, Land & Water Conservationist reported on the following:

- 4th quarter reimbursements
- Several meetings are scheduled to discuss obtaining permits on up coming projects.

10. Planning & Zoning/Solid Waste Department

10.1. Update on Fox Solar, LLC filing for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) with the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) Action, if necessary

Zoning Administrator Pat Virtues reviewed the request for extension of time for the Commission to take final action on the Fox Solar application filed on June 23, 2025. Rich Heath, County Administrator, spoke on the Joint Development Agreement progress.

10.2. Update on text amendments to Zoning Ordinance regarding Recreational Vehicle/Campers. Action, if necessary.

Pat Virtues, Zoning Administrator, presented proposed text amendments on the Zoning Ordinance regarding recreational vehicle/campers. Discussion held on the comments from the municipalities and taking the text amendments to public hearing. Motion by Beyer/Kaczrowski to hold a public hearing on the proposed text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance regarding Recreational Vehicle/Campers on February 9, 2026. Motion voted on and carried.

10.3. Legislative Updates, Action if necessary

Pat Virtues, Zoning Administrator presented the enclosed Wheeler Report – Data Centers in Wisconsin, 2025 Assembly Bill 713 requiring battery stewardship organizations to collect and recycle covered batteries and 2025 Assembly Bill 722 that imposes requirements relating to certain electric utility tariffs, data centers and large energy customers of utilities for discussion. Discussion held on these topics.

10.4. Department Report

Discussion held on the enclosed department report along with highlighting the following:

- Some fun facts - the first zoning ordinance was from September 1934. Discussion held on zoning regulations in surrounding counties.
- Finishing up recycling contracts

11. Forest, Parks & Recreation Department

11.1. Little River Bridge Bid Award

Chris Firgens presented two bids on the Little River Bridge grant project that exceeded awarded grant funds of \$400,000. Grant money awarded was based on 2 contractor quotes to complete project. Amount(s) quoted was the dollar figure used to apply for the grant. 2 bids were received: Advance Construction-\$1,235,500.00 and Radtke Contractors-\$1,227,388.00. Drew Koenigs reached out to the DNR grant manager to help determine how to proceed with the project. Discussion held on the Financial Management Processes with DemandStar and contacting the contractors that provided original quotes. The Committee directed the department to contact the original contractors & request an updated quote(s) to try to get the bridge replaced. The Committee also rejected the two bids received.

11.2. Department Report

Discussion held on the enclosed department report along with highlighting the following:

- Received several applications for the Forester position. Will be interviewing the week of January 12, 2026.
- Birr Property Acquisition – Chris Firgens updated the committee on the Birr property acquisition. Received notification from the DNR that the County Forest Project Loan was granted. This loan is a 0% loan and paid back based on timber sale revenue.

11.2.1. Recreational Officer

11.2.2. Discussion held on the enclosed report.

11.2.3. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Liaison

No report

10. Announcements/General Information (No action to be taken)

None

11. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be February 3, 2026

12. Adjournment

Chair Cole declared the meeting adjourned at 10:48 AM.

MS/Date Posted – **01/14/2026**