



Minutes - May 6, 2025

Call to Order: Supervisor Cullen called the hybrid Environmental Management Systems Committee meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. in the Courthouse Conference Center (CCC), 2nd floor, Courthouse.

Committee Members Present: Supervisor Sutterlin; Supervisor Cullen; Supervisor Gorman; Citizen Representative Jim Farrell and Susan Johnson

Committee Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Randy Terronez, Assistant to County Administrator; Brent Sutherland, Facilities Management Director; Michael Southers, IT Systems Analyst I

Others Present: Mark Abeles-Allison, Bayfield County Administrator.

Approve Agenda: Citizen Representative Johnson moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Sutterlin. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None.

Approval of Minutes:

February 4, 2025 Minutes: Supervisor Sutterlin moved to approve the February 4, 2025, second by Citizen Representative Sue Johnson. ADOPTED.

March 4, 2025 Joint Meeting Minutes: Supervisor Sutterlin moved to approve the March 4, 2025, joint meeting minutes, second by Citizen Representative Sue Johnson. ADOPTED.

Review, Discussion and Possible Action:

Energy Initiatives Experience with Mark from Bayfield County: Mark discussed the progress of Bayfield County's renewable energy initiatives. Mark emphasized the significance of having both the administrator and facilities director on board, which he believed is a crucial step in establishing a strong program. Mark explained having policies in place can help the budgetary needs, committing dollars to move forward with the County's goals. Mark also discussed Bayfield County's exploration of alternative energies, such as compressed natural gas fueling stations and renewable energy sources for most of their buildings. Mark noted there is value to local government demonstrating the effectiveness of these projects and increasing community adoption.

2025 WI. Energy Reform Act: Randy Terronez discussed several changes that the Wisconsin Energy

Reform Act is proposing, with a focus on the right of first refusal for utility companies on transmission lines. Randy urged the committee to look over and read the attached WI Energy Reform Act.

Update on Goals & Objectives (added Webpage & Tree Policy investigation): Mike Southers from IT discussed the responsibilities of managing the website and urged the committee to have someone who attends the meetings update the site. The committee discussed the need to update the website to reflect their goals and objectives, particularly in promoting energy alternatives and renewables. They considered creating a separate webpage for the Environmental Management Systems Committee, with a homepage for the committee's main goal areas and specific projects.

Randy Terronez will schedule a follow-up meeting with Mike Southers to start on the web page design.

Director/Staff Reports:

Follow Up on Climate Action Plan Presentation: Brent discussed the Climate Action Plan and its implications for the county's capital improvement plan. Brent proposed purchasing \$300,000.00 of solar blocks from Alliant with a 10-year payback, and installing solar panels on the DWRC building, the Jail, and other county buildings. Sue Johnson questioned putting solar over the parking lots. Brent explained this option would be the most expensive to install. Sunvest Solar is working on an analysis to get pricing for solar panels. Brent noted that he has some work to do before we know exactly what the costs will be.

Update on The WLGCC Initiatives and Rock County Involvement: Brent discussed the time-consuming nature of the Wisconsin Green Tier Legacy and the Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition. Randy suggested involving the Youth in Governance students to help with the data entry.

Brent also discussed the challenges of entering data into the scorecard, including the need for specific information from various departments and the difficulty of finding certain data. Supervisor Sutterlin agreed to discuss at future Youth in Governance Committee meeting.

Presentation at the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin: Sue Johnson discussed several presenters, like Mike Parille from Rock County and Brittany Keys from the State Line Clean Air Coalition. Sue Johnson noted the low attendance, but emphasized that it was an excellent presentation held at Blackhawk Technical College. The event was co-hosted by the Janesville League and the Beloit League of Women Voters. The committee also touched on the topic of air quality monitors and the possibility of having monitors placed on County buildings. Brent explained the county installed the use of bipolar ionization to improve air quality inside County buildings except for the Eclipse Center in Beloit. Randy Terronez to check on the County Health Department program and will email committee members information on the program.

Next meeting date and time-June 3, 2025 10:00 AM:

Adjournment: Citizen Representative Farrell moved adjournment at 11:27 AM, second by Citizen Representative Johnson. ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Wolf
Administrative Professional III

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.