



Minutes - August 5, 2025

Call to Order: Supervisor Sutterlin called the hybrid Environmental Management Systems Committee meeting to order at 10:02 A.M. in the Courthouse Conference Rooms N1 & N2.

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

Committee Members Absent: Supervisor Cullen

Staff Members Present: Randy Terronez, Assistant to County Administrator; Brent Sutherland, Facilities Management Director; Andrea Wolf, Administrative Professional III.

Others Present: None.

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

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None.

Approval of Minutes:

June 6, 2025: Citizen Representative Johnson moved to approve June 6, 2025 Minutes, second by Citizen Representative Farrell. ADOPTED.

Review, Discussion and Possible Action:

Resolution Establishing Two-Terms for Citizen Representatives: Citizen Representative Farrell moved approval of the above resolution, second by Citizen Representative Johnson. Supervisor Sutterlin moved to correct the wording from "two-term" to "two-year term", second by Supervisor Gorman. Adopted
ADOPTED as amended.

Director/Staff Reports:

Recap of June 30 GLTC Quarterly Meeting: Citizen Representative Johnson talked about the quarterly meeting that discussed the tools for managing natural disasters in your county, but questioned the reliability of FEMA resources during the current era. Brent mentioned the meeting touched on applying for funding if a disaster were to happen in your county. The meeting also covered the Green Tier Legacy Community's work, including a community-wide greenhouse gas inventory that

aims to account for residential waste and private wells, which are currently facing challenges due to data collection difficulties.

Website Update: Randy Terronez questioned who is going to take on the responsibility long-term, noting he will talk to the County Administrator about the responsibilities of his position once he is gone. The committee discussed website maintenance responsibilities and departmental involvement. Supervisor Gorman wanted to explore having the Planning Department handle website updates for the Environmental Management Systems Committee. Randy noted it is difficult to add additional responsibilities to the department. Citizen Rep Farrell questioned the technical knowledge needed for updating the website. Randy stated minimal technology knowledge is needed to do the updates.

Next Green Tier Legacy Community Quarterly Meeting - Tuesday, October 14: Buy Better, Waste Less: Strategies for Managing Waste (Location: MG & E, Madison) 8:30 a.m. - noon:

Update on Facilities Management Department 2026 budget request related to solar and reduction of green house gases: Brent stated he requested \$300,000 for solar blocks for 2026, but was notified that the blocks that were available had been sold. Brent noted that alternative approaches might be more feasible, such as purchasing renewable energy credits through Alliant for \$70,000 annually, which would affect the operational budget of the department. Supervisor Gorman suggested exploring a smaller-scale solar project in place of the solar blocks, and Brent agreed to work on pulling together a solar project proposal within the \$300,000 budget. Citizen Representative Farrell expressed frustration that the county has not implemented solar panels despite a recommendation and financial analysis showing good paybacks. Brent talked about the climate action plan that identified solar panels on the DWRC/Human Services Building as a high-priority project, but a solar developer quoted \$1.2 million for the installation, which Brent found difficult to justify the request for the 2026 budget. The committee discussed both the financial investment and the potential public perception benefits of installing solar panels on public buildings, particularly as a response to community concerns about solar farm expansion on farmland.

Other County Department involvement in Environmental Management System Committee:

Brent discussed increasing county department participation in the committee, with suggestions to approach department heads. Supervisor Sutterlin suggested adding something to the individual department's agenda whether they have something to contribute or not, noting the website might help with connectivity between departments. Randy mentioned it would help us know what other departments might be doing and to avoid duplicating efforts. Citizen Representative Johnson mentioned the use of other citizen representatives from other committees helping. Discussions found that the county does not have many citizen members on other committees. Citizen Representative Johnson voiced her concern about the lack of citizen participation within the other committees.

Brent wanted to mention that the County installed an air quality monitor on the 5th floor and had a flyer on the entrance that you could use to get the information on your phone.

Next meeting date and time-September 2, 2025, 10:00 AM:

Meeting Location - To Be Determined: The committee decided to move the meeting to 11:00 AM on September 2nd and have the location be the same as the General Services meeting that morning.

Adjournment: Citizen Representative Farrell moved adjournment at 10:51 AM, second by Citizen Representative Johnson. ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Wolf
Administrative Professional III

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.