



ROCK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Highways & Parks

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Public Works Committee Meeting – Highway

August 26, 2025 – 8:00 a.m.

Public Works Department – Committee Room

3715 Newville Road

Janesville, WI 53545

Call to Order: Chair Mawhinney called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 8:00 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Homan, Mawhinney, Pennycook, and Woodman

Committee Members Absent: Supervisor Sutter

Staff Members:

Duane Jorgenson	Public Works Director
Nick Elmer	Assistant Director Public Works
John Traynor	Park Services Supervisor
Amy Friend	Parks Community Coordinator
Amanda McElroy	Administrative Professional III

Others Present:

Carolyn Brandeen	Citizen
Chuck Flynn	Citizen (attended in person and on Zoom)
Dean Paynter	Parks Advisory Committee (Zoom)
Ben Rohr	Vandewalle and Associates

Approval of Agenda: Supervisor Homan moved approval of the agenda as presented, seconded by Supervisor Pennycook. ADOPTED.

Approval of Minutes Dated July 22, 2025: Supervisor Woodman moved approval of the minutes from July 22, 2025, as presented, seconded by Supervisor Homan. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Supervisor Mawhinney shared that the Finance Committee will review the highway fund balance on Thursday, August 28, 2025, at 5pm.

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REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Discussion and Possible Action – 2026-2030 POROS Plan: Ben Rohr, Vandewalle and Associates, summarized the draft Parks, Outdoor Recreation, and Open Space (POROS) Plan. The Rock County POROS plan must be updated every five years to be eligible for grant funding. The presentation highlighted the project timeline, plan orientation, plan summary, public feedback gathered, existing park user data, comparable communities, service area distribution, projected needs, recommendations, implementation, and the next steps.

The public will have the opportunity to provide input online (September 8-28, 2025), and/or in person at an “Open House” at Rock River Heritage Park – Heritage Hall (September 18, 2025, 5:30-7:30pm). Mr. Traynor thanked Mr. Rohr and his team for putting the plan together and identifying direction and goals for the future.

Discussion – Budget Presentation Summary: Mr. Traynor and Mr. Jorgenson gave a brief overview of the proposed 2026 Public Works budget (Parks and Highway Divisions).

Mr. Traynor highlighted that the Rock County Strategic Plan includes “Preserve strong investments in growing and maintaining public parks” as an objective under “Quality of Life” and discussed proposed Capital Improvement Projects.

Mr. Jorgenson discussed PASER ratings (pavement condition ratings) of the county highway system, proposed construction projects for 2026-2030, and a financial summary. Mr. Elmer provided an update about the closed short-span structures, sharing that some structures have been ordered and could be completed by late September.

Discussion – Staff Update: Mr. Elmer shared that the three highway workers hired at the end of July are scheduled to take their CDL test within the next two weeks. The department currently has four vacancies, three highway worker positions and one superintendent. Two candidates interviewed on August 14 and are moving forward in the hiring process. One of the candidates already has a Class A CDL. Recruitment is ongoing until all vacancies are filled.

The State Superintendent position was posted internally and externally. There are two external candidates and eight internal candidates. Candidates are completing a written test this week before interviews are scheduled.

REVIEW OF PAYMENTS

July 2025 Payments: The Committee had no questions.

Next Meeting Date and Time:

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Minutes of the Rock County Public Works Committee- Highway
August 26, 2025

Parks Meeting: Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works

Highway Meeting: Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Adjournment: Supervisor Pennycook moved adjournment at 9:27 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Woodman. ADOPTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda McElroy, Administrative Professional III

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