



Minutes - October 7, 2025

Call to Order: Chair Cullen called the hybrid Environmental Management Systems Committee meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. in the Courthouse Conference Rooms N1 & N2.

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

Committee Members Absent:

Staff Members Present: Randy Terronez, Assistant to County Administrator; Brent Sutherland, Facilities Management Director; John Light, County Administrator; Paul King, Conservation Specialist II; Andrea Wolf, Administrative Professional III.

Others Present: None.

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

Removed item 5E and deferred to the next meeting. Citizen Representative Farrell discussed adding a discussion on the playbooks with the Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None.

Approval of Minutes:

September 2, 2025 Minutes: Supervisor Sutterlin moved to approve September 2, 2025 minutes, second by Citizen Representative Farrell. ADOPTED.

Review, Discussion and Possible Action:

Review of Administrator's Recommended Budget: Brent discussed the allocation of \$300,000 for solar projects, originally intended for solar blocks which became unavailable. Brent explained that the funds would now be used for a ramp replacement at the courthouse due to ADA compliance issues, as the estimated cost of \$250,000 was more cost-effective than replacing the elevator. While the committee preferred using the funds for solar projects, Brent noted that the Climate Action Plan's first proposed project, the DWRC roof, was not feasible within the budget. Brent is working with Sunvest Solar to develop a comprehensive Climate Action Plan and will continue pursuing grants for solar initiatives. Supervisor Gorman mentioned he would be looking to make a budget appeal to get funds for a solar project as tax credits end next year. Citizen Representative Farrell commented on how the county is lagging and hopes that in the future we prioritize solar.

Discussion on Funding for Future Projects: The committee discussed challenges with federal grant funding, which is currently frozen or being prioritized for completion before funds disappear. The committee also discussed the challenges of securing grants for climate action projects. Brent noted that partnerships with other local governments could increase the chances of success. Susan Johnson explained that the Janesville School District does not currently have funds for solar projects, as their recent budget allocation was focused on essential repairs and replacements.

Implementation of the Climate Action Plan: Brent discussed how he is working with Sunvest Solar to create an action plan. They are looking at the utility usage at county buildings and also the Climate Action Plan to find the best opportunities to implement solar.

Discussion on Cost and Maintenance to Establish Website: Supervisor Sutterlin discussed with Andrew Baker with Planning the possibility of integrating a website with the one they started up. Supervisor Sutterlin questioned the costs of establishing and maintaining the website. Randy Terronez explained the website is already established and there are no additional costs except for staff time to design and maintain. Brent suggested linking the Green Tier Legacy site directly to the county's environmental management systems rather than their intranet page.

Discussion on County's Role in Regulating or Incentivizing Data Centers: Removed-add to the next meetings agenda.

Director/Staff Reports: County Administrator Light questioned Sue Johnson on healthcare within the school district.

Next meeting date and time-November 4, 2025, 10:00 AM: December 4th at 6:30 the state league of women voters is presenting a webinar on school funding in the state of Wisconsin. Registration is not currently open.

Adjournment: Supervisor Sutterlin moved adjournment at 10:41 AM, second by Supervisor Gorman. ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Wolf
Administrative Professional III

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