



Minutes - February 3, 2026

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, 5th Floor.

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

Committee Members Absent:

Staff Members Present: Brent Sutherland, Facilities Management Director; Mike Parille, Assistant Director of Facilities Management; Paul King, Conservation Specialist II; Andrew Baker, Planning & Land Conservation Director.

Others Present:

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

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None.

Approval of Minutes:

January 6, 2026 Minutes: Supervisor Gorman moved to approve January 6, 2026, minutes, second by Supervisor Farrell. ADOPTED.

Review, Discussion and Possible Action:

Goals and Objectives for Department Participation: The committee discussed approaching all departments to explore energy savings, waste reduction, and other environmental initiatives, focusing on two main areas: renewable energy opportunities and energy efficiency measures. Brent talked about the Green Tier scorecard, where various departments have to contribute criteria specific to their departments, and plans were made to potentially transition this responsibility to administration in the future. The committee agreed to review the scorecard results in March to identify areas for improvement and discuss potential action plans with department directors.

Status Update on Alliant -Renewable Energy Impact Partner Programs: Brent discussed the status of the Alliant Renewable Energy Impact Partner Programs, which are awaiting approval from the Public Service Commission. This would allow us to specify that we purchase our electricity from renewables.

Director/Staff Reports:

Presentation on Sustainability Projects from Paul King: Paul presented a sustainability overview involving a comprehensive analysis of Rock County-owned lands, highlighting opportunities for environmental improvements and community engagement. The presentation included a detailed breakdown of carbon emissions associated with lawn maintenance and the potential for reducing these emissions through natural lawn conversions and other sustainable practices. With an estimated cost savings of \$63,000 and a reduction of 50-75 tons of carbon dioxide annually. The main challenge identified was the need for dedicated staff to manage the new habitat, as the current facilities manager lacks the capacity to oversee maintenance while performing other duties. The first year would require more frequent mowing than grass, but subsequent years would involve less maintenance, with potential herbicide applications only for invasive species. The project would break even in the first year, with long-term benefits including habitat restoration, employee engagement, and environmental impact.

Next meeting date and time-Tuesday, March 3, 2026 11:00AM:

Adjournment: Supervisor Gorman moved adjournment at 11:03AM, second by Citizen Representative Farrell. ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Wolf
Facilities Management — Executive Assistant

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.