

Barron County Strategic Planning Work Group

Friday, March 3, 2023 – 11:00 a.m.

Government Center – Room 2151

335 East Monroe Avenue - Barron, Wisconsin

AGENDA

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Public Meeting Notification
3. Public Comment
4. Approve Minutes of 2-16-22 Meeting
5. Review Strategic Plan Update
6. Review Goals Accomplished
7. Review What Needs to Be Accomplished
8. Staff Updates
9. Future Agenda Items
10. Set Next Meeting Date
11. Adjourn

PLEASE CALL 537-6841 IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND

cc: Patti Anderson, Randy Cook, Louie Okey, Karolyn Bartlett, John Banks, Pete Olson, Jerry McRoberts, Chris Fitzgerald, Stacey Frolik, John Muench, Rachael Richie, Jeff French, Administrator, Corp. Counsel, Co. Clerk, Webmaster & 3 Public Postings

Any person who has a qualifying disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act and requires the meeting or materials at the meeting to be in an accessible format must contact the County Clerk's office at 715/537-6200 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting so that arrangements may be made to accommodate your request.

Minutes
Barron County Strategic Planning Work Group
Wednesday, February 16th, 2022 1pm
Barron County Government Center, Room 2151
335 East Monroe Avenue, Barron, WI 54812

Committee Members Present:

Supervisor Okey, Supervisor Banks, Supervisor Rindsig

Committee Members Appearing by Phone:

Supervisor Olson

Staff Members Present:

Frolik, Fitzgerald, French, Gifford

Staff Members Appearing Virtually:

None

#1. Call to Order:

1pm Chair Okey

#2. Public Meeting Notification

Read by CA French

#3. Public Comment:

None

#4. Approve minutes of 1-26-2022 Meeting:

Motion to approve, Rindsig/Banks, Carried

#5. Old Business:

Importances of Ag.1 and the Balance with Farmland Preservation:

Land Services Director Gifford presented information:

1980's Exclusive Ag District, established, a farmer is not required to participate in Farmland Preservation, Barron County chose to preserve ag land.

Approximately 240-260 participants in Farmland preservation

Our Zoning practices are in-line with State Standards

Should County Consider Limits on Amounts of Acres:

Yes but, is there consistency with zoning

Ag Tourism:

Need to distinguish between, a business, versus Ag tourism

There are 17 Zoned Townships in Barron County, 8 are unzoned, however, Shoreland Zoning does apply in the unzoned townships.

March Zoning Committee; Zoning amendments are being proposed but Ag Tourism is not a part of the current amendment package

Discussed end of year for definition of Ag Tourism

Signage for Zoned Townships:

Discussed with a suggested sign presented, consensus that something be established by year end.

County Initiated Housing Development:

CA French discussed with the Committee what Attorney Andy Phillips said could be done with a Developers Agreement for a County sponsored housing development.

CA French presented information from South Dakota, pertaining to prisoners building low-cost housing.

The above was informational only with no formal action taken.

Gifford left at 1.55pm, Frolick left at 2.04pm

#6. Review Strategic Plan Update:

CA French presented the most updated plan, with highlighted changes in red.

#7. Review Goals Accomplished:

Goals accomplished and added were presented to the Committee along with the SWOT analysis.

#8. Review What Needs to be Accomplished:

This Agenda item was discussed as part of Agenda items #6., and #7.

Motion by Rindsig, second by Banks, to approve the updated Strategic Plan Update Document and SWOT Analysis, carried.

#9. Staff Updates:

CA French discussed concerns with how information is disseminated, i.e. Radio and TV Show. Consensus of Committee was that County Board minutes are placed in the local papers, Executive and other Committee meetings are also reported in the local papers.

#10. Future Agenda Items:

None

#10. Set Next Meeting Date:

2023

#11. Adjournment:

Adjourned by unanimous consent at 2.30pm

Minutes taken by CA French

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**2023 Strategic Planning Work Group
Barron County Strategic Plan Update
For Years 2021 – 2025
Adopted January 11, 2021**

Accomplishments or in-process projects corresponding to the current Strategic Plan

Directional Statement #1: Expand affordable housing programs for aging population, rental and entry level buyers

Actions:

- 2021 CDBG-Covid 19 grant application for transitional housing (CTH TT)
- Veterans housing in Rice Lake
- [ARPA Funds for Barron County Housing Authority](#)

Directional Statement #2: Expand broadband coverage and enhance technology advancement in Barron County

Actions:

- EDC and County Board action to support \$7M grant application by Mosaic Technologies for fiber expansion in Barron and Washburn Counties
- December 2021 – County support for Mosaic USDA Reconnect Grant
- [Continued use of Zoom for Court hearings](#)
- [2023 Roll Call Voting system for County Board meetings](#)

Directional Statement #3: Maintain and improve all County owned facilities

Actions:

- New Highway Facility
- Auditorium upgrades
- Waste to Energy Z-wall, acid gas removal system, duct sizing, substantial repairs to boilers, air pollution control construct & operation permit renewal
- 2021-2022 acid gas removal system (in-process)
- 2022 budget for Sheriff radio system
- [Ann Street School](#)
- [Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and Reservation of Fund Balance for these projects](#)
- [Improvements to Chetek Dam](#)
- [New Aging Kitchen](#)

Directional Statement #4: Improve mental health and decrease substance abuse

Actions:

- NW Hope Consortium – addressing opioid and alcohol abuse in Barron, Chippewa, Rusk and Washburn Counties (Public Health / Sheriff / ADRC)
- Recovery Corps Grant
- Ann Street School for Community Support Program
- Transitional Housing (CTH TT)
- October 2021 - Family Drug Treatment Court testimonials from graduates
- **Co-Responder pilot program (HHS / Sheriff)**
- **Investment of opioid settlement funds – Community Health Workers (continuation)**
- Decrease drug abuse – 2023/2022 \$150K TAD Grant from WI Dept. of Justice

Directional Statement #5: Remain fiscally responsible

Actions:

- 2021 group purchase of new voting equipment
- Continued strong bond rating – Highway Facilities
- WCA article on unfunded mandates by French, Frolik and Syvinski
- 2021 approved budget – reduced mill rate, used 1/3 of sales tax collections
- **TID meetings with cities and oversight of distressed TIDS**

Directional Statement #6: Attract and retain new skilled workforce

Actions:

- Proposed change to how sick and vacation are paid out to employees
- Allow employees up to 3 hours paid time for blood donation
- Allow remote work / telework for employees
- 2021 Pay plan step movement for employees with more than ten (10) years of service
- **Work from home – 2 days per week**
- 2023 Brent & Lance recommendation, attend NACo Leadership Academy
- Increased paid leaves, life insurance contribution, allow sale of vacation and sick leave to deferred comp plan, matching of deferred comp for management/confidential staff
- Telework and flexible schedule options available
- Implemented Laserfiche on-boarding process for new hires
- County Administrator meets, calls or emails new hires

Other Actions:

Barron County as a great place to live and work

- Administrator interviews of CASTA and BANTA supporting Barron County as a great place to live, work and play

- County support of Discover Wisconsin winter segment
- 2021-2022 working with Gary Peterson, Red Cedar River canoe paddling and possible canoe/kayak docks – City of Rice Lake
- 2021 Special Administrator reports – Judge Babler & Bell Press Pod Cast
- **Continued improvements to Cedar Side Trail - Buckthorn**
- 2022-2023 More special Administrator reports & BANTA special program
- February 2023 – special program at Waste to Energy plant
- Demonstration Plan – Cameron, cooperation with local farmer
- 2022 special TV interview of Mark O’Connell, WCA

Safety

- HISP and ICE study and improvements to Decker Drive – Rice Lake
- 2022 Sheriff’s radio system – upgrade
- ARPA dollars for high-speed fiber lines to towers
- **Signage on Red Cedar River bridge crossings, etc**

Protect Environment

- Successful reclamation of NIS site
- Ten (10) Year Land and Water Plan
- Air Pollution Control Construction and Operation Permit renewal – Waste to Energy
- Fifteen (15) Year Forestry Plan
- New air emissions analytical equipment
- Recycling site and infrastructure improvements (new boxes and recycling truck)

Cooperation

- Manned recycling sites – cooperation with local municipalities
- Red Cross Blood Drives – 90% of appointments filled
- Highway Commissioner – NACo trip to Washington, DC
- 2021 purchase of new election equipment with municipal clerks
- **Barron County Housing Authority – Apartment complex rebuild**
- **Sterling Bank help with opioid settlement dollars incorrectly remitted**

Use of Technology – Response to Citizens

- Online applications for zoning permits
- **New website design and layout**
- **Availability of information on new website**

Delivery of Services to Citizens

- Meals on Wheels adapting to Covid and offering drive-by / drive-up delivery system
- Virtual attendance and expanding virtual assistance
- 2020 & 2021 Court System Full Operational during Covid
- September 2020 UW Lecture Series – “What is a County?”
- Snowbound Bison – Tyler’s work / report to LCC Extension working cooperatively to help local citizen

Forward thinking changing demographics

- Number of and conversion of lake homes to permanent residences
- Tourist rooming houses
- Tourist rooming houses & work with DOR – sales tax
- Farmland Preservation and balance with the small rural business
- Seasonal park-model mobile homes at farmsteads
- Future Department Head retirements
- Agreement with WI DOR – sales tax & reporting to DOR short term rentals

Tourism

- Ice Age Trail & working on Memorandum of Agreement between IAT and County – Completed 2021
- ATV/UTV Trail System expansion
- ATV/UTV & Snowmobile Trail System – bridge rebuild

Other in-process considerations

- Monitor opportunities to identify vacated space in Government Center due to increased telework, cost savings due to vacated spaces (City of Barron)
- Discuss long-term plan for Government Center due to age of building, increased telework, etc
- Consider pursuing outdoor wellness grant
- 2021 WCA Magazine article on County Finances – Frolik, Syvinsk, French
- 2021-2022 Continued work on Highway Facility (lots of staff time)
- ARPA expenditures
- Automated payroll system
- Consider County-wide snowmobile & ATV/UTV alliance
- Implement an international trade symposium or etc
- Continued annual Centenarian celebration
- Working cooperatively – coat giveaway drop location
- Concern express moving Aquafest to Lumbering Hall of Fame
- Snowbound Bison – Tyler’s work & report to LCC/Extension Committee

Color Scheme

2022 Updates

2023 Updates

2024 Updates

2025 Updates

Updated:

2021-2-1
2021-2-5
2021-3-25
2021-12-27
2022-1-26
2022-2-14
2023-2-6