

Extension/Land Conservation Committee

Tuesday, October 7, 2025, 10:30 A.M.

Room 2151

335 E. Monroe Ave., Barron, WI

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Acknowledgement of Public Posting Requirements
3. Public comment
4. Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – 9/2/25
 - Edit List
 - Announcements –
5. Resolution: BC Lake Monitoring & Protection Network AIS Grant Application – action item
6. Memorandum of Understanding Between Barron County and Farmers of Barron County Watersheds: 3 Year Agreement – action item
7. Staff Reports – UWEX, NRCS, FSA, and SWCD (10 minutes) information only
 - Executive Committee Report
 - Fair Board Report
 - Our Sun. Our Power. - French
8. Set date for the next meeting – November 4, 2025
9. Adjourn

***If you cannot make the meeting, PLEASE call the SWCD at 715-537-6315.

(All times are estimated)

ADA Statement for Agenda

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.

cc: Cook, Gores, Langman, Kusilek, G. Nelson, Huth, McCready, County Clerk, County Administrator, Webmaster, Public postings

EXTENSION-LCC COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, September 2, 2024, 11:30 a.m.

Room 2151

Members present: Kirsten Huth, Jim Gores, Randy Cook, Fran Langman, Jamie McCready, Gary Nelson and Audrey Kusilek. Staff present: Tyler Gruetzmacher, Dave Gifford, Justin Everson, Bronson Thalacker, Pat Brown, Jeff French, Lori Baltrusis (virtual), and Kim Collins.

Absent:

Cook called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. and Collins confirmed proper posting of the meeting. No public comment was received.

Motion: (McCready/Kusilek) to approve the agenda; carried. **Motion: (Kusilek/McCready)** to approve the minutes of July 1, 2025 meeting; carried. Edit list questions answered. No announcements.

Item #5. Baltrusis presented the 2026 UWEX Budget and answered committee questions; French recommended approval. **Motion: (McCready/Kusilek)** to approve the 2026 UWEX Budget; carried.

Item #6. The 2026 SWCD Budget was presented and Gifford discussed the additional 2026 Staff and Support funding from DATCP. **Motion: (Kusilek/Nelson)** to approve the 2026 SWCD Budget; carried.

Item #7. FFP Plan, 2025 Update: Collins presented the single DATCP change to the draft plan. **Motion: (Kusilek/Langman)** to approve the 2025 FFP Update; carried.

Item #8. Everson presented a Certificate of Compliance for committee approval; **motion: (Kusilek/Gores)** to approve the certificate; carried.

Item #9. Gruetzmacher, Brown and Thalacker discussed rotational grazing project, AWSF closures, buckthorn workshop and mining reclamation success.

Item # 10. Staff Reports –

No UWEX or NRCS reports

FSA – Huth (on behalf of Sarah MacDonald) discussed ECAP sign up.

SWCD – See Item #9

Executive Committee – French stated the 2026 budget is the focus..

Fair Board – French provided a brief update.

After discussion of meeting time, the committee consensus is to move the meeting to 10:30 a.m.; next meeting set for October 7, 2025.

Future agenda items: *NR 135 Reclamation*

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Russell-Collins

Administrative Secretary, Land Services

Payment Request Verification - Online Voucher

COUNTY OF BARRON

Batch Year: 25 Department:

Payment Request Date: 09/11/2025

Vendor	Vendor Name	Line	Voucher	Account Description	Date	Description	Amount
44423	AUTO VALUE BARRON	1	C0093195	VEHICLE EXPENSE-LAND SERVICES	09/11/2025	LS - WIPER BLADES - EDGE	21.99
6696	NOBLE'S TIRE SERVICE INC	1	C0093196	VEHICLE EXPENSE-LAND SERVICES	09/11/2025	LS - '14 F-150/BATTERY	224.95
139947	AGSOURCE COOPERATIVE SERVIC	1	C0093197	SOIL & WATER TESTING	09/11/2025	LS - SWCD - MDV SOIL TESTS	72.03
139947	AGSOURCE COOPERATIVE SERVIC	2	C0093197	SOIL & WATER TESTING	09/11/2025	LS - SWCD - MDV SOIL TESTS	10.29
318159	FIRMATEK LLC	1	C0093198	EQUIPMENT (DRONE)	09/11/2025	LS - SWCD - ANNUAL DRONE	3,332.52
318159	FIRMATEK LLC	2	C0093198	PREPAID EXPENDITURES	09/11/2025	LS - SWCD - ANNUAL DRONE	6,664.98
252190	HEY EVERYTHING OF BARRON LLC	1	C0093199	INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL	09/11/2025	LS - SWCD - PESTICIDE SUPPLIES	1.25
319520	WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL ANALY	1	C0093200	PROF SERVICES - WATER QUALITY STUDY	09/11/2025	LS - SWCD/PH - WATER QUALITY	1,548.00
274259	APG MEDIA OF WISCONSIN LLC	1	C0093201	PUBLICATIONS	09/11/2025	LS - ZA - TAGALONG, EKSTROM	136.78
426	BELL PRESS INC	1	C0093202	PUBLICATIONS	09/11/2025	LS - ZA - YODER PUB NOTICE	49.62
426	BELL PRESS INC	2	C0093202	OFFICE SUPPLIES	09/11/2025	LS - ZA - PERMIT PAPER	23.00
1686	HALCO PRESS	1	C0093203	PUBLICATIONS	09/11/2025	LS - ZA - MOLLS PUB NOTICE	53.16
289493	BUREAU OF CORRECTIONAL ENTE	1	C0093204	ADDRESS SIGNING	09/11/2025	LS - ZA - RURAL ADDRESS SIGNS	212.00
158291	NEXT ENERGY SOLUTIONS INC	1	C0093205	ZONING FEES AND PERMITS	09/11/2025	LS - ZA - REFUND/LUP NOT	100.00
296694	WI DEPT OF SAFETY & PROFESSIO	1	C0093206	DUE TO STATE - SANITATION FEES	09/11/2025	LS - ZA - STATE SAN FEES/AUG	2,400.00
Totals:							\$14,850.57

Department Approval

Admin Approval

MANUAL VOUCHERS/JOURNAL ENTRIES

DEPT	NAME	ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
LS	BC HIGHWAY DEPT	220-12-53400-332-000	FUEL 8/2 - 8/29/25	\$680.43

MANUAL VOUCHERS TOTAL: \$680.43

GRAND TOTAL: \$15,531.00

Land Services Total: \$927.37

Land Information Total: \$0.00

Soil & Water Conservation Total: \$11,629.07

Zoning Administration Total: \$2,674.56

BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2025 –

Barron County Lake Monitoring & Protection Network AIS Grant Application

TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

WHEREAS, the Barron County Soil & Water Conservation Department (SWCD) is interested in obtaining a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of continuing SWCD efforts to coordinate with lake organizations and the public to improve surface water quality through the detection, prevention, and control of AIS and monitoring of lake water quality conditions; and

WHEREAS, the applicant attests to the validity and veracity of the statements and representations contained in the grant application; and

WHEREAS, a grant agreement is requested to carry out the project; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall be used for the following three years (2026, 2027, 2028) of LMPN grant applications; and

WHEREAS, this resolution was approved by the Extension-Land Conservation Committee on October 7, 2025, on a vote of ____, with Cook, Gores Nelson, Kusilek, Langman, Huth, and McCready voting in favor and __ against.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Barron County SWCD will meet the financial obligations necessary to fully and satisfactorily complete the activities and hereby authorizes and empowers the following officials or employees to submit the following documents to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for financial assistance that may be available:

TASK	TITLE/AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE	EMAIL & PHONE NUMBER
Sign and submit grant application	Director of Land Services	dave.gifford@co.barron.wi.us 715-537-6375
Enter into grant agreement with DNR	Director of Land Services	dave.gifford@co.barron.wi.us 715-537-6375
Submit quarterly and/or final reports to DNR	Lakeshore Technician	pat.brown@co.barron.wi.us 715-537-6313
Submit reimbursement request(s) to DNR	Administrative Assistant III	kim.collins@co.barron.wi.us 715-537-6375
Sign and submit Admin Forms	Director of Land Services	dave.gifford@co.barron.wi.us 715-537-6375

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the applicant will comply with all local, state and federal rules, regulations and ordinances relating to this project and cost-share agreement.

BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2025 –

Barron County Lake Monitoring & Protection Network AIS Grant Application

30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that publication of this resolution may occur
31 through posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.
32

OFFERED THIS 20th day of October, 2025.

Number of readings required: One (☒) Two () Vote required for passage: Majority (☒) 2/3 Entire Board (20) () Source of funding: Budgeted () General Fund () Grant (☒) Contingency () Other () Details _____ Fiscal impact: - Current year total amount: \$ - Future years total amount: \$ - Effect on tax levy – current year - \$ - Effect on tax levy – future years - \$ Fiscal impact reviewed by County Finance Department _____ Jodi Busch, Finance Director Approved as to form by: _____ Jeffrey French, Administrator _____ John Muench, Corporation Counsel	_____ Randall Cook, Extension LCC Chair (The Committee Chair signature verifies the action taken by the Committee.) Board Action: Adopted () Failed () Tabled () Motion: () to approve. Carried.
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**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
BARRON COUNTY
AND
FARMERS OF BARRON COUNTY WATERSHEDS**

BACKGROUND To improve water quality in Wisconsin, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) will provide grants to producer-led groups that implement non-point source pollution abatement activities.

PURPOSE This **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** establishes a partnership between Barron County and Farmers of Barron County Watersheds as required in the Producer-led Watershed Protection Grants Program through DATCP, outlined in ATCP 52, Wisconsin Administrative Code. This MOU defines the respective roles and responsibilities for each entity as they relate to implementation of the producer-led watershed protection grant program.

MISSION Barron County and Farmers of Barron County Watersheds enter into this MOU to work collaboratively on the producer-led water quality protection project in the Yellow River watershed to improve soil health. Therefore, operating under this MOU, Farmers of Barron County Watersheds and Barron County agree to the following terms:

PURPOSE AND SCOPE Barron County and Farmers of Barron County Watersheds will work collaboratively to improve soil health and water quality within the Yellow River watershed, located in Barron County, Wisconsin. The watershed resource concerns involve the Yellow River and the Red Cedar River impairment due to excess phosphorus and sediment loading. We will accomplish improved soil health through the implementation of conservation practices and by providing outreach and education to farmers. Our mutual goals include increasing awareness of conservation benefits, increasing soil health, improving farm productivity and reducing phosphorus and other nutrient runoff from farm fields.

There will be no exchange of funds between Barron County and Farmers of Barron County Watersheds for this project. Each organization of this MOU is responsible for its own expenses related to this MOU.

The role of Barron County will be to provide planning and technical assistance to farmers as well as provide information to farmers on available state, federal and local programs. The Farmers of Barron County Watersheds will lead the efforts of the project by reaching out to farmers, providing information and incentive payments to try innovative conservation practices to primarily increase soil health, and involve other partners to leverage efforts.

RESPONSIBILITIES The official contacts listed below will coordinate the activities of each organization in carrying out this MOU: Barron County: Tyler Gruetzmacher, County Conservationist, Barron County Soil & Water Conservation Department (715) 537-6246. Farmers of Barron County Watersheds, Producer-led Watershed Council: Logan Dwyer, Chairman, 715-651-9803

TERMS OF UNDERSTANDING The term of this MOU is for a period of three (3) years from the effective date of this agreement and may be extended upon written mutual agreement. It shall be reviewed annually to ensure that it is fulfilling its purpose and to make any necessary revisions.

PERIOD OF AGREEMENT The period of this agreement is from the official signing date until terminated by either party pursuant to the TERMINATION paragraph below.

TERMINATION Either party may request termination by giving 60 days written notice to the other party.

AUTHORIZATION Signing this MOU is not a formal undertaking. It implies that the signatories will strive to reach, to the best of their ability, the objectives stated in the MOU. On behalf of the organization I represent, I wish to sign this MOU and contribute to its further development.

Farmers of Barron County Watersheds, A Producer-led Watershed Council By

Signature Logan Dwyer, Chairman, Farmers of Barron County Watersheds

Date _____

Barron County

By _____

Signature

Randy Cook, Chairman, Barron County Land Conservation Committee

Date _____



Press Release

September 15, 2025

Contact:

Stephen Cortes

ccsa@antennagroup.com

254-723-5659

Rep. Krug, Sen. Testin Introduce Community Solar Legislation to Lower Energy Bills and Expand Local Control

Wausau, WI – Today, State Senator Pat Testin (R-Stevens Point) and State Representative Scott Krug (R-Rome)—joined by JD Smith Head of Business Development for Arch Electric and Rick Beyers, a local landowner and community solar advocate—introduced proposals to allow community solar programs in Wisconsin. The legislation empowers farmers and solar developers to deliver locally generated power to neighboring subscribers, strengthening grid reliability and cutting energy costs for families hit hardest by rising utility bills.

Through community solar, farmers can lease small, unproductive portions of their land for solar projects, creating new income streams while expanding access to affordable energy for their neighbors. Currently, the power to approve or decline most energy projects rests with the state's Public Service Commission (PSC). This top-down approach deprives voters control over development in their local community..

Community solar returns power to the people by giving local municipalities and towns control over siting and approval for solar projects in their jurisdictions. Wisconsin is a net importer of energy and currently has some of the most expensive energy costs in the Midwest. By creating more competition in the market, community solar will expand energy options, keep utility spending in check, and drive down high energy prices in the Badger State.

"Wisconsin once enjoyed some of the lowest utility bills in the Midwest, and now our rates are near the highest, leaving families and businesses struggling with soaring costs. This legislation is designed to directly address those rising energy prices by expanding access to locally generated, affordable power. Just as importantly, it ensures that communities themselves are in the driver's seat, with a meaningful role in deciding where and how these projects are built," said State Senator Pat Testin (R-Stevens Point).

"My constituents are tired of these massive solar projects that span thousands of acres, for which they have no voice. That's why the small scale of these projects—combined with local control and oversight—is such an important part of this legislation. Wisconsin residents would have a direct say in the approval process for smaller community solar projects that can be built on 20-30 acres, keeping land and resources in our family farms," said State Representative Scott Krug (R-Rome).

A diverse group of stakeholders from across Wisconsin has joined together to support Rep. Krug and Sen. Testin's efforts to bring community solar to the state. The group includes: Walmart, Advocate Aurora Health, Organic Valley, RENEW Wisconsin, Associated Builders and Contractors, Land & Liberty Coalition, Wisconsin Grocers Association, Kohler, Faith Technologies, Arch Electric, Wisconsin Conservative Energy Forum, Wisconsin Farm Bureau, and Coalition for Community Solar Access. For more information about the coalition, visit [Our Sun. Our Power. Wisconsin.](#)

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