



# PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, February 2, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.

Barron County Government Center - Veterans Memorial Auditorium  
335 East Monroe Avenue - Barron, WI 54812

## MINUTES

**Members Present:** Karolyn Bartlett, Bill Effertz, Dana Heller, Carol Moen, Bob Rogers and Bill Schradle.

**Absent:** Craig Fowler.

**Others Present:** County Forester Bygd, UWEC Barron County Campus Director Fischer (virtual), Administrator French, County Conservationist Gruetzmacher, County Clerk Hodek, Parks & Maintenance Coordinator Mickelson, Deputy County Clerk Naglosky, County Board Chair Okey, Maintenance Director Olson, IT Director Peterson, DNR Forester Cain, Ruth Erickson (Chronotype) and Bob Zientara (NewsShield).

**Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Heller called the meeting to order at 1:00PM.

**Public Meeting Notification:** County Clerk Hodek noted the meeting met WI Open Meeting Requirements.

**Public Comment:** Nothing at this time.

**Special Matters and Announcements:** Administrator French introduced Dalton Bygd, the new Barron County Forester. Bygd gave an overview of his background and current projects.

**Approve Agenda: Motion: (Rogers/Schradle)** to approve. Carried.

**Approve Minutes of January 5, 2026: Motion: (Rogers/Bartlett)** to approve. Carried.

**Tour of Ag Building:** The Committee toured the recent Ag building remodel. Maintenance Director Olson answered questions from the Committee when they returned.

**Information and Update from National Lumbering Hall of Fame Organization:** Stan Buchanan, Chair of the Board of Directors, noted the building that recently collapsed was not completed by their organization. He thanked the Property Committee for providing insurance for the park, removal of trees and maintenance of docks. Buchanan also distributed photos past projects, discussed future projects and answered questions from the Committee. Administrator French noted that any new construction, or remodel to current buildings, on this property must come to the Property Committee for approval prior to construction. Discussion.

**Approve Property Lines of Rice Lake Area School District and UWEC Barron County at the UWEC Barron County Campus:** Chair Heller mentioned he went through the proposed boundary lines onsite with UWEC Barron County Campus Director Fischer. Discussion. **Motion: (Rogers/Effertz)** to approve. Carried.

**PLEASE CALL 715-537-6200 IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND**

*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.*



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## **Resolution –Authorizing Participation in the Department of Natural Resources Municipal Dam Grant**

**Program:** County Conservationist Gruetzmacher outlined the grant program and answered questions from the Committee. **Motion: (Moen/Schradle)** to approve. Carried.

**Mikana Dam – Approval of Proposed Repairs:** County Conservationist Gruetzmacher discussed the need for gear boxes and screws to repair the Mikana Dam. Miron Construction will complete the construction and installation without the need for engineering as it is a replacement of existing equipment. Discussion. **Motion: (Schradle/Effertz)** to approve. Carried.

## **Staff Reports**

### **a. Dam Updates**

1. **Chetek Dam:** The engineering firm, Ayres Associates, produced preliminary drawings of non-structural concrete repair and solid window coverings. The roof is still in good condition. Engineering will be completed in 2026. Gruetzmacher is applying for a grant from the WI DNR in 2027 to help with costs associated with the project. Discussion.
2. **Little Sand Dam:** Possible reconstruction in 2027 with plans to reclassify as a small dam. This includes plans to replace the current concrete pipe with modern pipes and still allow access to County forest land. Engineering plans will occur in 2026 with construction in 2027. Discussion.

### **b. Community Wellness Funding Grant Opportunities at UWEC Barron County Campus:**

Administrator French noted this will be a 2027 project, if the project continues.

**Review Voucher Edit Lists:** Reviewed.

**Set Next Meeting Date:** March 2, 2026 at 1:00PM.

## **Suggestions for Future Agenda Items:**

- a. Approval of Carryover Accounts

**Adjournment: Motion: (Moen/Bartlett)** to adjourn at 1:46PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jessica Hodek, Barron County Clerk

*Minutes are not official until approved by the Committee at the next meeting.*

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