



# PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, May 4, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.

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

## MINUTES

**Members Present:** Karolyn Bartlett, Dana Heller, Carol Moen, Louie Okey (alternate), Bill Schradle and Craig Turcott (alternate).

**Absent:** Craig Fowler.

**Others Present:** BCEDC Director Armstrong, County Forester Bygd, Finance Director Drury, Administrator French, County Conservationist Gruetzmacher, County Clerk Hodek, Building & Maintenance Director Mickelson, Corporation Counsel Muench, Highway Commissioner Nelson, IT Director Peterson and DNR Forester Cain.

**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.

**Special Matters and Announcements:** Administrator French noted the County Clerk distributed a letter received via email from a citizen prior to the meeting regarding the Maple Plain Shooting Range. French also suggested the Committee move the Public Comment prior to the Maple Plain Shooting Range agenda item.

**Approve Agenda: Motion: (Okey/Schradle)** to move the Public Comment prior to the Maple Plain Shooting Range agenda item and approve. Carried.

**Approve Minutes of April 6, 2026: Motion: (Bartlett/Moen)** to approve. Carried.

**Public Comment:** Mandy Straw – 558 29 ½ Avenue in Barronett spoke regarding public use of the Maple Plain Rifle Range. Straw had also distributed documentation to the Committee prior to the start of the meeting.

**Maple Plain Shooting Range – Discussion on Options Addressing Use and Operations:** Corporation Counsel Muench reviewed the history and intended purpose of the Barron County owned rifle ranges in the Townships of Arland and Maple Plain. Various concerns, options to address public concerns, as well as possibilities for implementation were reviewed. Discussion. IT Director Peterson confirmed the County recently purchased upgraded cameras and a license plate reader but installation had not yet been completed. **Motion: (Okey/Schradle)** to direct Buildings & Maintenance Director Mickelson to create signs with language to limit use of both the Arland and Maple Plain Rifle Ranges to Barron County landowners and/or Barron County residents and to close both rifle ranges on Sundays, effective July 1, 2026. The motion also requested the sign prototype be brought to the June Property Committee meeting for approval and Forester Bygd to begin spraying weeds and start planting trees utilizing \$4,500 from the Forestry fund. Discussion. Carried.



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## Staff Reports

- a. **Dam Updates:** Gruetzmacher noted a Walkway Survey was completed on the Rice Lake Dam this morning with County Surveyor Phelps. Information regarding issues on the walkway above Gate 2 was sent to Ayres and a future meeting will be held to discuss options. A tour of the Little Sand Lake Dam with the DNR and Ayres was recently completed to look at options for rebuilding the dam in a manner that would reclassify it as a small dam.
- b. **Service Animal Signage at County Owned Buildings:** Administrator French noted information included in the packet with similar signage that will be put up at all County owned buildings.

**Review Voucher Edit Lists:** Reviewed.

**Set Next Meeting Date:** Wednesday, June 1, 2026 at 1:00PM at the Government Center located in Barron.

## Suggestions for Future Agenda Items:

- a. Election of Chair, Vice Chair and Executive Representative - June
- b. Discussion on Virtual Meeting Attendance - June
- c. Tour of Barron County Housing Authority Apartment Remodel in Barron – July
- d. Rifle Range Signage with New Restrictions
- e. Rifle Range Use Ordinance
- f. UWEC – Barron County Parking Lot Expansion

Chair Heller complimented the Little Learners Daycare Facility at the UWEC-Barron County building.

**Adjournment:** By unanimous consent at 1:54PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jessica Hodek, Barron County Clerk

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