



Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 6, 2026 – 8:00 a.m.

Barron County Government Center – Auditorium
335 East Monroe Avenue – Barron, Wisconsin 54812

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Patti Anderson, Karolyn Bartlett (arrived at 8:09AM), Randy Cook Sr, Dana Heller (alternate), Audrey Kusilek, Gary Nelson (alternate), Louie Okey, Pete Olson and Craig Turcott.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS APPEARING VIRTUALLY: None at this time.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None at this time.

STAFF PRESENT IN PERSON: BCEDC Director Armstrong, Finance Director Drury, Jail Captain Evenson, Administrator French, Patrol Captain Hodek, County Clerk Hodek, ROD Katterhagen, Corporation Counsel Muench, Deputy County Clerk Naglosky, BCEDC Assistant Nelson, IT Director Peterson and Treasurer Sommerfeld.

OTHER COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISORS PRESENT: Jeff Miller.

OTHERS PRESENT: Ruth Erickson (Chronotype) and Ryan Urban (NewsShield).

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Okey called the meeting to order at 8:00AM.

PUBLIC MEETING NOTIFICATION: County Clerk Hodek stated the County's compliance with Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws.

SPECIAL MATTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEMS): Jail Captain Evenson gave an update on the Sallyport remodel and anticipates it will be fully functioning on Monday, May 11, 2026.

APPROVE AGENDA: Motion: (Cook/Olson) to approve. Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None at this time.

APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 1, 2026: Motion: (Kusilek/Heller) to approve. Carried.

DISCUSSION FOR OPTIONS TO OPEN RECORDS REQUESTS: Patrol Captain Hodek reviewed the current process for public record requests within the Sheriff's Department and the concern with the amount of Administrative time spent processing the increasing number of their public record requests. Administrator French recommended that if a new position was created, similar to Polk County, he would like the position to be part of the IT Department. He also noted the City of Barron may be willing to partner with the County for this position and asked this discussion be placed as a future agenda item at the June Executive Committee meeting. IT Director Peterson reviewed the position, and if placed in the IT Department, it could be combined with additional duties such as assisting with ADA website compliance or assisting with basic IT Help Desk questions. Discussion. The Committee and staff agree that a legislative change is necessary to address the issue. Corporation Counsel Muench gave an overview of the Public Records law and answered questions from the Committee. BCEDC Director Armstrong confirmed that this concern has not been brought to the Assembly and recommended the Wisconsin Counties Association work with the Assembly to create a bill. County Clerk Hodek discussed her public records requests and concerns. Cook asked Administrator French if funds were available to support the position in 2026. Administrator French reported yes, and gave budget options. The Committee requested Administrator French provide funding information for the position from the current 2026 budget at the June Executive Committee meeting.



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Bartlett arrived at 8:09AM.

RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE FUNDING FOR AND CREATION OF A SINGLE JAIL LIEUTENANT POSITION IN THE BARRON COUNTY JAIL: Motion: (Olson/Bartlett) to approve. Jail Captain Evenson reviewed the request for the upgraded position and noted the State Jail Inspector recommended a succession plan for the Jail Captain position. Administrator French confirmed this is not a new position and is upgrading a current position within the department. Discussion. Carried.

RESOLUTION – IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 1033 - REGULATION OF WAKESURFING: Motion: (Cook/Heller) to approve. Chair Okey reviewed the resolution and answered questions from the Committee. BCEDC Director Armstrong confirmed that Assembly has passed the bill but the Senate has not. Discussion. Carried.

DISCUSSION OF COHOSTING THE 2027 WCA ANNUAL CONVENTION IN LACROSSE, WI: Chair Okey gave an explanation of the cohosting responsibilities and logistics of cohosting this event. Discussion. Administrator French gave an overview of the previous Co-host County's responsibilities and expectations of the Wisconsin Counties Association. Discussion. Administrator French was requested by the Committee to contact Amy Dias at the Wisconsin Counties Association to determine the County's expected responsibilities for the **2028** WCA Annual Conference and report this information back to the Committee.

DISCUSS/APPROVE “BARRON BASKETS” - \$2,500 APPROPRIATION TO BARRON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (BCEDC) FOR ADVERTISING: Administrator French reviewed the request from the BCEDC Committee. BCEDC Director Armstrong asked the Committee for approval and gave examples of the requests he's received and sample items that would be purchased with the funds, if approved. BCEDC Director Armstrong and BCEDC Assistant Nelson answered questions from the Committee. Discussion. **Motion: (Anderson/Kusilek)** to allocate \$2,500 for Barron County basket for advertising. Carried.

RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO WCA ANNUAL CONVENTION: Motion: (Olson/Cook) to approve all three resolutions listed below for referral to the Wisconsin Counties Association. Carried.

- A. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING**
- B. RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT WISCONSIN ESTABLISHING A MEMBERSHIP WITH THE MULTI-STATE INFORMATION SHARING AND ANALYSIS CENTER (MS-ISAC) TO COVER THE COST OF MEMBERSHIP FOR ALL STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL & TERRITORIAL (SLTT) ORGANIZATIONS**
- C. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 1033 – REGULATION OF WAKESURFING**

STAFF REPORTS & UPDATES

- A. ADVERTISING AT KWIK TRIP LOCATIONS WITHIN BARRON COUNTY:** The County is no longer pursuing advertising with Kwik Trip at this time.



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- B. ASSEMBLY BILL 619 SIGNED INTO LAW – SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL:** BCEDC Director Armstrong has been assisting Sawyer County with \$1.5B facility built in Hayward to process pulpwood which will be utilized for sustainable aviation fuel.
- C. WISCONSIN COUNTIES ASSOCIATION (WCA) STEERING COMMITTEES:** Administrator French noted the Wisconsin Counties Association does not reimburse committee members appointed to the Steering Committees for attendance or mileage. If a County Board Supervisor is appointed to one of the WCA committees, Barron County has the option of reimbursing the Supervisors for the meeting per diem and mileage.

REVIEW VOUCHER EDIT LISTS: No action taken.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- A. DISCUSSION ON ESTABLISHING PARAMETERS FOR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE AT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
- B. OPEN RECORDS POSITION REQUEST UPDATE**
- C. CO-HOSTING EXPECTATIONS OF FUTURE WISCONSIN COUNTIES ASSOCIATION (WCA) ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE**

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at 8:00AM.

ADJOURNMENT: By unanimous consent at 8:54AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Hodek, Barron County Clerk

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