



# PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, June 1, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.

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

## MINUTES

**Members Present:** Karolyn Bartlett, Mark Eby, Craig Fowler, Dana Heller, Kathy Krug, Carol Moen, Louie Okey (alternate) and Bill Schradle.

**Absent:** None at this time.

**Others Present:** County Forester Bygd, Rice Lake School District Director of Finance & Operations Drost, Finance Director Drury, UWEC-Barron County Campus Director Fischer, Administrator French, Land Services Director Gifford, County Clerk Hodek, Building & Maintenance Director Mickelson, IT Director Peterson and DNR Forester Cain.

**Call Meeting to Order:** Administrator French 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:** None at this time.

**Approve Agenda: Motion: (Eby/Bartlett)** to approve. Carried.

**Approve Minutes of May 4, 2026: Motion: (Heller/Fowler)** to approve. Carried.

**Public Comment:** None at this time.

### Elections of Officers

- a. **Chair: Motion: (Schradle/Eby)** to nominate Heller and cast a unanimous ballot for Heller as Chair. Heller accepted the nomination. Carried. *Heller resumed the responsibilities of presiding over the meeting as Committee Chair.*
- b. **Vice Chair: Motion: (Fowler/Bartlett)** to nominate Eby and cast a unanimous ballot for Eby as Vice Chair. Eby accepted the nomination. Carried.
- c. **Executive Representative: Motion: (Eby/Bartlett)** to nominate Fowler and cast a unanimous ballot for Fowler as the Executive Rep. Fowler accepted the nomination. Carried.

**Discuss/Approve Virtual Attendance at Meetings:** Okey reviewed the recent requests for virtual attendance at all County committee meetings. Discussion. **Motion: (Fowler/Eby)** to allow virtual attendance at future Property Committee meetings. Discussion. Carried.

**County Owned Rifle Ranges in Arland & Maple Plain:** Administrator French reviewed the memo sent to the Committee from Corporation Counsel Muench. He recommends Muench draft an ordinance and bring it to the Committee in upcoming months for review.

- a. **Public Use & Restrictions:** The County can't restrict the use of the County owned rifle ranges to County residents and/or Barron County landowners only due to grant restrictions. The County has



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- the ability to create a fee, but the fee would need to be approved by the DNR. Caliber rules would remain the same. Both County owned ranges need to be open 4 hours a day, 3 days a week, 100 days a year to comply with the DNR grant. This allows the County to close both ranges on Sundays in the future. Discussion. **Motion: (Fowler/Schradle)** to ask Corporation Counsel Muench to draft an ordinance regarding County Owned Rifle Range restrictions. Carried.
- b. **Signage:** Postponed until ordinance is drafted.
  - c. **Work Completed:** Forester Bygd planted 1,500 trees at the Maple Plain rifle range to help dampen the noise with emphasis on the east side of the property and near the shooting benches.
  - d. **DNR Grant Application:** The grant would be used to build shelters over the shooting benches and line the shelters with shooting blankets. The grant would also allow for select berms to be built higher and longer in certain areas to reduce noise. Discussion. **Motion: (Bartlett/Eby)** to apply for the DNR grant for the County owned rifle ranges. Carried.

**Resolution – DNR Grant for Kayak Launch:** Administrator asked for approval. **Motion: (Fowler/Eby)** to approve. Discussion. Carried.

**Request to Locate a Food Cabinet at the Government Center by Nora’s Cupboard:** Administrator French reviewed the request. The food cabinet would be located under the awning at the main Monroe Avenue entrance and stocked by the non-profit group. Discussion. **Motion: (Eby/Schradle)** to approve. Carried.

**UWEC-Barron County Parking Lot Expansion (Requested by Rice Lake School District):** Rice Lake School District Director of Finance & Operations Drost reviewed the map included in the packet and the request for a parking lot expansion for the public and staff. Discussion. UWEC-Barron County Campus Director Fischer answered questions from the Committee. Building & Maintenance Director Mickelson voiced concerns with the parking lot covering heating and cooling pipelines and potential for future repairs which could result in the parking lot demolition. **Motion: (Fowler/Krug)** to proceed. Discussion. Carried.

## Staff Reports

- a. **Dam Updates – Chetek, Little Sand & Rice Lake:** Land Services Director Gifford updated the Committee on concerns with the Rice Lake Dam and reviewed the proposals from Ayres. County Conservationist Gruetzmacher will meet with engineers to evaluate the options and get an estimated cost. Barron County received a 50% DNR municipal dam grant for concrete repairs on the Chetek Dam. Gruetzmacher will meet with Ayres and the DNR to discuss options for 2026 or 2027.
- b. **Pleasant Plains Update:** The maintenance staff is continuing to clear brush and working on log removal.
- c. **UWEC-Barron County Library Controls:** The grant was received and Upper 90 is looking for contractor to complete the work. The County has a bid request online.
- d. **Approval of Final Shelter Plan – Kolpack Picnic Shelter at the Lumbering Hall of Fame Located in the City of Rice Lake:** Cooper Engineering approved the plans and also answered questions from the Committee.



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**Review Voucher Edit Lists:** Reviewed.

**Set Next Meeting Date:** Monday, July 6, 2026 at 1:00PM at the Barron County Housing Authority in Barron for a tour and then reconvening at the Government Center located in Barron for the remainder of the meeting.

**Suggestions for Future Agenda Items:**

- a. Tour of Barron County Housing Authority Apartment Remodel in Barron – July
- b. Approval of Phase II Costs with HVAC Upgrades at UWEC-Barron County
- c. Review Fixed Assets
- d. Approve Contract Regarding UWEC-Barron County Library Controls

**Consideration of Purchasing Land Adjoining County Forest Land, Compartment 1, in the Town of Doyle:**

**Motion: (Bartlett/Eby)** to go into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(e) for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating purchase of public properties, investing public funds, other specific business, or whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session to include Administrator French, County Forester Bygd and County Board Chair Okey. Carried on a roll call vote with Bartlett, Eby, Fowler, Heller, Krug, Moen and Schradle voting in favor and none opposed.

*The remainder of the minutes were taken by County Administrator French.*

Motion to return to Open Session, Supervisor(s) Bartlett/Fowler, carried.

Motion to Adjourn: Supervisor Schradle, declared adjourned by unanimous consent by Chair Heller at 2.14pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jessica Hodek, Barron County Clerk

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