



BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Monday, August 17, 2026 - 5:00 p.m.

Barron County Government Center — Veterans Memorial Auditorium
335 East Monroe Avenue — Barron, Wisconsin 54812

Link to View Meeting: <http://youtube.com/e/BarronCountyMeetings>
Live streaming of the meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call- Public Notification
3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
4. Special Matters and Announcements (Non-Action Items)
 - a. Proclamation for National “See Tracks” Think Train” Week – September 21-27, 2026
 - b. Mosaic’s Investment in Barron County
5. Approve Agenda
6. Approve Minutes of July 20, 2026
7. Public Comment (*Prior Registration with County Clerk Required /Maximum Allotted Time is 3 Minutes*)
8. Presentation on County Insurance Policies
9. Presentation from West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC) – Susan Badtke, Executive Director
10. Presentation from Pioneer Village Museum – Mark Dobberfuhl
11. Resolution – Purchase of Property in the Town of Doyle for Barron County Forest Purposes
12. Recodification of Sections – Code of Ordinances
13. Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Rezoning – Town of Lakeland, Tonja Metnik, Owner
14. Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Rezoning – Town of Cumberland, Scott & Mary Bellefeuille, Owners

(Agenda Continued on Next Page)

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 can be made to accommodate your request.

15. Report from County Administrator
 - a. Ehlers Correspondence – Refinancing of WTE Debt
 - b. Proposed Revisions to OMB Circular Pertaining to Grants and Single Audit Requirements
16. Appointments
 - a. Community Development Block Grant Committee (CDBG) – Supervisor Effertz, Supervisor Sandmann & Supervisor Wentz
17. Claims, Petitions & Correspondence
18. Suggestions for Future Agenda Items
 - a. Possible Data Center Moratorium Ordinance – Special County Board Meeting at 1:00PM on August 31, 2026 at Veteran’s Memorial Auditorium in Barron
 - b. First Draft of 2027 County Budget
 - c. Presentation on Barron County Fair & Financials
19. Confirm Next Meeting Date
20. Adjournment

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BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026 – 5:00 PM

BARRON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER – VETERANS MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM
335 EAST MONROE AVENUE - BARRON, WISCONSIN 54812

MINUTES

PRESENT: Patti Anderson, Robert Anderson, Scott Bachowski, Karolyn Bartlett, Randy Cook, Sr., Mark Eby, Shelley Effertz, Carsten Ellison, Craig Fowler, Jim Gores, Dana Heller, Dennis Jenkins, Kathy Krug, Audrey Kusilek, Fran Langman, Jamie McCready (Arrived at 5:09PM), Jeff Miller, Carol Moen, Gary Nelson, Louie Okey, Dennis Sandmann, Pete Schneider, Bill Schradle, Craig Turcott, Diane Vaughn, Lauren Wentz, Stacey Wenzel and Brad Wolf.

APPEARING VIRTUALLY: None at this time.

ABSENT: Pete Olson.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Okey called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

ROLL CALL - PUBLIC NOTIFICATION: County Clerk Hodek took attendance and stated the County's compliance with Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws.

INVOCATION: Delivered by Pastor Rodger Prois of the Long Lake Lutheran Church.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited.

SPECIAL MATTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEMS):

1. Ojibwe Village at the Pioneer Village Museum – John Mitchell, Development Director, spoke regarding the upcoming event on August 21, 2026 at the Pioneer Village Museum located in Cameron.
2. Introduction of Ben Cole, New Land Services Director.

APPROVE AGENDA: Motion: (Cook/Turcott) to approve. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (McCready & Olson).

Supervisor McCready arrived at 5:09PM.

APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2026 AND JUNE 23, 2026: Motion: (Heller/Kusilek) to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Olson).

PUBLIC COMMENT: None at this time.

APPROVAL OF LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR MOSAIC TECHNOLOGIES APPLICATION FOR THE WISCONSIN PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION FOR BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT:
Motion: (Nelson/P. Anderson) to approve. Chair Okey noted the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Committee approved a letter of support for this grant. Discussion. Director of Public Relations Fitzgerald gave an overview of the grant, answered questions from the Board and asked for the Board's support with Mosaic's grant application process. Carried with 27 Yes, 1 No (Langman) and 1 Absent (Olson).

PRESENTATION FROM DISCOVER MEDIAWORKS ON UNIQUELY WISCONSIN: John Osterman, Content Marketing and Business Development, reviewed the Uniquely Wisconsin tourism marketing program and answered questions from the Board.

RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF \$20,000.00 FOR A UNIQUELY WISCONSIN DISCOVER MEDIAWORKS INC., PRODUCTION: **Motion: (Heller/Cook)** to approve. Discussion. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Olson).

RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING APPLYING FOR COST SHARING GRANT FROM THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR COUNTY OWNED RIFLE RANGES: **Motion: (Jenkins/Eby)** to approve. Administrator French reviewed the grant and answered questions from the Board. Discussion. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Olson).

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – REZONING - TOWN OF TURTLE LAKE, TOU YANG & MAYJOUA LY, OWNERS: **Motion: (Jenkins/Kusilek)** to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Olson).

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – REZONING – TOWN OF DOYLE, CINDY GENG, OWNER: **Motion: (Cook/Jenkins)** to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Olson).

REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR:

1. Consideration of One (1) LTE for Open Records Requests - Administrator French would like this position to be referred back to the Law Enforcement Committee for discussion due to possible changes in long term funding options. French also answered questions from the Board. *Future Agenda Item*
2. 2026 Veterans Outreach Program – Administrator French noted the Veterans Service Office’s upcoming event, Recognition Ceremony and Benefits Fair – Saturday, August 15, 2026 at Northwoods Tech in Rice Lake and the flyer was included in the packet.
3. Community Connections 2025 Impact Report – The report was included in the packet.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Traffic Safety Committee - Shane Massie, Education Representative (Replacing Hannah Mueller): **Motion: (Kusilek/Heller)** to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Olson).
2. Land Services Director - Ben Cole (Replacing Dave Gifford): **Motion: (Kusilek/Heller)** to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Olson).
3. Wisconsin Land & Water Board of Directors - Supervisor Randall Cook (New Appointment): **Motion: (Kusilek/Heller)** to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Olson).

Administrator French told the Board that he has no information on the closing of area DNR fish hatcheries. He is working with Pat Brown, Lake Technician, to identify additional information on the recent changes. French noted that ponds at the Brule hatchery have been drained. He is also concerned about the impact on the County’s tourism without the annual stocking of fish in area lakes.

CLAIMS, PETITIONS & CORRESPONDENCE: None at this time.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Recodification of Sections - Code of Ordinances
2. First Draft of 2027 County Budget

3. Presentation on County Insurances
4. Presentation from West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC)
5. Presentation on Pioneer Village Museum
6. Presentation on Barron County Fair
7. LTE Open Records Position Request
8. Presentation from Barron County Housing Authority on Recent Remodel

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, August 17, 2026 at 5:00PM at the Government Center located in Barron.

Adjournment: By Unanimous Consent at 6:01PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Hodek, County Clerk

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD AT THE NEXT MEETING.

Proclamation
National See Tracks? Think Train® Week

WHEREAS, See Tracks? Think Train® Week is to be held across the U.S. from September 21 - 27, 2026; and

WHEREAS, 2,273 rail grade crossing collisions resulted in 764 personal injuries and were responsible for 287 fatalities in the United States during 2025; and

WHEREAS, educating and informing the public about rail safety (reminding the public that railroad right of ways are private property, enhancing public awareness of the dangers associated with highway rail grade crossings, ensuring pedestrians and motorists are looking and listening while near railways, and obeying established traffic laws) will reduce the number of avoidable fatalities and injuries caused by incidents involving trains and citizens; and

WHEREAS, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Operation Lifesaver, Inc., United States Department of Transportation, and all local, state, county, and railroad law enforcement officers, first responders, and railroad corporations commit to partnering together in an effort to educate at a national level all aspects of railroad safety, to enforce applicable laws in support of National, See Tracks? Think Train® Week.

THEREFORE, I do hereby attest my full support proclaiming September 21 - 27, 2026, National See Tracks? Think Train® Week and I encourage all citizens to recognize the importance of rail safety education.

Dated this 17th day of August, 2026

Louie Okey
Barron County Board Chair

Mosaic's Investment in Barron County

Mosaic's commitment to expanding broadband access in Barron County reflects our long-term investment in the communities we serve. Through local, state, and federal funding opportunities, including the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) Broadband Expansion Program, the USDA Community Connect Program, and the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, Mosaic has partnered with government agencies and local stakeholders to deliver reliable, future-ready fiber broadband to residents and businesses throughout the county.

Broadband Infrastructure Investment

Over the past several years, Mosaic has made significant investments in broadband infrastructure across Barron County.

Wisconsin PSC Broadband Expansion Grants

- 12 projects completed
- 5,292 passings
- Total project cost: More than \$29 million
- Mosaic investment: More than \$19.6 million

USDA Community Connect Program

- 1 project
- 630 passings
- Total project cost: More than \$4.9 million
- Mosaic investment: More than \$600,000
- Included construction of a community broadband hub at Crystal Lake Town Hall
- Scheduled for completion in August 2026

BEAD Program

- 1 project in progress
- 1,206 passings
- Total project cost: More than \$6.6 million
- Mosaic investment: More than \$1.6 million

Self-Funded Fiber Expansion Projects

City of Rice Lake, City of Chetek, and Village of Turtle Lake

- More than 2,700 passings
- Approximately \$25 million investment
- Projects currently in progress

Total Impact

Upon completion of these projects, Mosaic will have expanded fiber broadband access to nearly 10,000 additional homes and businesses, representing a total infrastructure investment of more than \$65 million.

This progress has been made possible through partnerships with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the Wisconsin PSC, USDA, Barron County, local municipalities, and many other stakeholders committed to closing the digital divide throughout the region.

Combined with Mosaic's existing network, the company will provide broadband service to more than 18,000 passings across Barron County.

In addition, Mosaic currently employs approximately 130 team members, many of whom live, work, volunteer, and raise their families in the communities we serve.

Local. Invested. Committed.

Mosaic is more than a broadband provider. We are a local employer, community partner, and neighbor. Our employees volunteer with local organizations, support community events, and work every day to improve quality of life throughout Barron County.

As we continue expanding fiber broadband across the region, we remain committed to investing in the people, businesses, and communities that make Barron County a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

When you partner with Mosaic, you are partnering with a company deeply rooted in the community and dedicated to its future.

Community Commitment

Mosaic's commitment to Barron County extends far beyond broadband infrastructure. We actively invest our time, volunteer efforts, resources, and financial support in organizations and events that strengthen our communities.

Over the years, Mosaic has contributed or committed more than \$400,000 in support of Barron County organizations, scholarships, and community initiatives.

Community Investments and Partnerships

Here is a small snapshot of organizations/initiatives that Mosaic proudly supports:

- Turtle Lake Lions Club
- Rice Lake, Barron, Cumberland, and Chetek Chambers of Commerce
- Cameron Area Business Association
- Barron County Economic Development Corporation
- Area school district partnerships
- Barron County Historical Society and Museum
- Cameron Parks and Recreation initiatives
- Rice Lake Celebrity Golf Event, where Mosaic has served as an original sponsor and community partner, helping generate more than \$1.2 million for local youth programs
- Boys & Girls Club
- Benjamin's House Emergency Shelter
- Cumberland Healthcare
- Barron County Fair
- Haugen Fun Days
- National Night Out events
- Dallas Park initiatives
- Rice Lake Men's Club
- Barron County Livestock Auction, where Mosaic has been a buyer for over 50 years
- Mikana Fireworks
- Spirit of Christmas
- Barron County Law Enforcement initiatives
- Barron County Scholarship's
- Barron County ADRC partnerships
- Cameron School Scoreboard Project

- Feed Our Futures Backpack Programs
- Cumberland Rutabaga
- Barron County Emergency Management Preparedness Location
- American Red Cross blood drives and installation of more than 1,500 smoke alarms
- Community e-recycling initiatives that have collected 62.89 tons of electronics during the past six years

Building a Stronger Barron County Together

For more than a century, Mosaic has been committed to serving rural communities across northwestern Wisconsin with its headquarters in Barron County. Our investment in fiber broadband, our local workforce, and our community partnerships reflects a simple belief: strong communities deserve strong connections.

By expanding access to high-speed fiber internet and supporting the organizations that make Barron County thrive, Mosaic continues to invest in a stronger future for the residents, businesses, farms, schools, and communities we proudly serve

WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



ABOUT US

West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC) is a multi-county planning agency created under Wisconsin State Statute 66.0309. It was established in 1971 by executive order of the Governor based upon petition from the counties comprising the region. These counties are: Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Polk, and St. Croix.

WCWRPC is statutorily charged with the responsibility of planning for the physical, social, and economic development of the region. We provide technical assistance and advisory services on regional issues to the local governments and organizations within the region and often serve as a coordinating agency for local programs and activities.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT



Planning for Strong Infrastructure

WCWRPC provides regional planning and technical assistance to guide land use, transportation, housing, utilities, and capital improvement planning.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



Supporting Thriving Communities

WCWRPC facilitates regional collaboration and stakeholder engagement to ensure plans reflect local needs and shared goals throughout the seven county region.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Advancing Regional Prosperity

WCWRPC provides economic analysis, grant writing assistance, and strategic development planning to enhance regional competitiveness.

WCWRPC stands ready to assist counties, municipalities, and partner organizations with the planning tools, data, and expertise needed to move projects from vision to implementation.

WCWRPC stands ready to assist counties, municipalities, and partner organizations with the planning tools, data, and expertise needed to move projects from vision to implementation.

- » Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) planning
- » Grant writing and administration (state and federal programs)
- » Business and industry support
- » Economic impact and data analysis
- » Funding strategy development



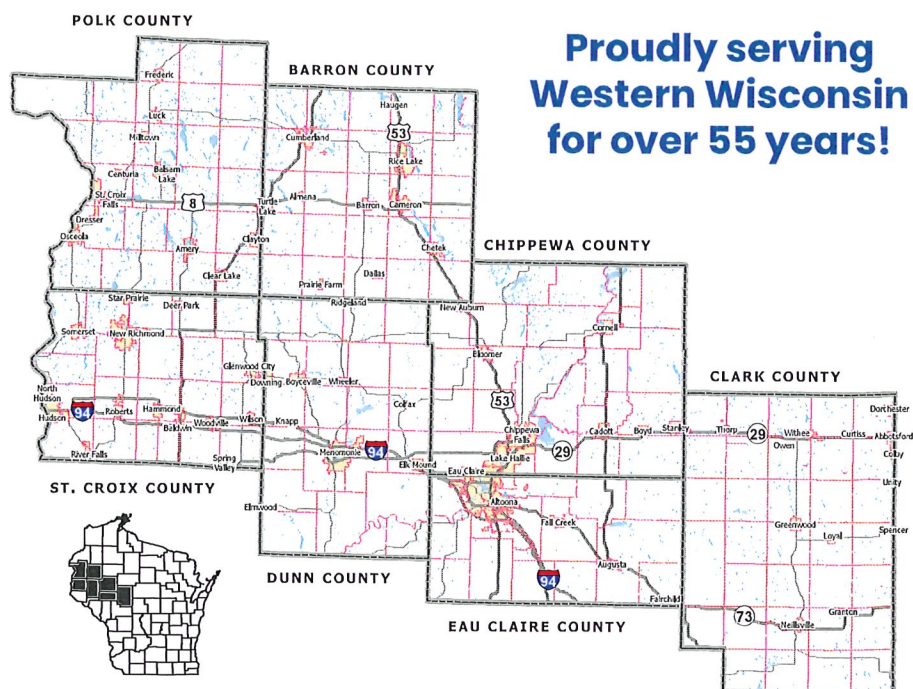
- » Regional transportation planning
- » Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) coordination
- » Safe Routes to School planning
- » Bicycle and pedestrian planning
- » Miovision traffic studies
- » Special studies, reports, and GIS or web map development



- » Comprehensive and land use planning
- » Housing studies and needs assessments
- » Community engagement facilitation
- » Capital improvement planning
- » CDBG administration and implementation support



- » Watershed and water quality planning
- » Hazard mitigation planning
- » Natural resource planning and mapping
- » Resiliency and sustainability strategies
- » Intergovernmental coordination on environmental initiatives



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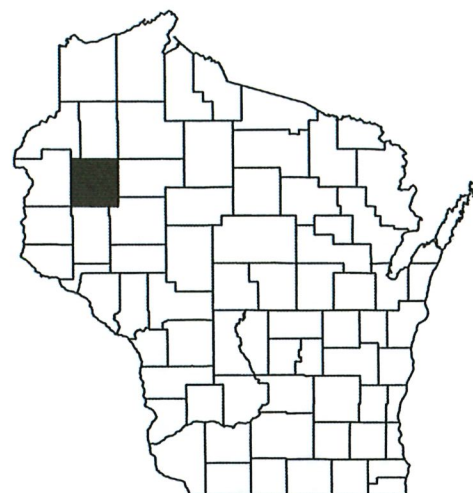
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Barron County

Economic Profile

DEMOGRAPHICS

County Population	2020	2023	2024	2030	2040	2050
Total Population	46,711	46,741	46,797	45,710	44,675	43,630
Percent Change	-	0.06%	0.2%	- 2.4%	- 2.3%	- 2.4%
Male	23,292	23,483	23,466	22,785	22,205	21,645
Female	23,419	23,258	23,331	22,925	22,470	21,985
Minority	4,144	3,698	3,698	NA	NA	NA
Percent Minority	8.9	7.9	7.9	NA	NA	NA
Under 5	2,490	2,440	2,357	2,560	2,640	2,745
5-9 years	2,720	3,030	2,970	2,505	2,555	2,680
10-14	2,885	2,714	2,771	2,595	2,700	2,795
15-19	2,756	2,663	2,713	2,680	2,505	2,560
20-24	2,220	2,531	2,464	2,235	2,030	2,125
25-34	5,048	4,756	4,738	4,740	4,760	4,405
35-44	5,189	5,311	5,427	5,015	4,800	4,820
45-54	5,427	5,337	5,320	5,255	5,170	4,950
55-59	3,596	3,284	3,151	2,620	2,845	2,730
60-64	3,749	3,858	3,858	2,850	2,540	2,580
65-75	6,070	6,228	6,338	6,820	5,185	5,145
75-84	3,234	3,322	3,449	4,385	5,040	3,830
85+	1,327	1,267	1,241	1,450	1,905	2,265



Source: U.S. Census Bureau (P1 and DP1), ACS B01003 5-Year Estimates, Wisconsin DOA 2025 Projections.

Percent Change

Municipal Population	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2025	1980 - 1990	1990 - 2000	2000 - 2010	2010 - 2020	2020 - 2024
City of Baron	2,595	2,986	3,248	3,423	3,733	3,694	15.1%	8.8%	5.4%	9.1%	-1.0%
City of Chetek	1,931	1,953	2,180	2,221	2,172	2,168	1.1%	11.6%	1.9%	- 2.2%	-0.2%
City of Cumberland	1,983	2,163	2,280	2,170	2,274	2,278	9.1%	5.4%	-4.8%	4.8%	0.2%
City of Rice Lake	7,691	7,998	8,312	8,419	9,040	9,037	4.0%	3.9%	1.3%	7.4%	-0.0%
Village of Almena	526	625	720	677	705	744	18.8%	15.2%	-6.0%	4.1%	5.5%
Village of Cameron	1,115	1,273	1,546	1,783	1,872	1,885	14.2%	21.4%	15.3%	5.0%	0.7%
Village of Dallas	477	452	356	409	359	356	- 5.2%	-21.2%	14.9%	-12.2%	-0.8%
Village of Haugen	251	305	287	287	266	262	21.5%	-5.9%	0.0%	7.3%	-1.5%
Village of New Auburn*	14	26	15	20	25	39	85.7%	-42.3%	33.3%	25.0%	56.0%
Village of Prairie Farm	387	494	508	473	494	473	27.6%	2.8%	- 6.9%	4.4%	- 4.3%
Village of Turtle Lake*	762	811	1,000	957	959	961	6.4%	23.3%	- 4.3%	0.2%	0.2%

Source: 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020 U.S. Census Bureau, Wisconsin DOA 2025 Estimates.

*Note: Includes portion in Barron County only.

Percent Change

Per Capital Personal Income	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Barron County	\$60,473	\$58,710	\$61,456	\$63,871	- 2.9%	4.7%	3.9%
Wisconsin	\$60,699	\$61,831	\$64,872	\$67,755	1.9%	4.9%	4.4%
United States	\$60,699	\$61,831	\$64,872	\$67,755	1.9%	4.9%	4.4%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis

Note: Total income includes income from three sources: net earnings, dividends, interest and rent, and transfer receipts. Total personal income divided by the total population produces per capita personal income (PCPI).

HOUSING & ECONOMY

Housing Metrics	Barron County	
2024 Housing Units	24,067	
2025 Estimated Housing Units	24,297	
Owner-Occupied Units	15,439	
Renter-Occupied Units	4,516	
Persons per Owner-Occupied Unit	2.4	
Persons per Renter-Occupied Unit	2.0	
Median Value of Housing	\$216,600	
Median Monthly Gross Rent	\$879	

Source: 2024 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2024 Wisconsin DCA Housing Estimates

Number of Building Permits

County Residential	2019	2023
Single Family	120	133
Total Units	170	165
Value	\$32,695,175	\$52,147,583

Source: 2024 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2024 Wisconsin DCA Housing Estimates

Consumer Expenditure (per household)

Commodity	Total	
Tax and Retirement	\$20,150	
Transportation	\$15,863	
Shelter	\$14,310	
Health Care	\$6,775	
Grocery	\$6,124	
Entertainment	\$5,202	
Utilities	\$4,379	
Food Away From Home	\$3,986	
Contributions	\$2,837	
Household Furnishings and Equipment	\$2,405	
Education	\$2,034	
Household Operations	\$1,694	
Apparel	\$1,678	
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$1,554	
Personal Care	\$1,192	
Alcoholic Beverages	\$552	
Tobacco and Related	\$481	
Total Expenditures	\$91,2163	

Source: Acquired Geographic Solutions, 2024

Government Finances	County	State
Full Equalized County Valuation (\$000)	\$7,225,448	\$907,414,717
Net Property Tax (\$000)	\$91,169	\$12,362,610
Full Value Tax Rate per \$1,000 Valuation	\$14.07	\$15.03
Per Capita Property Tax	\$1945.73	\$2,064.13

Source: Town, Village, and City Taxes, Wisconsin Department of Revenue

Civilian Labor Force	2020	2025
Total Employed	23,157	22,764
Total Unemployed	21,648	21,850
Total Labor Force	1,509	914
County Average Unemployment Rate	6.5	4.0
Wisconsin Average Unemployment Rate	6.4	3.2
U.S. Average Unemployment Rate	8.1	4.3

Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

Representative Wage Rates	2023 Hourly Rate	
Position	Mean	Median
Bartenders	\$11.58	\$10.65
Bookkeeping/Accounting/Auditing	\$23.00	\$22.99
Cashiers	\$14.78	\$14.46
Computer Programmers	\$46.26	\$39.58
Electricians	\$32.91	\$32.57
Healthcare Social Workers	\$29.76	\$29.17
Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse	\$29.53	\$29.39
Machinery Maintenance Workers	\$30.71	\$30.14
Nursing Assistants	\$20.63	\$20.35
Office Clerk, General	\$21.24	\$21.21
Physical Therapists	\$48.20	\$48.85
Secretaries/Administrative Assistants	\$30.00	\$29.60
Tellers	\$20.13	\$19.61
Truck Drivers-Heavy/Tractor Trailer	\$26.36	\$27.68
Waiter and Waitresses	\$13.40	\$13.23
Welder/Cutter/Solderer/Brazer	\$25.26	\$24.36

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2024

Employment by Industry	Employees	% of Total
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, Mining	1,163	5.3%
Construction	1,657	7.6%
Manufacturing	4,735	21.7%
Wholesale Trade	395	1.8%
Retail Trade	2,783	12.7%
Transportation and Warehousing, and Utilities	1,203	5.5%
Information	257	1.2%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	816	3.7%
Services (Professional, Educational, Entertainment, Other)	7,990	36.6%
Public Administration	837	3.8%
Total Employment	21,836	100%

Source: 2024 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

* Represents the total number of jobs provided by employers within the County and not the total number of employed individuals in the County

Industry Employment Projections (West Central WI)

Industry	Estimated Employment*		
	2022	2032	% Change
Mining/Natural Resources	4,346	4,710	8.4%
Manufacturing	37,331	39,901	6.9%
Construction	8,800	10,035	14.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	43,355	47,310	9.1%
Information	1,208	1,075	-11.0%
Financial Activities (finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing)	7,507	8,543	13.8%
Professional and Business Services (professional, management, remediation)	15,034	16,906	12.5%
Education and Health Services (including State/Local Government)	48,084	52,353	8.9%
Leisure and Hospitality	19,920	22,684	13.9%
Other Services (except Government)	8,597	9,498	10.5%
Government	11,585	11,636	0.4%
Self-Employed and Unpaid Family Workers (all jobs)	15,663	17,572	12.2%
Total, All Nonfarm Industries	221,430	242,223	9.4%

Source: Office of Economic Advisors, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (Dec. 2024)

*Note: Employment is a count of jobs rather than people, and includes all part and full-time nonfarm jobs

Industry Employment Projections (West Central WI)

Employer	Industry Type	Employees
Turkey Store Co the Maintenance Shop	Maintenance Contractors	1,000-4,999
St Croix Casino LLC	Casinos	1,000-4,999
Mattson Spray Equipment	Spray Painting & Finishing	500-999
Saputo Cheese USA Inc	Cheese Processors (manufacturers)	250-499
Sanmina-Sci Corp	Circuit Boards-Manufacturers	250-499
McCain Foods USA Inc	Canning (manufacturers)	250-499
Mayo Clinic Health System	Hospitals	250-499
Henry Repeating Arms Co	Guns & Gunsmiths	250-499
Walmart Supercenter	Department Stores	250-499
American Excelsior Co	Packaging Materials-Manufacturers	100-249
Cumberland Memorial Hospital	Hospitals	100-249
Mastercraft Industries Inc	Cabinets-Manufacturers	100-249
3M Co	Abrasives (wholesale)	100-249
Automated Building Components	Trusses (manufacturers)	100-249
Marketplace Foods Grocery Store	Grocers-Retail	100-249
Rice Lake High School	Schools	100-249
In Town Storage	Food Products-Machinery (manufacturers)	100-249
Wisconsin Indianhead Tech College	Junior-Community College-Tech Institutes	100-249
Lake Country Dairy Inc	Cheese Processors (manufacturers)	100-249
Kohl's	Department Stores	100-249
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire	Schools-Universities & Colleges Academic	100-249
Parker Quick Coupling Div	Hose Couplings & Fittings-Manufacturers	100-249
Blain's Farm & Fleet-Rice Lake	Farm Supplies (wholesale)	100-249
Action Filtration Inc	Filters (manufacturers)	100-249
Heritage Lakeside	Nursing & Convalescent Homes	50-99

Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development; Major Employers extracted from Data Axle

Recreational Highlights

Barron County has abundant recreational facilities and resources ranging from hunting and fishing to snowmobiling and hiking. The County offers excellent public and private camping facilities among the many lakes, streams, and County forests. The many lakes of Barron County are known for outdoor activities, including fishing, camping, and pleasure boating. County forest land is in abundance around many of the County's lakes and offers sightseers a variety of wildlife. Barron County offers excellent canoeing and boating, especially along the Red Cedar River. The Blue Hills, located in the northeastern part of the county, are especially beautiful in autumn to hikers, cyclists, and motorists alike.

For more information: Barron County (Maintenance, Parks, & Recreation) <https://www.barroncountywi.gov>

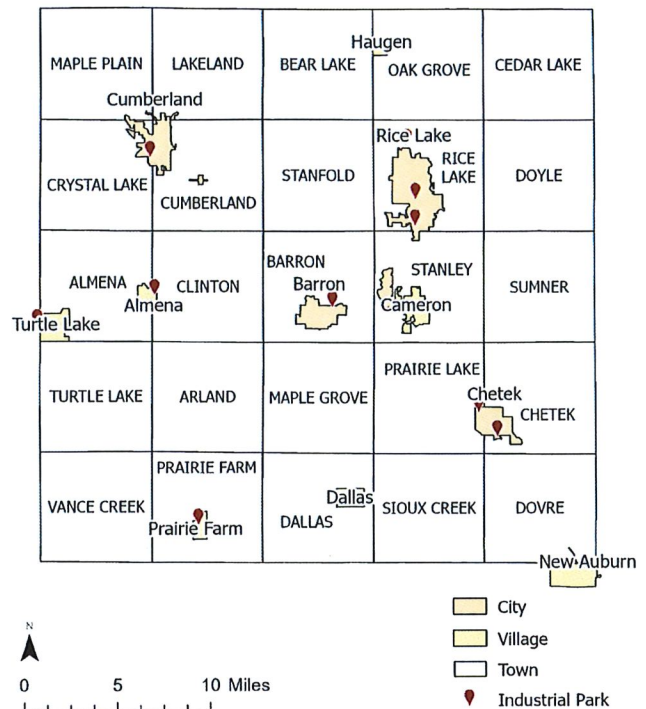
Source: Barron County Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2019-2024.

Industrial and Business Parks/Sites

Park or Site Name	Site Location (Municipality)
Almena Industrial Park	Village of Almena
Barron Industrial Park	City of Barron
Chetek Industrial Park #1	City of Chetek
Chetek Industrial Park #2	City of Chetek
Cumberland Industrial Park	City of Cumberland
Rice Lake Business Park	City of Rice Lake
Cedar Side Business Park	City of Rice Lake
Rice Lake Industrial Park	City of Rice Lake
Turtle Lake Industrial Park	Turtle Lake

For more information, contact the Barron County Economic Development Corporation:

Dave Armstrong, Economic Development Director
Barron County Economic Development Corporation
1-800-529-4148
bcedc@co.barron.wi.us



Community Facilities and Utilities

Highways	Barron County is served by a network of U.S. and State Highways. U.S. Highways 53 and 63 run north and south through the County, along with State Highway 25. U.S. Highway 53 is a four-lane highway. U.S. Highway 8 and State Highway 48 run east and west.
Rail Service	Barron County is served by Canadian National (CN). The CN serves the communities of Barron, Cameron, and Rice Lake. The CN connects with the Wisconsin Northern (WN) rail line runs south from Rice Lake through Chetek to Chippewa Falls to provide shippers with nationwide access. CN has a 40-mile stretch of line between Ladysmith and Poskin.
Air Service	Barron County has four publicly-owned airports. Two medium general aviation airports are located near Cumberland and Chetek. A small general aviation airport is located near Barron. All of these facilities have paved runways over 3,400 feet in length, except Barron which has a 2,010 foot turf runway. The Rice Lake Airport is a large general aviation facility and is located to the west of Cameron. The Rice Lake Airport has a 6,700 foot runway and a 3,500 foot runway, both asphalt, and maintains a fixed base operator providing fuel and mechanic services. Air taxi and daily air freight services are also available.
Educational Facilities	Most training needs among local businesses are met by the Northwood Technical College located in Rice Lake. Associate degree and vocational education programs are offered in the areas of agriculture; service and health; business management; trade and industry; and general education, as well as apprenticeship trades. UWEC-Barron County is a two-year university center in Rice Lake providing college-level curriculum for area residents.



BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - _____

**Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Property in the
Town of Doyle for Enrollment in the County Forest**

TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1 **WHEREAS**, Barron County is interested in obtaining additional property for
2 hunting and outdoor recreation activities, to add to existing Barron County Forest Property;
3 and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, Barron County has the option to purchase approximately 200 acres
6 of wooded land within the established County Forest Blocking Boundary Map for
7 Compartment 1 - Town of Doyle bordering existing County Forest Land; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, acquisition of lands to be entered into the County Forest is authorized
10 by Wisconsin Statutes Section 28.11(8)(b) and the County Forest Comprehensive Plan
11 adopted by the County Board of Supervisors; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 28.11(8)(b), the County is
14 eligible to apply for a non-interest bearing Forestry Aid Loan to be used for the purchase,
15 development, preservation and maintenance of County Forest Lands. Repayment of such
16 loan is made from proceeds from future year timber harvests; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the Property Committee authorized the County Forester to enter into
19 negotiations for the purchase of the above lands, and Offers to Purchase have been drafted,
20 signed and accepted; and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, the purchase at the price of approximately \$3,011.94 per acre is
23 contingent upon approval of the Property Committee, the Barron County Board of
24 Supervisors and the acceptance or the County's application for a non-interest bearing
25 Forestry Aid Loan; and

26 **WHEREAS**, this resolution was approved by the Property Committee on August
27 3, 2026, on a vote of 7-0, with Eby, Fowler, Heller, Krug, Moen, Okey & Schradle voting
28 in favor and none against.
29

30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Barron County Board of
31 Supervisors does hereby authorize the purchase of approximately 197.58 acres of wooded
32 land within the established County Forest Blocking Boundary Map for Compartment 1 -
33 Town of Doyle bordering existing County Forest Land for the purpose of enrollment in the
34 County Forest at a price of approximately \$3,011.94 per acre.
35

36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Barron County Board of Supervisors
37 does authorize the County Forester to submit an application for a non-interest bearing
38 Forestry Aid Loan to be used for the purchase the property.

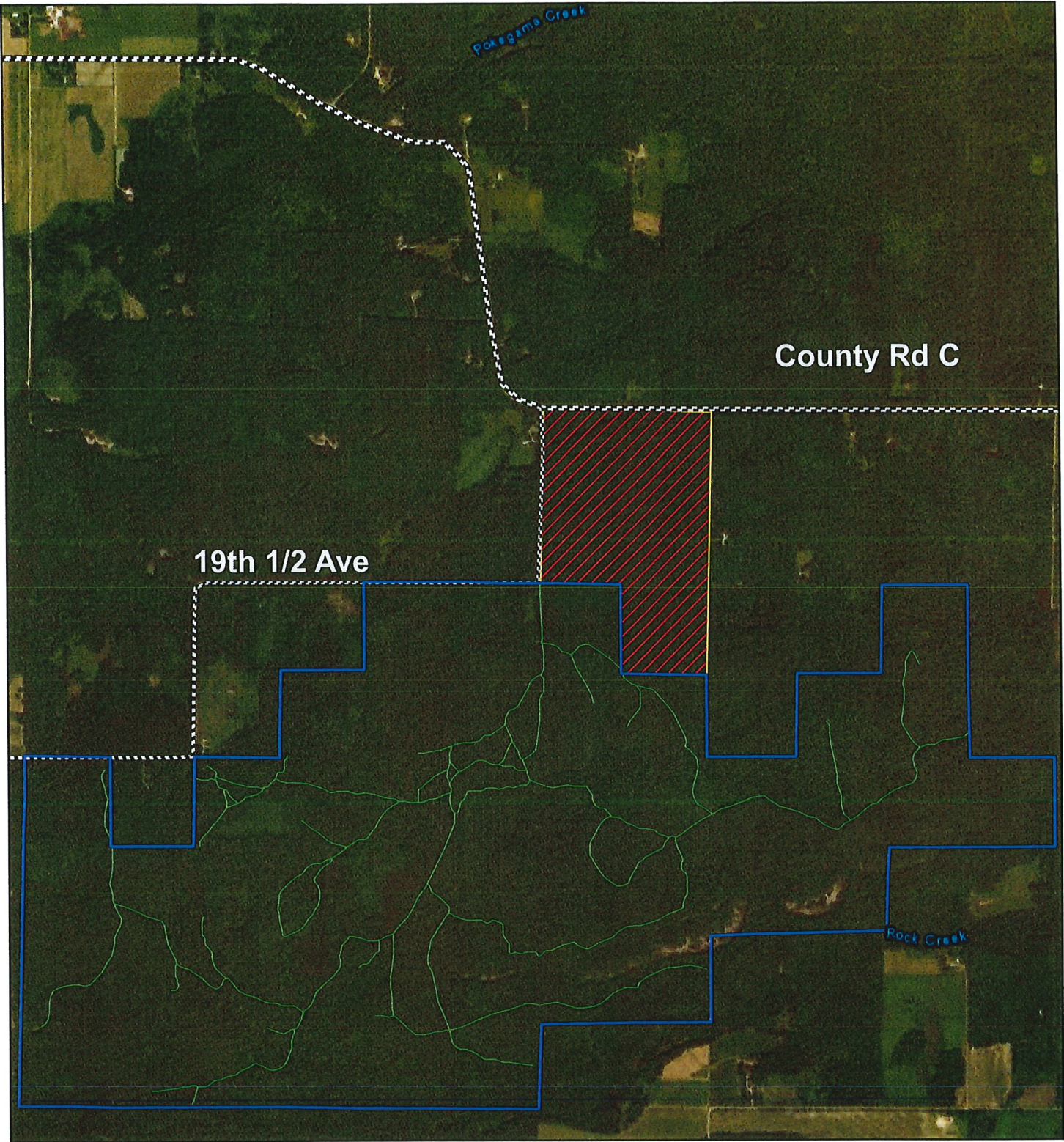
39
40
41
42

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

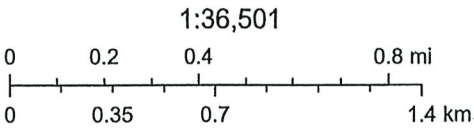
OFFERED THIS 17th day of August, 2026.

Number of readings required: One (X) Two () Vote required for passage: Majority () ¾ Entire Board (22) (X) Source of funding: Budgeted () General Fund (X) Grant () Contingency () Other (X) Details: State Forestry Loan TOTAL: \$596,364.12 ½ Loan: \$298,182.06 ½ General Fund Fund Balance \$298,182.06 Fiscal impact: - Current year total amount: \$596,364.12 - Future years total amount: -0- - Effect on tax levy – current year - 0- - Effect on tax levy – future years -0- Fiscal impact reviewed by County Finance Department _____ Michelle Drury, Finance Director Board Action: Adopted () Failed () Tabled () Approved as to form by County Administrator: _____ Jeffrey French, Administrator Approved as to form by Corporation Counsel: _____ John Muench, Corporation Counsel	_____ Dana Heller, Property Committee Chair (The Committee Chair signature verifies the action taken by the Committee.)
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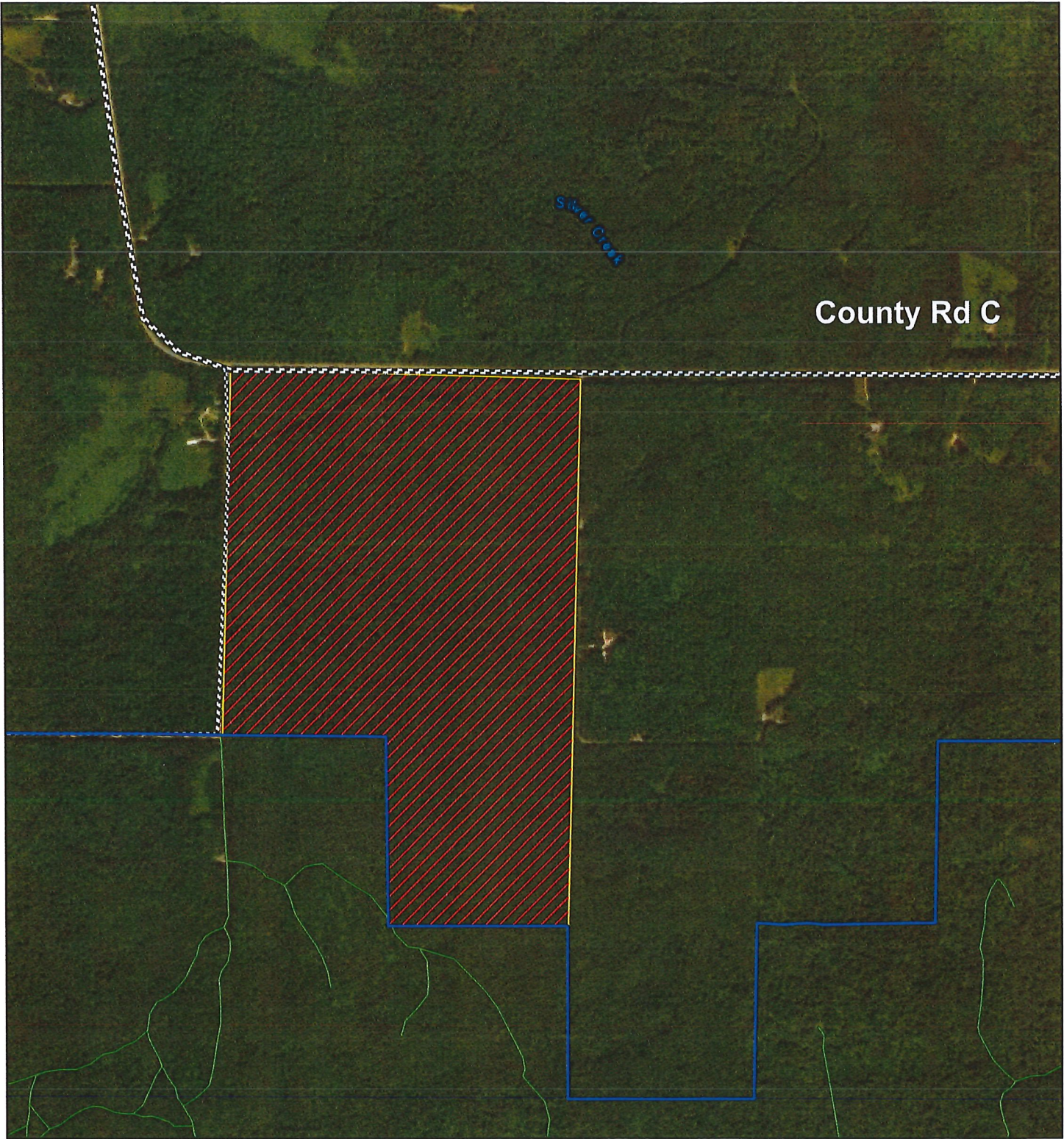
Land Purchase Doyle Township



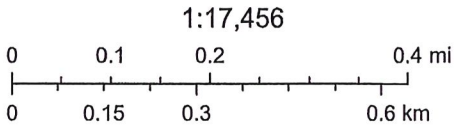
8/11/2026



Land Purchase - Doyle Township Close Up



8/11/2026



Barron County Forest Severance Due to Districts
B/C G/L A/C # 100-00-24460-000-000

Internal Management Memorandum

UN-AUDITED FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

Date 08/10/26
Time 11:48 AM
Preparer ES

Total amount collected into account as of 12/31/25

\$57,339.18

County Forest Crop Acreage by Towns - Information Provided by Wis. Dept.
of Natural Resources As of 7/1/2025

<u>Township</u>	<u>Vendor #</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Payment</u>
Arland	007307	245.55	0.015061008	863.59
Bear Lake	007323	4,157.19	0.254984608	14,620.61
Cedar Lake	007331	5,047.62	0.309599851	17,752.20
Chetek	007366	120.00	0.007360297	422.03
Clinton	007374	137.27	0.008419566	482.77
Doyle	007463	1,840.00	0.112857887	6,471.18
Maple Plain	007536	2,864.04	0.175668208	10,072.67
Sumner	007633	720.00	0.044161782	2,532.20
Turtle Lake	007641	440.50	0.027018423	1,549.21
Vance Creek	007676	731.52	0.04486837	2,572.72
Total		16,303.69	100.00%	\$57,339.18

BARRON COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 2026 –

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING CODE, (Re: Tonja Metnik),
COUNTY OF BARRON, WISCONSIN**

The Barron County Board of Supervisors ordains as follows

WHEREAS, Tonja Metnik, owner, filed a Petition to rezone certain property in Barron County;

WHEREAS, the Zoning Map of Barron County, Wisconsin as specified in Section 17.26 of the Barron County Land Use Ordinance shall be amended to change the zoning classification of the property in the County of Barron, Wisconsin, depicted in the attached map, incorporated herein by reference, and described hereafter from:

_____ **Agricultural-2** _____ to _____ **Residential-1** _____

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

Rezone that GL 6-1 prt govt lot 6 ex prt desc ln d's 145 PG 607; ex prt lyg E of row of existing tn rd & ex platted area & ex prt ln CSM 38/171, pending CSM consisting of 10.3 acres, located in Section 33, T36N, R13W, Town of Lakeland;

WHEREAS, this Amendment was approved by the Zoning Committee on August 5, 2026, on a vote of 5:0, with Jenkins, Sandmann, Bartlett, Cook and Kusilek all voting in favor and 0 against.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall be effective upon its adoption and publication and that publication of this ordinance may occur through posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

BARRON COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 2026 -

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING CODE, (Re: Tonja Metnik),
COUNTY OF BARRON, WISCONSIN**

Page 2

OFFERED THIS 17th day of August, 2026.

Number of readings required: One (X) Two () Vote required for passage: Majority (X) 2/3 Entire Board (20) () Source of funding: Budgeted () General Fund () Grant () Contingency () Other (X) Details <u>N/A</u> 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: <u>Michelle Drury, Finance Director</u> Approved as to form by: <u>Jeffrey French, Administrator</u> <u>John Muench, Corporation Counsel</u>	<u>Audrey Kusilek, Zoning Committee Chair</u> (The Committee Chair signature verifies the action taken by the Committee.) Board Action: Adopted () Failed () Tabled ()
--	--

**BARRON COUNTY ZONING COMMITTEE
BARRON, WISCONSIN
ACTION AND REPORT**

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having heard the testimony and considered the evidence presented, the Zoning Committee determines the facts of this case to be:

Filing Date: **June 24th, 2026**

File # **026-3300-22-000**

Hearing Date: **August 5, 2026**

Petitioner: **Matt Shilts**

Owner: **Tonja Metnik – 2458 8 1/2 -8 ¾ Street, Cumberland, Wisconsin 54829**
(Name and Address)

1. The petitioner is the owner/lessee/mortgagee of the following described property, which is the subject of the petition to rezone the following: GL 6-1 prt govt lot 6 ex prt desc ln d's 145 PG 607; ex prt lyg E of row of existing tn rd & ex platted area & ex prt ln CSM 38/171, pending CSM consisting of 10.3 acres, located in Section 33, T36N, R13W, Town of Lakeland, Barron County, Wisconsin.
2. The petitioner requests to rezone from the **Agricultural-2 district to the Residential-1 district.**
3. The present use of the property is: vacant land.
4. Petitioner purpose of the rezoning request is: to sell larger parcel and retain this smaller parcel with the potential to build on.
5. Per Section 17.81(3)(a) of the Land Use Ordinance, the committee finds that:

Based on the following findings of fact, the Committee Recommends the **APPROVAL** of the petition to rezone:

- 1.) Meets the requirements of Section 17.81(3)(a)
- 2.) Town was not opposed to the rezoning.
- 3.) Consistent with neighboring properties that are Residential-1.

Is the Committee's decision consistent with the County Plan? Yes **X** No

Barron County Zoning Committee:

Signed: _____

Committee Chairperson

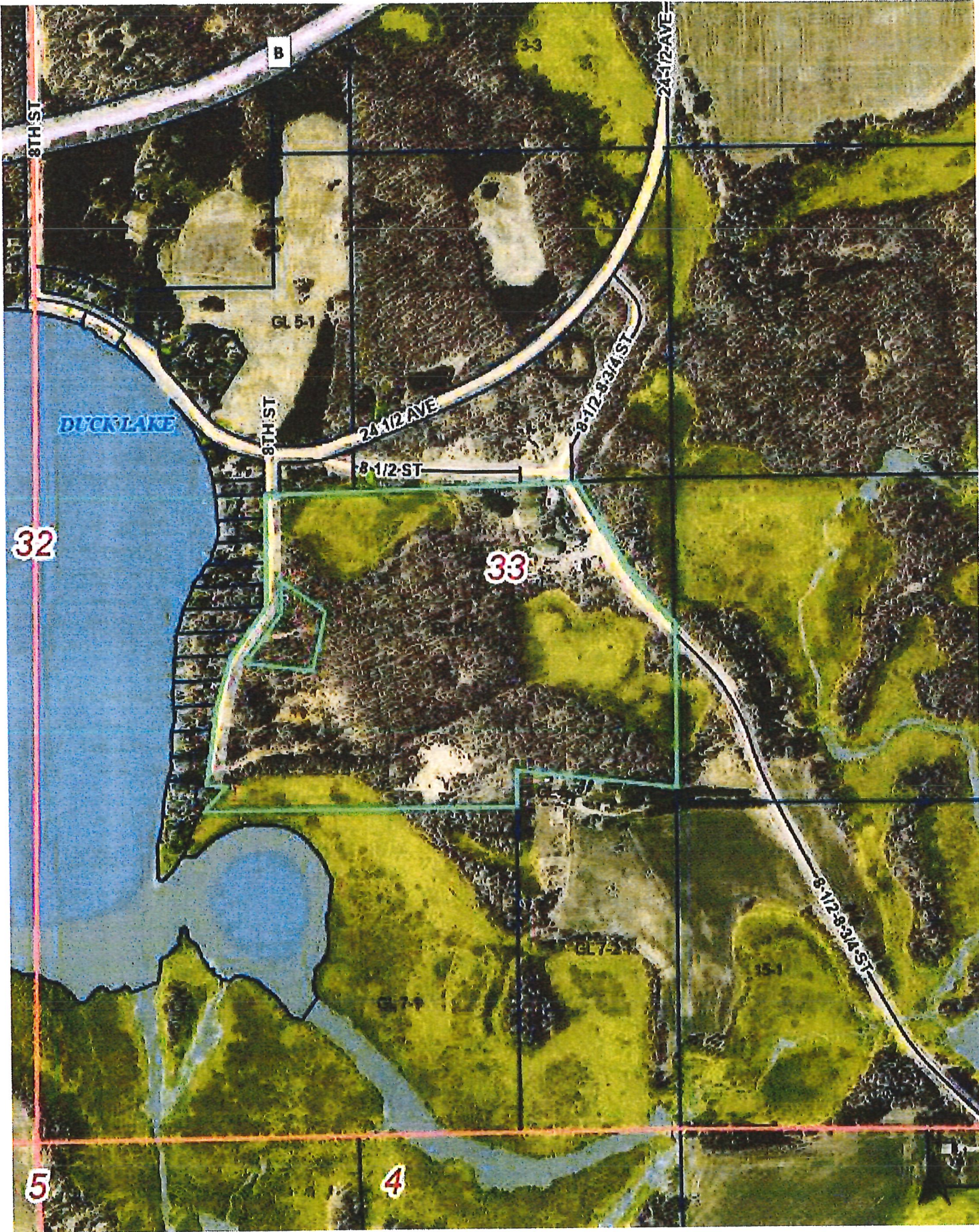
Attest: _____

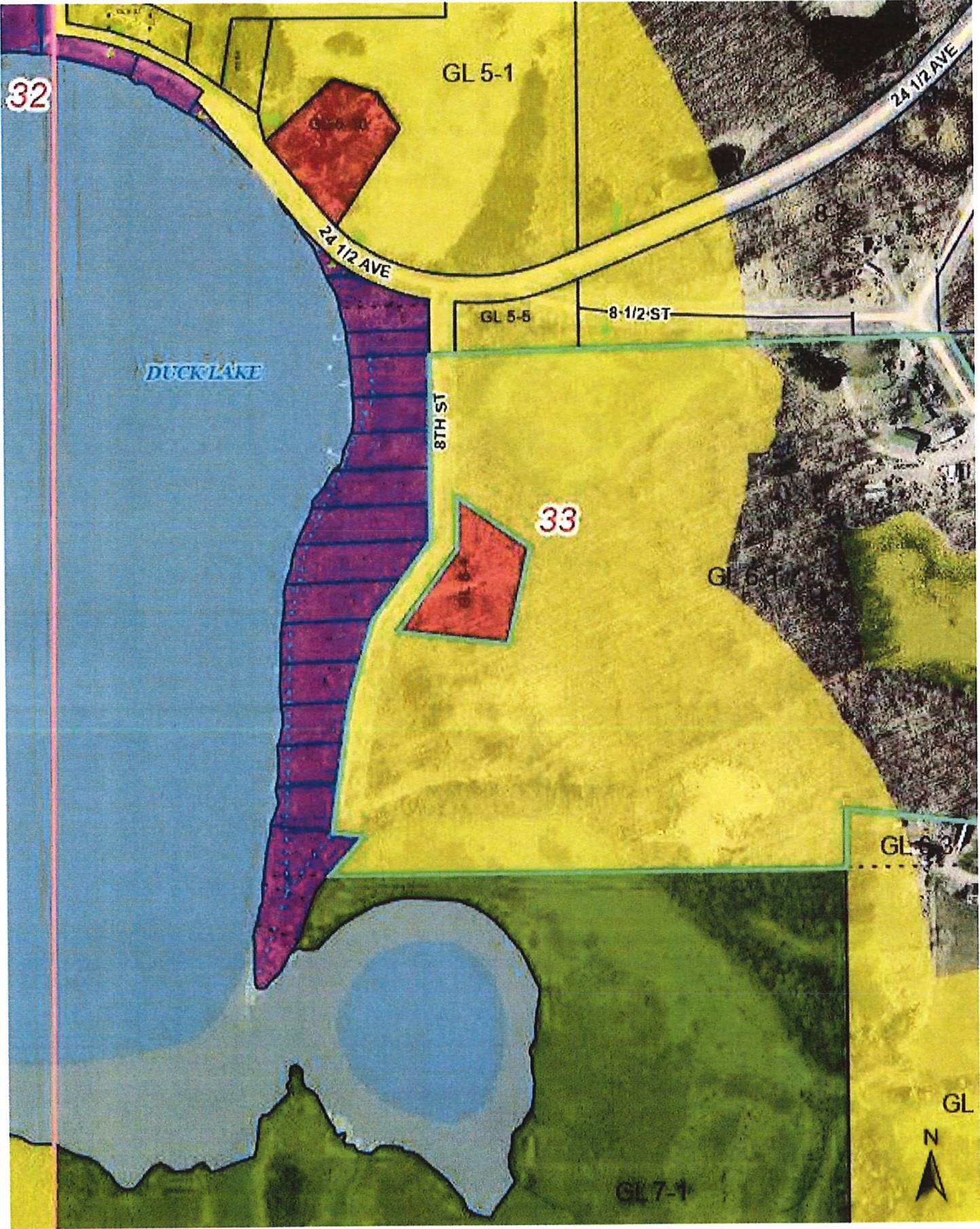
Becky Melton, Committee Secretary

Dated: 8/5/2026

(Signed by Committee Chairperson _____ on _____.)

Committee action is not final until approved by County Board Resolution.





BARRON COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 2026 –

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING CODE, (Re: Scott & Mary Bellefeuille),
COUNTY OF BARRON, WISCONSIN**

The Barron County Board of Supervisors ordains as follows

1
2 **WHEREAS,** Scott & Mary Bellefeuille, owners, filed a Petition to rezone certain
3 property in Barron County;
4

5 **WHEREAS,** the Zoning Map of Barron County, Wisconsin as specified in Section
6 17.26 of the Barron County Land Use Ordinance shall be amended to change the zoning
7 classification of the property in the County of Barron, Wisconsin, depicted in the attached
8 map, incorporated herein by reference, and described hereafter from:
9

10 __Agricultural-2 & Agricultural-1__ to __Recreational Residential__
11

12 **LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:**

13 Rezone that government lot 1-1 part government lot 1 shown as lot 1 CSM 44/39 consisting
14 of 4.07 acres, located in Section 11, T35N, R13W, Town of Cumberland,
15

16 **WHEREAS,** this Amendment was approved by the Zoning Committee on August
17 5, 2026, on a vote of 5:0, with Jenkins, Sandmann, Bartlett, Cook and Kusilek all voting in
18 favor and 0 against.
19

20 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED,** that this Ordinance shall be effective
21 upon its adoption and publication and that publication of this ordinance may occur through
22 posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.
23

BARRON COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 2026 -

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING CODE, (Re: Scott & Mary Bellefeuille),
COUNTY OF BARRON, WISCONSIN**

Page 2

OFFERED THIS 17th day of August, 2026.

Number of readings required: One (X) Two () Vote required for passage: Majority (X) 2/3 Entire Board (20) () Source of funding: Budgeted () General Fund () Grant () Contingency () Other (X) Details <u>N/A</u> 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: <u>Michelle Drury, Finance Director</u> Approved as to form by: <u>Jeffrey French, Administrator</u> <u>John Muench, Corporation Counsel</u>	<u>Audrey Kusilek, Zoning Committee Chair</u> (The Committee Chair signature verifies the action taken by the Committee.) Board Action: Adopted () Failed () Tabled ()
--	--

**BARRON COUNTY ZONING COMMITTEE
BARRON, WISCONSIN
ACTION AND REPORT**

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having heard the testimony and considered the evidence presented, the Zoning Committee determines the facts of this case to be:

Filing Date: July 7, 2026

File # 018-1100-14-000

Hearing Date: August 5, 2026

Petitioner: **Mark Bellefeuille**

Owner: Scott & Mary Bellefeuille, 1028 22 ½ Avenue, Cumberland, WI 54829
(Name and Address)

1. The petitioner is the owner/lessee/mortgagee of the following described property, which is the subject of the petition to rezone the following: gl 1-1 prt govt lot 1 shown as lot 1 CSM 44/39 consisting of 3.73 acres, located in Section 11, T35N, R13W, Town of Cumberland, Barron County, Wisconsin.
2. The petitioner requests to rezone from the Ag-2 district to the Recreational Residential district.
3. The present use of the property is: residential property.
4. Petitioner purpose of the rezoning request is: Rezone the entire parcel for it to be split at a later time into 2 lots. West lot to accommodate business with a Special Exception.
5. Per Section 17.81(3)(a) of the Land Use Ordinance, the committee finds that:

Based on the following findings of fact, the Committee Recommends the APPROVAL of the petition to rezone:

- 1.) Meets the requirements for Section 17.81(3)(a)
- 2.) Town was not opposed.
- 3.) Residential Recreational is consistent with neighboring properties.

Is the Committee's decision consistent with the County Plan? Yes X No

Barron County Zoning Committee:

Signed: 

Committee Chairperson

Attest: 

Becky Melton/Committee Secretary

Dated: 8/5/2026

(Signed by Committee Chairperson _____ on _____.)

Committee action is not final until approved by County Board Resolution.

**BARRON COUNTY ZONING COMMITTEE
BARRON, WISCONSIN
ACTION AND REPORT**

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having heard the testimony and considered the evidence presented, the Zoning Committee determines the facts of this case to be:

Filing Date: July 7, 2026

File # 018-1100-14-000

Hearing Date: August 5, 2026

Agent: **Mark Bellefeuille**

Owner: Scott & Mary Bellefeuille, 1028 22 ½ Avenue, Cumberland, WI 54829
(Name and Address)

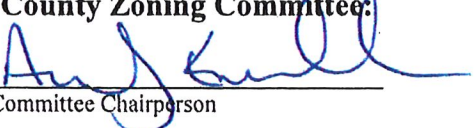
1. The applicant is the owner/lessee/mortgagee of the following described property, which is the subject of the petition to rezone the following: gl 1-1 prt govt lot 1 shown as lot 1 CSM 44/39 consisting of .34 acres, located in Section 11, T35N, R13W, Town of Cumberland, Barron County, Wisconsin.
2. The present use of the property is: residential property.
3. The petitioner requests to rezone from the Ag-1 district to the Recreational Residential district.
4. Petitioner purpose of the rezoning request is: Rezone the entire parcel for it to be split at a later time into 2 lots. West lot to accommodate business with a Special Exception.
5. Section 17.81(3)(b)1 of the Ordinance whereas a petition for rezoning an area zoned for exclusive agricultural use (A-1) may be approved only if it is determined that:

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
a. The land is better suited for a use not allowed in the farmland preservation zoning district.	a. ☒	☐
b. The rezoning is consistent with any applicable comprehensive plan.	b. ☒	☐
c. The rezoning is substantially consistent with the county certified farmland preservation plan.	c. ☒	☐
d. The rezoning will not substantially impair or limit current or future agricultural use of surrounding parcels of land that are zoned for or legally restricted to agriculturally use.	d. ☒	☐

Based on the above findings of fact, the Committee Recommends the **APPROVAL** of the petition to rezone out of the Exclusive Agricultural Zoning District.

Is the Committee's decision consistent with the County Plan? Yes X No

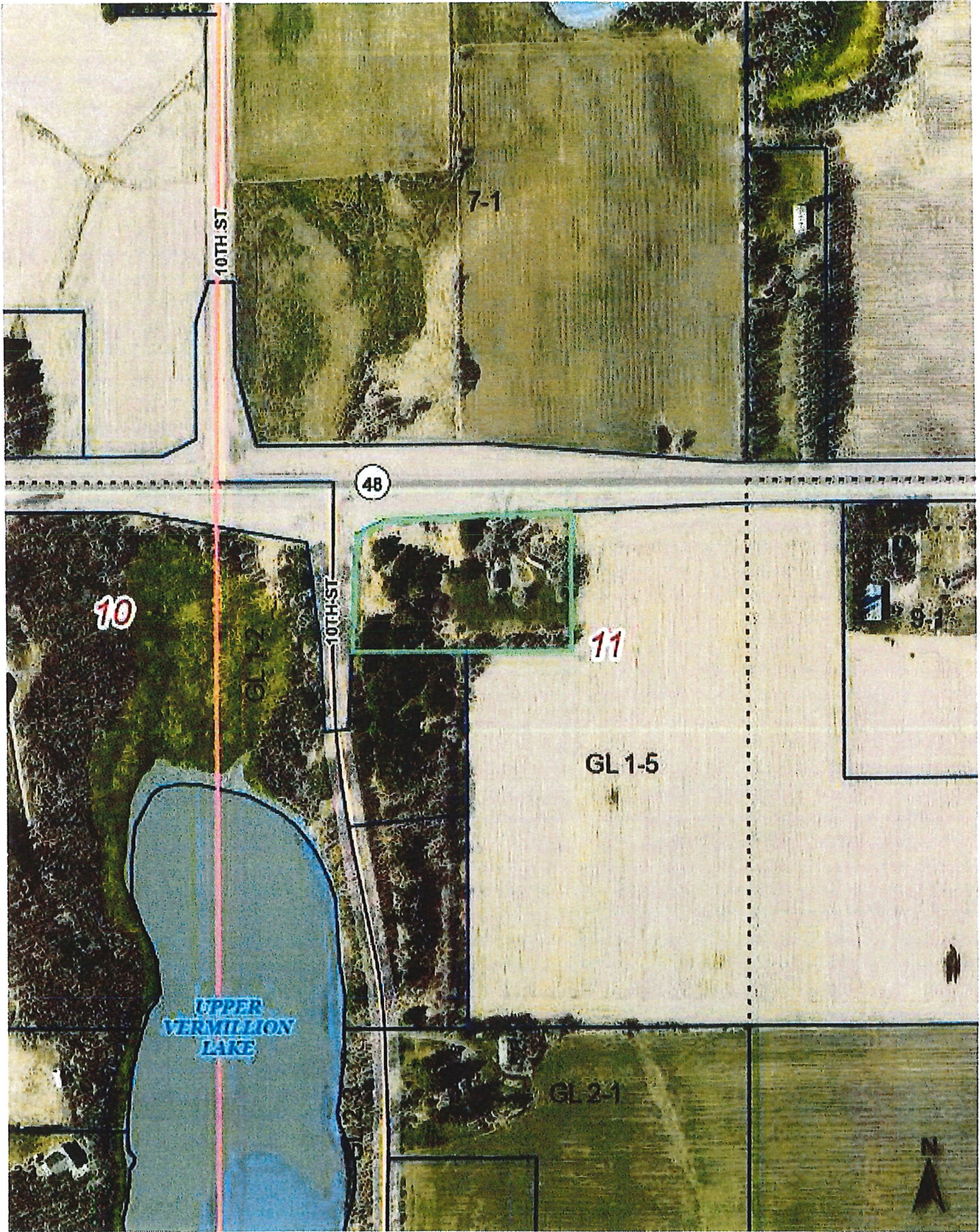
Barron County Zoning Committee:

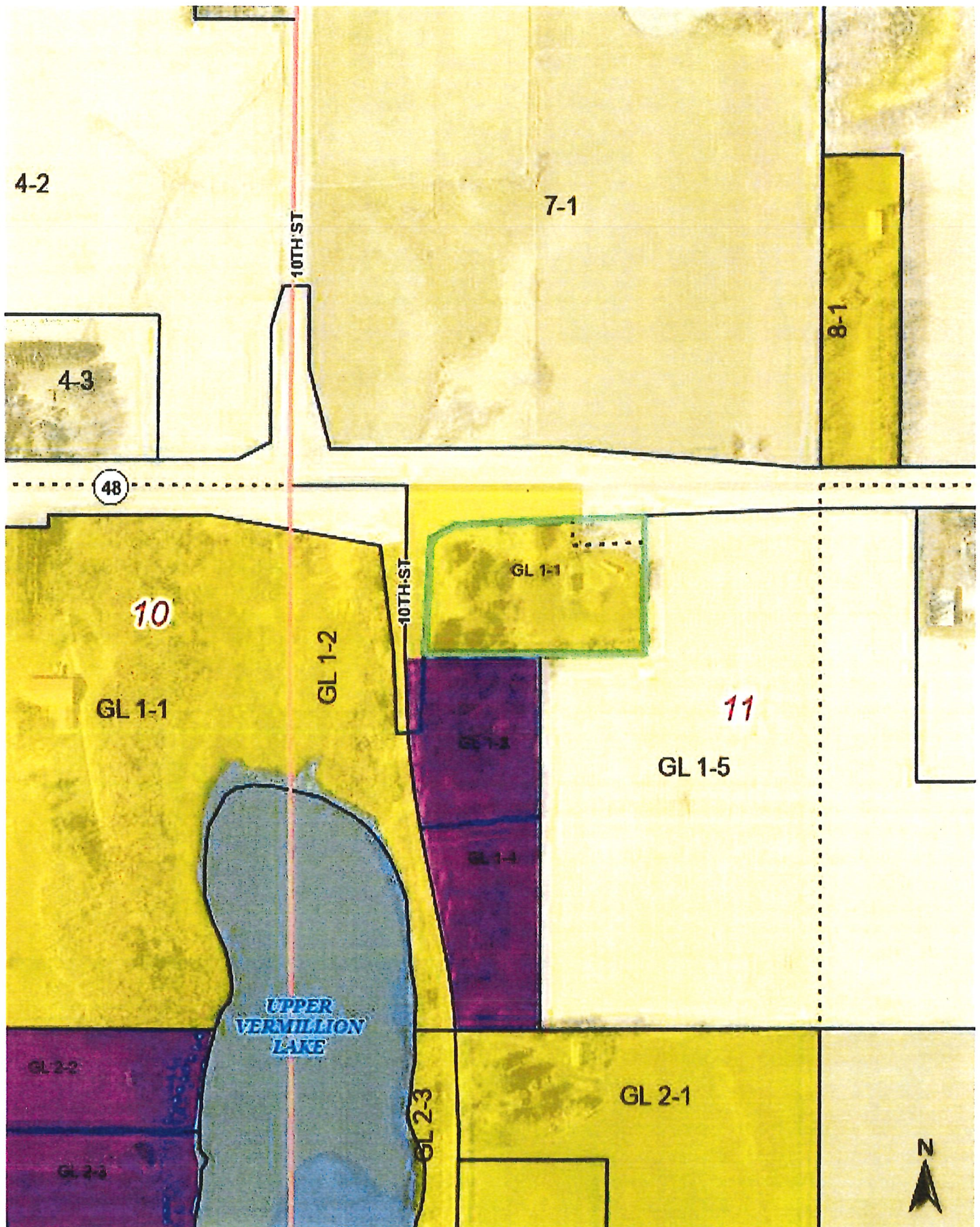
Signed: 
Committee Chairperson

Attest: 
Becky Melton, Committee Secretary

Dated: 8/5/2026

(Signed by Committee Chairperson _____ on _____.)
Committee action is not final until approved by County Board Resolution.







July 21, 2026

Jeffrey French, County Administrator
Barron County, Wisconsin
330 E LaSalle Ave, Room 2130
Barron, WI 54812

RE: Potential Refunding of Existing Bonds

As your Municipal Advisor one of the services we provide is to monitor your outstanding bond issues and alert you to any potential refunding opportunities. An updated status report for your outstanding debt is attached. It includes general information about your existing debt and a brief comment regarding potential savings based on current market conditions. We will continue to monitor your issues on an ongoing basis and will contact you if we identify refunding opportunities that merit consideration.

If you have any questions about this information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Ehlers

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Lentz'.

Sean Lentz
Senior Municipal Advisor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Reilly'.

Brian Reilly
Senior Municipal Advisor/ Managing Director

Status Report on Refunding of Existing Bond Issues



Original Bond Amount	Title	Last Maturity	Call Date	Callable Amount	Callable Rates		Status
					Low	High	
\$25,120,000	General Obligation Highway Department Bonds, Series 2020B	11/01/2040	11/01/2028	\$17,015,000	1.250%	2.000%	As of July 21, 2026, we estimate that this refunding would not generate sufficient savings to be considered.
\$4,000,000	State Trust Fund Loan, Series 2023	03/15/2037	01/05/2023	\$3,398,581	5.250%	5.250%	As of July 21, 2026, we estimate that a current refunding would not generate sufficient savings to be considered.
\$1,500,000	State Trust Fund Loan, Series 2024	03/15/2034	11/13/2024	\$1,395,554	6.000%	6.000%	As of July 21, 2026, we estimate that a current refunding will produce a savings of \$36,288, or a present value savings of 2.15%. We will contact you soon to discuss your options for refunding these bonds.
\$4,820,000	General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, Series 2025A	04/01/2045	10/01/2033	\$3,430,000	4.000%	4.500%	As of July 21, 2026, we estimate that this refunding would not generate sufficient savings to be considered.
\$1,582,622	General Obligation Promissory Note 2025	12/01/2030	-	-	-	-	These bonds are not callable.

July 2nd, 2026

Mr. Russell T. Vought
Director, Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

RE: Barron County's Specific Opposition to the Federal Office of Management and Budget Proposed Rewrite of 2 CFR Part 200 Uniform Guidance

As County Administrator I am asking that you oppose the proposed Office of Management and Budget changes to: *The Uniform Grants Guidance (2CFR Part 200)*, established in 2014.

Specific opposition points:

#1. Time Frame:

The current rules have been in place since 2013, a July 13th, 2026 to October 1st, 2026 time frame to both comment on and then implement these rules is unacceptable. It is not possible to fully interpret how these new proposed rules will affect Barron County. Furthermore, rules that have been in place for fourteen (14) years do not need to be changed in three months. Finally, County budgets are in-process for review and approval for up to five months each year and a change of this magnitude would be detrimental to our annual budget process.

#2. Government-wide Conditions on every Federal Award:

Facing the possibility of cost disallowance for activities the County could not have known is unacceptable. Barron County maintains robust internal controls, along with documented policies and procedures and a strong audit compliance record. Therefore, cost disallowance should continue to follow the current auditing standards along with appropriate and timely appeals processes.

#3. Termination of Competitive Grants Mid-Stream:

Terminating a grant, mid-grant, potentially shifts all burdens to the local municipalities. Furthermore, multi-year, infrastructure and capital projects grants then become the greatest risk and often these are the most costly. What municipality can possibly take this risk?

#4. Force of Law - Not Just Guidance:

If these proposed rules are allowed to be implemented OMB can amend rules directly and the changes take effect immediately. How can a small County like Barron County possibly assess and monitor? How possibly can we take this risk? We cannot.

#5. Screening and oversight before and after grants are awarded:

A political appointee will now review the grant applications? How is this just? Furthermore the new rules on conflict of interest disclosures, payment verification and SAM.gov grant reporting will cause a **significant** administrative burden to Barron County. I would further question if SAM.gov could handle all of this additional traffic on the website.

#6. Freezing of the Indirect-Cost Rates:

Costs to locals continue to increase and with the Federal Government not increasing, *annually* the indirect cost reimbursement rate. This is a direct cost shift to the local taxpayer. Barron County uses Federal indirect cost reimbursements to either offset the overall costs of administering the Federal program or to lower the local property tax levy. Any reduction in Federal In-direct Cost reimbursements is a shift of costs to the local taxpayer.

#7. Freezing of Grant Activity:

If these new rules are implemented it will allow OMB to freeze grants for up to ninety (90) days with a written stop work order. No appeal and no defined standards. The result is more risk for local municipalities and a potential 100% cost shift to the local taxpayer. For example the freezing of 85.21 Transportation funding, would be devastating to the elderly residents of Barron County who need these services for medical and other purposes.

#8. Transfers to County related entities reported as subawards:

The increased monitoring obligations that will occur as a result of this change are egregious and unacceptable and could result in Barron County having to hire an additional Full-Time-Equivalent position just to oversee and monitor this one attribute. Furthermore, a simple transfer of funds from the County to a Food Pantry, or a Community Action Agency such as Westcap, located in Glenwood City, Wisconsin County would become less likely if the tracking and reporting are too challenging. This would directly impact those vital services.

#9. Multi-year awards will become more available:

This is the only positive aspect of this re-write.

#10. Opposition based on CFR 200.110 to CFR 200.513

There are nineteen (19) other specific points that I could comment on. However, I do not believe this is necessary as the above factual data should support any and all opposition to these rule changes.

#11. Financial Specifics:

For the fiscal year ending, December 31st, 2024 Barron County had total Federal Expenditures of \$ 7,184,645 covering forty-three (43) different Federal Assistance Numbers. An example of Federal programs within this expenditure range are Women Infants and Children, (WIC), Federal Drug Treatment Court, Birth to Three Initiative, Foster Care-Title IV-E, to name just a few. In context \$7.1M of Federal Expenditures is 9.567% of the total expenditures and expense of \$ 74.2M for the period ending 12-31-2024.

In conclusion, the OMB provides guidance across all municipalities. These hastily promulgated changes seem to undermine the very essence of what the OMB circular was intended to accomplish.

Cordially and Respectfully submitted

Jeffrey S. French
Barron County Administrator

[g:\google\googledocs\BC Opposition to OMB rewrite 2 cfr.docxc](#)