PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, October 5, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.

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

AGENDA

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Public Meeting Notification
3. Tour of the Barron County Housing Authority Apartment Remodel located at 611 Woodland Avenue in Barron
4. Reconvene Meeting in the Auditorium
5. Special Matters and Announcements (Non-Action Items)
6. Approve Agenda
7. Approve Minutes of August 27, 2026
8. Public Comment
9. Approval of $27,615.00 Transfer from Capital Improvement Fund to the Fleet Vehicle Fund, Allowing for a Two Vehicle Purchase in 2026
10. Maple Plain Rifle Range
    a. Photo Presentation
    b. Priority List of Potential Improvements
    c. Discuss & Approval of Cost to Plant Trees on North Berm
11. Ordinance – Repealing and Recreating Barron County General Code Entitled Parks & Recreation
12. Staff Reports
    a. Dam Updates
    b. Update on Improvements to Learning Center at UWEC-Barron County Campus with the Rice Lake Area School District – Electronic Controls
    c. 2026 Barron County Forestry Annual Partnership Meeting Minutes
    d. Wisconsin County Forestry Association Documents
13. Review Voucher Edit Lists
14. Suggestions for Future Agenda Items
    a. Review of Final Engineering Plans & Study at the UWEC-Barron County Campus and Associated Costs
    b. Review of Upper 90 Solar Feasibility Study at UWEC-Barron County – November 9, 2026
15. Set Date for Next Meeting
16. Adjournment

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

Any person with 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.

BCHA INVITES YOU TO AN

OPEN HOUSE

We've completed the remodeling of our Berger Woodland Apartments and would love for you to stop by and see the improvements!

611 E. WOODLAND AVE
BARRON, WI 54812

OCTOBER 5

9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Tours available throughout the day.
Barron County Property Committee Tour @ 1:00 p.m.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!



BARRON COUNTY
HOUSING AUTHORITY

PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, August 27, 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, and Carol Moen.
Absent: Bill Schradle.
Others Present: County Forester Bygd, Finance Director Drury, County Administrator French, Land Services Conversation Technician Gruetzmacher, Building & Maintenance Director Mickelson, Corporation Counsel Muench and IT Director Peterson

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

Public Meeting Notification: Deputy County Clerk Naglosky noted the meeting met WI Open Meeting Requirements.

Special Matters and Announcements: None at this time

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

Approve Minutes of August 3, 2026: Motion: (Moen/Krug) to approve. Carried.

Public Comment: Larry Loverude, 509 29 ½ Ave, Barronett owns property 1200 feet from the Maple Plain rifle range. Loverude explained his usage of his land and strongly encourages the Committee to close the range on Sunday and possibly reduce hours during the week.

2027 Budgets - Finance Director Drury reviewed the submitted budgets. **Motion: (Fowler/Eby) to accept all budgets as presented.** Carried.

a. **Maintenance**
b. **Parks, Forestry & Recreation Trails** - The Parks and Recreation Trails and Forestry budgets will be budgeted separately.
c. **Dams** - Conservation Technician Gruetzmacher has recommended an increase for the Rice Lake Protection District assessment from $5 to $8/parcel. Gruetzmacher answered questions from the Committee.
d. **Fleet Vehicles** - Administrator French reviewed the fleet vehicle rotation schedule.
e. **Capital Improvements / Capital Outlay Plan (CICOP)** - The Capital Improvement budget is showing a large increase mostly due to large technology projects. The Rifle Range improvements have also been put into the budget in case Barron County is not awarded the grant funds. Finally, Forester Bygd explained the annual inspection rotation of the County snowmobile bridges and the recent meeting pertaining to Lafayette County and their deteriorating trail bridges.

Ordinance to Amend Chapter 42 - Barron County Parks and Recreation Ordinance Regarding Animals Kept or Grazing on County Property: Motion: (Bartlett/Krug) to approve. The proposed ordinance and the situation prompting the ordinance were reviewed by Counsel Muench. Carried.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, August 27, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.

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Review Proposed Rifle Range Ordinance: Motion: (Fowler/Bartlett) to temporarily close the Maple Plain Rifle Range on Sundays until such time that its use is reevaluated and some of the proposed changes are put into place to approve. Fowler explained that he has done some research feels like the two ranges are not equal to each other. He would like to see some additional signage as well. Bartlett would like to see a prioritized list of improvements, a timeline for changes and what the scope of the final project would be. Carried.

Staff Report

a. **Update on Little Learners Child Care Center - UWEC - Barron County:** Administrator French explained that UWEC-Barron County would be improving the HVAC and electrical in the student center and fixing the parking area.
b. **Dam Updates:** Technician Gruetzmacher reviewed that the parts for the Mikana dam have finally shipped from Texas. It is hoped that they will arrive at a time that the contractor will be available to replace them. Ayers Associates have looked at the Rice Lake Dam and developed a plan for the walkways.
c. **Kirby Lake Management District 2027 Budget:** Administrator French reviewed.

Review Voucher Edit Lists: No action taken.

Set Next Meeting Date: Monday, October 5, 2026, 1:00 PM, Auditorium in Barron, meeting will start at the Auditorium and tour the remodel of the Housing Authority Apartments located at Woodland Avenue in Barron.

Suggestions for Future Agenda Items:

a. Tour of Barron County Housing Authority Apartment Remodel in Barron – Monday, October 5th, 2026 at 1:00pm
b. Prioritized list of improvements and photos of the current ranges.

Adjournment: (By unanimous consent) to adjourn at 1:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sabrina Naglosky, Barron Deputy County Clerk

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

Report Description: 102 Account Year: 26 Account Periods: 01 - 13 Dates: 01/01/2026 - 06/30/2027 Cutoff Date:

Account	Account Description	Budget	Encumbrance	Expenditures	Available
26-404-22-57120-819-000	CAPITAL EQUIPMENT-AGING / ADRC				
	Beginning Balance:	$54,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$54,000.00

Payments

Date	Check/Claim	PO	Invoice	Batch	Vendor	Vendor Name	Description	
02/05/2026	0100332221	C0094637	02-05-2026_	26000123	302	SWANT GRABER FORD	AGING - 2024 FORD EDGE	26,385.00
							Total Payments:	$26,385.00

Ending Balance:	$54,000.00	$0.00	$26,385.00	$27,615.00
	$54,000.00	$0.00	$26,385.00	$27,615.00
	$54,000.00	$0.00	$26,385.00	$27,615.00
	$54,000.00	$0.00	$26,385.00	$27,615.00

000
57120 CAPITAL PROJECTS EXPENDITURES
22 PROGRAM ON AGING

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Maple Plain Rifle Range Proposed Updates:

1. Build shelters over the shooting benches. Cost $25,000.00
2. Sound proof shelters with sound blankets. Cost $60,000.00
3. Plant trees in open areas. Cost $7,000.00
4. Install chain link fence for security. Cost $6,000.00
5. Make east berm longer and higher. Cost $100,000.00
6. We have a security camera and a license plate camera installed. There cannot be any additional camera improvements until we can gain internet access onsite. There is no projected date for the installation of internet coverage at this time.




Thank You
TO RANGE IMPROVEMENT SPONSORS & HELPERS!
GOLD
• Todd's Ready-Mix
• Whitetails Unlimited
• Lamperts Stores of Barron County
• Rice Lake High School Conservation Club
• Mix-Crete
SILVER
• Cooper Engineering
• WITC
• D & M Concrete
• Tru-Form Foundations
• Rice Lake Rod & Gun Club
• Chetek Area Quality Deer Management Group
BRONZE
• Tod Gerland Construction
• Kuhrt Lumber
• Rainbow Home Center
• Main Street Sign Co.
• WELDING


SECURITY ALERT
24 HOUR VIDEO SURVEILLANCE
GATE CLOSES AUTOMATICALLY AT 6PM
RANGE HOURS
Sun. 12PM - 6PM
Mon. Closed
Tue. Closed
Wed. 8AM - 6PM
Thur. 8AM - 6PM
Fri. 8AM - 6PM
Sat. 8AM - 6PM
RANGE CLOSED

BARRON COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - ____

Ordinance Repealing and Recreating Barron County General Code Entitled Parks and Recreation

The Barron County Board of Supervisors ordains as follows

WHEREAS, the Property Committee has engaged in revision of Chapter 42.17 of the General Code of Barron County; and

WHEREAS, the Property Committee is recommending repealing and recreating Chapter 42.17 and recreating a portion of the General Code as attached; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Property Committee that the Barron County Board of Supervisors adopt the ordinance repealing Chapter 42.17, and recreating the attached Chapter 42.17 of the Barron County General Code; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance was approved by the Property Committee on ____ on a vote of _____, with _____ voting in favor and no members voting against.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the Barron County Board of Supervisors does hereby repeal Chapter 42.17 of the Barron County General Code, and recreates the attached document as Chapter 42.17 of the General Code entitled Barron County Parks and Recreation Ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER 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.

OFFERED THIS ___ day of July, 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: N / A Fiscal impact: - Current year total amount: $ - 0 - - 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 Approved as to form by: _____ Jeffrey French, Administrator _____ John Muench, Corporation Counsel	_____ Dana Heller, Property Committee Chair (The Committee Chair signature verifies the action taken by the Committee.) Board Action: Adopted ( ) Failed ( ) Tabled ( )

42.17 FIREARMS AND OTHER WEAPONS.

(I) POSSESSION OR CONTROL. No person shall have in his possession, or under his control, any firearm, airgun or gas operated gun as defined in § 939.22, Wis. Stats., unless the same is unloaded and enclosed in a carrying case, or any bow, crossbow or slingshot, unless the same is unstrung or enclosed in a carrying case in any County Park, wayside, parking lot, special recreation area or special use area, except for the County Rifle Range. The use of the aforementioned weapons is permitted on other County properties in conformance with Wisconsin DNR Regulations during a State designated hunting season or in the case of hunting unprotected species as designated by the State of Wisconsin.

(II) DISCHARGING WEAPONS. No person shall discharge any firearm, airgun or bow in a County Park, wayside, or public parking area for a County Forest unless said areas are posted specifically for such use. Firearms may be discharged at a County Rifle Range unless prohibited by posting or prohibited by verbal order given by the person or persons in charge; however, County lands adjoining the County Rifle Range can be used, by the public, for hunting purposes. Ordinance 2021-15 – Amended Ordinance 23-4.

(III) COUNTY RIFLE RANGE.

1. PURPOSE.

Safe areas for public shooting of firearms is essential to the lifestyle of residents and visitors of Barron County. Shooting for recreation, shooting practice for self-defense and shooting practice for food security of hunting traditions are part of many lifestyles. Established shooting ranges provide safety factors to provide areas for these shooting purpose. The purposes of these policies are to:

1. Define and regulate the public use of established shooting ranges on public lands to provide protection to range users and the general public.
2. Define official areas as designated shooting ranges.
3. Establish a permit system to recover portions of cost of range operations and generate revenue for future range maintenance and improvements.

2. DEFINITIONS.

A. DEPARTMENT. The Barron County Maintenance/Parks & Recreation Department located at Government Center, 335 East Monroe Avenue, Room 2130, Barron, WI 54812.

B. COMMITTEE. The Barron County Property Committee, assigned by the Barron County Board of Supervisors to oversee policy and operations of the Barron County Maintenance/Parks & Recreation Department.

C. DEFINED SHOOTING RANGE. Barron County owns and operations two ranges for the discharge of weapons: the Owen Anderson Range and the Maple Plain Range. The

ranges are lands designated as an area for shooting of firearms. Defined areas shall be appropriately signed for the protection of the non-shooting public.

D. PERMIT FEE. Fee charged for usage of any County designated areas requiring payment prior to usage. A daily permit fee and an annual permit fee as set forth below and as reviewed and adjusted from time to time by the Property Committee as necessary.

E. SHOOTING RANGE PERMIT. Permit issued by the Barron County Maintenance/Parks & Recreation Department allowing use of defined shooting range areas. Permits may include daily or annual permits which may be purchased on site by use of a QR Code, purchased on-line at www.barroncountywi.gov or in person at the Barron County Government Center.

F. PERMIT USER. Includes any person that has read, understands and agrees to follow rules at the shooting range and has paid the required daily or annual permit fee for use of the facility.

3. USE OF DEFINED SHOOTING RANGES ON COUNTY OWNED LAND.

A. Eligible Users. Must be 18 years of age to use the facility or be accompanied by a person 18 years of age.

B. Permit Requirements. Any person 16 years of age or older and utilizing facilities designated as a shooting range, shall purchase and obtain a permit prior to facility use. Individuals under the age of 16 are not required to have a permit but must be accompanied by a person over the age of 18 and possessing a permit (Any individual under the age of 18 must possess a valid Hunter's Safety Certificate. Shooters under the age of 14 years must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or an adult designated by the parent or guardian.

i) A daily or annual permit may be purchased on site by use of a QR Code, purchased on-line at www.barroncountywi.gov or in person at the Barron County Government Center.

ii) By purchasing a permit to use the range facilities, the individual agrees that they have read, understands and agree to follow rules at the shooting range and that any violations of such rules is subject to a forfeiture as set forth in Section 42.71 of the Parks and Recreation Ordinance.

iii) Permit Fee. A daily permit fee for Wisconsin residents is $5.00 and $10.00 for non-residents. An annual permit fee for Wisconsin resident is $30.00 and $60.00 for non-residents. An annual permit fee is valid from January 1 through December 31 each year. Implementation of fees shall be effective January 1, 2027.

iv) Permits shall be valid for use at either the Owen Anderson Range or the Maple Plain Range.

v) The daily permit fee and an annual permit fee established may be reviewed and adjusted from time to time by the Property Committee as necessary.

C. Request for Identification and Permit. Any person within a defined shooting range shall present identification and permit documentation to Department employees or law enforcement upon request.

D. General Range Rules.

i) Hours of Operation. County Rifle Ranges hours of operation shall be 8:00 am to 6:00 pm Wednesday through Saturday and Sunday 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Effective the first day of January 2026 the County Rifle Ranges shall be closed all day on Sundays going forward.

1. The County Rifle Ranges shall be closed during the deer gun hunting season and deer muzzleloader season, or at such other times as approved and posted by the Property Committee.
2. A temporary closure for unexpected or emergency reasons by the County Administrator shall be effective until the next meeting of the Property Committee unless rescinded by the County Administrator.
3. When the range gates are closed for any reason the range is closed to public use. No person, other than Department staff in performance of duties, shall be inside the range gates or designated range area when the range is posted as closed or the gate is closed.
4. Using or being present on the range property prior to 8:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m., or present on the range Monday, Tuesday, Sunday before 12:00 pm (all day on Sundays effective January 1, 2027, or on any date that the ranges has been posted as closed, or the gate is closed, shall be subject to a forfeiture as set forth in Section 42.71 of the Parks and Recreation Ordinance. (Ord. 2023-4).

ii) Prohibited Uses and Activities. The use of the following at any County Rifle Range Facility is strictly prohibited:

a) Prohibited Weapons and Ammunition. Fully automatic weapons are prohibited on the range. The use of armor piercing, tracer, or incendiary ammunition is prohibited. Use of 50 Caliber centerfire ammunition or larger is prohibited at County Rifle Ranges.

b) Binary Reactive Exploding Targets. Binary Reactive Exploding Targets, such as Tannerite are prohibited from County Rifle Ranges.

c) No target shooting is permitted on any County Property except at designated County Rifle Ranges.

d) No person shall discharge any firearm in any area within the Range not specifically designated for such use.

e) No activity is permitted on the berms or the backstops, including mining of lead or copper.

E. Where the aforementioned weapons are permitted on County Property, such use shall be in conformance with State DNR regulations during a state designated hunting season, or in the case of hunting unprotected species as designated by the State of Wisconsin.

F. The use of the County Rifle Range Facilities is a privilege that is provided to the public for responsible use and enjoyment. Continued use by any individual or groups is subject to obeying the rules of the range attached hereto and as amended by the Barron County Property Committee. (Ord. 2023-4)

G. Violation of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be subject to a forfeiture as set forth in Section 42.71 of the Parks and Recreation Ordinance. (Ord. 2023-4).

H. Official Use Exempt. This policy, in its entirety does not apply for emergency response, patrol, contractors under a department contract for logging or construction work or departmental staff in exercising duties.

4. OTHER USE OF DEFINED SHOOTING RANGE PROPERTY.

A. Due to dangers present within the defined shooting range, uses of the County forest including hunting, fishing, hiking, biking and sight-seeing shall be **restricted** within the shooting range area.

B. ATV's, UTV's, Motorcycles, undefined motor vehicles or state motor vehicles **shall not be permitted** off the defined access road or parking area.

C. From time to time, the Director may, based on need or opportunity, develop, regulate, and allow a limited hunt by public participants on County Properties.

DATE: 09/15/2026

TO: *County Forest & Public Lands Specialist, County Administrator, & all that attended*

FROM: *Janette Cain*

SUBJECT: (FY 26) __2026-2027__ Barron County Forest Annual Partnership Meeting

Overview:

The annual partnership meeting between Barron County Forestry Department and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was held on September 15, 2026, at the Barron County Government Center in Barron, WI. Those who were present were: *Dalton Bygd (County Administrator), Aaron Mickelson (County Park dept), Jeff French (Barron County Administrator) Terry Asleson (DNR Area supervisor), Kyle Young (DNR regional supervisor), Catlon Phelps (County Surveyor), Nathan Dhuey (DNR wildlife biologist), Tyler Gruetzmacher (County Conservationist), and Janette Cain (DNR Forester)*

Review of Prior Year's Time Standards and Accomplishments (FY 25):

The goal for DNR hours on Barron County Forest 432 hours and was met with 462 hours total. Many of the hours were spent on timber sale administration due to County Forest Administrator leaving his position.

Review of Current Years' Time Standards (FY 26):

The 2025-2026 goal is 432 hours which will be met by Janette Cain.

Timber Sale Goals and Updates:

Sales completed / closed out in FY25 –

1. Tresspass Trails (sale 386, tract 1-23) – completed.
2. Fixed Road Sale (sale 382, tract 1-22) – completed.
3. Lemier Lane Sale (sale 391, tract 2-24) – Harvest completed fall 2025, still hauling summer 2026 and only a few small loads yet to haul.

Sales advertised & sold –

None in FY25 due to hiring a new county administrator.

Fall / Winter 2026 Bid Plan

Four Sales field work done just need to do paperwork

- Blue Aspen Sale – Aspen regeneration sale (60 acres)
- Root Sale (pine, aspen, hardwood sale – 38 acres)
- Little Bear Creek Sale - Aspen regen & Black Ash/ aspen (108 acres) – talked more about the tamarack portion of the sale, if unable to sell then remove this small acreage from harvesting or maybe making it optional for this sale (keep this idea for maybe future sales if needed)
- Ant Eater Sale – NH marked (104 acres) & Aspen regen (20 acres) – talked about the storm damage, small area and will not affect the sale. Also talked about the access and ice age trail that goes through a portion of the sale.
- Eagle Sale – Aspen regeneration (60 acres) with very thick buckthorn in the understory. Talked about the NHI – active eagle nest and logging near the nest but making seasonal restrictions to minimize impact to the nest (log during winter months only)
- Compartment 10 – overstory removal and leave tree marking – Good regen in the oak shelterwood area and plan to leave the larger tops in the overstory removal to create protection from the deer
- Compartment 9 – overstory removal / marked – plan to have the harvest be frozen ground conditions to protect the advance regeneration.

Future Sale Set up plans – Depending on the weather and snow depth have many options to keep me busy this winter

- Compartment 7 – oak stand – leave tree marking with some areas with group selection area (160 acres) – some of the marking done especially in the group selection harvest area. Talked the recreation in this area (ATV trail, horse trail, and snowmobile trail). Plan to leave a few more trees along the horse trail when marking leave trees.
- Compartment 12 – Pine plantation 1st thinning / aspen regen harvest as well. Trout stream and access (landlocked on east side of trout stream) being an issue to get this sale sold. Might consider direct sale at least on the east side of the stream if needed.
- Compartment 8 – (stand 7) Pine plantation 3rd thinning. Nice timber and easy access. Talked about the ice trail that is on edge of this sale is moving in summer of 2027.

Recon Status & Goals:

FY25 – 744 acres were updated

FY26 – continue updating recon. Discussed the harvest schedule in WisFIIRS and how this will be done as we continue to update the recon. Also talked about how we plan to do more lumping of the stands instead of micromanaging stands that have little differences.

Reforestation and Forest Regeneration:

FY24 – 3 sites were hand planted in spring of 2023. – checked the sites spring of 2026 – deer damage especially bad in the riffle range site. Need to bud cap this area in October.

Spring of 2025 Two small sites were planted to white pine where trespasser was mowing the aspen regen for a shooting lane. Checked site spring 2026 – pine growing well.

Wildlife Program:

Wildlife Habitat Fund for 2026 ($ .10 / ac.) – Many ideas were brought up: use it for bud capping the planted pine trees, or maybe buying Verginia rye grass to plant in areas where buckthorn was mowed down, or scarification. Turkey Grant was brought up to maximize some of these future projects.

Grants & Loans:

Future – project loan for land purchase of 200 acres that border county forest in Doyle township.

NHC/Endangered Resources:

No current concerns other than the Eagle sale that was talked about in the 2026 bid sale (timber sale section of notes). Kyle Young will contact Ryan Magana to reach out to us on advice and will consult with local ecologist as concerns come up.

Forest Health:

Oak Wilt – will continue to monitor – None confirmed on county forest but found near Maple Plain township county forest compartment.

EAB – continue to monitor and with each timber sale reduce the ash population. EAB is spreading throughout Barron County but as now no ash have died on county forest due to EAB.

Invasive Species:

Invasives include buckthorn, honeysuckle, and garlic mustard

Buckthorn Project – not much mowed – nothing done in 2025. Dalton talked about starting this back up – either hiring someone or using funding and having the county buy a fecon head.

Buckthorn experiment – oak acorn regen site – most buckthorn died. Recommend basal spraying buckthorn here.

Tyler Gruetzmacher recommended treating areas with less buckthorn before it spreads such as the southern edge of compartment 11. He hopes to do an inventory this fall for better recommendations.

Dozer Projects:

None, but a few months ago did smooth out road to Kelly Lake in Bear Lake Township.

Recreation:

May increase bike trails if the purchase of the 200 acres happens.

Forest Certification:

Barron is dual certified both under FSC and SFI.

Discussed BMP needs such as the RMZ along waterways and roads (waterbars and edges of road). Current sale closing out had waterbars put in and some areas seeded in with rye to germinate faster to stabilize the road. Talked about high conservation areas, currently none in Barron County but maybe worth looking for areas that could qualify. Carbon credits were discussed – how this could be an option and discussed more at the end in "open forum"

Internal Review Timber Sale Review -

Janette completed 2 closed out sale – both were good in all regards due to this being reviewed before closeout with John Cisek to catch any issues that can be fixed before sale is closed. Dalton completed the other two since Janette helped handle the financial portion due to county forester no longer with the county.

Dalton is not using Timberbase program due to computer issues it was having. He is using a spread sheet to keep track of tickets and billing.

For future review, less than 100% will be needed if county prefers due to efficiency of the new county forest administrator – Dalton. Dalton did prefer more review.

Kyle mentioned that WisFIRS may be an option for financial record keeping for county forest sales soon.

Open Forum:

Talked about Carbon credits – the county was approached to enter into a carbon credit program and being evaluated currently for free. High conservation area would make this more desirable (also mentioned in the forest certification section)

Ice Age trail – talked about new trail being built in Rusk County and how much more traffic will occur in this area due to that trail.

Recruitment for the county deer council.

Deer damage tags are somewhat high but seem like farmers do not care as much as they did in the past.

2027 WCFA BUDGET - DRAFT

Approved:

			↑ / ↓	2026 budget	
INCOME					
Acreage Assessment	$ 181,228.42				
Annual Dues	$ 60,000				
Special License Plates	$ 75,000				
Raffle	$ 10,000				
Grants	*pending*				
Asset Allocation *(aka savings)*	$ 69,086				
TOTAL INCOME	**$ 395,314**				

EXPENSES					
Operating Expenses:					
Bookkeeping		$ 3,000	↑	*$ 2,500*	
Insurance		$ 1,500			
Printing/Copying		$ 1,000			
Office & Staff Equipment		$ 1,000			
Phone, Internet & GSuite		$ 2,000			
Office Rent		$ 4,800			
Postage		$ 500	↑	*$ 200*	
Office & Staff Supplies		$ 1,000			
Total Office Expenses		**$ 14,800**	↑	*$ 14,000*	
Other Expenses:					
Board Travel & Meeting Expenses		$ 10,000	↑	*$ 8,000*	
Board Per Diem		$ 3,000			
WCFA Committees		$ 3,000			
WCFA Meetings		$ 5,000			
Executive Director Travel		$ 8,000			
Asst. Executive Director Travel		$ 3,000			
Technical Advisor Travel		$ 3,000			
Public Relations, Outreach & Education		$ 10,000	↑	*$ 5,000*	
Marketing (Special License Plate)		$ 10,000	↓	*$ 25,000*	
Staff Continuing Education		$ 1,000			
Association Dues		$ 5,000	↑	*$ 4,000*	
Raffle		$ 5,000			*new*
Miscellaneous		$ 2,500	↑	*$ 1,500*	
Total Other Expenses		**$ 68,500**	↓	*$ 74,500*	
Payroll Expenses:					
Executive Director Salary		$ 97,376	↑	*$ 94,540*	
Asst. Executive Director Salary		$ 18,000			
Technical Advisor Salary		$ 15,000			
Executive Director Health Benefits		$ 12,000	↑	*$ 10,000*	
Executive Director Retirement		$ 9,738	↑	*$ 9,454*	
WCFA FICA Tax		$ 10,200	↑	*$ 9,500*	0.078 of payroll
Total Payroll Expenses		**$ 162,314**	↑	*$ 156,494*	
Contract Services:					
Accounting Fees		$ 3,000	↓	*$ 5,000*	
Legal Fees		$ 1,000			
Webmaster Fees		$ 1,500			
Lobbyist		$ 19,200			
Total Contract Services		**$ 24,700**	↓	*$ 26,700*	
Project Expenses:					
Economic Impact Study		$ 125,000			*new*
TOTAL EXPENSES		**$ 395,314**		*$ 273,194*	

NET LOSS/ GAIN TO WCFA	**$ 0**	

Approved by Budget Committee : August 27, 2026
Approved by Board of Directors :

2027 WCFA DUES STRUCTURE

A	B		C	D	E	F	G	H
COUNTY	**ACRES**	**% OF TOTAL ACREAGE**	**DUES**	**ASSESSMENT (.075)**	**TOTAL DUES**	**% of total dues (less Adams Cty)**	**$50,000 Reimbursement Grant (prorated by %)**	**Final out of pocket cost for members for 2027**
Adams	738.20	0.031%	$ 2,000.00	$ 55.37	$ 2,055.37			
Ashland	40,305.19	1.668%	$ 2,000.00	$ 3,022.89	$ 5,022.89	2.10%	$ 1,050.05	$ 3,972.84
Barron	16,303.69	0.675%	$ 2,000.00	$ 1,222.78	$ 3,222.78	1.35%	$ 673.73	$ 2,549.04
Bayfield	180,456.60	7.468%	$ 2,000.00	$ 13,534.25	$ 15,534.25	6.49%	$ 3,247.49	$ 12,286.75
Burnett	111,517.92	4.615%	$ 2,000.00	$ 8,363.84	$ 10,363.84	4.33%	$ 2,166.60	$ 8,197.24
Chippewa	34,738.04	1.438%	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,605.35	$ 4,605.35	1.93%	$ 962.77	$ 3,642.59
Clark	134,826.77	5.580%	$ 2,000.00	$ 10,112.01	$ 12,112.01	5.06%	$ 2,532.06	$ 9,579.95
Douglas	282,979.57	11.711%	$ 2,000.00	$ 21,223.47	$ 23,223.47	9.71%	$ 4,854.95	$ 18,368.52
Eau Claire	52,701.16	2.181%	$ 2,000.00	$ 3,952.59	$ 5,952.59	2.49%	$ 1,244.41	$ 4,708.18
Florence	37,003.09	1.531%	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,775.23	$ 4,775.23	2.00%	$ 998.28	$ 3,776.95
Forest	15,284.54	0.633%	$ 2,000.00	$ 1,146.34	$ 3,146.34	1.32%	$ 657.75	$ 2,488.59
Iron	176,636.99	7.310%	$ 2,000.00	$ 13,247.77	$ 15,247.77	6.38%	$ 3,187.60	$ 12,060.17
Jackson	122,924.54	5.087%	$ 2,000.00	$ 9,219.34	$ 11,219.34	4.69%	$ 2,345.44	$ 8,873.90
Juneau	18,752.03	0.776%	$ 2,000.00	$ 1,406.40	$ 3,406.40	1.42%	$ 712.12	$ 2,694.28
Langlade	130,838.71	5.415%	$ 2,000.00	$ 9,812.90	$ 11,812.90	4.94%	$ 2,469.53	$ 9,343.37
Lincoln	100,843.05	4.173%	$ 2,000.00	$ 7,563.23	$ 9,563.23	4.00%	$ 1,999.23	$ 7,564.00
Marathon	30,714.30	1.271%	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,303.57	$ 4,303.57	1.80%	$ 899.68	$ 3,403.89
Marinette	230,315.55	9.531%	$ 2,000.00	$ 17,273.67	$ 19,273.67	8.06%	$ 4,029.23	$ 15,244.44
Monroe	7,639.14	0.316%	$ 2,000.00	$ 572.94	$ 2,572.94	1.08%	$ 537.88	$ 2,035.05
Oconto	43,871.83	1.816%	$ 2,000.00	$ 3,290.39	$ 5,290.39	2.21%	$ 1,105.97	$ 4,184.41
Oneida	82,869.51	3.429%	$ 2,000.00	$ 6,215.21	$ 8,215.21	3.43%	$ 1,717.42	$ 6,497.79
Polk	17,223.94	0.713%	$ 2,000.00	$ 1,291.80	$ 3,291.80	1.38%	$ 688.16	$ 2,603.63
Price	92,278.86	3.819%	$ 2,000.00	$ 6,920.91	$ 8,920.91	3.73%	$ 1,864.95	$ 7,055.96
Rusk	90,010.28	3.725%	$ 2,000.00	$ 6,750.77	$ 8,750.77	3.66%	$ 1,829.38	$ 6,921.39
Sawyer	115,196.05	4.767%	$ 2,000.00	$ 8,639.70	$ 10,639.70	4.45%	$ 2,224.27	$ 8,415.43
Taylor	17,847.72	0.739%	$ 2,000.00	$ 1,338.58	$ 3,338.58	1.40%	$ 697.94	$ 2,640.64
Vernon	2,021.77	0.084%	$ 2,000.00	$ 151.63	$ 2,151.63	0.90%	$ 449.81	$ 1,701.83
Vilas	41,505.68	1.718%	$ 2,000.00	$ 3,112.93	$ 5,112.93	2.14%	$ 1,068.88	$ 4,044.05
Washburn	150,231.43	6.217%	$ 2,000.00	$ 11,267.36	$ 13,267.36	5.55%	$ 2,773.59	$ 10,493.77
Wood	37,802.81	1.564%	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,835.21	$ 4,835.21	2.02%	$ 1,010.82	$ 3,824.39
	2,416,378.96		**$ 60,000.00**	**$ 181,228.42**	**$ 241,228.42**	**100.00%**	**$ 50,000.00**	

NOTE: acres are as reported to DNR as of July 1, 2026 (50A WisFIRS report)

Wisconsin County Forests Association



BUDGET PRIORITIES

The Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) represents the 30 counties in Wisconsin with County Forest lands established under WI §28.10 and §28.11. Collectively, these 30 counties manage over 2.4 million acres of forests, the largest public ownership in Wisconsin. Our county forests are a major contributor to public land management and rural economic development in the State, and are highly valued because they provide a reliable source of raw materials for the forest products industry, as well as a tremendous amount of recreation opportunities and abundant wildlife habitat. We believe that **County Forests are vital to the State's overall wellbeing,** contributing to the economic, social and environmental health of the State and helping to provide a high quality of life which everyone enjoys.

WI §28.11 obligates the State of Wisconsin to compensate the counties for the work and services they provide to the public and for the betterment of the State. Without the financial support of the State, through grants, loans and payments, keeping pace with inflation and the complexity of the county forest system, both in scope and scale, the impact realized by our county forests is diminishing every year.

BUDGET PRIORITY 1:

Increase County Forest Road Aid payments from $328,300 to $2,000,000 annually.

NOTE: The funds necessary for increasing these payments already exists! An increase to the DOT's spending authority from the Forestry SEG account, under the DNR Conservation Fund, is all that is required.

Local road infrastructure, including county forest roads, are critical to forest management and the ability to ship raw forest products to markets. They are also vital for local emergency response for forest users and intermixed private lands and cabins, as well as important activities related to forest recreation, wildlife habitat and wildfire response. Maintaining roads for best management practices for water quality also ensure healthy watersheds, however, the expense for replacing or improving water crossings such as culverts and bridges is becoming more and more costly.

County Forests presently receive road aids under the County Forest Road Program (WI §86.315) through the Department of Transportation and intended *"to defray costs for the improvement and maintenance of public roads within county forests".* County Forest roads are funded at a rate of $351/mile, but are currently prorated at $349/mile. For 939.41 miles of county forest roads, $328,300 is allocated annually from the Conservation Fund. The base rate was last adjusted in 2019. The program is significantly under-funded given the cost of labor, supplies and the rate of inflation. In order for counties to maintain the minimum requirements of these roads, they have to heavily supplement with county dollars. To further complicate matters, townships are starting to abandon some of their roads due to lack of adequate funding.

- The average cost of a load of delivered crushed gravel is $500.
- The average cost to resurface one mile of gravel road is $40,000.
- The cost of a gallon of diesel fuel in Wisconsin has increased between 23% to 27% since 2019.
- For comparison, municipalities and townships will receive $2,930/ mile in CY2026 and $3,018/ mile in CY2027.

REQUEST: Increase funding to $2,000/ mile, rounded for anticipated increase equals $2,000,000.

(September 2026)

BUDGET PRIORITY 2:

Increase funding for the Wildlife Habitat Grant by a minimum of $950,000 each year of the biennium.

NOTE: The funds necessary for increasing these payments already exists! An increase to the DNR's spending authority from the Forestry SEG account, under the DNR Conservation Fund, is all that is required.

Previous to the last budget, where the Wildlife Habitat Grant was fully funded at $0.10/acre, it had been prorated to less than $0.05/acre for several years. There is opportunity to have a greater impact on our numerous, highly valued wildlife species by investing more in their habitat. With the DNR's Fish, Wildlife & Parks Division going through significant budgetary issues, investing in the largest public land's resources will go a very long way in continuing to offer the exceptional wildlife habitat Wisconsin is known for. (Note: an increase in the Wildlife Habitat Grant may require a change in statute WI §23.09(17m).

REQUEST: Increase funding from $0.10/ acre to a minimum of $0.50/ acre; full funding at $0.50/acre equals $1,210,000 annually.

BUDGET PRIORITY 3:

Increase the annual summer UTV trail maintenance funding from $400/mile to $600/mile.

As part of the recreation programs, the County Forests host and/or manage over 85% of the official, off-road, motorized trail systems in Wisconsin. The DNR provides aids for the management of these trails through grants funded from machine registrations, trail passes, and gas tax allocations. That funding provides for trail development, rehabilitation and maintenance, as well as law enforcement aids. Currently, grants are awarded to local units of government at a rate of $600/mile for ATV trail maintenance and an additional $400/mile for UTV trail maintenance.

The ATV/UTV sport has seen dramatic growth over the last 5 years, with an increase of over 15% in registered machines. At the same time, trail sponsors are struggling to maintain trails with the existing funding limits. Ever increasing costs of fuel, materials and time, along with higher traffic volumes, coupled with ever larger machine size and power, result in trail sponsors (primarily counties) not having sufficient funds to maintain trails.

REQUEST: Increase the annual summer UTV trail maintenance funding from $400/mile to $600/mile.

OTHER BUDGET PRIORITIES:

- Wisconsin's Council on Forestry initiatives
- County Forest Acreage Share Payments (WI §28.11(8)(a))
- Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry operating budget

LEARN MORE:

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FAST FACTS

- 1st County Forest established in 1928 in Langlade.
- Currently there are 30 established County Forest Programs.
- Collectively the largest public landholder in Wisconsin.
- Collectively they manage over 2.4 million acres, roughly 14% of Wisconsin's forested acres.
- 27 County Forests, with over 2.4M acres, are 3rd party certified by the Forest Stewardship Council and/or the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.
- Nearly 1,800 miles of ATV trails, over 9,000 miles of snowmobile trails exist across the system.
- Forestry is the #1 employer in 10 Counties.
- Forestry is #1 in output in 14 Counties.
- The system has been previously described as **"the model"** for public land management in the United States.



The mission of WCFA is to provide leadership uniting the interests of the county forest program while ensuring long-term forest health and sustainability.

Payment Request Verification - Online Voucher

COUNTY OF BARRON

Batch Year: 26 Department: PROPERTY Payment Request Date: 09/23/2026

Vendor	Vendor Name	Line	Voucher	Account Description	Date	Description	Amount
230146	JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	1	C0096863	REPAIR & EXPENSE	09/10/2026	ENC/MAINT - MAINT SUPPLIES	26.88
230146	JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	2	C0096863	CAPITAL EQUIPMENT-MAINTENANCE	09/10/2026	ENC/MAINT - MAINT EQUIPMENT	3,576.10
92258	UP NORTH RECYCLING LLC	1	C0096864	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	09/10/2026	ENC/MAINT - PAPER RECYCLING	195.00
44423	AUTO VALUE BARRON	1	C0096865	MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES	09/10/2026	ENC/MAINT - INV# 141286864	15.99
167	AYRES ASSOCIATES INC	1	C0096866	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE - CHETEK DAM	09/10/2026	DAMS - CHETEK DAM	1,520.00
167	AYRES ASSOCIATES INC	2	C0096866	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE - CHETEK DAM	09/10/2026	DAMS - RICE LAKE DAM	2,093.00
66214	TODD'S REDI-MIX CONCRETE LLC	1	C0096867	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	09/10/2026	MAINT - CONCRETE GOV CTR	5,570.05
66214	TODD'S REDI-MIX CONCRETE LLC	2	C0096867	MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	09/10/2026	PARKS - AGGREGATE WALDO	86.97
286079	SUMMIT COMPANIES	1	C0096868	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	09/10/2026	MAINT - CHEM EXTINGUISHER	403.40
109193	MENARDS - RICE LAKE STORE	2	C0096869	MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES	09/10/2026	MAINT - ACCT# 31520307 / INV#	217.52
109193	MENARDS - RICE LAKE STORE	1	C0096870	MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES	09/10/2026	MAINT - ACCT# 31520307 / INV#	96.70
101125	KEN-WAY SERVICES OF RICE LAKE	1	C0096871	SEPTAGE HAULING	09/10/2026	PARKS - INV# 60262 WALDO	167.00
101125	KEN-WAY SERVICES OF RICE LAKE	2	C0096871	SEPTAGE HAULING	09/10/2026	PARKS - INV# 59879 UWECBC	75.00
101125	KEN-WAY SERVICES OF RICE LAKE	3	C0096871	SEPTAGE HAULING	09/10/2026	PARKS - INV# 59263 WALDO	502.88
252190	HEY EVERYTHING OF BARRON LLC	1	C0096872	MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	09/10/2026	ENC/PARKS - CUST# 81 SUPPLIES	123.54
88277	GRAINGER	1	C0096873	MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES	09/10/2026	ENC/MAINT - ACCT# 837559392	289.75
88277	GRAINGER	2	C0096873	MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES	09/10/2026	ENC/MAINT - ACCT# 837559392	244.35
88277	GRAINGER	3	C0096873	REPAIR & EXPENSE	09/10/2026	ENC/MAINT - ACCT# 837559392	12.15
252190	HEY EVERYTHING OF BARRON LLC	1	C0096874	MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	09/10/2026	ENC/PARKS - ACCT# COU002	80.27
252190	HEY EVERYTHING OF BARRON LLC	2	C0096874	MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES	09/10/2026	ENC/MAINT - ACCT# COU002	180.80
3409	LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT INC	1	C0096875	MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES	09/10/2026	ENC/MAINT - CUST# 71945619	51.36
195189	MOBERG ELECTRIC	1	C0096876	MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES	09/10/2026	ENC/MAINT - EQUIPMENT REPAIR	510.84
325600	ENVIRONMENT CONTROL	1	C0096877	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	09/10/2026	MAINT - CUST# 6131047 /	1,689.50
325600	ENVIRONMENT CONTROL	2	C0096877	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	09/10/2026	MAINT - CUST# 6131047 /	1,689.51
325600	ENVIRONMENT CONTROL	3	C0096877	OTHER SUPPLIES & EXPENSES	09/10/2026	MAINT - CUST# 6131047 /	844.75
325600	ENVIRONMENT CONTROL	4	C0096877	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	09/10/2026	MAINT - CUST# 6131047 /	813.88
325600	ENVIRONMENT CONTROL	5	C0096877	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	09/10/2026	MAINT - CUST# 6131047 /	813.89
325600	ENVIRONMENT CONTROL	6	C0096877	OTHER SUPPLIES & EXPENSES	09/10/2026	MAINT - CUST# 6131047 /	406.94
325600	ENVIRONMENT CONTROL	7	C0096877	ADMIN - FLEET BLDG UTILITIES	09/10/2026	MAINT - CUST# 6131046 /	429.00
325600	ENVIRONMENT CONTROL	8	C0096877	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	09/10/2026	MAINT - CUST# 6131047 /	9,391.00
325600	ENVIRONMENT CONTROL	9	C0096877	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	09/10/2026	MAINT - CUST# 6131048 /	5,890.00
						Totals:	**$38,008.02**

Department Approval

Admin Approval