

**2022 Strategic Planning Work Group
Barron County Strategic Plan – Update
For Years 2021 to 2025
Adopted January 11th, 2021
Updated: Feb., 2021
March 2021, December 2021, January 2022**

Accomplishments or in-process projects corresponding to the current Strategic Plan:

Directional Statement, #1: Expand affordable housing programs; for aging population, rental and entry level buyers:

Actions:

2021 CDBG-Covid19 grant application for transitional housing, Hwy TT old nursing home
Vets housing in Rice Lake

Directional Statement, #2: Expand broadband coverage and enhance technology advancement in Barron County:

Actions:

EDC and County Board action to support \$7M grant application by Mosaic Telecom for expansion of fiber expansion into Barron and Washburn Counties
December, 2021 Mosaic, County support for USDA Re-Connect Grant

Directional Statement, #3: Maintain and improve all county owned facilities:

Actions:

New Hwy Facilities
Auditorium upgrades
WTE Plant, Z-wall, new acid gas removal system, duct sizing, substantial repairs to boilers, new water treatment system
Air Pollution Control Construction and Operation Permit Renewal – WTE Plant
2021-2022 New Acid Gas Removal System, (in-process)
2022 Budget Sheriff Radio System – upgrade
Ann Street School
Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill – and Reservation of Fund Balance for these projects
Improvements to Chetek Dam

Directional Statement, #4: Improve mental health and decrease substance abuse:

Actions:

NW Hope Consortium, addressing opioid and alcohol abuse, Barron, Chippewa, Rusk, Washburn Counties. (Public Health, Sheriff, ADRC)
Public Health, Community Health Improvement Plan, (addressing substance abuse)
Recovery Corps Grant
Anne Street School – for Community Support Program

HWY TT Transitional Living
2021-Oct., Family Drug Treatment Court – testimonials from graduates
Co-responder pilot program HHS/Sheriff's Dept.
Investment of Opioid Settlement Funds
Community Health Workers – (continuation)

Directional Statement, #5: Remain fiscally responsible:

Actions:

2021 group purchase, new voting equipment
Continued Strong Bond Rating – Hwy Facilities
WCA Article by French/Frolik/Syvinski – Unfunded Mandates
2022 Approved budget – reduced mill rate, use of 1/3'rd of Sales Tax Collections

Directional Statement, #6: Attract and retain new and skilled workforce:

Actions:

Proposed change to how Sick and Vacation are paid-out to employees
Allowing employees up to three hours paid time – blood donation
In-process; allow remote work/tele work for employees
2021 – Step movement for employees with more than ten (10) year's service
Work from home – two days per week

Other

*B/C as great place to
Live & work:*

Actions:

Administrator interviews of CASTA and BANTA, supporting Barron County as a great place to live, work and play
County support for a Discover Wisconsin Winter segment
2021-2022 Working with Gary Peterson, Red Cedar Rives – Canoe paddling and possible canoe specific docks, City of Rice Lake
2021 Special Administrator Reports – Judge Babler & Bell Press Pod Cast
Video of Barron County campgrounds by RL Cable Commission????
Continued improvements to Cedar Side Trail, Buckthorn UWECBC
EDC Offering a \$5 gift card as part of Dave Tindall's WJMC morning Show

Safety:

HSIP and ICE study and improvements to Decker Driver, Rice Lake
2022 Budget Sheriff Radio System – upgrade
2022 ARPA Dollars High-Speed Fiber Lines to Towers
Signage on Red Cedar River bridge crossings, etc.

Protect Environment: Successful reclamation of NIS site
Ten (10) year Land and Water Plan
Air Pollution Control Construction and Operation Permit Renewal – WTE Plant
Fifteen (15) Year Forestry Plan

*Intergovernmental
Cooperation:*

Manned recycling sites – cooperation between local municipalities and County
Two-day blood drives with Red Cross, over 90% of “slots” utilized
Hwy Commissioner Servi, NACO DC Trip to Washington DC
2021 purchase of new election equipment, working cooperatively with other
municipal clerks in selecting the successful vendor.
Barron County Housing Authority – Apartment Complex Rebuild

*Use of Technology
Response to Citizens:*

On-line applications for zoning permits
New web-site design and layout
Availability of information on new website

*Delivery of Services
to Citizens:*

Meals on Wheels adapting to Covid and offering drive-by, drive-up delivery
system
Virtual assistance and expanding virtual assistance
2020 & 2021 Court System Full Operational During COVID
September 2020 UW Lecture Series, “What is a County”

*Forward thinking
Changing demographics:*

Number of and conversion of lake homes to permanent residences
Tourist Rooming Houses
Tourist Rooming Houses & work with DOR, Sales Tax
Farmland Preservation and balance with the small rural businesses
Seasonal park-model mobile homes at farmsteads

Tourism:

Ice Age Trail & Working on Memorandum of Agreement between IAT & Cnty,
completed 2021
ATV/UTV Trail System Expansion
ATV/UTV/Snowmobile Trail System - Bridge rebuild

*Other In-process
Considerations:*

Monitor opportunities to identify vacated space in G/C due to increased
Telework, cost savings due to vacated spaces, (City of Barron)
Discuss long-term plan for G/C, due to age of building, increased telework, etc.

Consider pursuing outdoor wellness grant
2021 WCA Magazine Article on County Finances, HHS Director Frolik, Financial Analyst Heidi Syvinski, Adm., French
2021-2022 Continued work on New Hwy Facilities, (lots of staff time)
ARPA Expenditures
Automated Payroll System

Updated: 2021-2-1
2021-2-5
2021-3-25
2021-12-27
2022-1-26
2022-2-14

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