



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2026**

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman O'Brien at 4:30 p.m. in the David W. Albrecht Building, Room 119, 112 Otter Avenue, Oshkosh.

Members Present: 4 - Chairman Tim O'Brien, Supervisor Bob Poeschl, Supervisor Brian Noe, and Supervisor Rob Gustafson

Excused: 1 - Supervisor Tom Egan

Also Present: Highway Commissioner Bob Doemel, RA Smith Certified Floodplain Manager Riley Stone, County Board Chairman Frank Frassetto

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Invocation

The invocation was given by Chairman Tim O'Brien.

D. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Frank Frassetto, County Board Chair, plans on attending committee meetings to get a grasp and understanding of projects that are being worked on throughout the County.

E. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of March 23, 2026 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

F. Committee Member Comments

No Comments from Committee Members

G. Business Items

1. **2025 MS4 Annual Report—Riley Stone, P.E., CFM from RA Smith**

Riley Stone, Professional Engineer, Certified Floodplain Manager from RA Smith, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the 2025 MS4 Annual Report.

MS4 stands for municipal separated storm sewer system. It is a permit for a community to discharge their own stormwater. The program started federally in 1972 as a part of the Clean Water Act and came to Wisconsin in 1993 when Administrative Code 216 was adopted. The goal of this program is to reduce the amount of pollutants that are getting into our waterways.

There is an educational group in Wisconsin called the Northeastern Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium that provides public education outreach for this program. Annually screening is done of outfalls from storm sewers, culverts and ditches. Tests are done to detect pollutants. Erosion control inspections are required once every 45 days for an active construction site. Post-construction stormwater management requires that, once the county closes out the stormwater permit for a site, the Town is responsible for working with the private owner for long-term maintenance. An annual report is required and due to the Department of Natural Resources at the end of March each year.

Mr. Stone took questions from the Committee members.

H. Highway Commissioner Comments

1. **Introductions:**

Highway Commissioner, Bob Doemel, introduced himself and gave a brief history of his experience at the Highway Department. He has been employed with the County's Highway Department for 32 years, starting from the ground up. He has worked on and with every aspect of the Highway Department.

Supervisor Brian Noe introduced himself and his affiliation with the County Highway Department. He thanked the Highway Department for being easy to work with at the municipal level.

Supervisor Bob Poeschl noted that this would be a new adventure for him. Supervisor Tim O'Brien introduced himself. This is his second term on the Highway Committee. He has enjoyed being on the Highway Committee. He feels this department is a real asset to the County.

Supervisor Rob Gustafson introduced himself. He is interested in learning how the County runs and stated that this is another opportunity for him to learn.

Supervisor Tom Egan is excused from this meeting.

Commissioner Doemel answered questions from committee members. He noted that if the committee members have any questions at any time, do not hesitate to contact him.

2. **2026 Capital Project Update**

Commissioner Doemel provided an update on the 2026 Capital Projects.

- **Concrete Curb and Gutter** — The County has been doing this for over 20 years. Most of these lie in the urban areas; the City of Oshkosh, Menasha, etc. The County does not have its own storm sewer system. There are times when the County needs to work with the municipality to be prepared for future projects. In 2024, Commissioner Doemel brought forward a concrete repair project option.
- **County Road P Project** — This project is located in the City of Menasha and Village of Fox Crossing. There were a lot of flooding issues in this area. The Highway Department worked with the State to alleviate these problems. This is over a \$10 million reconstruction project. They have held numerous public meetings to keep the public aware of what is happening. The County is responsible for 63% of the project; Fox Crossing is responsible for 25%; the City of Menasha is responsible for 12% of the project. Grants have been applied for to help bring the expenses down.
- **County Road II** — This project goes from State Road 45 to State Road 76; (6.6 miles). This will be a mill and overlay project. The County has to rent a milling machine, but they have their own paving machine.
- **County Road M** — This project goes from Double I to Highway 10. This is a pulverize and pave project. When pulverizing roads, they can widen the roads from 22 to 24 feet. This project is a mile long.
- **County Road E** — This project goes from County Road FF to State Road 116. It is 4 miles long and is a pulverize and pave project. Hoping to finish this project by June 18th. Commissioner Doemel is concerned about how the speed of traffic will increase with the new pavement. They were able to collect some Local Road Improvement Project funding. Approximately \$600,000 worth of funding for this project.
- **County Road A** — This project went from Sherman Road to Indian Point Road. The project has been completed. The cost was \$400,000 for this project. They were able to use \$60,000 of funding from another project. The project was held up for two months with legal issues.
- **County Road M** — This project runs from State Road 44 to State Road 91. The only thing left to do for this project is to install some culverts.
- **County Road E** — This project is from Oakwood Road to County Road F. They had some ditching issues and drainage issues. The Highway Department installed some drain tiles. The County needed to add a wire to the drain tile, and they are responsible for locating that tile whenever someone needs to change something in that area.

3. **Highway Department General Operations**

The Highway Department is an Enterprise Fund. They operate by billing customers and having invoices paid. They contract with some of the municipalities within Winnebago County to provide road maintenance. This includes setting culverts and ditch mowing. They contract with the State of Wisconsin for snow plowing. Commissioner Doemel noted that the life cycle for their trucks is roughly ten years.

4. **Utility Permitting Update**

Utility Permitting is done within the right of way for the County System. Most of the highways are designated with a letter. (A, B, C, etc.). West Waukau Avenue is the only roadway that is not a lettered County Highway. Whenever working within the right of way, they must have a permit from the Highway Department. All the utilities are required to get permits from the County.

The Highway Committee and County Board approved an online permitting option. This will improve customer service. They can apply and pay on-line. The permit can be approved almost instantly. Adopt a Highway and Adopt a Round-About are options that can be added to this feature.

The Highway Department currently has eight open positions. They have interviewed and hope to hire two new employees. They are starting their summer hours; four ten-hour days, off on Fridays. If it rains during the week, they will work on Fridays.

I. **Next Meeting Date**

The Committee discussed the next meeting date and decided on the 4th Monday of the month at 4:30 p.m.

The next Highway Committee meeting will be held on June 22, 2026, in the Susan T. Ertmer Conference Room at 4:30 p.m.

Chairman O'Brien asked that all agenda items be sent to him.

J. **Adjourn**

Motion by Supervisor Gustafson, seconded by Supervisor Poeschl, to adjourn the May 26, 2026, Highway Committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted by,
Julie A. Barthels
Winnebago County Clerk*

*The video portion of this meeting is available on the County website:
<https://winnebagocowi.portal.civicclerk.com>*