



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT STRATEGY & OUTCOMES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 2025**

A. Call to Order

Co-Chair Tom Egan called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Members Present: 7 - Tom Egan, Gordon Hintz, Chuck Farrey, Morris Cox, Brandon Hennes, Don Merkes and Paul Kaiser.

Absent: 3 - Andy Buck, Nate Gustafson and Sean Fitzgerald.

Also Present at the Meeting:

Cassie Smith-Gregor, Chief Deputy Clerk

Mary Anne Mueller, Corporation Counsel

Jamie Rouch, Director of Administration

Lu Scheer, Housing Grants Specialist

Supervisor Frank Frassetto, District 32

Supervisor Conley Hanson, District 26

Supervisor Thomas Swan, District 14

Brian Noe, Town of Omro Chairperson

Dana Woods, Town of Omro Clerk

B. Member Introductions

The members of the ARPA Strategy & Outcomes Commission introduced themselves to one another.

C. Public Comments

The following individuals voiced their concerns regarding Business Item No. 2: Discussion and possible Commitment to Support \$3,500,000 of Spirit Funds to partially fund a revolving loan program to expedite housing development in Winnebago County:

- Conley Hanson, County Board Supervisor, District 26*
- Thomas Swan, County Board Supervisor, District 14*
- Brian Noe, Town of Omro Chairman*
- Morris Cox, County Board Supervisor, District 27*

Frank Frassetto, County Board Supervisor, District 32 spoke in support of Business Item No. 2: Discussion and possible Commitment to Support \$3,500,000 of Spirit Funds to partially fund a revolving loan program to expedite housing development in Winnebago County.

D. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Cox, to approve the January 27, 2025, meeting minutes. (Abstain: Hintz, Hennes and Merkes)

The three individuals that abstained were not part of the commission when this meeting took place. Therefore, they could not vote on these minutes, resulting in there not being a quorum to vote on these previous minutes. These minutes will be addressed and voted on at the next meeting.

E. Business Items

1. Update on Funding including the interest earned on the allocated and unallocated funds.

Paul Kaiser, Finance Director, gave a little background of the ARPA Strategy & Outcomes Commission for the new members. He also updated the commission members on the Spirit Funding, including the interest earned on the allocated and unallocated funds. Mr. Kaiser provided a handout that was distributed to the members at the meeting that included the Winnebago County Spirit Fund Allocations Planning Document and County Board resolutions 046-102024 and 125-052025. Commission members discussed the planning document, projects, and the allocated and unallocated funds. Mr. Kaiser, Finance Director; Ms. Mueller, Corporation Counsel and Gordon Hintz, County Executive, answered questions as they came up.

2. Discussion and possible Commitment to Support \$3,500,000 of Spirit Funds to partially fund a revolving loan program to expedite housing development in Winnebago County.

Discussion took place among members.

Lu Scheer, Housing Grants Specialist, gave a presentation and answered questions from commission members. There was a request made to have some additional information gathered and presented to the commission before addressing this item any further. Ms. Scheer will work on obtaining the information requested for the next meeting.

Motion by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Don Merkes, to layover this agenda item until Friday, August 22, 2025, at 10:00 am. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

3. Discussion of process for future ARPA Projects

Gordon Hintz, County Executive, mentioned he was open to feedback from a prioritization and process standpoint and could have something ready for the next meeting. Mr. Hintz asked members to contact him if they had any suggestions regarding the process for future ARPA projects.

F. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will take place on Friday, August 22, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., in the Susan T. Ertmer Conference Room 120 at the David W. Albrecht Administration Building.

G. Adjourn

Motion made by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Co-Chair Egan, to adjourn at 11:48 p.m. MOTION CARRIES.

Submitted by:

Cassie J. Smith-Gregor

Winnebago County Chief Deputy Clerk

The video portion of this meeting is available on the County website:

<https://winnebagocowi.portal.civicclerk.com>