



**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025**

A. Call to Order

Chairman Farrey called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Members Present: 12 – Tom Egan, Steven Binder, John Hinz, Howard Miller, Tom Swan, Morris Cox, Donald Nussbaum, Chuck Farrey, Larry Lautenschlager, Frank Frassetto, Douglas Nelson and Thomas Snider.

Absent: 4 – Maribeth Gabert, Jim Wise, Karen Powers and Ralph Harrison.

Also Present at the Meeting:

Cassie Smith-Gregor, Chief Deputy Clerk

Koby Schellenger, Assistant to the County Executive

Lori Palmeri, State Representative, 54th Assembly District

Dean Kaufert, State Representative, 53rd Assembly District (arrived at 8:57 am)

SydneyRose Faestel, District Director for Senator Rachael A. Cabral-Guervara's Office

Jennifer Ruetten, Information Technology (IT) Director

Supervisor Conley Hanson, District 26

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

D. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Cox, seconded by Supervisor Frassetto, to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2025, meeting. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

E. Committee Chair's Report

There was no committee chair's report.

F. Update from State Legislators

State Representative Lori Palmeri - Assembly District 54

Representative Palmeri identified a list of the bills that have been proposed coming through the Local Government Committee. They consisted of the following:

- AB 559: Providing Utility Aid Payments to counties and municipalities where certain energy storage facilities are located.*
- AB 483: Municipal or County Vehicle Registration Fee*
- AB 459: County Public Works Notice and competitive bidding thresholds.*
- AB 282: This has to do with whether you could bring back a resolution and/or ordinance that didn't pass previously.*
- AB 192: Relates to fatality review teams and granting rule-making authority.*
- AB 116: Transportation of minors for emergency detention*

Ms. Palmeri was recently appointed to the Housing and Real Estate Committee and discussed some of the bills that were introduced. She also touched on two items from the Department of Health Services regarding Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Ms. Palmeri then took questions from the committee members.

State Senator Rachael Cabral-Guervara - Senatorial District 19

SydneyRose Faestel, District Director for State Senator Rachael Cabral-Guevara, mentioned that the Senator has been busy in Madison on committees, but did say that if there are any specific questions or issues they would like to speak to the Senator about or meet with her, let Ms. Faestel know, and she can get it set up for you.

Ms. Faestel mentioned that she has the 2025-2026 Wisconsin Blue Books, so if anyone would like one, she could hand them out after the meeting.

Ms. Faestel then took questions from the committee members.

State Representative Dean Kaufert - Assembly District 53

Representative Kaufert, representing the 53rd Assembly District, briefly updated the committee that they are planning on meeting three times in November, the last of the fall session, and then they will be out until January.

Mr. Kaufert commented that they got the budget done. This was very gratifying and satisfying for him as he has been part of a lot of budgets, and this is the first time in about 6 years that this was a bi-partisan budget.

Chairman Farrey thanked the legislators for providing updates and attending the Legislative Committee meeting.

G. Update from Federal Legislators

There were no federal representatives present.

H. Communications Shared by Committee Members

I. Updates from the County Executive

Koby Schellenger, Assistant to the County Executive, provided the following updates:

- **State Budget**
 - Funding the Land Water Conservation positions at a higher level.
 - This certainly helps that the first three positions are at least partially funded by the state.
 - Winnebago County Project of building a breakwater out in Winneconne that's going to restore about 40 acres of wetlands. The Land and Water Department is really important, and the state budget helped fund this position.
 - Small increase in Veterans Services Funding
 - A big question mark in the State Budget relating to Lincoln Hills for juvenile placement for juvenile detention.
 - City of Oshkosh advocated for an increase in the municipal service payment (MSP) program.
- **Federal Shutdown**
 - Has not directly impacted services too greatly for the county yet, although anticipating the SNAP foodshare program may not have a reload of benefits in November, which may see an increase in demand for local food pantries. DHS working with the local pantries to help bridge the gap.
 - WIC Program — anticipating this program will still have funds for a couple of months, but maybe by December or January, the budget may run out for that program.
 - Two other immediate impacts of the shutdown for the county.
 - Grants are not updated, so many of the staff who might manage federal grant programs are not working. Information has stopped, so many of our departments are constantly monitoring these grants.
 - There is not a lot of staff at agencies to help us get answers.
 - Depending on certain situations, if things don't resolve in the next few weeks, there may be more challenges in the community that end up rippling into the county.

Koby Schellenger invited everyone to the Waukau Dam Ribbon Cutting on Thursday, October 30, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. He called attention to this today because \$751,000 for this project was funded by the Knowles Stewardship Fund. Adam Breest, Parks Director, can walk them through the park and highlight some of the improvements.

Mr. Schellenger briefly highlighted that the county has included funding for the Cybersecurity program, and proposed to include funding for a half-time food wise educator with Waushara County paying the other half of that position's wages. He mentioned that they've reduced their structural deficit from 8.5 million to 7.25 million. Lastly, the county has included funding for the HELP (Housing, Eviction and Loss Prevention) Program to make those positions permanent on the table of organization.

J. Business Items

1. Supporting the Renewal of the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Fund

Motion by Supervisor Hinz, seconded by County Board Chairman Egan, to approve the resolution and forward it to the County Board with a small friendly amendment made in the second paragraph changing the year 2025 to 2026. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

2. Support Wisconsin establishing a Membership with the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) to Cover the Cost of Membership for all State, Local, Tribal and Territorial (SLTT) Organizations.

Motion by Supervisor Hinz, seconded by Supervisor Nussbaum, to bring the item to the floor for discussion.

Motion by Supervisor Cox, seconded by Supervisor Binder, to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

K. Items for Next Agenda

Suggestions from committee members for items to be addressed on a future agenda

- 1. Resolutions from other counties that were referred to the Legislative Committee from the County Board.*

L. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will take place on Monday, January 26, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. at the James P. Coughlin Center, Meeting Rooms A & B.

M. Adjourn

Motion by Chairman Egan, seconded by Supervisor Cox, to adjourn. MOTION CARRIED. The meeting adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

Submitted by:

Cassie J. Smith-Gregor

Winnebago County Chief Deputy Clerk

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

<https://winnebago.cowi.portal.civicclerk.com>