



Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee AGENDA

February 13, 2026

1:00 P.M.

Courthouse – Room 1277
721 Oxford Ave, Eau Claire, WI

Join from Meeting Link:

<https://eauclairecounty.webex.com/eauclairecounty/j.php?MTID=m276fc94a42bdd205e66e7879684829cf>

Join by Meeting Number:

Meeting Number: 2539 887 4569 Password: 2muJzN4shJ5

Join by Phone: Dial in Number: 1-415-655-0001 Access Code: 25398874569##

1. Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment (15 minute maximum)
4. Review/Approval of January 23, 2026 Meeting Minutes / Discussion – Action **Pages 2-3**
5. Attorney Adam Jarchow, Concerned Citizens for Eau Claire County Farmland, (10 min.) Presentation/Discussion
6. Kurt Calkins, Columbia County, Director of Land and Water Conservation/Planning and Zoning Departments,(10 min.) Presentation/Discussion
7. Committee Review of the Current Working Farmland Preservation Plan / Discussion - Direction
8. Proposed Future Agenda Items
 - a. Next scheduled meeting-February 27, 2026
9. Announcements
10. Adjourn



MINUTES

Eau Claire County

- Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee •

Date: Friday, January 23, 2026

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: *Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Ave, Room 1277, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703*

Members Present: Dane Zook, Joe Knight, Lorelee Clark, Larry Hoekstra, Robin Leary (remote)

Members Absent:

Ex officio Present:

Staff Present: Rodney Eslinger, Chad Berge, Tim Wucherer, Assistant Corporation Counsel Rick Eaton, Matt Michels (remote), Ben Bulbitz (remote)

Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice

Chair Zook called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM and confirmed the meeting notice with Director Eslinger.

Roll Call:

Director Eslinger called the roll. The members that were present are noted above.

Public Comment:

Christina Estenson, N 37830 Thompson Coulee Road, Whitehall, Trempealeau County, Executive Director of Concerned Citizens for Eau Claire County Farmland, read a letter opposing commercial wind and solar development on Agricultural Preservation (A-P) zoned property. Mrs. Estenson's letter was supplied to the clerk along with letter from Attorney Adam Jarchow that outlined additional edits they would like to be made to the draft farmland preservation plan, and a draft wind and solar energy systems ordinance for consideration.

NOTE: Hard copies were also given to each committee member.

Review/Approval of the January 9, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Action: Motion by Larry Hoekstra to approve the January 9, 2026, committee meeting minutes subject to Clerk Eslinger ex office correction. Motion carried on a voice vote: 5-0-0.

Committee Review of the Current Working Farmland Preservation Plan

Chad Berge, Land Conservation Manager, reviewed page by page of the working Farmland Preservation Plan draft with the committee. The following items are a summary of the committee's review of the draft and their key points:

- Provide clarity with plan language. Consider replacing directive language with advisory language.
- Restate/Clarify "Farmland Preservation" mission statement.
- Add a definition section in the plan
- Review natural resource issues; review climate change language and identify better wording.
- Consider adding clear language in the plan that disallows commercial wind and solar developments in the A-P District
- Address emerging issues – recognize other renewable energy sources, data center's impact on groundwater (note this in the FPP and the comprehensive plan update)
- Clarify agricultural related uses as they related to state law
- Corporation Counsel is to review all red text sections to confirm consistency with county authority, and state law and statutes.

Proposed Future Agenda Items

1. Short presentation from Kurt Calkins, Director of Planning and Land Conservation in Columbia County
2. Review Draft Edits and Corporation Counsel's comments
3. Finish reviewing the draft

Announcements

None

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 2:31 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rodney Eslinger
Clerk, Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
Director of Planning and Development