

## COMMITTEE MEETING

February 5, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Room #264, Grant County Board Room, Administration Building  
Lancaster, Wisconsin

The Grant County Conservation, Sanitation & Zoning Committee meeting was called to order on February 5, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. by Joe Mumm, the Conservation, Sanitation, Zoning Committee Chairman in Room #264, County Board Room of the Administration Building.

Board members present in the County Board room #264: Joseph Mumm, Brian Lucey, Gary Northouse, and Roger Lange. Pat Schroeder and Larry Jerrett, Excused. Others present in the County Board room; Annette Lolwing, Keith Lane, Lucas Finley, Brady Bartels, Adam Reed, Shane Drinkwater, Robert Keeney, Mark Lasko, Ron Brisbois, Pete Morris, Molly Mangan, Dave Hottenstein, Sharon Bontreger, Steve Morgan, Mark Schwarz, Matthew Clark, Jan Schwede, Richard Schwede, Sue Krause, Dan Cray, Jenny Dietzel, Angie Gerndt, Lochlan Gabel, Bryce Bartels, Lincoln Morris, Kristin Conley, Adina Vesperman, Andrew Taylor, Melodie Betts, Gavin Jackson, Jennifer Jackson, Deb Draheim, John Rindy, Lisa White, Doug Schauff, Derek Furrer, Steve Luchs, and Don Myers ZOOM: Grant County Board Room, Robert Keeney, Shane Drinkwater, Keith Lane, Mike Adams, Emily Schildgen, Jim Bergles, Mike Bennett, Steve Smith, Joleen Ackerman, Jerry Schwab, Pam Booth, Joe Eckstein, Ray Schink, Amanda Bailie, Stephanie Watson, WKOW 27 News, Andrea Noethe, Brianna Frear, Tiffany Ehlen, Steve Ferrell, Elizabeth Runde, Renee Baker, Kendra Schwab, Kyle Roesch, Sara Zarling, Tonya White, Don Adams, Jessica Wright, Jenni Petersen-Brant, Kaitlyn Weber, Lucas Ruchti, Matt Porter, Donna Swanson, Madison M Pete Moris, Cody Schluenz, Diane Boswell, Immune Systems Work, Carol Beals, Prescott Balch, Ryan Allbee, Kyle Bueller, Jill Langmeier, Steve Hagen, Norbert Dittman, Lucas Finley, Jess Webb, Deb Adrian, and Suzanne Holzman.

### **Certification of Open Meeting Law**

Annette Lolwing sent the agenda to the County Clerk's office to post in the Administration Building, Courthouse, and on the County website. An agenda was also posted in front of the Ag Service Center Building. An agenda was also sent to Bob Middendorf, WGLR. Media notices were sent to the County Clerk's office, Herald Independent, Muscoda Progressive, Boscobel Dial, Fennimore Times, and Bob Middendorf.

### **Approval of Amended February 5, 2026, Agenda**

Motion by Gary Northouse, seconded by Brian Lucey to approve the Amended agenda to move the Discussion of Data Center Development in Grant County to follow the CSZD Report. Motion carried.

### **Approval of January 8, 2026, Minutes**

Motion by Roger Lange, seconded by Brian Lucey to approve January 8, 2026, minutes. Motion carried.

### **Review & Accept the January Bills**

Motion by Gary Northouse, seconded by Roger Lange, to accept the January bills. Motion carried.

### **NRCS Report – Mike Adams**

Mike mentioned that they had the Duck's Unlimited – Grazing Specialist stopped by the office. They will be working on some grazing plans this summer. They keep working through the EQIP applications that they have. Hopefully they will find out about the funding in the next couple of months.

### **FSA Report – Emily Schildgen**

Emily Schildgen went over her report that she had passed around. She went over the Dairy Margin coverage (DMC) Program. DMC had a small margin that triggered for December 2025. The margin came in at \$9.42 which means producers who elected the \$9.50 coverage will get a \$0.08 per cwt payment for December 2025.

The 2026 sign up opens on January 12<sup>th</sup> and closes Thursday, February 26, 2026. With One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) provisions, all dairy operations are required to establish new production history using the highest of 2021, 2022, and 2023 production.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) – With a change to policy a few years ago, there are spot checks being done after establishment as well as within the last 2 years of the contract expiring to see if the cover is eligible for re-enrollment. See Attachment A

### **Zoning/Sanitation Report**

Keith presented the Zoning/Sanitation report.

Sanitation permits: For the month of January 2025, through February 28, 2025, there were 7 sanitary permits issued. For the month of January 2026, through February 28, 2026, there were 3 sanitary permits issued.

Zoning permits: For the month of January 2025, through February 28, 2025, there were 19 zoning permits issued. For the month of January 2026, through February 28, 2026, there were 6 zoning permits issued.

### **Public Hearing for Conditional Use Permits**

Chairman Mumm opened the Public Hearing

#CUP26-01 Timothy & Patrine Post, Muscoda Twp., are requesting a Conditional Use Permit on PIN:042-00906-0060 +/- 1.073 ac. to allow for an accessory structure prior to the establishment of a principal structure under section 3.07 (2) (a) of the Grant County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance.

In Favor: Muscoda Twp. approved on January 14, 2026.

In Opposition: None

In Interest: No conditions were placed by the Township on this parcel.

Applicant Rebuttal: None

Committee Discussion: None

Chairman Mumm closed the Public Hearing

Motion by Gary Northouse to recommend approval of the Conditional Use Permit, seconded by Roger Lange.

Motion carried.

### **Public Hearing for Ordinance Adoption**

Petition #26-02 Ordinance Adoption request to establish a zoning ordinance for the regulation of Large Solar Energy Generating Facilities. No wording has been changed. Public Notice has been published for 2 weeks. If approved by this committee it then goes on to full County Board for approval. Roll Call: 4 Yes, 0 No, 2 Excused. Motion carried.

Petition #26-03 Ordinance Adoption request to establish a zoning ordinance for the regulation of Small Solar Energy Generating Facilities. No wording has been changed. Public Notice has been published for 2 weeks. If approved by this committee it then goes on to full County Board for approval. Roll Call; 4 Yes, 0 No, 2 Excused. Motion carried.

### **WDACP Deer Damage Claims**

Greg Cerven reported that he has 4 deer damage claims that need approved. Wes Beeler, Loss of \$44,000.00, claim \$10,000.00 Clem Dressler, Loss of \$3,378.72, claim \$2,878.72. Dan Hershberger, Loss of \$9,099.79, claim \$7,897.83. and Lynn Kirschbaum, Loss of \$21,641.88, claim for \$10,000.00. Motion by Brian Lucey, seconded by Gary Northouse to approve all 4 claims. Motion carried.

**County Cost Sharing:** Beginning Balance \$48,067.75 / Ending Balance \$46,662.50

Brady presented a final approval request for county cost sharing for a well decommissioning project for Greg Martin, Ellenboro Twp., \$405.25. Motion by Gary Northouse, seconded by Roger Lange to approve the payment. Roll Call: 4 Yes, 0 No, 2 Excused. Motion carried.

Brady presented a tentative approval request for county cost sharing for a well decommissioning project for Cooper and Samantha Kilberg, Liberty Twp., \$1,000.00. Motion by Roger Lange, seconded by Brian Lucey to approve Kilberg's request. Motion carried.

**2025 DATCP Cost-Sharing Requests:** Beginning Balance \$49,272.62/ Ending Balance \$43,625.19

Brady presented an extension request for 2025 DATCP cost sharing on a stream crossing project for Charles & Debra Kratochwill, Castle Rock Twp. for a 6-month extension to August 5, 2026. Motion by Roger Lange, seconded by Gary Northouse to approve the 6-month extension. Motion carried.

Brady presented a final approval request for 2025 DATCP cost sharing on a stream crossing project for Herman Maier, Fennimore Twp., \$5,647.43. Motion by Gary Northouse, seconded by Roger Lange to approve payment. Roll Call: 4 Yes, 0 No, 2 Excused. Motion carried.

**2026 DATCP Cost-Sharing Requests:** Beginning Balance \$72,000.00 / Ending Balance \$72,000.00

None to report

#### **FPP Report – Brady Bartels**

Brady reported that he has one cancellation of Notice of Noncompliance for RJ Foley Holdings LLC, Clifton Twp. They have turned in an approved nutrient management plan and are eligible for the 2026 tax credits. Motion by Brian Lucey, seconded by Roger Lange to approve the cancellation of Notice of Noncompliance. Motion carried.

#### **Storage Permit Approval – Brady Bartels**

Nothing to report.

#### **CSZD Report**

##### **Conservation: February 2026 overview...**

Annette and Keith provided a power point presentation for the poster contest. Grant County did not have any winners in the SAA judging.

Keith went through a few of the highlights from the February overview notes that were handed out.

1. Keith mentioned that we have 118 tree orders turned in for 8,975 trees and shrubs. We added a 5' tree tube without a stake that can be purchased through our department.
2. There will be a Nutrient Management Plan procedures/writers meeting with DATCP on February 9<sup>th</sup>.
3. Taylor and Brady are still working on the construction plan for the County Farm Project.
4. Keith has submitted the DATCP annual report. Keith needs to provide the SWRM grant numbers by April 15<sup>th</sup>.
5. There was a 2-day nutrient management plan writing assistance outreach class at the Youth & Ag. There were 16 people that attended.
6. There was a request for a landowner to change his conservation plan on his CREP easement acres to allow him to take one crop of hay off the field. Information in the packet.

#### **Zoning:**

1. Keith reported that Adam has completed 11, 2023 post construction inspections and 23, 2024 post construction inspections and 2 pre-construction/3post construction 2025 inspections.

**Sanitation:**

1. Keith reported that there were 2 tank installations in January.
2. Jim had two new permits but are waiting for five people that need further information provided to him.
3. There will be a DSPS audit on February 13<sup>th</sup>.
4. Still have a significant list of outstanding sanitation – construction projects that have not been closed.

Other items in the meeting packets: Grant County Federal Holidays vs. County Holiday schedule.

Alliant announced that they will be putting in a BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) at their Cassville facility. For the MDV program there are some parameters that need to be addressed. Copy of Jefferson County's brochure.

Grant County has \$118,000 to put toward conservation practices.

The extension office reached out to do a state-wide survey on insect trapping. Looking for landowners to participate in the cut worm survey.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board room.

**Discussion of Data Center Development in Grant County**

Joe stated that this is discussion only with the committee members. There is no public comment on this.

Keith provided in the packet some information on FACTS vs FICTION on Data Centers in Wisconsin.

Keith mentioned Crypto Mining has also come up associated with Data Centers.

Keith also presented a handout for the key provisions of AB 840

Motion by Brian Lucey, seconded by Gary Northosue to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by Annette Lolwing

## Attachment A

### FSA Notes – February CSZD Meeting

**Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program** – There was a small margin that triggered for December 2025. The margin came in at \$9.42 which means producers who elected the \$9.50 coverage will get a \$0.08 per cwt payment for December 2025. Those payments were processed by the office earlier this week and should be in bank accounts by the middle of next week.

The 2026 sign up opened January 12 and closes Thursday, February 26, 2026. With One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) provisions, all dairy operations are required to establish new production history using the highest of 2021, 2022, and 2023 production. Producers do need to come into the office to complete that sign up since we need to establish production history first, have that approved, and then we can complete the 2026 sign up. Basic provisions of the program remain the same. The producer selected the percentage of their production they want to cover and the margin level they want to cover it at. There is a \$100 non-refundable Admin fee still associated with each year's sign up that is due at the time of enrollment. One big change beginning in 2026 is that Tier 1 coverage was increased from the first 5 million pounds to the first 6 million pounds. Like with the Farm Bill in 2018, OBBBA is allowing the lock-in option again in 2026. If a producer selects to lock-in the coverage selected until 2031, they will receive a 25% premium discount each year through 2031. The operation must keep that same coverage selected in 2026 through 2031. There is a tool dairy operations can use to assist them in making their decision on if they want to sign up and at which level. That can be found here: <https://dmc.bozic.io/#/>.

**Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)** – With a change to policy a few years ago, there are spot checks being done after establishment as well as within the last 2 years of the contract expiring to see if the cover the eligible for re-enrollment. The office has been seeing a lot of violations due to the status review spot checks. I am currently working with Pheasants Forever and NRCS to plan a CRP weed management workshop for CRP participants in March in the Lancaster area to help them learn best management practices and times for common weeds in our area along with the FSA policy to keep in mind when managing their cover. We will be sending the meeting details to participants with the certifications we are mailing them the middle of February. I will also get information to Keith for the CSZD website once we have them finalized. No word at this time on a 2026 CRP sign up.