

VILLAGE OF MCFARLAND

**Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee Minutes**

*Monday, August 11, 2025 - 6:00 PM*

**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL.**

Trustee Peña called the regular meeting of the Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee to order at 6:00 PM in the Community Room of the Municipal Center. This meeting was also held via Zoom webinar.

Members present: Trustee Peña, Trustee Leamy (arrived at 6:22 pm), Michael Allen, Lori Whitman, Christine Mania, Kaci Coconate

Members not present: Nathan Berg

Staff Present: Community & Economic Development Director Andrew Bremer, Associate Planner Kong Thao, Parks Superintendent Sayer Larson, Assistant to the Public Works Director Aimee Irwin

**2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.**

- a. *This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee for items that are not on the agenda. Please remember this is a hybrid meeting conducted in person and through the Zoom online meeting platform. Meeting attendees wishing to address the Committee about items not on the agenda may do so at this time. Zoom attendees should type their name and address in the Question and Answer feature within the Zoom online meeting platform at this time. Members of the public who are present in person and wish to address the Committee should fill out a public comment form and turn into the meeting chairperson. When you are called upon to speak, state your name, address, and provide your comments to the Committee for their consideration. Please adhere to the 3-minute time limit. Additionally, you may send your public comments to sustainability@mcfarland.wi.us to be included as part of the meeting.*

*Members of the public may also speak during their selected agenda item as they designate on the public comment form or in the Question and Answer feature on Zoom.*

None.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**

- a. *Motion to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2025, Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee meeting.*

Motion by Whitman, seconded by Coconate, to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2025, Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee meeting. Motion carries 5 - 0 - 0.

**4. BUSINESS.**

- a. *Discussion and action on a recommendation to the Village Board to approve bid documents for the Public Safety Center battery energy storage system.*

Bremer provided an overview of the battery energy storage system project. Mike Barnett of HGA presented an overview of the enclosed bid documents.

- Trustee Peña asked if the updates to the Wisconsin Commercial building codes would have an impact on the project and bid documents. Barnett responded that additional follow-up would be required with the electrical designer. Bremer explained that the updates to the code may impact the distance between the battery and transformer and the fence may need to be changed to a brick wall. Bremer explained that updates to the bid documents due to updates to the code should be reflected by the time the Village Board reviews the bid documents.
- Trustee Peña inquired about the timing of the project. Bremer explained that it would be advantageous to start before the end of the year.
- Trustee Peña asked for clarification on section 1.6 Time of Completion and Liquidated Damages. Bremer responded that follow-up with the village attorney regarding this section would occur.
- Trustee Peña suggested that section 1.7 Bidder's Qualifications be updated to have a link to the village ordinance.

Motion by Whitman, seconded by Mania, to recommend to the Village Board approval of bid documents for the Public Safety Center battery energy storage system. Motion carries 5 - 0 - 0.

*b. Discussion on sustainability planning and initiatives.*

Trustee Peña provided an overview of the discussion on sustainability planning and initiatives. Committee members discussed various projects that the High School Eco Club may be able to be involved with, such as Styrofoam recycling or the adopt a storm drain project. Mania inquired about a seed library in the Village. Larson stated that previously there may have been a seed library at the library, but he is unsure if this still exists.

**5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.**

*a. Monday, September 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.*

**6. ADJOURNMENT.**

Motion by Trustee Leamy, seconded by Coconate, to adjourn at 6:36 PM

Pursuant to law, written notice of this meeting was given to the public and posted on the public bulletin board in accordance with Open Meetings Law.

Respectfully submitted,  
Aimee Irwin  
Assistant to the Public Works Director