

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026
MINUTES**

Committee members present: Chairman Billy Fried; Scott Holewinski; Debbie Condado; Michael Tautges; Dan Hess; Russ Fisher.

Unexcused Absence: Cushing

Call to order: Chairman Fried called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. in the County Board Room of the Oneida County Courthouse. The meeting has been properly posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting law and the facility is handicap accessible.

Approve Agenda:

Motion/Second: Fisher/Tautges to approve today's Agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All Aye; Motion passes.

Approve Minutes of April 15, 2026 and April 22, 2026:

Motion/Second: Hess/Fried to approve the Minutes of the April 15, 2026 and April 22, 2026 Meeting. All "Aye"; Motion passes.

Public comment: None

Economic Support Succession Plan:

Human Service Director Beth Hoerchler reported that there are several different problem areas they are having with Economic Support. Hoerchler explained that there is a Consortium of a four counties; Oneida, Marathon, Langlade and Portage. Hoerchler stated that the Consortium is currently 22% short of the workforce due to both people in training and vacancies. Hoerchler noted that the Consortium is having difficulty recruiting employees. Hoerchler stated that there is a considerable amount of training for these positions. Hoerchler stated that the Consortium has enhanced funding, this funding goes into a pool that is available for all four counties to use. Hoerchler explained that this can be used for hiring employees before a position is vacant. Hoerchler stated there are seven vacancies and three persons in training in the consortium for a total of ten people. Hoerchler stated that if they are notified of a vacancy in Oneida County, they would like to hire, advertise and train, as soon as the person leaving gives notice. Hoerchler noted that if someone retires, this would allow them to act prior to the person leaving the position. Hoerchler stated that another issue is that the state has given the Central Consortium \$539,000 to fix the error rate of SNAP benefits to be under 6%. Hoerchler stated that the penalty for not being under the 6% error rate is that the State would need to pay the Federal Government back \$69 Million dollars. Hoerchler explained that the current error rate for the state is 6.11%. Hoerchler noted that there is one open position in Oneida County with potential retirements coming up. Hoerchler stated that she is asking for preapproval to fill the position as soon as they get written notification and a set date even if it results in overlap. Hoerchler noted that the funding will be paid out of the Enhanced Funds. Hoerchler explained that it takes time to go through committees to get approval, this would allow to move on this quickly. Lueneburg stated this will not be standard process for the future.

Motion/Second: Fried /Holewinski to approve the ability of the Human Service Director to advertise for a vacancy of the Economic Support position, not to exceed a three-month overlap training with the funding to come out of the Consortium Enhanced Funding and there will be no cost to the County Levy. All "Aye"; Motion passes.

ARPA Final Report:

Finance Director Smigielski stated that the final report was submitted to the US Treasury. Smigielski explained that this includes every project that was funded with ARPA funds. Smigielski reported that \$6,913,911 was received for ARPA funding, this is the final report. Fried stated that the completed report was presented and the committee has no concerns.

Opioid Close Out Resolution:

- a. Opioid Monthly Report – Smigielski explained this report tracks the money as it comes in and is updated monthly. Smigielski noted that as projects are approved, they are added. Smigielski stated that this report is done every month and is submitted to this committee.
- b. Opioid 2025 Annual Report – Smigielski explained that this report is required per State Statute to be filed every year. Smigielski stated that this report shows the balance at the beginning of the year, disbursements and the project break down based on authorized categories. Discussion regarding interest income. Smigielski noted that the interest income should stay in the settlement account.

Motion/Second: Holewinski/Condado to approve the Resolution to close out certain projects using Opioid Settlement Funds and forward it on to the County Board as a Consent Agenda item. All “Aye”; Motion passes.

Human Service Center Fiscal Memo:

Smigielski reported that the three counties had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the use of the residual funds that remained from the Human Service Center. Smigielski noted that this also requires the Oneida County Finance Director to reconcile the funds monthly. Smigielski explained that the March reconciliation is included in the packet and the committee can determine if they would like an update monthly or not. Smigielski reported that there are two accounts, a balance of \$250,000 is maintained in the escrow account. Smigielski explained that there are insurance payments still being received for services that were provided from 2024 and prior. Smigielski reported that any funds over the \$250,000 gets disbursed to the other two counties. Smigielski explained that the second account is the Health Reimbursement account for HSC employees. Smigielski noted that Diversified Benefits is the third party administrator to that account. It was determined to have this report presented to the Committee two times per year for an update.

2027 Budget Schedule and Budget Kick Off Memos:

Smigielski gave a brief overview of the schedule noting that November 16 is the Wisconsin Department of Revenue deadline. Smigielski explained that there is a series of hearings in October and the official hearing is November 10th. Smigielski noted that this process is very consistent with prior years. Fried advised the Committee Members to review the Memos and bring any concerns to the next meeting. Discussion regarding departments identifying potential cuts.

Public comment:

Krystal Westfahl, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Minocqua Visitors Bureau spoke regarding the 4th of July parade in Minocqua. Westfahl stated that she wants to protect the citizens and would like to get feedback regarding public safety.

Resolution to Oppose the DNR Land Acquisition of Land within the Town of Minocqua Using Funding from the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program:

Holewinski stated that he got a letter from the DNR and they are requesting that the County Board approve a Resolution to purchase 77 acres in Minocqua using the Knowles Nelson Grant. Holewinski stated that the Town of Minocqua and the County both have to respond to the DNR. Holewinski read a proposed Resolution in opposition of the purchase. Holewinski stated he is against using tax

dollars to buy residential property and take it off the tax rolls. Discussion regarding the process of the Pelican River purchase in Oneida County. Fried state that the Town of Minocqua had this on the agenda and it passed four to one to approve the purchase. Fried stated that he represents the Town of Minocqua. Fried explained the Resolution that passed at the town, noting that they added; coordination with the town for developing access for public parking, coordination with the Town and local clubs to facilitate motorized vehicle routes along the public roadway and development of dry hydrants to allow the firetrucks to fill up. Fried stated that he is against opposition to this and expressed support to forward it to the County Board. Holewinski noted that the DNR wants to take land in Rural Residential and turn it into Forestry land. Discussion ensued.

Motion/Second: Fried/Tautges to move forward to the County Board a Resolution in support of the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Fund land purchase as a regular Agenda item with the Resolution to read as follows:

Whereas, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WiDNR) seeks to acquire land contiguous to other WiDNR property along the Upper Tomahawk River corridor; and

Whereas, the parcels proposed for acquisition are MI-1083 and MI-1086 in the Town of Minocqua, totaling approximately 77 acres; and

Whereas, the subject property is a continuous block of land with two-bank frontage along the Tomahawk River; and

Whereas, the property has frontage along a town road enabling access for public recreation; and

Whereas, the property lies within the Upper Tomahawk River corridor which connects to the Willow Flowage, which has an Outstanding Resource Water designation, thereby enabling protection of such waters; and

Whereas, the acquisition is limited in scope and consistent with ownership of properties along the Tomahawk River corridor between Camp Nine Road and the Willow Flowage;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that Oneida County supports the proposed acquisition of subject property described above and the use of Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds to acquire the property as per Wis. Stats. 23.0917(5t)(b).

Discussion: Discussion regarding the motion. Fried noted that if this gets forwarded on to the County Board, there will be additional discussion, and this can be amended at the County Board.

Vote on Motion: 4 Aye; 2 Nay, Holewinski, Condado; 1 Absent Cushing

Motion: Passes

Dates and items for future agenda/meetings:

The next meeting date was set for May 20th.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Fried adjourned the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

