

AGENDA
Notice of Regular Meeting
Oneida County Board of Supervisors
Tuesday, May 19th, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.
County Board Meeting Room - 2nd Floor Oneida County Courthouse
Streaming: <https://www.youtube.com/@oneidacountyboardwi/streams>
Streaming is being offered as a convenience to view this meeting. Remote participation is not allowed
If streaming functionality drops, the meeting will continue in-person at the location listed above.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

There will be a brief moment of silence for our troops, law enforcement officers and emergency responders followed by a prayer/invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **ROLL CALL**

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIR, CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- Please use a microphone when speaking

4. **ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 21, 2026 MEETING**

5. **REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS**

- Broadband Report
- Forestry 2025 Annual Report

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT (time limit of three minutes)**

- Sign attendance form at the podium

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Resolution # 33 – 2026: Offered by the Supervisors of the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Committee to accept a donation from St. Theresa of Avila.

Resolution # 34 – 2026: Offered by the Supervisors of the Land Records Committee to Convey Excess County Lands, parts of PL-299-2, to Joseph R. Klaas and Holly C. Klaas.

Resolution # 35 – 2026: Offered by the Supervisors of the Land Records Committee to Convey Excess County Lands, Part of LT-143-1 and LT-154-1, to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Town of Lake Tomahawk.

Resolution # 36 – 2026: Offered by the Supervisors of the Executive Committee to Close Certain Projects Using Opioid Settlement Funds Allocated to Oneida County in Accordance with Wisconsin Act 57 of 2021 and Oneida County Resolution # 58 – 2022.

- Appointments to Committees, Commissions and other Organizations:
 - Re-Appoint Dawn Winquist to the Oneida Vilas Transit Commission for a 3-year term to expire in April 2029.
 - Appoint Chris Schultz to the Bear Lake District
 - Appoint Robb Jensen to the Crescent Lake District.
 - Appoint Dan Hess to the Horsehead Lake District.
 - Appoint Dan Hess to the Mid Lake District.
 - Appoint Chris Schultz to the Lake Nokomis Lake District.
 - Appoint Linnaea Newman to the Squash Lake District.
 - Appoint Collette Sorgel to the Thunder Lake District.
 - Appoint Ann Huntoon to the Board of Health for a 3-year term from June 2026 to May 2029

8. **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES**

Resolution # 37 – 2026: Offered by the Supervisors of the Executive Committee to Support the DNR Land Acquisition of Land within the Town of Minocqua Using Funding from the Warren Knowles Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program.

9. **CLOSED SESSION:** It is anticipated that a motion will be made, seconded and approved by roll call vote to enter into closed session pursuant to Section §19.85 (1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons

require a closed session. (Topic: Winnebago St. Building Offer to Purchase). It is anticipated that the County Board will return to open session by roll call vote to consider the remainder of the meeting agenda.

Announcement of action taken in closed session, or take action based on closed session (NOTE: If the announcement of action taken in closed session would compromise the need for the closed session, the action taken will not be announced. Any action taken in closed session may be announced when the need for the closed session has passed).

10. NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME June 16th, 2026 @ 9:30 a.m.

Unless a motion is made to change the starting time.

11. ADJOURN

****NOTICE**:** If you wish to reserve your public comment until such time as the agenda item is before the Board for debate, pursuant to County Board Ordinance 2.06(2) you must convey your request to your supervisor, setting forth the nature of the address which shall be confined to the question under debate. The supervisor on the nonmember's behalf will present the request to the Chair to approve the request."

Notice of posting

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Date: 05/14/2026

Place: Courthouse Bulletin Board

Scott Holewinski, County Board Chair, Oneida County Board of Supervisors – Tracy Hartman, County Clerk, posted notice. Additional information on a specific agenda item may be obtained by contacting the person who posted this notice at 715-369-6125.

News Media Notified by group e-mail: Time: 3:00 p.m.

Date: 05/14/2026

Northwood's River News
Lakeland Times
North Star Journal
Tomahawk Leader

Vilas News Review
WHDG Radio
WJFW TV
WXPR Radio

WRJO Radio
WLSL-FM 93.7
WPEG Radio
WSAW TV

Sunlight Report

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Must be held in a location which is reasonably accessible to the public.
2. Must be open to all members of the public unless the law specifically provides otherwise.

NOTICE REQUIREMENTS:

1. In addition to any requirements set forth below, notice must also be in compliance with any other specific statute.
2. Chief presiding officer or his/her designee must give notice to the official newspaper and to any members of the news media likely to give notice to the public.

MANNER OF NOTICE:

Date, time, place and subject matter, including subject matter to be considered in a closed session, must be provided in a manner and form reasonably likely to apprise members of the public and news media.

TIME FOR NOTICE:

1. Normally, a minimum of 24 hours prior to the commencement of the meeting.
2. No less than 2 hours prior to the meeting if the presiding officer establishes there is good-cause that such notice is impossible or impractical.
3. Separate notice for each meeting of the governmental body must be given.

EXEMPTIONS FOR COMMITTEES & SUBUNITS

Legally constituted sub-units of a parent governmental body may conduct a meeting during the recess or immediately after the lawful setting to act or deliberate upon the subject which was the subject of the meeting, provided the presiding officer publicly announces the time, place and subject matter of the sub-unit meeting in advance of the meeting of the parent governmental body.

PROCEDURE FOR GOING INTO CLOSED SESSION:

1. Motion must be made, seconded and carried by roll call majority vote and recorded in the minutes.
2. If motion is carried, chief presiding officer must advise those attending the meeting of the nature of the business to be conducted in the closed session, and the specific statutory exemption under which the closed session is authorized.

SYNOPSIS OF STATUTORY EXEMPTIONS UNDER WHICH CLOSED

SESSIONS ARE PERMITTED:

1. Concerning a case which was the subject of a Judicial or quasi-judicial trial before this governmental body. Sec. 19.85(1)(a)
2. Considering dismissal, demotion or discipline of any public employee or the investigation of charges against such person and the taking of formal action on any such matter; provided that the person is given actual notice of any evidentiary hearing which may be held prior to final action being taken and of any meeting at which final action is taken. The person under consideration must be advised of his/her right that the evidentiary hearing be held in open session and the notice of the meeting must state the same. Sec. 19.85(1)(b)
3. Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which this body has jurisdiction or responsibility. Sec. 19.85(1)(c)
4. Considering strategy for crime detection or prevention. Sec. 19.85(1)(d)
5. Deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. Sec. 19.85(1)(e)
6. Considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific person, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of specific charges, which, if discussed in public, would likely have a substantial adverse effect on the reputation of the person referred to in such data. Sec. 19.85(1)(f), except where paragraph 2 applies.
7. Conferring with legal counsel concerning strategy to be adopted by the governmental body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. Sec. 19.85(1)(g)
8. Considering a request for advice from any applicable ethics board. Sec. 19.85(1)(h)

PLEASE REFER TO CURRENT STATUTE SECTION 19.85 FOR FULL TEXT

CLOSED SESSION RESTRICTIONS:

1. Must convene in open session before going into closed session.
2. May not convene in open session, then convene in closed session and thereafter reconvene in open session within twelve hours unless proper notice of this sequence was given at the same time and in the same manner as the original open meeting.
3. Final approval or ratification of a collective bargaining agreement may not be given in closed session.
4. No business may be taken up at any closed session except that which relates to matters contained in the chief presiding officer's announcement of the closed session.
5. In order for a meeting to be closed under Section 19.85(1)(f) at least one committee member would have to have actual knowledge of information which he or she reasonably believes would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation involved and there must be a probability that such information would be divulged. Thereafter, only that portion of the meeting where such information would be discussed can be closed. The balance of that agenda item must be held in open session.

BALLOTS, VOTES AND RECORDS:

1. Secret ballot is not permitted except for the election of officers of the body or unless otherwise permitted by specific statutes.
2. Except as permitted above, any member may require that the vote of each member be ascertained and recorded.
3. Motions and roll call votes must be preserved in the record and be available for public inspection.

USE OF RECORDING EQUIPMENT:

The meeting may be recorded, filmed, or photographed, provided that it does not interfere with the conduct of the meeting or the rights of the participants.

LEGAL INTERPRETATION:

1. The Wisconsin Attorney General will give advice concerning the applicability or clarification of the Open Meeting Law upon request.
2. The municipal attorney will give advice concerning the applicability or clarification of the Open Meeting Law upon request.

PENALTY:

Upon conviction, any member of a governmental body who knowingly attends a meeting held in violation of Subchapter IV, Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, or who otherwise violates the said law shall be subject to forfeiture of not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$300.00 for each violation.

MINUTES
Oneida County Board of Supervisors
Tuesday, April 21st, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.
County Board Meeting Room - 2nd Floor Oneida County Courthouse

CALL TO ORDER:

Administrative Coordinator/County Clerk Tracy Hartman called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in the County Board Meeting Room of the Oneida County Courthouse. There was a brief moment of silence for our troops, law enforcement officers and emergency responders followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Prayer was offered by Supervisor Tautges.

Members Present: Robb Jensen, Michael Tautges, Chris Schultz, Bob Almekinder, Sandy Hamburg, Andrea Sheppard, Mary Roth Burns, Kyle Kilbourn, Robert Briggs, Debbie Condado, Dan Hess, Collette Sorgel, Lenore Lopez, Greg Oettinger, Russ Fisher, Billy Fried, Ted Cushing, Scott Holewinski, Kyle Timmons, and Linnaea Newman.

Absent: Showalter

Members Present: 20

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY:

Judge Mary Sowinski administered the Oath of Office of County Board Supervisor to the 20 Supervisors present. Supervisors were asked to sign their individual oath and return them to the Clerk.

EXPLANATION OF THE NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCESS FOR COUNTY BOARD CHAIR, 1ST AND 2ND VICE-CHAIR AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:

Hartman stated that the Chair, Vice-Chair, Second Vice-Chair and Public Works Committee are elected at this meeting. Hartman explained the ballot process

ELECTION OF THE COUNTY BOARD CHAIR: Administrative Coordinator/County Clerk Hartman opened nominations for County Board Chair.

Nomination: Fried nominated Holewinski

Motion Second: Jensen/Cushing to waive the County Board rules of procedure and close the nominations and that the Clerk cast a unanimous ballot for Scott Holewinski.

Roll Call Vote: 20 Aye; 1 Absent, Showalter

Supervisor Holewinski was voted in as Chair of the Oneida County Board.

Newly re-elected Oneida County Chairman Holewinski thanked the board for voting him in for his third term. Holewinski congratulated the returning County Board Supervisors and welcomed the new Supervisors. Holewinski presented past County Board accomplishments that resulted in cost savings to the County. Holewinski listed changing the Tri-county Human Service Program into individual Human Services Departments, the creation of a County Administrative Coordinator, and changing the Administrative Committee to the Executive Committee. Holewinski noted that from 2002 to 2025, the federal government provided approximately \$7 million in ARPA funding. These funds supported major capital projects but will not be available going forward. Holewinski discussed the budget and shortfalls, noting that there will need to be budget cuts.

ELECTION OF THE COUNTY BOARD 1ST VICE-CHAIR: Chairman Holewinski opened nominations for County Board 1st Vice-Chair.

Nomination: Cushing nominated Fisher

Motion Second: Fried/Tautges to waive the County Board rules of procedure and close the nominations and that the Clerk cast a unanimous ballot for Russ Fisher for 1st Vice-Chair.

Roll Call Vote: 20 Aye; 1 Absent, Showalter

Motion: Passes

Supervisor Fisher was voted in as Vice-Chair of the Oneida County Board.

ELECTION OF THE COUNTY BOARD 2ND VICE-CHAIR: Chairman Holewinski opened nominations for County Board 2nd Vice-Chair.

Nomination: Jensen nominated **Tautges**

Nomination: Cushing nominated **Hess**

Motion/Second: Sorgel/Cushing to close nominations.

Roll Call Vote: 20 Aye; 1 Absent, Showalter

Motion: Passes

Roll Call Vote: 20 Aye; 1 Absent, Showalter

- Supervisor Hess received 13 votes

- Supervisor Tautges received 7 votes

Supervisor Hess was voted the 2nd Vice-Chair of the Oneida County Board.

ELECTION OF PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Vote for not more than 5. Ballots must be initialed.

Nomination: Almekinder nominated **Fried**

Nomination: Fried nominated **Almekinder**

Nomination: Sorgel nominated **Jensen**

Nomination: Hess nominated **Cushing**

Nomination: Briggs nominated **Oettinger**

Nomination: Holewinski nominated **Hess**

Motion Second: Briggs/Hess to close nominations.

Roll Call Vote: 20 Aye; 1 Absent, Showalter

Each nominated Supervisor presented their experience and why they should be voted on to the Public Works Committee.

Ballots cast and collected. Ballots counted, votes are as follows:

- Supervisor Fried received 18 votes

- Supervisor Almekinder received 17 votes

- Supervisor Jensen received 10 votes

- Supervisor Cushing received 17 votes

- Supervisor Oettinger received 15 votes

- Supervisor Hess received 20 votes

Supervisors Fried, Almekinder, Cushing, Oettinger and Hess were voted in as the five Public Works Committee Members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIR, CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- Sign attendance form at the podium.
- Please use a microphone when speaking.
- The County Board Chair will be making the committee assignments. You will be notified of your committee assignments by the County Clerk, please watch your email.

- Reminder to notify the County Clerk 48 hours in advance of attendance of any committee meeting that you are not a member.
- WCA welcome packet.
- Supervisor Orientation on May 7, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 17, 2026 MEETING:

Motion/Second: Cushing/Hess to accept the Minutes of the March 17, 2026 meeting. All “Aye”; Motion carried.

REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS:

- Broadband Report – Executive Director of the Oneida County Economic Development Corporation, Tony Pharo presented his report. Pharo reported that there was a virtual meeting on April 10th with Bug Tussel. Pharo stated that by the end of May there is expected to be approximately 175 miles live and the project is expected to finish with a total of 225 live miles. Ken Korten Hof stated there are discussions regarding moving forward with connecting the buildings. Pharo stated there is another meeting set for May with Bug Tussel.
- Register of Deeds Annual Report – Register of Deeds, Kyle Franson presented his annual report. Franson announced that his Chief Deputy Laurie DeMeyer is retiring after over 30 years of service to the County and thanked her for her years of service.
- Land Information Annual Report – Land Information Director Sara Chiamulera presented her report.
- Health Department Annual Report – Public Health Director Linda Conlon presented her annual report. Conlon stated her department has been very successful in obtaining grant funding. Conlon reported that they have expanded some services, including becoming a Regional WIC program by combining with Vilas County. Conlon went over the impact of Federal Cuts to her department.

PUBLIC COMMENT (time limit of three minutes):

- Sign attendance form at the podium. Eric Rempala of Irma, property owner of Cassian and member of Oneida County Clean Waters Action, spoke regarding the impact of Oneida County Clean Waters Action.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution # 26 – 2026: Offered by the Supervisors of the Land Records Committee to Convey Tax Foreclosed and Other County Real Estate.

Resolution to convey tax foreclosed and other county real estate.

Resolution approved for presentation to the Oneida County Board by the Supervisors of the Land Records Committee.

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin:

WHEREAS, the tax foreclosed real estate parcel(s) identified in Exhibit A listed below have been offered for public sale pursuant to the procedures in Chapter 18 of the General Code of Oneida County, WI; and,

WHEREAS, the 1st bidder Timothy Borgwardt that was awarded the property had his bid guarantee check come back as Non-Sufficient Funds (NSF), this constitutes a forfeit, Chapter 18 does require a valid bid guarantee along with the bid form, so the 2nd bidder in the process has been awarded the property; and,

WHEREAS, the Land Records Committee has determined it would be in the best interest of Oneida County to convey the parcel(s) by quit claim deed to the successful bidder(s) listed in Exhibit A; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oneida County Board of Supervisors hereby approve the sale of the parcel(s) listed in Exhibit A to the successful bidder(s) listed with any condition or terms

listed in Exhibit A; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oneida County Board of Supervisors hereby approves conveying the parcel(s) described in Exhibit A to the successful bidder(s), upon the receipt of the required sale amount listed in Exhibit A, and the Board authorizes the County Clerk, upon receipt of the \$30 deed recording fee(s), to issue quit claim deed(s) conveying any interest the County has in the description(s) described in Exhibit A.

Approved for presentation to the County Board by the Land Records Committee this 14th day of April, 2026.

Offered and passage moved by: Robert Briggs, Ted Cushing, Greg Oettinger, Chris Schultz, Kyle Timmons.

Resolution # 28 – 2026: Offered by the Supervisors of the Executive Committee to Authorize 2025 Budget Transfers.

Resolution approved for presentation to the Oneida County Board by the Supervisors of the Executive Committee.

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin:

WHEREAS, Wisconsin State Statute Section 65.90(5)(ar) dictates that appropriations may not be changed unless authorized by a vote of two-thirds of the entire membership of the County Board of Supervisors; and,

WHEREAS, Oneida County Code Section 3.11 (4)(b)(2) dictates if no funding is otherwise available in a departments' budget to cover overdrawn line items, budget transfers will be requested by the department heads, prepared by the Finance Director, and presented to the Executive Committee for consideration and action; and,

WHEREAS, the Finance Director proposes the following budget transfers based on preliminary and unaudited numbers. While no additional 2025 budget transfers will be requested, note that actual amounts are subject to change without notice as the year-end audit progresses.

<u>Department</u>	<u>Estimated, Net*</u>	<u>Budget, Net*</u>	<u>(Over)</u>	<u>Transfer</u>
Circuit Court Br II	153,743	121,713	(32,030)	32,030
Insurance & Risk	249,260	100,000	(149,260)	149,260
Labor Relations & Employee Benefit	532,826	518,139	(14,687)	14,687
Human Services-Residential Care Centers	2,506,365	506,365	(2,000,000)	2,000,000
General Reserve for Contingency				(2,195,977)
<u>Net Transfers</u>				<u>\$-</u>

** Net is amount of tax levy required; Non Levy Revenues – Expenditures.*

Circuit Court Branch II is expected to exceed net budget by 26%. The office experienced the passing of a long-serving employee resulting in paid-time-off bank cash out, continuation of survivor health coverage for a time, and limited-term-employee assistance during a transition period.

The Insurance & Risk business unit is expected to exceed net budget 149%. Annual premium costs were higher than anticipated, and the amounts charged-back to departments biweekly established at the beginning of the year were insufficient to cover the uptick in insurance costs. In addition, insurance recoveries and dividend refunds were lower than the 2025 budget expectations.

The Labor Relations & Employee Benefits department is expected to exceed budget by 3% driven by insufficient budget available to cover the costs associated with paid-time-off bank cash out, and retiree health coverage and costs associated with the Director's retirement.

The Human Services' Residential Care Centers' business unit is expected to exceed budget by 295% attributed to youth out-of-home care costs. A growing number of children are court ordered to be placed outside of their homes. Court ordered placements are the responsibility of the county. There is little to no funding sources available for these placements. There is a statewide effort by counties to request the state provide more funding to address rising caseloads and costs.

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee has reviewed and does recommend the 2025 budget transfers as presented, and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Oneida County Board of Supervisors authorizes Finance Director to execute the budget transfers as presented.

Approved for presentation to the County Board by the Administration Committee this 25th day of March, 2026.

Offered and passage moved by: Billy Fried, Scott Holewinski, Russ Fisher, Robb Jensen, Steven Schreier, Dan Hess, Connor Showalter.

Resolution # 29 – 2026: Offered by the Supervisors of the Executive Committee to Create Two Full-Time Behavioral Health Therapist Positions in the Human Services Department.

Resolution to Create Two Full-Time Behavioral Health Therapist positions in the Human Services Department.

Resolution approved for presentation to the Oneida County Board by the Supervisors of the Executive Committee.

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin:

WHEREAS, demand for outpatient mental health services provided through the Oneida County Department of Human Services to residents of Forest, Vilas and Oneida Counties exceeds available Behavioral Health Therapist staffing levels, resulting in waitlists and delays in care; and

WHEREAS, the Oneida County Department of Human Services is requesting the creation of two additional Behavioral Health Therapist positions in an effort to meet increased demand, improve access to timely care, strengthen partnerships with schools and community referral sources and decrease reliance on higher-cost emergency and crisis interventions; and

WHEREAS, this extraordinary and unanticipated need for additional staff positions has been identified after the current year budget was adopted; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Oneida County Code of Ordinance § 4.18 *Establishing Positions*, an exception to the budget process to create position(s) requires a draft position description reflecting rate of pay, cost of benefits and the effective date be approved by the County Board; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing costs for the two additional positions will be sustainable through billable client services, however initial onboarding costs for recruitment and training the two created Behavioral Health Therapist positions require funding; and

WHEREAS, Forest County has approved funding 20% of the onboarding costs on March 17, 2026, and Vilas County has approved funding 30% of the onboarding costs on March 24, 2026, leaving the remaining 50% to be funded by Oneida County through Opioid Settlement Funds via resolution; and

WHEREAS, this request has been reviewed and approved by the Oneida County Human Services Committee on February 4, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee has reviewed this request and recommends the creation of two additional Behavioral Health Therapist positions to the Oneida County Board of Supervisors; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Oneida County Board of Supervisors that effective upon passage, two full-time Behavioral Health Therapist positions shall be created at Grade L on the Non-Exempt Wage Schedule; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all related onboarding costs to be covered by cost sharing with 30% by Vilas County, 20% by Forest County, and 50% Oneida County utilizing Opioid Settlement Funding and ongoing position costs to be covered by billable client time, with no county tax levy needed to fund these positions.

A fiscal impact statement is attached hereto and made a part thereof.

Approved for presentation to the County Board by the Executive Committee this 25th day of March, 2026.

Offered and passage moved by: Billy Fried, Scott Holewinski, Russ Fisher, Robb Jensen, Steven Schreier, Dan Hess, Connor Showalter.

Resolution # 30 – 2026: Offered by the Supervisors of the Executive Committee to Authorize the Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds allocated to Oneida County in Accordance with Wisconsin Act 57 of 2021 and Oneida County Resolution # 58 – 2022 in an amount not to exceed \$43,980 for Oneida County's Share of Costs to Onboarding Two (2) Behavioral Health Therapist Positions.

Resolution to Authorize the Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds allocated to Oneida County in Accordance with Wisconsin Act 57 of 2021 and Oneida County Resolution #58-2022 in an amount not to exceed \$43,980 for Oneida County's Share of Costs to Onboarding Two (2) Behavioral Health Therapist Positions.

Resolution approved for presentation to the Oneida County Board by the Supervisors of the Executive Committee

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin:

WHEREAS, in 2021, a nationwide settlement agreement was reached by and between several pharmaceutical companies and a class containing most states, counties, and a number of cities and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Governor signed legislation (2021 Wisconsin Act 57) which outlines the distribution and use of Wisconsin's share of settlement funds of over \$400 million, with 70% of the proceeds being allocated to Wisconsin counties; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Wisconsin Joint Committee on Finance approved a plan which earmarks counties' use of the funds toward abatement efforts; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Oneida County adopted Resolution #58-2022 agreeing to the settlement terms with total settlement proceeds estimated to be \$1.48 million; and

WHEREAS, projects and programs benefiting from the funds must comply with the Settlement Agreement restrictions of expenditures limited to defined categories of Treatment, Prevention, and Other Strategies; and

WHEREAS, according to the Oneida County Finance Director the balance of available Opioid Settlement Funds and investment income thereon, net of any previously approved commitments, is \$819,224.84 as of February 28, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the cost of each position is \$117,280.00 with a total cost of \$234,560.00 for the two positions; and

WHEREAS, the estimated total cost for the six-month onboarding period for these positions is \$87,960.00; and

WHEREAS, the positions shall be self-sustaining, funded by insurance alone, and will require no tax levy or additional opioid funds once the six-month onboarding period is met; and

WHEREAS, Vilas and Forest County Human Service Departments are requesting Opioid dollars from their own county's Opioid Fund to provide for their portion of costs associated with these positions; and

WHEREAS, the Oneida County Human Service Department is requesting Vilas and Forest counties contribute to funding the initial six-month onboarding period of these positions based on the contracted percentage rate of administrative costs; and

WHEREAS, Oneida County's costs based on the contracted percentage rate of administrative costs would be \$43,980.00.

WHEREAS, the Forest County Human Services Board approved the resolution March 17, 2026 and the Vilas County Finance Committee approved the resolution to go before the full county board for resolution March 24, 2026

WHEREAS, forming these positions will greatly benefit the residents of Oneida County by providing better access to services and allow the Oneida county Department of Human Services to better discharge its duties under the Wisconsin Statutes.

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee is in agreement and recommends this project / program be funded using Opioid Settlement funds; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Oneida County Board of Supervisors that this project / program be funded using Opioid Settlement funds appropriated in the adopted 2026 budget.

Approved for presentation to the County Board by the Executive Committee this 25th day of March, 2026.

Offered and passage moved by: Dan Hess, Steven Schreier, Russ Fisher, Connor Showalter.

Motion/Second: Jensen /Sorgel to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote: 20; 1 Absent, Showalter

Motion: Adopted

Cushing requested Resolution # 27 - 2026 be pulled from Consent and placed on the Regular Agenda.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Resolution # 27 – 2026: Offered by the Supervisors of the ADRC Committee to Support Sustainable Transportation Funding in the State of Wisconsin.

Resolution to support sustainable transportation funding in the state of Wisconsin.

Resolution approved for presentation to the Oneida County Board by the Supervisors of the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Committee.

WHEREAS, local units of government in Wisconsin own and maintain approximately 90% of the public road miles in the state, including county highways, town roads, and city and village streets; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's economy—rooted in agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism—relies on a safe, reliable, and well-maintained transportation network; and

WHEREAS, local governments greatly appreciate the one-time infusions of General Purpose Revenue, primarily sales and income taxes, and other revenue provided in recent state budgets, which have enabled the initiation and continuation of the successful and popular Local Roads Improvement Program Supplemental (LRIP-S) and Agricultural Roads Improvement Program (ARIP); and

WHEREAS, despite modest increases from the state over the years, transportation aids to local governments remain insufficient to keep pace with inflation and rising construction costs, leaving many communities funded below 2000 levels in real dollars; and

WHEREAS, local governments throughout Wisconsin continue to struggle to perform even routine maintenance, pavement preservation, and safety improvements, resulting in deteriorating roads and bridges; and

WHEREAS, the inaugural inventory and assessment of small bridges between 6 to 20 feet found about 10% of the nearly 17,000 structures to be in poor or severe condition; and

WHEREAS, levy limits and other fiscal constraints prevent local governments from independently filling the funding gap created by inadequate state transportation aids; and

WHEREAS, absent sustainable state funding, many communities have been forced to address their shortfalls by significantly increasing borrowing, deferring essential projects, or imposing local vehicle registration (“wheel”) taxes; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin motorists currently pay among the lowest transportation user fees in the Midwest, while neighboring states and dozens of others nationwide have enacted long-term revenue measures to keep their transportation systems competitive; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin is increasingly relying on General Purpose Revenues to make needed investments, potentially pitting transportation against other vital services, such as education; and

WHEREAS, continued lack of growing, dedicated, and predictable revenue places Wisconsin at a growing economic disadvantage by threatening the efficiency of freight movement, the safety of travelers, and the attractiveness of our state to businesses and residents; and

WHEREAS, both Wisconsin’s aging Interstate highway system—largely constructed in the 1950s and 1960s—and our extensive network of state and local roads require predictable, adequate, and sustainable funding to meet current and future needs

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oneida County Board of Supervisors strongly urges the Governor of Wisconsin and the State Legislature to enact a comprehensive, sustainable transportation funding solution that: 1. Provides adequate and reliable revenue growth for the efficient long-term planning and execution of state and local transportation programs; 2. Includes responsible and prudent use of General Purpose Revenue and bonding; 3. Adjusts any new and existing transportation user fees and other revenue mechanisms to sustain purchasing power in order to maintain and improve Wisconsin’s transportation infrastructure; and 4. Ensures transportation continues to deliver for Wisconsin by adequately funding reconstruction, preservation, and safety investments on the state and local systems

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Governor’s office, all members of the Wisconsin State Senate and Assembly representing districts within Oneida County, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Offered and passage moved by: Russ Fisher, Linnaea Newman, James Unger, Ted Cushing, Melanie Fralick, Joan Hauer, Rita Mahner.

Discussion: Cushing stated that this Resolution has already been passed by the County Board.

Motion/Second: Cushing/Condado to indefinitely postpone Resolution # 27 – 2026.

Resolution # 27 – 2026: 20; 1 Absent, Showalter

Motion: Passes

Resolution # 31 – 2026: Offered by the Supervisors of the Public Works Committee to Elect Benjamin Rich as the Highway Commissioner.

Resolution to elect Benjamin Rich to Highway Commissioner.

Resolution approved for presentation to the Oneida County Board by the Supervisors of the Public Works Committee.

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin:

WHEREAS, the Public Works Committee did receive a voluntary termination of employment notice from the incumbent Highway Commissioner and instructed the Human Resources Director to conduct a recruitment to fill the position; and

WHEREAS, the interview panel was comprised of the Public Works Committee, Human Resources Director and Administrative Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, the interview panel selected the most qualified candidate, nominating Benjamin Rich as the Highway Commissioner, contingent upon County Board approval; and

WHEREAS, sec. 83.01(1)(a), Wis. Stats., states the County Board shall elect a county highway commissioner and if the county board fails to elect a county highway commissioner, the county shall not participate in state allotments for highways; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oneida County Board of Supervisors hereby elects Benjamin Rich as the Highway Commissioner under the following conditions:

1. The effective date of the appointment shall be April 21, 2026, and
2. For compensation purposes, Benjamin Rich shall start at Grade Q, Step 7.

A fiscal impact statement is attached hereto and made a part thereof.

Approved for presentation to the County Board by the Public Works Committee this 21st day of April, 2026.

Offered and passage moved by: Ted Cushing, Billy Fried, Robert Almekinder, Robb Jensen, Dan Hess.

Discussion: Lueneburg presented the Resolution to appoint Ben Rich as the Highway Commissioner. Lueneburg stated that the Committee voted unanimously and selected Rich out of all of the candidates that applied. Lueneburg gave some background on Rich.

Roll Call Vote on Resolution # 31 – 2026: 20 Aye; 1 Absent, Showalter

Resolution # 31 – 2026: Passes

Resolution # 32 – 2026: Offered by Supervisor Billy Fried to Create a Solid Waste Committee. Seconded by Cushing.

Resolution to create a Solid Waste Committee.

Ordinance Amendment offered by Supervisor Billy Fried.

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Oneida County to have an efficient system of governance; and **WHEREAS**, the current structure is inefficient to address the issues presented by two departments (Highway Department and Solid Waste Department) to the same Committee (Public Works and Solid Waste Committee); and,

WHEREAS, separating the Public Works and Solid Waste Committee into two separate committees will result in better oversight for the Solid Waste Department and the Highway Department.

WHEREAS, County Code states that no committee may be created unless authorized by the full County Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE ONEIDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Any existing ordinances, codes, resolutions, or portions thereof in conflict with this ordinance shall be and hereby are repealed as far as any conflict exists.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect the day after passage and publication as required by law.

Section 3. If any claims, provisions or portions of this ordinance are adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 4. The following sections (2.30, of the General Code of Oneida County, Wisconsin, are amended as follows [additions noted by underline, deletions noted by ~~strikethrough~~]:

§ 2.30. Committees.

- (1) No committee may be created unless authorized by the full County Board. No committee may create subcommittees or otherwise subdivide committee responsibilities unless authorized by the whole County Board. Any committee may rely on its members, County staff, or other individuals or organizations to conduct research and provide additional information to the committee for the purpose of fulfilling its responsibilities. Such research or information gathering, when conducted cooperatively without a quorum of the committee, shall not be considered a subcommittee or governmental body unless creation of a subcommittee has been previously approved by the County Board.

(2) Appointed.

(a) Enumerated. The following standing committees shall be appointed by the Chair at the organizational meeting of the Board in the year she/he is elected and shall consist of the number of members listed herein. The County Board Chair will appoint the Chair of each committee, except the Public Works Committee. The Chair may appoint a Committee on Committees to assist him/her. All appointed committee members shall serve two-year terms and be County Board supervisors, except where State law provides for other non-Board members, all State mandated non-County Board members will be selected using the process set out in Paragraph (4) below:

<u>Solid Waste Committee</u>	<u>5 County Board Supervisors</u>
------------------------------	-----------------------------------

(3) Elective. The County Public Works and ~~Solid Waste Committee~~ shall consist of five members and shall be elected by the County Board at the organizational meeting of the Board in the year the Board is elected, with such committee members serving two-year terms. The procedure for nomination and election of Public Works and ~~Solid Waste~~ Committee members shall be the same as that for the nomination and election of the County Board Chair, except that the use of secret ballots shall not be permitted.

§ 2.31. Rules Governing County Board Committees, Boards and Commissions.

(7) Committees of Jurisdiction, Reports.

a. Designation of Committee of Jurisdiction. The elected officials and department heads of the County shall report to the following committees of jurisdiction and are encouraged to meet with such committees on a regular basis, and shall meet when specifically requested:

Elective County Official	Committee of Jurisdiction
County Clerk	Administration Executive
County Treasurer	Administration Executive
Appointed Official	Committee of Jurisdiction
Social Human Services and Aging Unit Director	ADRC Committee
Auditor/Finance Director	Administration Executive
Information Technology Services Director	Administration Executive
Social Services Director	Social Services <u>Human Services</u>
<u>Solid Waste Director</u>	<u>Solid Waste Committee</u>
Veterans Service Officer	Social Services Committee <u>Human Services</u>

§ 2.41. Public Works and ~~Solid Waste~~ Committee.

The Highway [~~Public Works and Solid Waste~~] Committee shall have such powers and duties as are prescribed by Ch. 83, Wis. Stats., as amended from time to time. This committee shall also perform all duties listed in Oneida County Code § 8.04. The members of the Public Works and ~~Solid Waste~~ Committee are entitled to a maximum per diem (in addition to necessary expenses) of not more than \$3,500 per year.

§ 2.43. (Reserved) Solid Waste Committee

(1) Composition and Appointment. This Committee shall consist of five members appointed by the County Board Chair.

(2) Powers and Duties.

- (a) Approve the bills and expenses of the Solid Waste Department
- (b) Assist in the preparation of the annual budget for the Solid Waste Department.
- (c) Perform all duties listed in Oneida County Code § 8.04

§ 3.07 Expenditure of Highway Funds.

Since the various highway construction and maintenance activities are continuous from year to year and the exact cost of any work cannot be known at the time of making the appropriation therefore, the Public Works and Solid Waste Committee may use any balance remaining in any appropriation for a specific highway improvement, after the same has been completed, to make up any deficits that may occur in any other improvement which is part of the same item in the County budget for which provision has been made. Any balance remaining at the end of the year in any highway fund shall remain and be available for the same purpose in the ensuing year.

§ 3.09 Purchasing

(2) Highway Department Purchases.

(a) Pursuant to § 83.015(2), Wis. Stats., the Public Works and Solid Waste Committee shall purchase such highway equipment as it deems necessary to properly carry on the work of the department and trade or sell such used equipment as may be considered to be for the best interests of the County, subject to the following requirements:

1. Revolving funds accumulated for such purpose or appropriations made for such purpose are available.

2. Subject to the provisions of Subsection (2)(b) below, contemplated purchases of any complete unit of equipment having a value of \$100,000 or more shall require prior approval by the County Board.

(b) If the Public Works and Solid Waste Committee, after meeting to consider the alternatives available to it, determines that an emergency situation exists which can only be resolved by the immediate purchase of equipment, any one complete unit of which exceeds \$100,000, prior to when a County Board meeting is or can be timely scheduled, the Public Works and Solid Waste Committee may purchase such equipment, provided that members of the County Board are thereafter given prompt, written notice of the action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all committee expenses are to come from the Solid Waste Budget. Approved for presentation to the County Board by Supervisor Billy Fried this 15th day of April, 2026.
Offered and passage moved by: Billy Fried, Ted Cushing.

Discussion: Fried stated that Solid Waste is currently under the Highway Department Committee; this Resolution forms a separate Committee for Solid Waste. Fried stated that this is a separate business unit and there are several challenges that are going on. Fried stated that separating it out would give more attention to these issues.

Roll Call Vote on Resolution # 32 – 2026: 18 Aye; 2 Nay, Jensen, Kilbourn; 1 Absent, Showalter
Resolution # 32 – 2026: Passes

NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME May 19th, 2026 @ 9:30 a.m.
Unless a motion is made to change the starting time.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Holewinski adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.



Oneida County Economic Development Corporation

May 12, 2026

Collette Sorgel
County Board Supervisor & Broadband Liaison
6463 Cedar Crest Ln
Three Lakes, WI 54562

Dear Collette,

The OCEDC Broadband Committee held a meeting on May 11, 2026, to review the status of broadband initiatives across Oneida County. Below is a summary of the updates shared.

Bug Tussel Project Update

County Facility Connections (Priority Focus)

Ken Korten Hof provided an update that the current priority is connecting County facilities to the network.

- The ADRC is scheduled for connection.
- The Highway Department, Solid Waste Department, Courthouse, Human Service Center, and Sheriff's Department will be scheduled next.
- Permits are required for the Courthouse and Solid Waste Department, which may impact timing.
- Discussions are ongoing to determine if certain connections can proceed without permits following additional walkthroughs.

Ken will continue working directly with Bug Tussel to finalize scheduling and resolve permitting requirements. This effort will be the primary focus over the next one to two months.

Construction Progress

Bug Tussel continues active construction throughout the County, including:

- Minocqua area (near Mercer Lake Road and Kilawee Road)
- Sugar Camp
- Three Lakes (including downtown areas)

Initial billing for completed work has been received, with additional areas expected to follow.

Ken also indicated that locate issues, which were previously a challenge, appear to be improved and are not currently slowing progress.

Project Status & Timeline

Ken indicated that Bug Tussel is still expected to meet its near-term construction targets, including anticipated miles of fiber coming online in the near future. He is continuing to work with the company to better understand detailed construction schedules and ensure progress is being verified in the field.



Oneida County Economic Development Corporation

BEAD BOB Grant Update

Tony Pharo shared an update following discussions with Mark Leonard from the Public Service Commission (PSC):

- The PSC is continuing to collect required documentation from Internet Service Providers (ISPs).
- Grant agreements have not yet been signed for projects in Oneida County.
- Once agreements are finalized, funding will be distributed on a reimbursement basis as project milestones are met.

Construction Outlook:

- Two of the four ISPs are expected to begin work in 2026, including Bertram Communications.
- Bug Tussel is not anticipated to begin BEAD-funded work until 2027.

PSC mapping tools, project timelines, and milestone tracking resources are available through the PSC website.

The next OCEDC Broadband Task Force meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2026.

For additional background and real-time broadband mapping tools, please refer to the following resources:

- [Wisconsin Broadband Challenge Map](#)
- [Interactive Broadband Mapping](#)
- [Proposed Broadband Project – Oneida County, WI](#)

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or would like additional details.

Best regards,

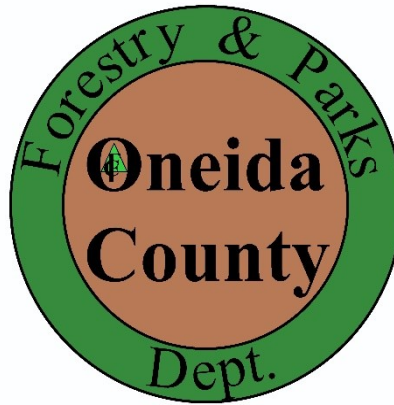
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Pharo".

Tony Pharo
Executive Director
Oneida County Economic Development Corporation

CC:

- Scott Holewinski
- Billy Fried
- Tracy Hartman (County Board Monthly Board Packet)
- Pete Otis
- Greg Miljevich
- Mark Foley
- Ken Korten Hof
- Sara Chiamulera

**Oneida County Forestry,
Land and
Recreation Department**



2025 Annual Report

To

Oneida County Board of Supervisors

By

Forestry, Land and Recreation Committee

2025 Committee

**Robert Almekinder, Chair
Robert Briggs, Vice-Chair
Chris Schultz
Collette Sorgel
Mitch Ives**

Oneida County Board of Supervisors: We submit, for your approval and adoption, a report of activities of the Oneida County Forestry, Land and Recreation Department for the year 2025.

2025 Department Highlights:

- Continued timber market depression contributed to timber sales revenue falling short approximately \$58,000 from the 2025 gross timber stumpage budget of \$1,105,682.
- Completed the Rozell Culvert Replacement Project – Two large culverts on Rozell Road (where it crosses the Little Rice River) failed during a flood event in spring 2023.
- Another low snow season kept the snowmobile trails closed for the majority of the 2024-25 season. Trails were open for a total of 24 days.

- Worked with the Oneida County Highway Department to remove the retaining wall at Almon Park. The retaining wall, which was installed 20 years ago along the beach at Buck Lake, was failing and creating safety issues.



- A drawdown of the Spruce Lake flowage was completed in late 2025. The purpose is two-fold: to facilitate repairs to the Spruce Lake Dam and to improve wildlife habitat.

FORESTRY

Forest Management & Timber Sale Revenue:

For a variety of reasons, timber markets have declined significantly over the past several years and continue to remain volatile.

Overall warmer winters have hindered harvesting of timber sales requiring frozen-ground conditions. Contractors are hesitant to bid on sales located in wetlands due to the uncertainty of the winters and the lack of markets for many wood products.

Despite these challenges, timber harvests in 2025 on Oneida County Forest resulted in \$1,046,069 of gross stumpage revenue to the County, which was short of the budget of \$1,105,682 by approximately \$58,000.

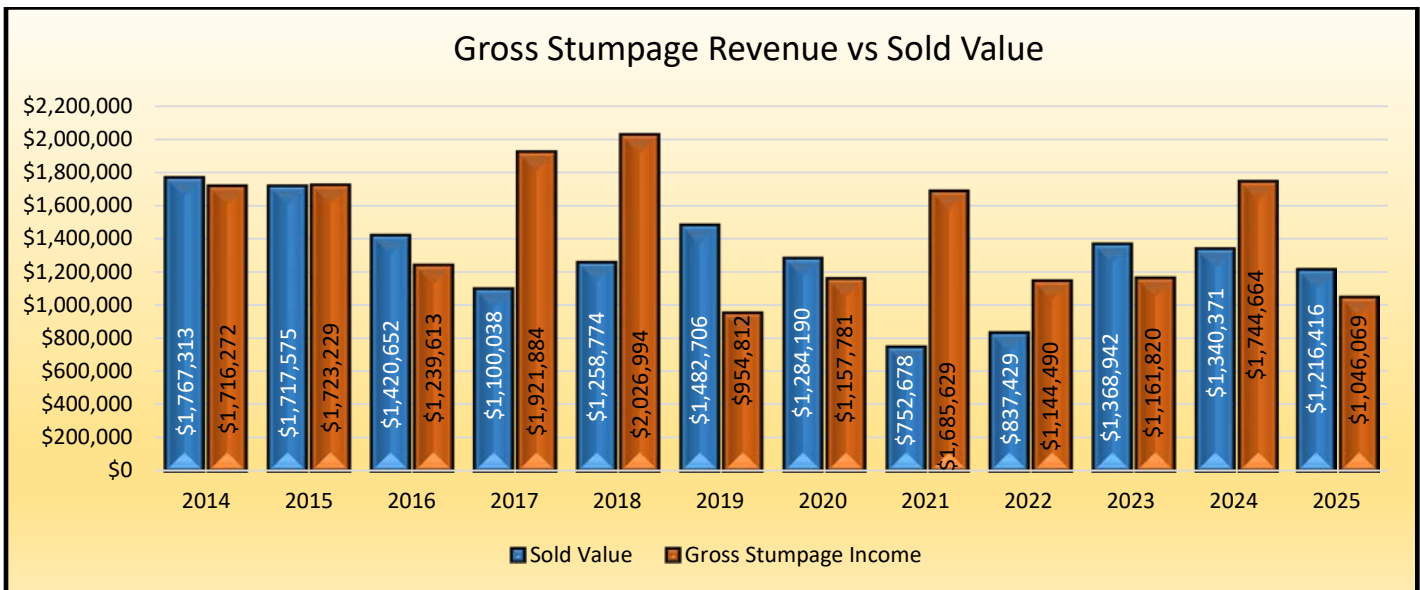
The stumpage revenue achieved by the Oneida County Forestry Department in 2025 resulted from the harvest of approximately 28,100 cords of pulpwood and 775,000 board feet of saw logs. Approximately 1,400 acres were harvested among 24 active timber sales throughout the year. Timber sales vary with a 2-4 year contract period and typically span multiple years for completion of timber harvesting.

The following table summarizes the past three years of timber sale activity and provides a projection for 2026.

Year	Acres Sold	Sold Value	Acres Cut	Cords Cut	Board Feet Cut	Gross Stumpage Income
2023	1,215	\$1,368,942	1,500	33,455	399,000	\$1,161,820
2024*	1,475	\$1,340,371	1,900	38,000	678,000	\$1,744,665
2025	1,187	\$1,213,416	1,600	28,100	775,000	\$1,046,069
2026**	1,650	\$1,100,000	1,500	37,500	800,000	\$1,136,365

*Includes forfeited performance bond of \$15,728 for 2024.

**The 2026 value is an estimate based on projected harvest activity and timber sale acreage to be sold.

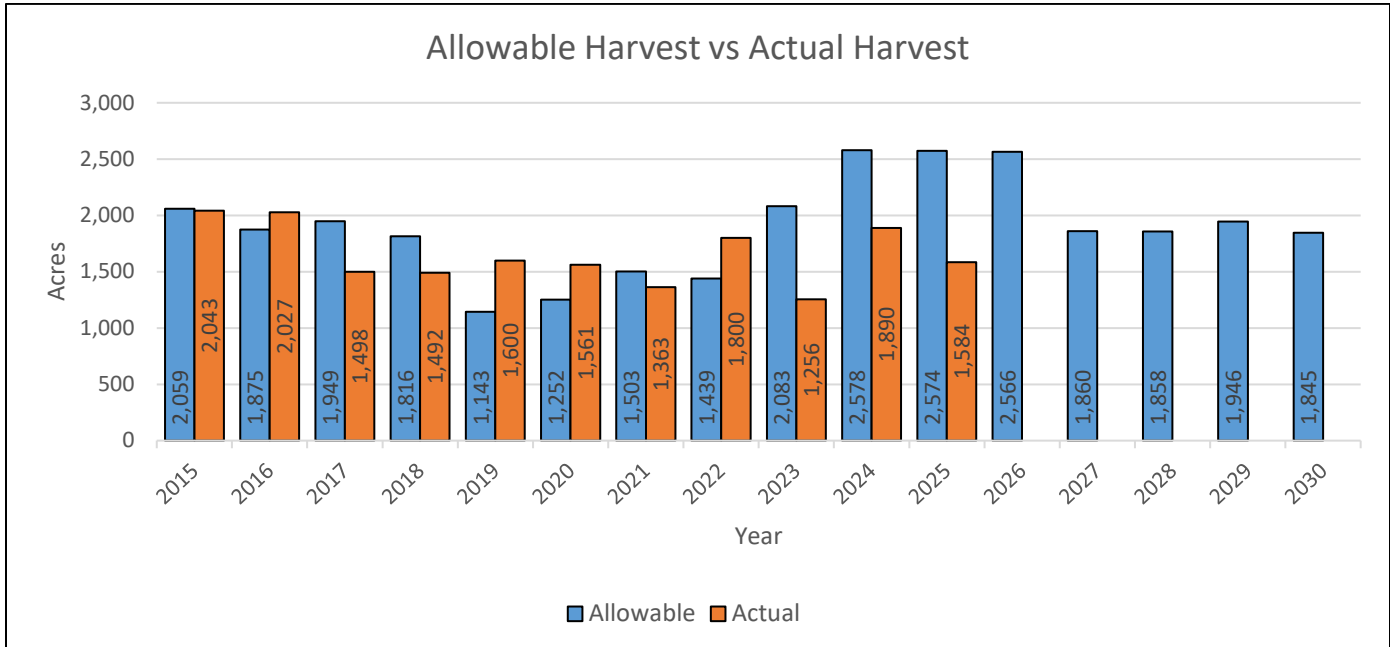


Additionally, approximately \$12,000 of lease revenue was deposited in the Forestry account for a cell tower located on County Forest in the Town of Woodboro.

Allowable Timber Harvest Projections:

Allowable harvest levels for the Oneida County Forest are based on forest stand conditions and fluctuate over time. Although the 2026 allowable harvest is set at 2,566 acres, actual established acres is expected to be closer to the long-term average – approximately 1,500 to 1,800 acres.

It is anticipated some timber sales may not sell due to the challenges of the current timber markets; however, it is the intention of the Department to follow annual allowable harvest standards to establish and offer timber sales.



Severance Payments:

As required by state statute, the County returns 10% of the annual gross county forest stumpage revenue to the towns based on the percentage of county forest within each township. In 2015, the County Board approved an additional 2% of the gross stumpage revenue be distributed to towns in which the County Forest lies to assist in the maintenance of town roads that are vital to the transport of the timber products harvested from the Oneida County Forest.

2025 Gross Stumpage Revenue	\$1,046,069
Less 10% Town Severance Payments	\$ 104,607
Less 2% Road Severance	<u>\$ 20,921</u>
2025 Net Stumpage Revenue – OC	\$ 920,541
Plus Non-County Forest Sale	<u>\$ 1,548</u>
2025 Total Stumpage Revenue – OC	\$ 922,089

Forest Certification:

In 2005, the Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) entered into third party certification through two certification programs: the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) and the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) to ensure sustainable and responsible forest management practices.

Oneida County opted to become certified under the SFI program in 2005 and at the urging of the forest products industry and logging contractors, became certified under the FSC program in 2016.

SFI certification focuses on responsible forestry practices, including protecting water quality, biodiversity and wildlife habitats, while FSC certification emphasizes indigenous people's rights, worker's rights and strong conservation values with a wider international recognition.

These certifications can offer a financial benefit as the wood products produced by the Oneida County Forest are able to be sold as "certified wood products". Certified wood products may command a higher price in the open market and may provide logging contractors with priority for selling wood products harvested from Oneida County timber sales to mills requiring a certain percentage of certified wood purchases.

The Wisconsin County Forest program is audited annually by third party certification auditors, with individual County Forests audited once every 5-7 years. Audits include verification of forest management practices in the field, recreational opportunities, record keeping and documentation, and comprehension of the county/state forestry personnel relationship. Oneida County was last audited in 2024. County Forests audited in 2025 include Lincoln, Taylor, Langlade and Clark. For a second year in a row, audit results were completely clean with no major corrective actions or improvement opportunities noted by the auditing team. This is a major accomplishment for the Wisconsin County Forest system and a reflection of strong partnerships, collaboration and a collective commitment to sustainable forest management.

Future Desired Conditions of the Forest:

The Oneida County Forest is made up of a diverse array of plant communities. It is the intention of the Forestry Department to maintain the acreages of the existing plant communities at or near their current acreage. Due to the presence of Emerald Ash Borer (see Forest Health Issues), it is anticipated that the White Ash and Black Ash components of the forest will decline and possibly disappear over time. These species will be replaced naturally or through planting/seeding with other suitable native species.

Many Red Pine plantations are reaching the age and size class in which their economic value begins to decrease. As they reach this stage, these plantations will be regenerated through over-story removal practices and replanted to Red Pine. This process requires budgeting additional funds to prepare the sites for planting (site prep) including spraying herbicides to reduce competition and/or creating furrows in which the seedlings will be planted. Following site prep, contract crews are hired to hand plant the seedlings. Follow-up treatments may be required to reduce competition from undesirable plants.

Like Red Pine, Red Oak stands are also approaching an age where growth and health are expected to decline. In the next few years, some of these stands will undergo regeneration harvests designed to naturally regenerate Red Oak. Pre- or post-sale scarification may be necessary to help create site conditions conducive to Oak regeneration. Herbicides and supplemental planting may also be necessary if natural regeneration fails.

Forest Reconnaissance (Recon.):

Oneida County staff and DNR foresters are responsible for performing Forest Reconnaissance activities to ensure a healthy, vibrant, sustainable forestry program. In 2025, a total of 7,501 acres of the Oneida County forest were examined and recon data updated. The target acreage for reconnaissance is approximately 5,500

acres per year. As the County and local DNR remain at full staff, recon updates should continue at or above the target acreage.

Forest Health Issues:

In 2021, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was found on the Oneida County Forest in the Town of Enterprise. This infestation has spread as signs of EAB have been located throughout the County Forest. Regardless of control measures, it is anticipated EAB will continue to spread throughout not only the County Forest, but the entire County.

The EAB quarantine that was imposed on Oneida County when the first instance of EAB was found in the county, has been expanded to the entire state. This allows Oneida County to ship hardwood from our timber sales to mills anywhere in the state year round. The Forestry Department will begin to target ash for removal in all timber sales being established, in anticipation of the spread of EAB. As the infestation progresses and becomes more defined, an action plan will be developed.



Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*)



Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria Petiolata*)

Garlic Mustard patches continue to be monitored, sprayed and/or hand pulled as needed to help control the spread.

A patch of Japanese Knotweed became established at a County Forest gravel pit in the Town of Little Rice. This patch was sprayed with herbicide in 2025 and will continue to be monitored and sprayed in 2026 if necessary.

Several other small infestations of invasive species have been found throughout the county. Most of these are the result of dumping personal yard and garden waste. Dumping yard waste by the general public, significantly increases the risk of invasive species spreading throughout the county forest.

Forestry Automotive Equipment:

Each year funds (\$8,000 for 2025) are budgeted for the automotive equipment account within the Forestry Department. These funds are used to purchase new and replacement equipment that do not qualify as Capital Improvement Projects/Purchases (CIP). The size and specialized nature of some of this equipment used by the Forestry Department can be rather expensive to purchase. Accordingly, the automotive equipment account is non-lapsing. This allows the Forestry Department to build up sufficient funds within the account over a period of years, so when a piece of equipment requires replacing, the necessary funds are available.

In 2025, the forestry department replaced a 2019 Gravely Lawn Mower and purchased a new ATV trailer. The old lawn mower was sold at auction to help offset the cost of the replacement.

The non-lapsing equipment fund had \$45,750.08 available at the end of 2025.

Miscellaneous Forest Product Permits:

Firewood Gathering Permits:

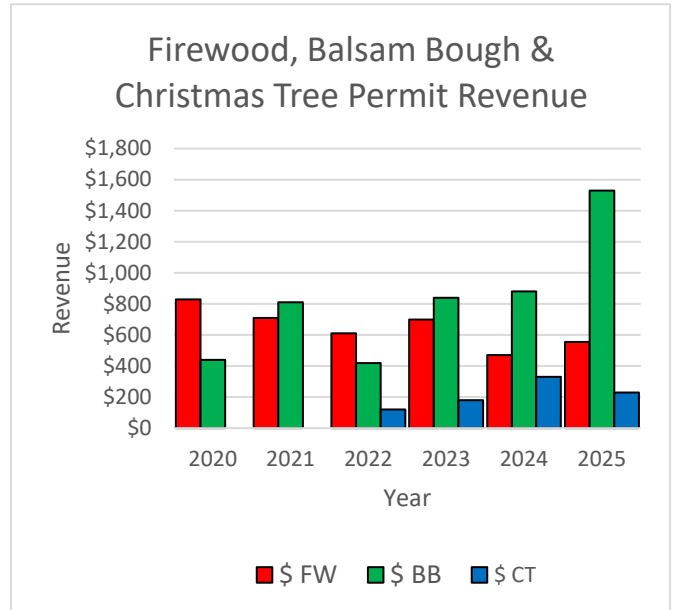
The firewood gathering permit system allows the public to gather up to ten cords of firewood for personal home use from designated areas on the County Forest. Firewood permits are typically issued for closed out timber sale areas and allows the collection of any tops and limbs remaining after logging activities have been completed.

The permit fee for Oneida County Residents and/or landowners increased in 2024 to \$25. The permit fee for non-resident individuals who do not own land in Oneida County increased to \$35. In 2025, the Forestry Department issued 21 Firewood Permits, which generated \$555 of revenue.

Balsam Bough and Christmas Tree Permits:

Similar to the firewood permits, balsam bough and Christmas tree permits allow the public to gather boughs and harvest Christmas trees from the County Forest for the holiday season. Balsam bough permits are offered as home use permits or commercial permits (resident and non-resident). In 2025, seven commercial and four personal use bough permits were sold generating \$1,530 of revenue. These permits also experienced price increases for 2024.

Christmas tree permits were offered in 2025 for \$10 per tree with a maximum of two trees per address. Twenty-one permits were sold and 23 trees were harvested for a total of \$230.



FOREST ACCESS

County Forest Roads:

The Forestry Department currently maintains 38.85 miles of forest road located in isolated areas of the county forest. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WDOT) formally classifies these roads as "County Forest Roads". By definition, County Forest Roads must be a minimum of 16-feet wide, have an improved gravel surface, and must be seasonally maintained (i.e., the WDOT does not require this type of road to be plowed in winter). **The primary purpose for maintaining these roads is to aid in the removal of timber products from the County Forest.** Secondly, these roads provide the public with vehicular access routes into otherwise isolated areas of the County Forest.

The funds needed for maintaining the County Forest Road system are primarily obtained through the WDOT. Annually, the WDOT pays County Forest Programs \$351 for each mile of County Forest Road maintained. As a result, the Oneida County Forestry Department road aid payment for 2025 was (38.85 miles x \$351) = \$13,317, including a pro-rate of 97.66%.

In addition to the County Forest Road Aids received from the WDOT, TROUTE revenue of \$16,798 was received from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in 2025. The term TROUTE is defined by the WDNR as a hybrid between a (tr)ail and a road r(oute) that is open for use by both off-road vehicles (i.e. registered ATV's and UTV's) and motor vehicles (i.e. registered cars and trucks and street legal motorcycles) for the purpose of connecting two trail segments. All of the above described road aid received by the Oneida County Forestry Department in 2025 was deposited into the County Forest Roads Account.

The County Forest Roads Account is non-lapsing, meaning the funds deposited into the account remain in the account until they are spent. Accordingly, this allows deposited revenues to accumulate over time, thus allowing funding for larger-scale expensive road projects.

In 2025, the Forestry Department conducted general road maintenance work throughout the county forest road system. Some of the routine road maintenance activities include: grading, widening, signing, wash-out repair, spot graveling, brushing, shoulder mowing, small culvert installation/replacement, storm damage clean-up, vandalism repairs, and garbage collection. DNR equipment operators worked to re-shape road shoulders to reduce erosion and the McNaughton Correctional Crew performed brushing and pruning of trees on Enterprise County Forest Roads to improve safety and maintenance operations.

In 2025, the Forestry Department contracted with Bowen's Bus Service to rehab 2.1 miles Shingle Mill Road. This included widening and graveling the entire 2.1 miles for a total cost of \$42,060.

The Forestry Department also purchased and replaced three culverts on Rozell Road and three culverts on Cruisers Road. The work was completed by Forestry Department personnel with gravel purchased from the Highway Department and a rented mini-excavator.



The Rozell Culvert Replacement project included replacement of two large culverts, was completed by J&M Excavating for a total cost of \$61,450. The department was awarded a Sustainable Forestry Grant from the WDNR for \$52,500 and the remaining amount was funded by the County Forest Roads account.

In addition to the contracted maintenance expenses above, other expenses included gravel pit permit fees and professional services with APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) for an expense total of \$8,154.

LAND

Land Purchase Program:

This is another non-lapsing account within the Forestry Department budget and any funds deposited remain in place and intact, year after year, until the funds are spent and/or utilized for their intended purpose. As the account name infers, these funds are utilized for expenses related to the acquisition of new or replacement County Forest land.

The land purchase account had a balance of \$69,055 available at the beginning of 2025. This is the remaining revenue received in 2019 for the withdrawal of ten acres for the Oneida County Solid Waste demolition site 4, the sale of a 40-acre landlocked parcel in the Town of Enterprise in 2022 and sale of county land with a cabin encroachment in the Town of Lynne in 2023. These funds, by statute are designated for land purchases to replace previously withdrawn acres.

As part of the Broadband and Cellular Infrastructure Expansion project, Bug Tussel proposed siting a cell tower on county forest in the town of Little Rice. In 2024, the WDNR approved a withdrawal of approximately two acres of county forestland for the proposed cell tower; however, the County is waiting to finalize a lease agreement before any tower is erected.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Wildlife Habitat Management:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides county forest programs with an annual allotment of funds that are to be used exclusively for wildlife habitat improvement projects on county forest land. The formula used to calculate payment for each eligible county is as follows: Number of County Forest Acres x \$0.05 = Payment. Oneida County received \$3,857 in 2025 for nickel an acre wildlife habitat funds including a pro-rate of 93.1%. An additional \$2,000 was received through funding from Whitetails Unlimited.

All state/other funds received by Oneida County through the above-described program are deposited into a non-lapsing, State Aid Wildlife Habitat Management Improvement Account. The non-lapsing account provides the Forestry Department with the flexibility to build up state funding over a period of three years to pay for larger, more expensive projects, use the entire allotment of funds annually or a combination of the above-described methods.

In 2025, the Forestry Department utilized the WDNR for mowing of wildlife openings within the Little Rice Block utilizing wildlife funds of \$6,800. An additional \$2,634 funded a partial maintenance project of the Spruce Lake Waterfowl area dam - leaving a balance of \$1,654 at the end of 2025.

Following inspection of the Spruce Lake Dam in 2024, some items were identified for repair on and near the dam. In order to facilitate repairs, the flowage was drawn down in late 2025. Working with the WDNR Wildlife, the Department agreed to keep the flowage drawn down through 2027 to reduce the amount of lily pads on the flowage, promote growth of more desirable plants for ducks, and attempt to seed wild rice plants.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Parks Program:

In 2025, the Forestry Department maintained two day-use parks for picnicking, swimming, family gatherings, and general recreation.

Almon Park:

Almon Park is the largest and most popular day use recreation area managed by the Oneida County Forestry Department. Located just five miles south of Rhinelander, Almon Park offers a combination of developed recreational facilities and undeveloped natural areas. This area is primarily utilized in the summer months for swimming, picnicking, family gatherings and general recreation. An 18-hole disc golf course is also located on the property.

Historically high water levels at Buck Lake in prior years caused issues with the retaining wall by the beach breaking apart and creating safety concerns. The OC Highway Department was contracted in late 2025 for removal of the retaining wall. Finalized sloping and seeding of the area is scheduled for 2026.



Perch Lake Park:

Perch Lake Park is located five miles west of Rhineland on the north shore of Perch Lake. The diversity of recreational opportunities available in the Perch Lake area make this park a popular year-round destination. During winter months, the facility serves as a trail head for a large network of winter silent sport trails. During spring, summer, and fall, Perch Lake Park is popular for picnicking, fishing, hiking, and biking.



Perch Lake high water shoreline and ADA accessible fishing pier

Some noteworthy attributes of Perch Lake include its largely undeveloped scenic shoreline, and the depth, clarity, and temperature of the lake, which makes it one of the few lakes in Oneida County capable of supporting trout. Perch Lake is classified as a non-motorized lake.

Park Pavilion Rental Program:



The public is able to reserve the Rudolph Pavilion at Almon Park and the Judy Swank Pavilion at Perch Lake Park for private events such as family reunions, graduation and birthday parties, weddings and similar gatherings.

Each pavilion can be reserved for a rental fee of \$100 per day along with a refundable security deposit of \$100 to help prevent damage and promote cleanliness of the facilities. Additionally, there are two smaller pavilions located down by Buck Lake (Almon Park) that are free to the public on a first come, first serve basis.



In 2025, the Rudolph Pavilion was rented 18 times and the Judy Swank Pavilion was rented 13 times resulting in total park pavilion rental revenue of \$3,100 in 2025. All revenue generated from the program is deposited into the Forestry Department parks account.

Townline Lake Park:

A non-profit organization, Friends of Townline Lake Park (FTLLP), contracts annually with the County for general maintenance of Townline Lake Park and beach area. The group created and provided a long-range plan for the park and beach area.

Throughout their fundraising activities, FTLLP purchased and installed an ADA compliant pier/kayak launch in 2023. Picnic tables and portable toilets are also available for public use throughout the summer and fall. The group continues to host fundraising events such as the Father's Day fishing event and Music in the Bowl to continue to raise funds for park maintenance.



Gillette - Wickham Lakes Property:



View of Gillette Lake

In 2018, Oneida County purchased 231 acres of land including two lakes: Gillette Lake and Wickham Lake, utilizing Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant Funds.

This property has remained in pristine condition with the only current amenity of a picnic table placed within view of Wickham lake, allowing users to enjoy the serenity of this beautiful area. Due to the difficult terrain and anticipated expense, an ADA access path to the lake and small fishing/boat pier project have been tabled indefinitely.

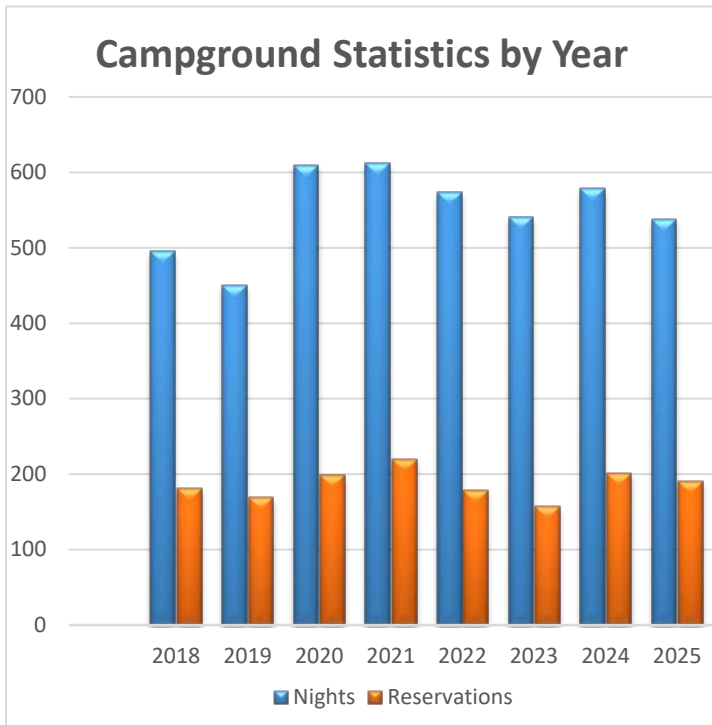
Gates were installed on access roads adjacent to the driveway and parking lot in 2023. Two grassy fields will be maintained as wildlife openings to provide additional quality wildlife habitat.

Enterprise Campground:

The Oneida County Forest Enterprise Campground opened for public use in the summer of 2008 and is officially open for camping from May 22nd (or earlier depending on weather) through December 1st. Although the campground was designed to accommodate ATV/UTV’s, the campground is open to the general public, with or without an off road vehicle. The campground offers eleven campsites, two toilet buildings and two hand pumps.



Campsite #2



When comparing campground occupancy to 2024, the total nights of occupancy decreased about 7%; and the number of reservations decreased about 5%. Not surprisingly, the campground’s highest occupancy occurs on Friday and Saturday nights, with Thursday nights a strong runner-up. The length of stay remained consistent with many campers spending an average of three nights and returning frequently.

In 2025, camping registration fees were increased to \$20 per night with reservations on a first come – first serve basis. Camping registration fees and campground firewood donations resulted in approximately \$10,300 of campground revenue for 2025. Conversely, the operating costs attributed to maintain the campground in 2024 were approximately \$3,350, which resulted in a net campground profit of \$6,950 for the year.

Additionally, in conjunction with the 15-year Comprehensive Land Use Plan update, a dispersed camping permit is available to persons wishing to camp

within the Oneida County Forests. These permits are popular amongst bird and deer hunters. The permit fee increased to \$20 per camping unit for a maximum of 14 consecutive days. The department generated \$600 in revenue for 32 camping permits. A significant increase was attributed to individuals “living” on the county forest throughout the entire summer. County ordinances have been updated to limit the amount of time per calendar year, an individual can camp on the county forest.

Motorized Sport Trails:

ATV/UTV Program: The Forestry Department is responsible for the administration of 54 miles of ATV/UTV trails in Oneida County. Most of the trails are located on county forest land in the south-central and western portions of the county.

The Forestry Department contracts out the maintenance of these trails to ATV/UTV clubs. In turn, these clubs receive program reimbursement for their work based on the actual eligible costs they incur, up to a maximum of \$1,000 per mile. All Oneida County off-road vehicle trails are open to both ATV’s and UTV’s. In 2025, Oneida County distributed \$54,000 to the five ATV/UTV clubs under contract for trail maintenance. These maintenance funds are provided by several sources including: registration fees, non-resident trail pass fees and a portion of the excise tax on gasoline.

ATV project updates include rehabilitation of five miles of ATV/UTV trails in the Towns of Little Rice and Lynne. This \$221,930 project was completed by Rynders, Inc. and funded 100% with grant dollars. New ATV/UTV trail of 1.5 miles was constructed in the Town on Schoepke at a project cost of \$133,107 and funded 100% with grant dollars.

The Department was awarded \$77,450 in grants for a rehabilitation project in the Town of Lynne and \$3,325 to upgrade the hand pumps at the Enterprise ATV Campground.



Rehabilitation Project by Rynders, Inc.



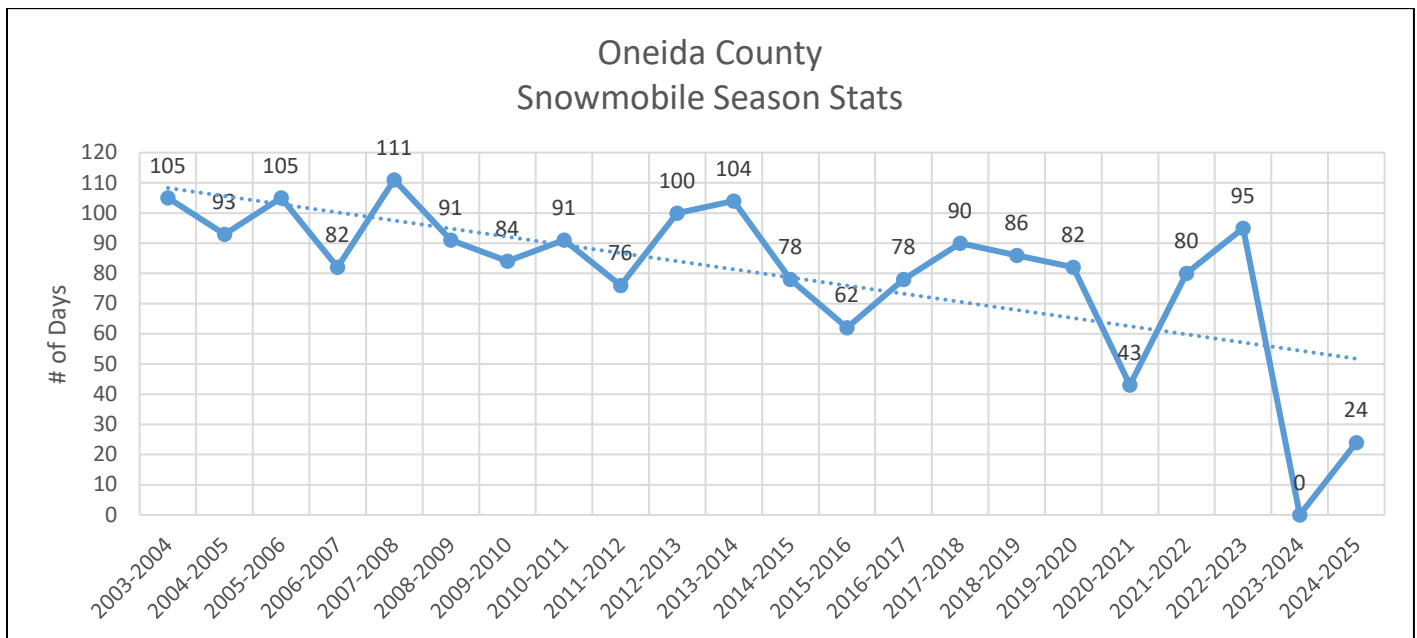
New ATV / UTV Trail Development, Town of Schoepke



Snowmobile Program:

The Oneida County Forestry Department is also responsible for the administration of the county’s program-funded snowmobile trail network. Similar to the ATV/UTV program described above, the Forestry Department contracts out the maintenance of the 431.6 mile trail system to snowmobile clubs throughout the County. In 2025 (2024-25 snowmobile season), the Forestry Department distributed \$225,585 to nine snowmobile clubs for non-grooming maintenance of the program-funded snowmobile trail system located in Oneida County. These maintenance funds are provided by several sources including: registration fees, trail pass fees and a portion of the excise tax on gasoline.

Following the previous non-existent snowmobile season that kept trails closed the entire season, the 2024-25 snowmobile season will go down in the record books as one of the shortest. A very non-typical snowfall kept the northern part of the state light on snow for a 2nd year in a row. The trails were open to snowmobile enthusiasts for a combined 24 days for the 2024-2025 season, compared to the prior 20-year average of 78 days. Late snow finally allowed trails to open for most of February and a short period in early March.



The 2024-25 snowmobile season included two multi-year project grants; including a major trail re-route due to a lost land use agreement from a private landowner. This re-route, located in the Town of Pelican, includes engineering and construction of a bridge over the North Branch Pelican River and additional trail development with an updated estimated completion for the 2026-27 snowmobile season.

Another bridge project, replacement of the Gilmore Creek Bridge located in the Town of Woodruff, is currently on hold as the County awaits a decision for additional grant funding needed for bridge construction due to increased project costs.

The challenge of retaining private and industrial land use agreements continues to increase, resulting in continued trail re-routes due to lost land use agreements from landowners.

Silent Sports Trails

Cross-Country Ski Trails:

Starting in the mid-1970's the Forestry Department developed and maintained (signed, groomed, and brushed) cross-country ski trails. Over the years these ski trails continued to grow in popularity. Due to public demand, additional ski trail miles were developed and the Oneida County Forest ski trail network evolved into three signed and groomed ski trail systems that total approximately 30.0 miles.

The Washburn Trail, which is the largest and most popular of the three ski trails, is located adjacent to Perch Lake Park in the Town of Woodboro. The Washburn Ski Trail is 12.5 miles long, offering 3.7 miles of trail groomed for tracked skiing, and 8.8 miles of trail groomed for tracked and ski skating. Due to the hilly topography found throughout the Washburn Lake Area, these trails are best suited for skiers possessing an intermediate to advanced skill set.

The Nose Lake trail is located in the Town of Woodboro and offers 7.9 miles of trail groomed for traditional tracked skiing. The gentle topography upon which the Nose Lake trail is located, makes this system very popular with skiers possessing either a beginner or intermediate skill set. Another popular feature of the Nose Lake trail is that dogs are permitted.



The Cassian two-way ski trail measures 19.2 miles round trip.

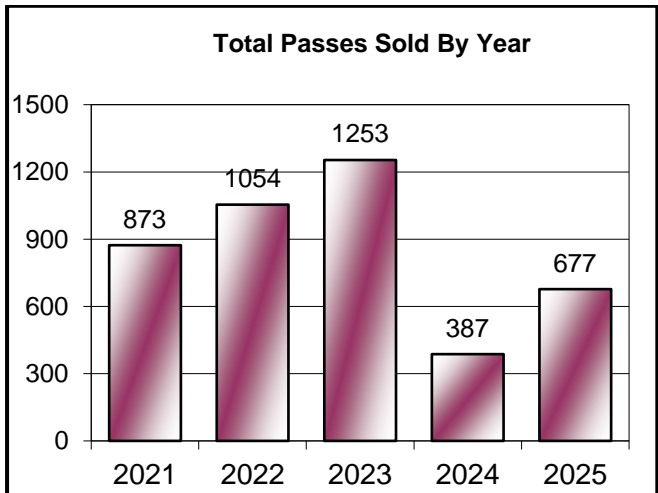
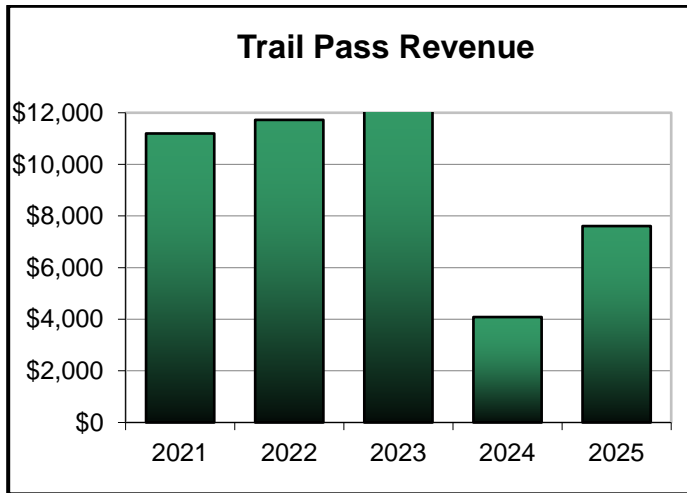
As its name implies, the trail is located in the Town of Cassian. The Cassian trail is located on gently rolling terrain and is designed to accommodate users with a wide range of skills. The Cassian trail is groomed for traditional tracked skiing. Dogs are permitted on the trail system north of Sheep Ranch Road.

The Enterprise Winter Recreation Trail consists of two one-way loops that together equal approximately eight miles. The trail is groomed for fat-tire biking; however, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are also permitted on the trail.

Beginning in 2012, the Forestry Department entered into an annual ski trail maintenance agreement with the Rhinelander Area Silent Trails Association (RASTA) in an effort to reduce trail maintenance expenses. Under the terms of the agreement, RASTA is responsible for brushing, signing and grooming the county's 30-mile ski trail network. In addition to the funds from the County, RASTA utilizes donations, grants and club funds for development and maintenance of the trail systems. By outsourcing these services, the Forestry Department was able to reduce the silent sports trail budget from \$50,000 to approximately \$30,000 annually.

The Forestry Department continues to apply for annual Recreational Trail Program (RTP) grants provided by the WDNR. These grants provide up to 50% reimbursement of costs attributed to development and/or maintenance of recreational trails. Unfortunately, these grant funds are not guaranteed and are awarded by the WDNR by utilizing a ranking formula to determine which grant applications to approve each year.

Finally, the Forestry Department implemented a trail pass system that requires individuals over the age of 18 to purchase a daily or annual trail pass to use any designated and maintained silent sport trail located on the Oneida County Forest. The annual trail pass fee is \$30 and a daily pass is \$5. The sale of silent sport trail passes for 2025, together with user donations, generated \$7,610 of revenue.



Mountain Bike Trails:

In 2025 the Oneida County Forestry Department worked in conjunction with the Rhinelander Area Silent Trails Association (RASTA) to maintain approximately 13 miles of single-track mountain bike trails located at the Washburn Lake Silent Sport Trail facility and approximately 25 miles of mountain bike trails lying on the ski trails at Washburn, Nose Lake and Cassian trail systems.

The mountain bike trails get plenty of use including practice for the Rhinelander Northwoods Composite Team (RNC) and the Little Bellas, a group that focuses on increasing mountain bike use by pre-teen and teenage girls.



Fat Tire Bike Trails:

A formally designated and maintained fat tire bike trail was approved on the Oneida County Forest in December 2014. The trail is located within the Enterprise block and measures approximately eight miles in length. In addition to fat tire biking, the Enterprise Winter Recreational Trail is also open for cross-country skiing and snow shoeing.

A short segment of the Washburn trail was opened and groomed for fat tire biking in 2022 on a trial basis. Proven popular with bike enthusiasts, this has continued throughout 2023 - 2025. RASTA has future plans to expand winter fat tire bike trails.





Almon Park Wetland Boardwalk & Hiking /Snowshoe Trail

Hiking & Snowshoe Trails:

In 2025, the Forestry Department maintained two hiking/snowshoe trails at Almon Park that total 2.25 miles in length. These trails travel through a variety of habitats, some of which require the use of wetland boardwalks to traverse. For those snowshoe enthusiasts looking for a more isolated experience, the County also provides 8.0 miles of trail located in the Enterprise Block of the Oneida County Forest. Finally, for individuals seeking a more challenging hiking and/or snowshoe experience, the County provides 15.0 miles of snowshoe trail at the Washburn and Nose Lake trail systems in addition to 11.0 miles of hiking trail at the Washburn Lake Silent Sport Trails facility.

Rhineland Area Silent Trails Association (RASTA):

Maintained the following trails located on the Oneida County Forest per the maintenance agreement:

- Washburn trails for classic skiing, skate skiing, snowshoeing, fat tire biking in the winter months; and hiking, trail running and mountain biking in the summer months.
- Cassian trail for classic skiing in the winter; and biking and hiking in the summer
- Nose Lake trails for classic skiing and snowshoeing in the winter; and biking and hiking in the summer



Maintenance of the above trail systems includes:

- Grooming over 30 miles of ski trails from mid-December through mid-March
- Grooming over 20 miles of fat tire biking trails from mid-December through mid-March
- Routine mowing and weed whipping of ski and bike trails during the growing season
- Clear immense amount of debris and fallen trees after storm events to ensure trails are clear for mowing/maintenance and year-round users
- Ensure appropriate signage to assist trail users to safely navigate trails
- Communicate current trail conditions to the public via email distribution list, social media and website updates
- Procure and maintain equipment to accomplish trail maintenance and development

Additional RASTA Projects:

- Built numerous trail improvements at Cassian, Nose Lake and Washburn trail systems to increase user safety and enjoyment, improve winter trail grooming and ensure trail sustainability. Includes a major reconstruction of Hole Scholtz/Joz Way and maintenance of a Cassian trail bridge.
- Created a smoothed center-line trail on the Cassian Trail for improved summer enjoyment
- Assisted the Forestry Department in securing a grant to expand and improve the Nose Lake trailhead facilities – expected completion in 2026
- Collaborated with the Town of Woodboro to improve road signage
- Provided safe trails and organizational support for two youth mountain bike programs – Little Bellas and the Rhineland Northwoods Composite Mountain Bike Team
- Hosted community events such as RASTA Rally, Global Fat Bike Day and International Women’s Mountain Bike Day

Disabled Access Trails / Hunter – Hiking Trails:

In 2025, the Forestry Department maintained three trail systems specifically developed to provide disabled users reasonable access to the County Forest. These trails are distributed throughout the Oneida County Forest with one trail located in each of the three County Forest Blocks (i.e. Enterprise, Cassian/Woodboro and Lynne/Little Rice). Uses of these areas include, but are not limited to: hunting, berry picking, bird watching and sightseeing. To qualify for a Disabled Access Trail Permit, a person must hold a valid WDNR Class A or B disability card. Disabled Access Trail Permits are free; however, a \$50 refundable key deposit is required.

The Forestry Department maintained two hunter-hiking trails, one in the town of Little Rice and another in the Town of Enterprise. The Little Rice trail, known as the Bird Lane Trail, is approximately three miles long and mowed annually in late summer to provide upland game bird hunters with access to hundreds of acres of the Bird Lane Grouse Management Area. The Enterprise trail, known as the Highway Q Hunter/Hiking Trail, is approximately 5.5 miles long and is also mowed annually, either by the Department or DNR Wildlife.

In addition to the trail opportunities and County Forest Roads described in this report, the Oneida County Forest has hundreds of miles of woodland trails and old logging roads that have not formally been designated with recreational purpose, yet remain open year-round for general public use. The primary function of these woodland trails and old logging roads is to provide public access into the County Forest.

SAFETY & TRAINING

The Forestry Department had zero work work-loss related incidents in 2025.

Permanent field employees can participate in the County steel-toe work shoe program which allows up to \$100 reimbursement per employee annually. The following personal protective gear is available to all Forestry field staff: hard hats, helmets, safety glasses, ear protection, chainsaw chaps, and work gloves.

Safety items purchased in 2025 include tick repellent, work gloves, and safety glasses.

The Forest Director, Assistant Forest Director and County Foresters attended Wildland Fire Safety training.



Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA):

The WCFA is a non-profit, quasi government organization established to provide support to the growing county forest program. Additionally, WCFA provides a forum for the consideration of issues and policies of concern to the committee of the County Board responsible for forestry programs and management, including programs carried out under §28.10, 28.11 and Chapter 77 of Wisconsin Statutes.

Forestry staff and committee members are invited to attend conferences hosted by the WCFA each year. These conferences provide valuable information regarding governmental support and funding of the industry as well as the ability to network with other county forestry personnel. Several staff members attended various meetings, conferences and trainings provided by WCFA. Training sessions included stream crossing assessment, timber market updates, forest health updates, trout management, remote sensing, red pine management and bear management.

RESOLUTION # 33-2026

Resolution to accept Donation from St. Theresa of Avila

Resolution approved for presentation to the Oneida County Board by the Supervisors of the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Committee

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin:

WHEREAS, Wisconsin State Statute s 59.52(19) requires that the County Board approves all donations to the county; and

WHEREAS, Oneida County Resolution #37-2019 adopted the Oneida County Acceptance of Monetary, Non-Monetary and In-Kind Donation Policy; and

WHEREAS, The ADRC was notified on April 2nd, 2026 that a donation totaling \$1,000 will be made to the ADRC of Oneida County by St. Theresa of Avila; and

WHEREAS, The donation requires the specific use of funds provided is for the ADRC Senior Nutrition Program Three Lakes Meal Site; and

WHEREAS, The ADRC provides essential nutrition services to the adult, aging and disabled citizens of Oneida County and the donation would benefit the citizens of Oneida County; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Oneida County Board of Supervisors that Oneida County accepts the generous donation from St. Theresa of Avila; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Oneida County Board of Supervisors that the Oneida County ADRC Committee will approve use of any and all funds provided through this donation for use in the ADRC Senior Nutrition Program.

Vote Required: Majority = [check] 2/3 Majority = _____ 3/4 Majority = _____

The County Board has the legal authority to adopt: Yes [check] No _____ as reviewed by the Corporation Counsel, _____, Date:

4/27/26

Approved for presentation to the County Board by the ADRC Committee this 27th day of April, 2026

Consent Agenda Item: [X] YES _____ NO

Offered and passage moved by:

[Signatures of Supervisors: James Stowers, Melanie Thalick, Debbie Cendado, Lenora Newman]

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_____ Ayes

_____ Nays

_____ Absent

_____ Abstain

_____ Adopted

by the County Board of Supervisors this _____ day _____, 2026.

_____ Defeated

Tracy Hartman, County Clerk

Scott Holewinski, County Board Chair

RESOLUTION # 34-2026

Resolution to convey excess county lands to Joseph & Holly Klaas

Resolution approved for presentation to the Oneida County Board by the Supervisors of the Land Records Committee.

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin:

WHEREAS, Oneida County retained a 100 foot strip of land on each side of the center line of existing roads crossing the SW 1/4 - SW 1/4 of Section 9, Township 37 North, Range 9 East, as recorded in the Register of Deeds, Volume 64 of Deeds on Page 271, Document # 109755, recorded on April 3rd, 1941; and,

WHEREAS, a request has been made to Oneida County from the adjoining landowner(s) listed in Exhibit A requesting that a portion of said strip(s) of land described above and adjacent to Pine Lake Rd be conveyed to them as they are the present adjoining owner(s) of the land, and they have paid the \$250.00 administrative fee to process this request; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Pine Lake has been notified of this request and the Land Records Committee recommends that the parcel(s) described in Exhibit A be conveyed to the adjoining landowner(s), provided the Town of Pine Lake does not have any objection to said conveyance; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oneida County Board of Supervisors hereby approves conveying the parcel(s) described in Exhibit A to the adjoining landowner(s), and authorizes the County Clerk, upon receipt of the \$30 deed recording fee(s), to issue a quit claim deed conveying any interest the County has in the description(s) noted below in Exhibit A.

Vote Required: Majority = [checked] 2/3 Majority = _____ 3/4 Majority = _____

The County Board has the legal authority to adopt: Yes [checked] No _____ as reviewed by the Corporation Counsel, [signature], Date: 5/8/26

Approved for presentation to the County Board by the Land Records Committee this 5th day of May, 2026.

Consent Agenda Item: [X] YES _____ NO

Fiscal Impact Offered and passage moved by:


<input type="checkbox"/> Included in Resolution	<u>Robert Briggs</u>	Aye	Nay	Abstain
<input type="checkbox"/> Attached	Supervisor Robert Briggs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<u>Chris Schultz</u>	Aye	Nay	Abstain
	Supervisor Chris Schultz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Supervisor Lenore Lopez

Supervisor Connor Showalter



Supervisor Kyle Timmons

_____ Ayes

_____ Nays

_____ Absent

_____ Abstain

_____ Adopted

by the County Board of Supervisors this 19th day May, 2026.

_____ Defeated

Tracy Hartman, County Clerk

Scott Holewinski, County Board Chair

Exhibit A

Parts of PL-299-2

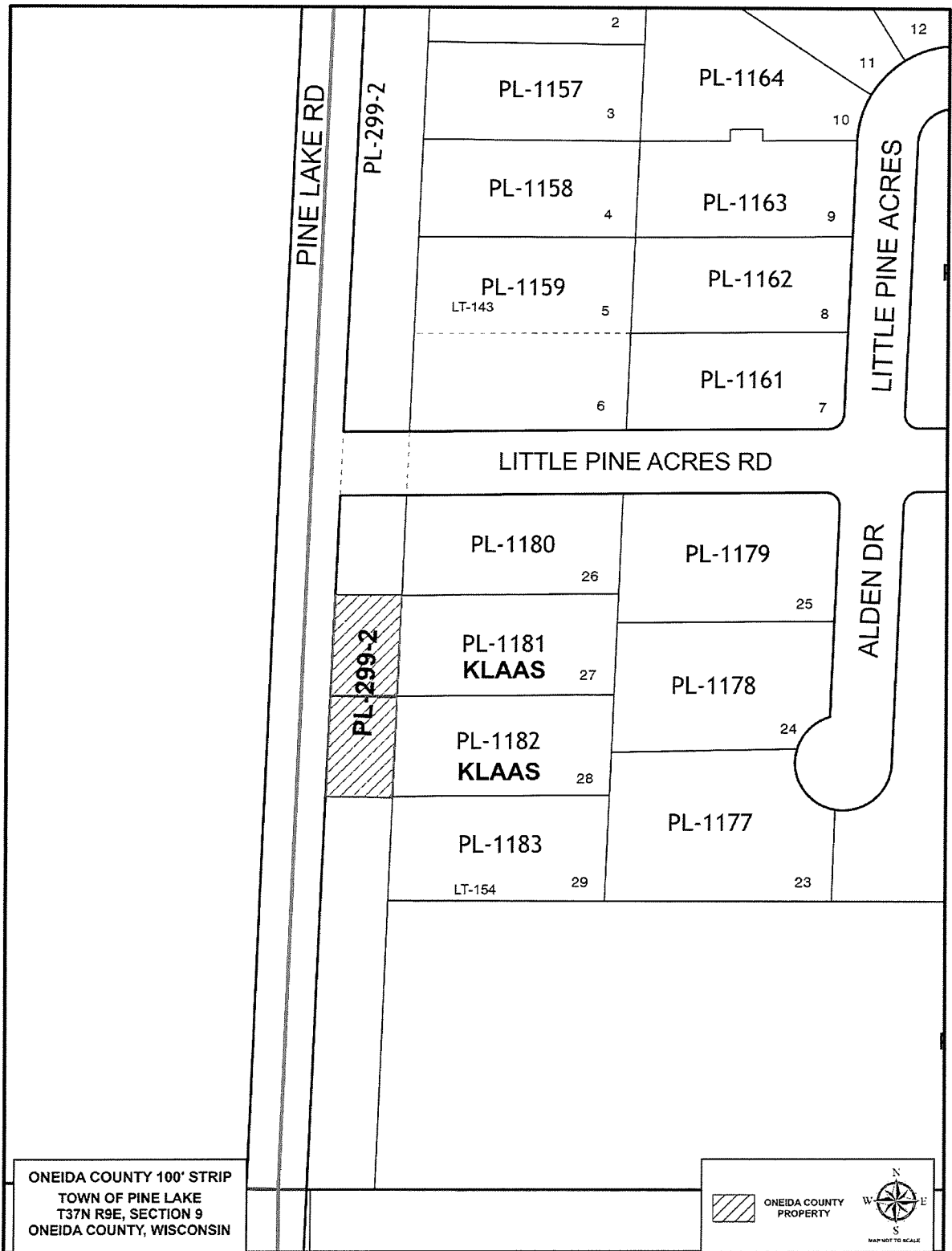
To: **Joseph R. Klaas and Holly C. Klaas, husband and wife as survivorship marital property**, 4930 Pine Lake Rd, Rhinelander, WI 54501.

Description: That part of a 100' wide strip of land owned by Oneida County as retained in Volume 64 of Deeds on Page 271, Document # 109755, located in the SW ¼ - SW ¼, Section 9, Township 37 North, Range 9 East, Town of Pine Lake, Oneida County WI, being two separate strips of land both of which lie easterly of a line that is 33' easterly of and parallel to the west line of the SW ¼ - SW ¼, and strip one is westerly of Lot 27 of Little Pines Plat which is between the north and south lot lines of lot 27, and strip two is westerly of Lot 28 of Little Pines Plat which is between the north and south lot lines of lot 28, all lot lines extend westerly to the line that is 33' easterly of the SW ¼ -SW ¼.

These strips of land are to be attached to those lands to the east (strip one PIN Number PL-1181 and strip two PIN Number PL-1182) and not to be transferred separately unless complying with Oneida County Subdivision Ordinance.

Subject to easements, utilities or access of record or in use by others on or across said lands.

See next page for Map



RESOLUTION # 35-2026

Resolution to convey excess county lands to State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Town of Lake Tomahawk.

Resolution approved for presentation to the Oneida County Board by the Supervisors of the Land Records Committee.

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin:

WHEREAS, Oneida County retained a 100 foot strip of land on each side of the center line of existing roads crossing the SW 1/4 - NE 1/4 and the NW 1/4 - SE 1/4 of Section 12, Township 38 North, Range 7 East, as recorded in the Register of Deeds, Volume 42 of Deeds on Page 556, Document # 100835, recorded on September 8th, 1937; and,

WHEREAS, a request has been made to Oneida County from the adjoining landowner State of Wisconsin Department Natural Resources requesting that a portion of said strip of land described above adjacent to River Rd. be conveyed to them as they're the present adjoining owner(s) of the land, and has paid the \$250.00 administrative fee to process this request; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Lake Tomahawk has been notified of such request, and if the Town has no objection to accepting a conveyance for a part of River Rd. right-of-way, the Land Records Committee recommends that the parcel(s) described in Exhibit A be conveyed to the adjoining landowner(s) and the Town; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oneida County Board of Supervisors hereby approves conveying the parcel(s) described in Exhibit A to the adjoining landowner(s) and the Town as listed in Exhibit A, and the Board authorizes the County Clerk, upon receipt of the \$30 deed recording fee(s), to issue a quit claim deed conveying any interest the County has in the description(s) described in Exhibit A.

Vote Required: Majority = 2/3 Majority = _____ 3/4 Majority = _____

The County Board has the legal authority to adopt: Yes No _____ as reviewed by the Corporation Counsel, _____, Date: 5/8/26

Approved for presentation to the County Board by the Land Records Committee this 5th day of May, 2026.



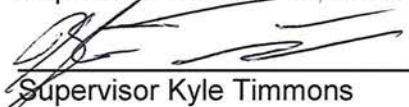
Consent Agenda Item: YES _____ NO

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Fiscal Impact

- Included in Resolution
- Attached
- N/A

Offered and passage moved by:

	Aye	Nay	Abstain
 _____ Supervisor Robert Briggs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 _____ Supervisor Chris Schultz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 _____ Supervisor Lenore Lopez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____ Supervisor Connor Showalter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 _____ Supervisor Kyle Timmons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- _____ Ayes
- _____ Nays
- _____ Absent
- _____ Abstain
- _____ Adopted

by the County Board of Supervisors this 19th day May, 2026.

_____ Defeated

Tracy Hartman, County Clerk

Scott Holewinski, County Board Chair

See next pages for Exhibit A

Exhibit A

Part of LT-143-1 and LT-154-1

To: **State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**, 107 Sutliff Ave., Rhinelander, WI 54501.

Description: That part of the 200' strip of land retained by Oneida County in Volume 42 of deeds Page 556, Document number 100835, located in the SW ¼ - NE ¼ and the NW ¼ - SE ¼ of Section 12, Township 38 North, Range 7 East, being all of those lands that lie north and south of a line that is 33' north and south of and parallel to the existing centerline of River Rd now laid out, being in Oneida County, Wisconsin.

EXCEPT that portion taken for town road purposes.

These strips of land are to be attached to (PIN number LT-143 to the north and LT-154 to the south) and not to be transferred separately unless complying with Oneida County Subdivision Ordinance.

Subject to easements, utilities or access of record or in use by others on or across said lands.

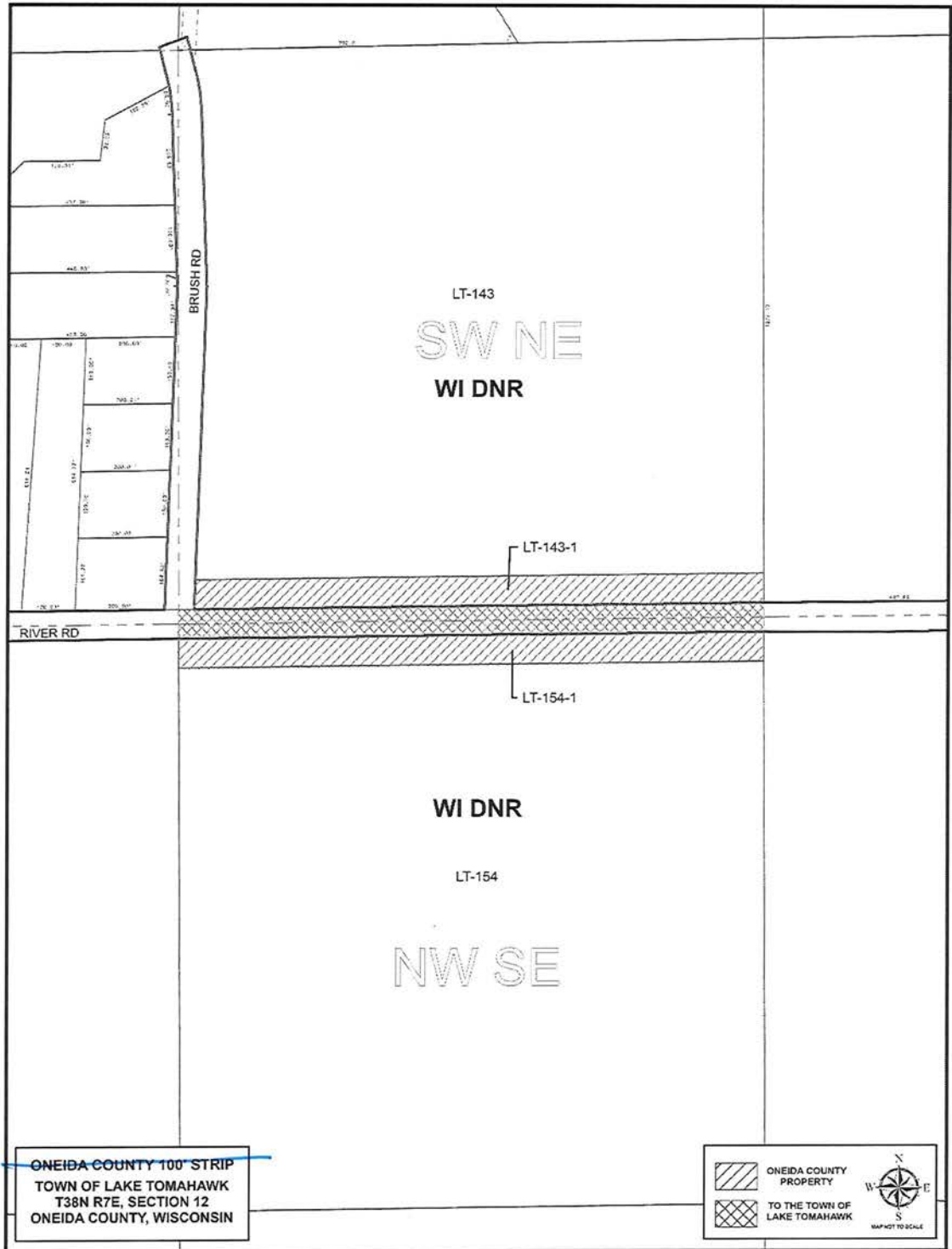
Part of LT-143-1 and LT-154-1

To: **Town of Lake Tomahawk**, Sloan Community Center, 7246 Main St., Lake Tomahawk, WI 54539.

Description: That part of the 200' strip of land retained by Oneida County in Volume 42 of deeds Page 556, Document number 100835, located in the SW ¼ - NE ¼ and the NW ¼ - SE ¼ of Section 12, Township 38 North, Range 7 East, being a strip of land for town road purposes, described as being a 66' wide strip of land, 33' on each side and parallel to the center line of River Rd., now laid out, being in Oneida County, Wisconsin.

Subject to easements, utilities or access of record or in use by others on or across said lands.

See sketch next page.



RESOLUTION # 36-2024

Resolution to Close Certain Projects Using Opioid Settlement Funds allocated to Oneida County in Accordance with Wisconsin Act 57 of 2021 and Oneida County Resolution #58-2022.

Resolution approved for presentation to the Oneida County Board by the Supervisors of the Executive Committee

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin:

WHEREAS, in 2021, a nationwide settlement agreement was reached by and between several pharmaceutical companies and a class containing most states, counties, and a number of cities and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Governor signed legislation (2021 Wisconsin Act 57) which outlines the distribution and use of Wisconsin's share of settlement funds of over \$400 million, with 70% of the proceeds being allocated to Wisconsin counties; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Wisconsin Joint Committee on Finance approved a plan which earmarks counties' use of the funds toward abatement efforts; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Oneida County adopted Resolution #58-2022 agreeing to the settlement terms with total settlement proceeds estimated to be \$1.48 million; and

WHEREAS, projects and programs benefiting from the funds must comply with the Settlement Agreement restrictions of expenditures limited to defined categories of Treatment, Prevention, and Other Strategies; and

WHEREAS, Project #1 approved via Resolution #105-2024 for the purpose of 2025 Treatment Alternative and Diversion (TAD) Grant project is complete for a total of \$23,187.00, resulting in the return of \$0.00 to the Opioid Settlement Fund Balance; and,

WHEREAS, Project #5 approved via Resolution #80-2025 for the purpose of Hearing Room Improvements project is complete for a total of \$22,717.26, resulting in the return of \$7,282.74 to the Opioid Settlement Fund Balance; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Executive Committee is in agreement and recommends the projects described herein be closed and any unused funds returned to the Opioid Settlement Fund Balance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Oneida County Board of Supervisors that by Adoption of this resolution authorizes the Finance Director to make any necessary transfers of funds.

Vote Required: Majority = 2/3 Majority = _____ 3/4 Majority = _____

The County Board has the legal authority to adopt: Yes No _____ as reviewed by the Corporation Counsel, _____, Date:



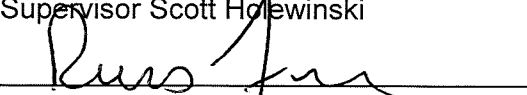
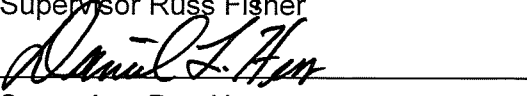
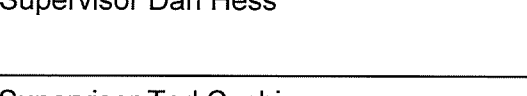
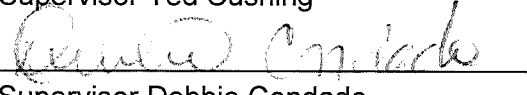
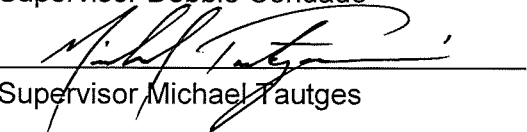
5/8/26

53 Approved for presentation to the County Board by the Executive Committee this 6th day of
54 May, 2026.

55
56 Consent Agenda Item: X YES NO

57
58
59 Fiscal Impact

Offered and passage moved by:

		Aye	Nay	Abstain
<input type="checkbox"/> Included in Resolution	 Supervisor Billy Fried	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Attached	 Supervisor Scott Holewinski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	 Supervisor Russ Fisher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	 Supervisor Dan Hess	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	 Supervisor Ted Cushing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	 Supervisor Debbie Condado	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	 Supervisor Michael Tautges	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

84
85 _____ Ayes

86
87 _____ Nays

88
89 _____ Absent

90
91 _____ Abstain

92
93 _____ Adopted

94
95 by the County Board of Supervisors this 19th day May, 2026.

96
97 _____ Defeated

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100
101 _____
102 Tracy Hartman, County Clerk

Scott Holewinski, County Board Chair

RESOLUTION # 37-2026

Resolution to Support the DNR Land Acquisition of Land within the Town of Minocqua Using Funding from the Warren Knowles Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program

Resolution approved for presentation to the Oneida County Board by the Supervisors of the Executive Committee.

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin:

Whereas, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) seeks to acquire land contiguous to other WDNR 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).

Resolution approved for presentation to the Oneida County Board by the Supervisors of the Executive Committee.

Vote Required: Majority = 2/3 Majority = _____ 3/4 Majority = _____

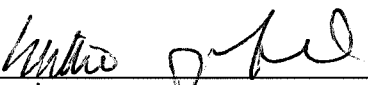
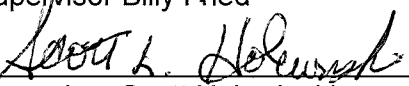
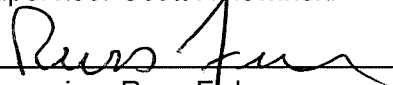
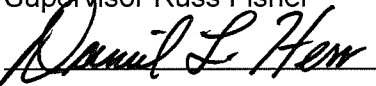
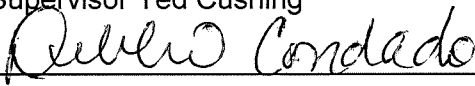
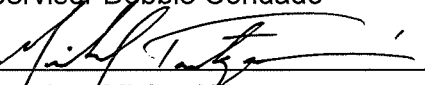
The County Board has the legal authority to adopt: Yes No _____ as reviewed by the Corporation Counsel, _____, Date: 5/8/26

Approved for presentation to the County Board by the Executive Committee this 6th day of May, 2026.

Consent Agenda Item: YES NO

Fiscal Impact

Offered and passage moved by:

52	<input type="checkbox"/>	Included in Resolution		Aye	Nay	Abstain
53				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
54	<input type="checkbox"/>	Attached	Supervisor Billy Fried			
55				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
56	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	Supervisor Scott Holewinski			
57				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
58			Supervisor Russ Fisher			
59				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
60			Supervisor Dan Hess			
61				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
62			Supervisor Ted Cushing			
63				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
64			Supervisor Debbie Condado			
65				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66			Supervisor Michael Tautges			

75 _____ Ayes
 76 _____ Nays
 77 _____ Absent
 78 _____ Abstain
 79 _____ Adopted

80
 81
 82
 83
 84
 85 by the County Board of Supervisors this 19th day May, 2026.

86
 87 _____ Defeated

88
 89
 90
 91 _____ Tracy Hartman, County Clerk _____ Scott Holewinski, County Board Chair

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
107 Sutliff Avenue
Rhineland WI 54501-3349

Tony Evers, Governor
Karen Hyun, Ph.D., Secretary

Telephone 608-266-2621
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463
TTY Access via relay - 711



April 24, 2026

Oneida County Board
P.O.Box 400
1 S. Oneida Avenue
Rhineland, WI 54501

Subject: Request for Resolution of Support – DNR Land Acquisition Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area

Dear Chairperson Holewinski and Members of the County Board:

I am writing to respectfully request Oneida County adopt a Resolution of Support in accordance with Wis. Stats. 23.917(5t)(b), for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' proposed acquisition of a 77.01-acre parcel (tax parcels MI-1086 and part of MI-1083) within the Town of Minocqua, Oneida County.

The property lies entirely within the project boundary of the Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area and borders existing department-owned land to the south; please see the enclosed map. Benefits of the proposed acquisition are as follows:

- Subject property is a large continuous block of land with two-bank frontage along the Tomahawk River.
- Property fronts on a town road allowing for ease of access for public recreation and WDNR land management.
- Provide natural resource protection for the state threatened wood turtle and other species/communities of special concern.
- Protect the waters of the Upper Tomahawk River corridor that connects to the Willow Flowage which has an Outstanding Resource Water designation.

The purchase price of the subject property is \$231,050. Acquisition and closing costs will be funded from the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program.

Again, our request of the County Board is to adopt a resolution in support of the proposed acquisition. It is recommended that the Board consult with an attorney regarding the content of the resolution, but it is requested that the resolution describe the acquisition and contain language that the County Board supports the use of Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds for the described acquisition as per Wis. Stats. 23.917(5t)(b).

The department appreciates your consideration and looks forward to working together to ensure this property remains a lasting resource for the community and future generations. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Niccole L. Smith
Real Estate Specialist Advanced
Phone: 715-499-3450
Email: niccolel.smith@wisconsin.gov

cc: Chairperson Scott Holewinski – sholewinski@oneidacountywi.gov
1st Vice Chair Russ Fisher – rfisher@oneidacountywi.gov
2nd Vice Chair Dan Hess – dhess@oneidacountywi.gov
Supervisor Connor Showalter – cshowalter@oneidacountywi.gov
Supervisor Kristopher Hanus – khanus@oneidacountywi.gov
Supervisor Linnaea Newman – lnewman@oneidacountywi.gov
Supervisor Steven Schreier – sshreier@oneidacountywi.gov
Supervisor Debbie Condado – dcondado@oneidacountywi.gov
Supervisor Robert Briggs – rbriggs@oneidacountywi.gov
Supervisor Greg Oettinger – goettinger@oneidacountywi.gov and colego@frontiernet.net
Supervisor Wayne Kulhanek – wkulhanke@oneidacountywi.gov
Supervisor Robb Jensen – rjensen@oneidacountywi.gov
Supervisor Mitchell Ives – mives@oneidacountywi.gov
Supervisor Collette Sorgel – csorgel@oneidacountywi.gov
Supervisor Lenore Lopez – llopez@oneidacountywi.gov
Supervisor Kyle Timmons – ktimmons@oneidacountywi.gov
Supervisor Billy Fried – billyf@oneidacountywi.gov
Supervisor Michael Tautges – mtautges@oneidacountywi.gov
Supervisor Bob Almekinder – ralemkinder@oneidacountywi.gov
Supervisor Chris Schultz – cschultz@oneidacountywi.gov
Supervisor Ted Cushing – tcushing76@gmail.com
County Clerk Tracy Hartman – occlerk@oneidacountywi.gov

Enclosure

Part of
SE 1/4
SECTION 2, T38N, R5E
 Minocqua Township
 Oneida County, Wisconsin

Option Exhibit A

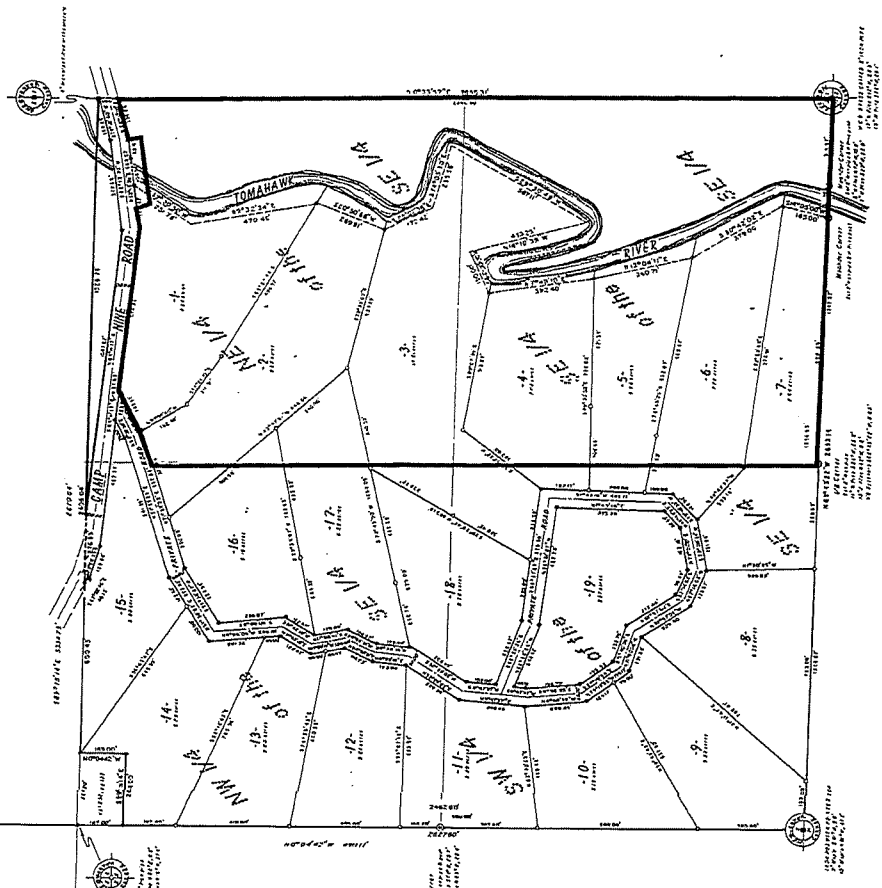
JOHN K FISHER & ASSOCIATES, INC.
 MINOCQUA, WISCONSIN

ALL OTHER RIGHTS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE RIGHTS OF EASEMENT, ARE RESERVED TO THE ORIGINAL GRANTOR, MINOCQUA TOWNSHIP, ONEIDA COUNTY, WISCONSIN, AND ITS SUCCESSORS. THIS SURVEY IS NOT TO BE CONSIDERED AS A WAIVER OF ANY RIGHTS OR INTERESTS OF THE ORIGINAL GRANTOR OR ITS SUCCESSORS. THE ORIGINAL GRANTOR'S RIGHTS ARE RESERVED TO THE ORIGINAL GRANTOR, MINOCQUA TOWNSHIP, ONEIDA COUNTY, WISCONSIN, AND ITS SUCCESSORS.

John K. Fisher
 Surveyor
 August 22, 2019

LEGEND
 1" = 100' (Horizontal Scale)
 1" = 20' (Vertical Scale)

*For illustrative purposes only,
 survey to be completed prior to
 closing to properly describe curve
 out in the northwest corner of
 property.*



Surveyed by
 Date
 Scale
 North Arrow

