



GREEN LAKE COUNTY

571 County Road A, Green Lake, WI 54941

The following documents are included in the packet for the *Green Lake County Comprehensive Plan Subcommittee* business meeting that is scheduled for Monday, July 27, 2026, at 5 pm.

Packet Pages:

- 2 Agenda
- 3-5 Draft Meeting Minutes from 6/29/26
- 6 Proposed Vision Statement
- 7 Executive Summary

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the Land Use Planning & Zoning Department at (920) 294-4156.



GREEN LAKE COUNTY
LAND USE PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

Matt Kirkman
Director

Office: 920-294-4156
FAX: 920-294-4198

Comprehensive Plan Subcommittee Meeting Notice

Date: Monday, July 27, 2026, Time: 5:00 PM
Green Lake County Government Center, UWEX Training Room
571 County Rd A, Green Lake WI

AGENDA

**Committee
Members**

Mike Starshak-chair
Gene Thom-vice chair
Shelly Rothman
Lisa Reas
Paul Schwandt
Jane Strelow
Jim Hebbe
Taylor Strauser
Samuel Mast
Mary Lou Neubauer
Mark Wilton
Sue McConnell
Todd Morris
Matt Kirkman
Patricia Malone

Sec: Ryan Schinke

This agenda gives notice of a meeting of the Comprehensive Plan Subcommittee. It is possible that individual members of governing bodies of Green Lake County government may attend this meeting for informative purposes. Members of the Green Lake County Board of Supervisors or its committees may be present for informative purposes but will not take any formal action. A majority or a negative quorum of the members of the Green Lake County Board of Supervisors and/or any of its committees may be present at this meeting. See State ex rel. Badke v. Vill. Bd. of Vill. of Greendale, 173 Wis.2d 553, 578, 494 N.W. 2d 408 (1993).

Purpose Statement: To complete the 10-year update to the Comprehensive Plan.

Meeting Goal: To go over Citizen's survey and Local Government survey results, formulate how to incorporate both survey results into the plan, review vision statement.

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Open Meeting Law
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Minutes of 6/29/2026
5. Public Comment (15 minutes total/3-minute limit per person)
6. Committee discussion:
 - a) Surveys Status Update.
 - b) Survey Results.
 - c) Discussion regarding incorporation of both survey results in plan.
 - d) Review Vision Statement.
 - e) Future Meeting Dates:
 - i. Additional meetings if necessary
 - f) Future Agenda items for discussion
7. Adjourn

Please note: Meeting area is accessible to the physically disabled. Anyone planning to attend who needs visual or audio assistance, should contact the County Clerk's Office, 294-4005, not later than 3 days before date of the meeting.

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**GREEN LAKE COUNTY
2026 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Monday, June 29, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Starshak called the meeting of the 2026 Comprehensive Plan Subcommittee Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Green Lake County Government Center, UWEX Training Room, Green Lake, WI. The requirements of the open meeting law were certified as being met. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: **Jim Hebbe, Mike Starshak, Sue McConnell,**

Taylor Strauser, Shelly Rothman, Samuel Mast

Absent: **Mark Wilton, Gene Thom, Jane Strelow, Lisa Reas, Mary Lou Neubauer, Paul Schwandt**

Also Present: **Matt Kirkman, Land Use Planning & Zoning Director**

Patricia Malone, UWEX – Community Development Educator

Todd Morris, County Conservationist

Ryan Schinke, Land Use Coordinator/Tech

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion/second (Morris/Strauser) approve the minutes of the 6/1/26 meeting. Motion carried with no negative vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Starshak called for public comment – Tony Daley of the Berlin newspaper spoke. He thanked the subcommittee members in advance for speaking clearly and reciting their names before they spoke during the discussion.

SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- Malone gave the subcommittee an update on the Citizen's Survey.
Malone informed the subcommittee that the Citizen's Survey is now closed and there were approximately 500 surveys turned in/completed. She said that she had 51 surveys turned in by the Amish Community and that she still had a number of surveys to enter in by hand (roughly 85% has been done at this time).
Malone gave details on the distribution of the Citizen's Survey-top 3 methods were word of mouth, local papers, and social media.
Starshak questioned if there was anything preventing someone from filling out the survey multiple times – Malone said no.
- Malone gave an update on the Local Government Survey.
The local government survey has been distributed to the Towns with a positive response.
Malone already has survey results back from two of the Towns.
Some Towns already had their monthly meetings when the surveys were distributed, so the deadline for returning the rest of the results is Mid-July.

- Malone went over a handout that contained responses from the Citizen's Survey to the open-ended question "What words would you use to describe Green Lake County?" The handout reflected answers from 455 responses and were summarized into 10 main themes. Additional surveys that need to be hand entered may change the results. Malone asked about how we wanted to incorporate these answers into the plan. Short discussion followed. Malone had several "word maps" generated that the group went through. Starshak noted that the word maps seemed to contain positive assets.
- Malone went over a handout that contained several sample graphs from the Citizen's survey results to date. Several of the graphs were discussed including importance of distance to work, Hebbe made a comment about answers to survey and people working from home. Graph regarding school quality was discussed, several committee members made comments regarding all schools in Wisconsin struggling at this time.
- Malone went over graphs regarding answers that reflected what priorities were for citizens of Green Lake County. Natural resources protection was at the top of the list, followed by adequate housing, open spaces, local taxes, and maintaining roads. Discussion ensued about local taxes and housing results on survey. Comparisons were made on Graphs with answers regarding "shortage of comparable housing" vs. "enough affordable housing for workforce". Discussion also was had on graph results as to where citizens got their information. Top answers were again word of mouth, local papers, and social media.
- Malone went over a handout that contained answers to questions regarding what citizens were concerned about: 1) Protect the Lake, 2) Housing Challenges, 3) Taxes & Costs, 4) Trust & Decisions, 5) Smart Growth.
- Malone asked how do we want to incorporate the survey results into the Plan.
Starshak suggested a QR Code in the Comp Plan.
Malone asked how we can get as many people as possible to see these survey results.
Starshak suggested a QR Code on people's tax forms.
Strauser would like to see the results be interactively designed.
Rothman suggested making the results visual.
Malone asked if the results should be graphs or tables.
Starshak spoke about incorporating the plan into school curriculum along with the results.
Rothman asked if these results were going to be made available at the County Fair.
Malone asked for any more ideas to be sent to her.
- Malone led a discussion about developing a Vision Statement for the Comprehensive Plan. She described the statement as a "North Star" of the Comp Plan.
Kirkman stated that it should contain something about "Protecting the lake".
Morris stated it should include the county's "Rural Character".
McConnell/Rothman agreed it should include the county's "Agriculture".
Rothman added that statement should be community oriented.
Hebbe voiced that it should include "ability to prosper".
Morris stated that protect the lake(s) be plural.
Starshak added protect the "Natural Resources" and using the term "leveraging natural appeal".
Hebbe stated that "wisely use" were good terms to use regarding conservation.
Mast suggested using "future" instead of "tomorrow".
Many other ideas were also voiced as Malone was writing statement ideas on the board.
Malone asked for volunteers to help craft a Vision Statement for the Comp Plan. McConnell, Strauser, and Starshak agreed to meet and work on the statement.

FUTURE SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Survey Status Update, Citizen's Survey & Local Government Survey
2. Continued Survey Results
3. Discussion regarding incorporation of both survey results into Comp Plan
4. Vision Statement review
5. Future Meeting Dates: Monday, July 27th, 5:00pm

ADJOURN

Motion/second (Morris/Mast) to adjourn meeting at 6:41p.m.

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Starshak.

RECORDED BY

Ryan Schinke

Land Use Planning & Zoning Coordinator/Tech

APPROVED ON:

Proposed Vision Statement:

Green Lake County seeks to protect central Wisconsin's unique groundwater, woodlands, farmlands, and wildlife habitats prioritizing close-knit rural community values.

We also generated a tag line:

Rooted in stewardship where nature and community possibilities thrive.

A tag-line is a marketing tool. It's usually simply with a bit more spice. Often used more directly with the public in promotion.

Executive Summary.

Green Lake County updated its comprehensive plan in 2026. This plan was a part of the county's effort to update and certify its updated Farmland Preservation Plan. Land use plans allow communities to minimize negative impacts of changes and to anticipate preferred land use decisions.

Citizen engagement is a critical component of a comprehensive plan. Green Lake County used three citizen engagement tools. The first was its "Comprehensive Plan Subcommittee." This committee has XX members. They represented different sectors of the county including the Amish, current elected officials, non-profit organizations, and citizens. The committee was led by a county resident. The committee took an active role in all parts of the planning process. They reviewed the progress made on the 2016 plan. They took that information to determine the goals and objectives for the 2026 plan. A small group of volunteers from the committee worked together to create two surveys. The surveys included a general citizen survey and a focused survey of local elected and appointed town, city, and village officials.

The results from these surveys and committee discussions were used to create a Values statement for the plan as well as a vision statement. The priorities and issues identified in the survey helped the committee refine the goals and objectives it identified in the first part of its planning process.

The citizen survey targeted folks who live or own land in Green Lake County. Because we wanted to maximize participation in the survey and minimize our costs we used an on-line survey that could be accessed virtually. Paper copies were available for individuals who preferred that format. The local government survey was delivered directly to clerks at each minor civil division. All elected and appointed officials were the target audience.

No single tool can capture everyone's opinion or idea. The Comprehensive Plan Subcommittee was committed to seeking input from as many people who were willing to participate.

The results of the surveys are provided in the attached reports.