



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, August 31, 2026, at 5 pm.

Packet Pages:

- 2 Agenda
- 3-4 Draft Meeting Minutes from 7/27/26

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

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Comprehensive Plan Subcommittee Meeting Notice

Date: Monday, August 31, 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
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, progress update.

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Open Meeting Law
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Minutes of 7/27/2026
5. Public Comment (15 minutes total/3-minute limit per person)
6. Committee discussion:
 - a) Discussion of Survey Results.
 - b) Discussion regarding incorporation of both survey results in plan.
 - c) Discussion of Current WI Communities Concerns.
 - d) Draft Language update.
 - e) Overall Progress update.
- f) Future Meeting Dates:
 - i. Additional meetings if necessary
- g) 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, July 27, 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, Gene Thom, Lisa Reas, Paul Schwandt, Taylor Strauser, Samuel Mast, Mary Lou Neubauer

Absent: Mark Wilton, Jane Strelow, Shelly Rothman, Matt Kirkman

**Also Present: Patricia Malone, UWEX – Community Development Educator
Todd Morris, County Conservationist
Ryan Schinke, Land Use Coordinator/Tech**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion/second (McConnell/Thom) to approve the minutes of the 6/29/26 meeting with one correction requested by Mike Starshak. Motion carried with no negative vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Starshak called for public comment – Tony Daley from Omro of the Berlin newspaper spoke. He thanked the subcommittee members in advance for speaking clearly and self-identifying themselves before they spoke during the discussion.

SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- Malone gave the subcommittee an update on the Citizen's Survey and the Government Survey. Malone informed the subcommittee that the Citizen's Survey is now complete. She is giving the Government Survey until this coming Friday before she closes it. As of right now the Government Survey is sitting at a 30% response rate.
- The Citizen's Survey had a total of 547 responses. Malone said she had to hand enter 75-80 surveys turned in. The majority of the responses came from the QR Code. Malone said that she was going to send the results to the subcommittee as soon as she had the graphs and results all cleaned up and organized. Malone stated that she was pleased with the number of responses. The Town of Brooklyn produced the most responses to the Citizen's Survey, followed by the City of Markesan. 40% of the responses came from the Townships with none coming from the Town of Seneca or the Village of Kingston. However, 30% of the responses didn't give the proper location with where they resided, so the numbers could be a little off.
- One of the open-ended questions on the Survey was, "How familiar people were with the Comprehensive Plan?". Of the responses, 45% stated that the person had no idea what the Comprehensive Plan is/was. A short discussion followed regarding the need to think of strategies to get the message out about the Comprehensive Plan.

- Other questions/results from the Citizen's Survey were discussed. Question – “Why people chose where they wanted to live?” - #1 response was good healthcare followed by quality of schools. Question – “How long people had lived in Green Lake County?” - #1 answer was between 20-50 years. Question – “What are the highest priority issues facing the county?” - #1 answer was protecting natural resources, #2 was maintaining road systems, #3 was maintaining quality school districts, followed by #4 local taxes. Question – “What words would you use to describe the county?” – Best answers were, rural, lakes, safe, relaxing, and beautiful.
- Other concerns that were brought up in the Survey were: Need for economic development & opportunity, the disparity between people who own property on the lakeshores vs. residents who live elsewhere in the county, & the need for affordable housing.
- Only 1 person had brought up Data Centers on the Survey. Group discussion was held regarding Data Centers. What is the Comprehensive Plan going to say about Data Centers was discussed. Starshak had shared an email video about the effects a Data Center had to a resident in Beaver Dam.
- The subcommittee stated that it would like to see comparisons of the Survey results to Census Data and to the Surveys taken for the 2016 Comprehensive Plan.
- Subcommittee held a discussion regarding the Draft Vision Statement. Morris stated that he would like to see “Surface water” included in the statement. Starshak asked about just using “water” to cover it all. Strauser asked about using “water resources”. Discussion was held about using “Central Wisconsin” in statement, group decided to remove it. A short group discussion was also had about the Tagline.

Motion/second(Thom/Schwandt) to incorporate the Vision Statement with the changes into the Comprehensive Plan. Motion carried with no negative vote.

- Group Discussion was had regarding the Executive Summary.

FUTURE SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Survey Status Update regarding Local Government Survey
2. Continued Survey Results
3. Discussion regarding incorporation of both survey results into Comp Plan
4. Future Meeting Dates: Tentatively Set for Monday, August 31st, 5:00pm

ADJOURN

Motion/second (Reas/Thom) to adjourn meeting at 6:06p.m.

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Starshak.

RECORDED BY

Ryan Schinke

Land Use Planning & Zoning Coordinator/Tech

APPROVED ON: