



CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD

ENVIRONMENT AND LAND USE COMMITTEE MINUTES

County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois

Thursday, May 7, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Shields-Carter Meeting Room

Bennett Administrative Center

102 E. Main St., Urbana, IL 61801

MINUTES – Approved as Distributed on June 4, 2026

Committee Members

Present: Aaron Esry, John Farney, Jennifer Locke, Emily Rodriguez, Monique Settles and Eric Thorsland

Absent: Jilmala Rogers

County Staff: John Hall (Zoning Administrator), Trevor Partin (Planning and Zoning) and Mary Ward (Recording Secretary)

Others Present: None

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Thorsland call the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum

MOTION by Mr. Farney to approve the Agenda and Addendum; seconded by Mr. Esry. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. April 9, 2026 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Ms. Locke to approve the minutes of April 9, 2026; seconded by Mr. Esry. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

V. Public Input

Ben Coakley with California Ridge Wind Farm spoke briefly about the proposed adjustment of financial assurance and decommissioning plan and will be available to answer questions.

VI. Communications

Ms. Locke thanked Chair Thorsland for all of his years of service and mentorship on the County Board and the ELUC committee as he resigns from the County Board and will be moving abroad.

VII. New Business: Items for Information Only

- A. Residential Electronic Collection (REC) Event at Parkland College on May 16, 2026

Information only. Mr. Hall shared that the event is fully booked.

- B. Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) Notice of Application for Renewal of Clean Air Act Permit for WIRCO Inc. located at 1700 West Washington St., Champaign

Information only.

- C. Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) Notice of Application for Renewal of Clean Air Act Permit for Kraft Heinz Company located at 1701 West Bradley Avenue, Champaign

Information only.

- D. Letter from the Village of Mahomet asking for the Prohibited Burn Area to be Expanded to include Land Within 1,000 feet of the Village of Mahomet

Information only. Mr. Hall stated there will be things to consider if we decide to update the ordinance. We will need to consider if it will only be for the Village of Mahomet or elsewhere. In the long run, he does not see this being a big problem. In the resolution attached, they mention an interest in the urban animal amendment. His recommendation would be for the committee to be a bit more careful on that, rather than the burning of landscape waste.

Mr. Thorsland said he thinks it would be a good idea to extend the burn ban beyond the Village. Mr. Esry asked what it would take to do this. Mr. Hall said it would be a Nuisance Ordinance and could be very quick process.

VII.I. New Business: Items for Approval by ELUC

- A. Annual Recreation & Entertainment License for Araceli Gutierrez for a Spanish Rodeo at the Champaign County Fairgrounds, 1302 North Coler Avenue, Urbana, IL for the period 5/1/2026 – 12/31/2026.

MOTION by Ms. Rodriguez to approve the Recreation and Entertainment License for Araceli Gutierrez for a Spanish Rodeo; seconded by Mr. Farney. Mr. Hall said that this application is a little different as this is for an annual license for an event at a property that is not owned by the applicant. They will provide a list for the Sheriff of the dates of the rodeos. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

VIII. New Business: Items to be recommended to the County Board

A. Adjustment of Financial Assurance for the California Ridge Wind Farm (Champaign County Special Use Permit 696-S-11)

MOTION by Ms. Locke to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving the Adjustment of Financial Assurance for the California Ridge Wind Farm (Champaign County Special Use Permit 696-S-11); seconded by Mr. Farney.

Mr. Hall said that this is the fourth time this has been presented for adjustment. It was done by a different engineer this year. They use a more standard approach. We could not compare it to previous years due to the difference in methodology. The net result was the decommissioning was reduced by 16%.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

The question was asked if the engineer should be present for the County Board. The answer was yes.

B. Zoning Case 198-AM-26. A request by Patrick Duda to amend the Zoning Map to allow for the development of one single family residential lot in the AG-1 Agriculture Zoning District by adding the Rural Residential Overlay (RRO) Zoning District in conjunction with related County Board Special use Permit Case 199-S-26 on a proposed 5.09-acre lot in the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 26, Township 21 North, Range 7 East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Newcomb Township, being the north 5.09-acres of an existing 10.18-acre lot at the southwest corner of CR 2600N and 500E with an address of 2595 CR 500E, Mahomet.

MOTION by Mr. Farney to approve Zoning Case 198-AM-26 to allow for the development of one single family residential lot in the AG-1 Agriculture Zoning District; seconded by Ms. Settles.

Mr. Hall said that this is related to item VIII. C. Zoning Case 199-S-26. ZBA voted to recommend both for approval. Mr. Esry asked if this is approved, can it be divided again.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

C. Zoning Case 199-S-26. A request by Patrick Duda to authorize a Special Use Permit for a Rural Residential Overlay (RRO) Zoning District for one single family residential lot in conjunction with related map amendment case 198-AM-26.

MOTION by Ms. Locke to approve Zoning Case 199-S-26 for a Rural Residential Overlay (RRO) Zoning District; seconded by Mr. Esry.

Mr. Hall said there are several factors to be considered, especially septic suitability. The ZBA added a special condition that a statement has to be added to the plat of survey stating that the septic suitability of soils on the property is much worse than typical county conditions and a septic system

may not be feasible on the property. It would be a more expensive fix, likely with a curtain drain. Mr. Farney asked if we are creating two or three lots. That was a typo and we are only creating two.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

D. **Zoning Case 202-AT-26.** Amend the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance to extend a temporary safety moratorium on Carbon Sequestration Activity for six months.

MOTION by Ms. Settles to recommend County Board approval of Zoning Case 202-AT-26 to amend the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance to extend a temporary safety moratorium on Carbon Sequestration Activity for six months; seconded by Ms. Locke.

Mr. Hall stated that the ZBA voted 2 to 2 to recommend denial. One member was frustrated that this was the second extension and voted no. If the committee votes to extend, they will be going against the ZBA recommendation.

Mr. Esry asked how the Carbon Sequestration Task Force is progressing. He thought it should have been done by now. As far as we know, there is only one more meeting. It has not been scheduled. Ms. Locke added it would hopefully be soon.

Mr. Farney said he was not sure how he would vote. It is concerning that it has been going on for two years and we need to get this done.

MOTION by Mr. Farney to amend the motion to 90 days. The **MOTION DIED** for lack of a second. Mr. Esry said we could give the Task Force a deadline, but not sure how it could get through the entire process in 90 days. Ms. Locke added that the aquifer mapping was big reason for the delay in the process. Ms. Rodriguez suggested that a friendly email from the committee to the Task Force chair be sent encouraging them to meet soon would be helpful.

Mr. Farney asked if it would be possible to see a draft of the proposed ordinance; just for the committee's information and to help familiarize themselves with what might be coming.

Mr. Esry seconded Ms. Rodriguez's suggestion regarding an email from ELUC to the Task Force chair to encourage meeting soon.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** 5 to 1 (Yes: Esry, Locke, Rodriguez, Settles, Thorsland. No: Farney)

Discussion continued on sending an email from the ELUC committee to the Task Force chair. A straw poll was taken to send a strongly worded email to the Task Force chair encouraging them to meet soon and forward the proposed ordinance on for action.

E. **Annual Facility Inspection Report** for the period 4/1/25 – 3/31/26 for Champaign County's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Storm Water Discharge Permit with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

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MOTION by Mr. Farney to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving the Annual Facility Inspection Report; seconded by Mr. Esry.

Mr. Hall mentioned that, this year, the maps have street names added. This helps in identifying the areas. Also, Attachment F information is only from environmental justice areas.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

IX. Other Business

A. Monthly Reports - None

There were no monthly reports.

X. Chair's Report

This was Mr. Thorsland's last meeting. He gave a short farewell to the committee.

XI. Designation of Items to be Placed on the Consent Agenda

Items to be placed on the Consent Agenda include items VIII. A., B., C., and E.

XII. Adjournment

Chair Thorsland adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.