

City of Wausau Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Committee

MINUTES June 4, 2026

Members Present: Jean Abreu (C), Alder Carol Lukens, Jesse Kearns, Christine Daniels, Paul Kage, Britnie Remer, and Lauren Leitner

Others Present: Carrie Edmondson

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and transmitted to the Wausau Daily Herald in the proper manner.

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. The group went around with introductions.

2. Public comment.

No public comment was received.

3. Consideration of the minutes of the preceding meeting(s).

Motion/second to approve the May 7, 2026, minutes with modifications. Christine noted that Jesse Kearns was in attendance but not included and that Lauren made the motion to pass the minutes not Christine.

Daniels/Leitner motion to approve minutes with modifications, passed 6-0.

Carol arrived at 5:11 p.m.

4. Discussion and possible action.

a. Approval of Plan Development Timeline

Carrie reviewed the Plan Development Timeline which includes when various plan sections will come forward and the public engagement timeline. Both a Community Sustainability Survey and Business Sustainability Survey are being developed. The group noted that they would like to see each plan section for two consecutive months. Carrie will make the change and forward to the group.

Motion/second to approve Daniels/Kearns passed 7-0.

b. Approval Change July meeting date from Thursday July 2, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. to Thursday, July 9, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

- c. Change August meeting date from Thursday, August 6, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. to Thursday August 13, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
Daniels, Lukens motion and second to approve items b and c and change both dates, passed 7-0.

5. Discussion

- a. Overview of 350 Wisconsin grant to facilitate stakeholder engagement between the PSC and municipalities.
Britnie provided an overview of a Wisconsin 350 project to help communities that are underrepresented in engaging with the Public Service Commission (PSC). Three counties were identified, and Marathon County is one of them. Two events will be held in Marathon County, one will be in Wausau (July 28), and one will be in a more rural location (August 4). They are trying to better understand people's general understanding of the role of the PSC. She will provide more information about the project so that committee members can share the information out.
- b. Assignment of Work Plan objectives.
Christine led the group through the two goals that were identified through strategic planning to assign objectives and make them more timebound. The group talked about incorporating businesses (could be tours of sustainability improvements, restaurants), art projects, upcycle fashion show, tree planting, and the sustainability award. They talked about creating a presence at the Farmer's Market. The merit of concentrating events during the week itself versus featuring events held during the year throughout the week were discussed. Christine agreed to follow-up on Art in the Park and Night Market. Jesse agreed to follow up on the Farmer's Market. Britnie and Lauren agreed to think conceptually about how the events could work during an Earth Week celebration and bring back to the group.
- c. Climate Action Work Plan Background and Introduction Section
The group reviewed the Background and Introduction Section. Carrie will bring this section again in July.
- d. City solar array update
Eric submitted an EPA grant, and we should be hearing about that soon.
- e. Council presentation update
Jesse provided an update to Common Council in June and provided an overview of the information that he covered including the sustainability plan and UW Gardening class. He thought it would be helpful to make it more interactive Q & A. He is planning to provide an update to Council in August and every other month thereafter.

Christine left the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

6. Adjournment.

Motion/second to adjourn Kearns/Leitner to adjourn, passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.