



Rail Authority Meeting

Thursday, February 12, 2026, 5:00 pm

Region 1 Planning Council, 127 N Wyman, Rockford, IL 61101

Minutes

Members Present: Mike Schablaske, Chairman; Al Caruana; Pat Agnew; Leslie West; Paul Cicero (arrived 5:08); Jake Castanza; Isidro Barrios; David Anspaugh

Members Absent: Dianne Parvin

Others Present: Michael Dunn, Jr.; Gino Galluzzo; Amy Salamon; Molli Staroszczyk; Zack Oakley

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by Director Schablaske at 5:00 pm.

2. Roll Call

All members were present.

3. Public Comment

There were none present who wished to address the Board.

4. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of October 29, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Director Castanza, seconded by Director Agnew, to **approve** the Consent Agenda.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

5. Action Items

- a. Vote on Resolution 2026-01:** Acceptance of Winnebago County Rail Authority Appointment

Motion by Director Castanza, seconded by Director Caruana, to **approve** the Resolution.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

Director Castanza congratulated David Anspaugh on his appointment to the board.

- b. Vote on Resolution 2026-02:** Execution of Contract with Fulcrum for Government Consulting Services

Motion by Director West, seconded by Director Castanza, to **approve** the Resolution.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

Chairman Schablaske requested a clarification on how the resolution would affect the budget.

- c. Approval of 2026 Board Calendar**

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Motion by Director Anspaugh, seconded by Director Castanza, to **approve** the Resolution.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

During discussion, Mr. Dunn clarified that the Chairman has the authority to postpone or cancel a scheduled meeting at any time.

6. Reports

a. Q2 Financial Results

Mr. Dunn and Ms. Staroszczyk reviewed submitted and available grants that can be pursued for funding on behalf of the Authority.
Brief discussion followed.

b. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Dunn reported that discussions are ongoing at the state level regarding energy companies' requirements for new developments, which could impact current projects. Mr. Dunn will communicate the outcome of those discussions with the Authority as needed. Other jurisdictions have expressed interest in joining the Development Authority. Chairman Chiarelli expressed support and will make a recommendation on their inclusion and communicate that to the Authority.

There was some discussion, where Mr. Dunn answered questions from Directors.

c. Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Galluzzo made some statute modifications for the Authority that more accurately reflect expected responsibilities. These modifications will be reviewed by legislative groups before adoption.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Director Castanza, seconded by Director West to **adjourn**.

Meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm.

Opportunities for public comment will be provided at all meetings. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact the Region 1 Planning Council at 815-319-4180 at least two working days before the need for such services or accommodations.