

**Minutes of the Meeting of the May 14, 2026 Sawyer County
Administration Committee of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Board Room; Sawyer County**



Voting Committee Members (X) Present:

- ☒ Chair: Ron Kinsley
- ☒ Vice Chair: Ron Buckholtz
- ☒ Marshal Savitski
- ☒ John Righeimer
- ☒ Stacey Hessel

Mike Markgren
Liz Klein
Gary Elliot
Rose Lillyroot

Others Present:

Mike Coleson
Nicole Clapero- Virtual
Kay Wilson- Virtual
Carson Kipfer

Call to Order –Chair Ron Kinsley called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Certification of Compliance with the open meeting law was met. Roll Call taken; quorum was met.

Meeting Agenda – Set

Public Comments –

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: April 9, 2026

Motion to approve by: Mr. Buckholtz

Second by: Mr. Righeimer

Motion carried without negative vote.

County Clerk Report-

Ms. Klein provided a written department report and updated the committee on April department revenues.

Veterans Service Office Report -

Mr. Elliot provided a written report of April department activity: 499 phone calls, 1,157 letters/emails/faxes sent and 232 office visits. 65 disability claims have been filed to date with \$241,664.06 awarded in Veterans' favor. The department is co-hosting counseling sessions at La Crosse Vet Center and Coffee & Conversation; the social media report was provided. Mr. Elliot and Ms. Clapero attended a spring conference. The workload for disability claims continues to increase.

Veteran's Tribute Update-

Design/construction update- Quotes were received for flatwork and lighting. An issue arose with the site grade and an architect is needed to proceed. A nearby project was proposed to the public and local stakeholders by Carson Kipfer that could potentially impact the original tribute plan. Mr. Kipfer was invited to have a discussion with the Admin committee and explore the possibility of collaboration.

Mr. Kipfer presented his idea for a pedestrian plaza that would restore a greenspace and historical gateway to Main St.; his plan involves keeping the fountain in its original location. Ms. Hessel objected to changing the design and the timeline on the county project because it has already been approved and is in progress.

Mr. Kipfer concluded that the projects are two separate concepts and could proceed separately, and if the fountain is spoken for, the plaza can proceed without that element.

Ms. Hessel raised objections to the Administrator's role and stated the Supervisors voted to proceed with the first design.

Mr. Coleson provided a written IT report on ongoing IT projects and updated the committee on upgrading internet at satellite sites, email security, and TRH billing.

Ms. Lillyroot provided an update to the personnel policy manual regarding county staff use of AI platforms.

Discussion followed: proposed Board Policy and Procedure changes were discussed.

Motion carried without negative vote.

Ms. Hessel moved to table the Supervisors Policy and Procedures Manual until June, second by Marshal Savitski. Motion carried without negative vote.

County Administrator's Report—Mr. Markgren updated the committee on planned leadership training for an upcoming Department Head meeting, economic development and marketing events, the upcoming audit and 2027 Budget preparation, collaborative efforts with LCO Tribal Members to open ATV/UTV routes on LCO land, attending a BOA airport conference where the county was awarded Project of the Year for the runway resurfacing project, a meeting with Anew on marketing carbon credits, the CJCC TAD grant application and shared that Judges Isham and Smith recognized Melinda Hoyos for great work on truancy and diversion efforts.

Correspondence, reports from conferences and meetings— Information requested on the fall WCA Conference

Future Agenda Items- Personnel Policy Manual, Board Policy and Procedures

Adjournment – 11:26 am

Next Meeting: June 11, 2026 **Time:** 10:00 am **Location:** Board Room
Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk