



Notice of Public Meeting

AGENDA

Committee:	Recycling Committee
Date:	Thursday, March, 26, 2026
Time:	6 p.m.
Location:	3 rd Floor County Board Room, 407 S. 2 nd Street, Alma, WI 54610
Remote Access:	NONE

This meeting is open to the public, but portions of the meeting may be closed if this notice indicates that the committee may convene in closed session.

The following matters may be reviewed, discussed and acted upon at this meeting, but deviations from the order shown may occur:

1.	Review/Discussion/Action	Call to Order
2.	Review/Discussion/Action	Roll Call of Members
3.	Review/Discussion/Action	Public Comments Regarding Posted Agenda Items
4.	Review/Discussion/Action	Previous Meeting Minutes
5.	Review/Discussion/Action	Year End Report
6.	Review/Discussion/Action	Contracts
7.	Review/Discussion/Action	Clean Sweep for 2027
8.	Review/Discussion/Action	La Crosse Milling Rate
9.	Review/Discussion/Action	Committee Chair Report
10.	Review/Discussion/Action	Department Manager Report
11.	Review/Discussion/Action	Public Comments Unrelated to Agenda Items
12.	Review/Discussion/Action	Next Meeting Date and Time: TBD
13.	Review/Discussion/Action	Adjournment

Date: March 11, 2026

Max Weiss , Chair

By :Lisa Schmitt, County Clerk

Board Members: If unable to attend, please contact the Chair. If the Chair is unavailable, please contact the County Clerk's Office at 608-685-6209. If the Chair and the County Clerk are not available, please call the Administrative Coordinator at 608-685-6234.

Persons with Disabilities: Buffalo County shall attempt to provide reasonable accommodations to the public for access to its public meetings, provided reasonable notice of special need is given. If you require special accommodations to attend this meeting, please contact the County Clerk's Office at 608-685-6209.

Public Access to the Courthouse: The South Entrance will be the only access to the building after 4:30 p.m.

Persons who are members of another governmental body, but who are not members of this committee, may attend this meeting. Their attendance could result in a quorum of another governmental body being present. Such a quorum is unintended, and they are not meeting to exercise the authority, duties, or responsibilities of any other governmental body.

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Recycling Committee

Date of Meeting: September 11th, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Max Weiss at 6:05 p.m.

Max Weiss opened the meeting for the Recycling Committee and Rich Bauer took roll call.

Roll Call of Members: Mary Lisowski, Calvin Loewenhagen, Jeannie Czaplewski (absent), Claire Waters (absent), Jamey Davis, Bruce Kees, Perry Pronschinske, Michelle Loken, Bob Traun, Kevin Theismann, Brian Michaels (absent), Dwight Ruff, Max Weiss,

Public Present: One Observer.

Public Comment Regarding Posted Agenda Items: None

Review/Discussion/Action – Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting: Bruce Kees made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. Calvin Loewenhagen second the motion. Motion carried

Review/Discussion/ Action - Budget: Rich Bauer presented the committee with a proposed budget for 2026. This budget was very similar to 2025 with an increase in single steam hauling which will see an increase of 5 % in January of 2026. Dwight Ruff made a motion to accept the proposed budget and Michelle Loken 2nd it. Motion Carried

Review/Discussion – Electronic Recycler Vendor Switch: The committee was informed that a new vendor had been found and used in July for the first time. Their rates were considerable cheaper than the current vender and we plan to continue business with Com2 Recycling.

Review/Discussion – Green Circle Rate Increase: Green Circle notifies the county of another rate increase starting in January 2026 for the hauling of recyclables. An increase of 5% raising the rate from \$595 to \$625. This is in addition to the processing fee which was \$61.95 per ton in July and higher in August.

Review/Discussion –La Crosse Milling Rate: The rate for La Crosse Milling was discussed and Rich pointed out that the current rate just covers the cost for processing and does not cover any of the transportation costs for the recycling department. Rich will be in contact with La Crosse Milling to establish a new rate

Review/Discussion – Per Capita Rate and Billing: The increase in the per capita rate for 2026 was discussed as a reminder that an increase will be coming in 2026 as per the letter sent with the billing for 2025. Since this was already approved there was no action taken.

Review/Discussion/Action – Garage Door Purchase: Rich Bauer requested approval to purchase 2 roll up doors for the heated storage area at the Mondovi Recycling center. The current doors are large sliders with brush type sweeps that leak a large amount in the winter. 2 bids were submitted. The bid from B&W Contractors LLC. was chosen to do the work.

Chairmans Report: None

Department Manager Report: Rich Bauer stated he is looking into a continuous hazmat collection process that could reduce the cost of the current program and also recycle some of the items that are currently be disposed of that have use. Also being looked at are alternative sources for our single stream recycling which has seen its cost for hauling and processing increase significantly in the last year.

Public Comment Unrelated to Agenda Items: None

Review/Discussion/Action - Next Meeting Date and Time: The next Recycling meeting was set for Thursday, March 19th @ 6pm.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Max Weiss, Bruce Kees second the motion. Meeting adjourned 7:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Richard Bauer
Recycling Coordinator



Richard Bauer
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Buffalo County Recycling Program 2025 Annual Report to the Recycling Committee and County Board

To the County Board:

2025 was a year of learning and setting up efficiencies to make the program more cost effective. The Highway / Recycling position was eliminated when Tim Baker took a state route for the county. Tim will still be utilized to cover in the recycling department when I take extended vacations. This worked well in October and January of 2025/ 2026.

The Nelson site has been communicating the # of loads each week which allows for better planning of the routes and schedules. I continue to work to get the City of Alma to communicate this information as well although its been a challenge working with that group.

La Crosse Mill loads are now being hauled directly to Green Circle in La Crosse by myself. At an increased rate of \$250 per load verses the previous rate of \$175. By hauling one Buffalo each week in combination with the La Crosse load I eliminate approximately 2100 lbs. each week that needs to be hauled by Green Circle. This is approximately 35% of each load being hauled by Green Circle and I have been able to reduce their loads from 36 per year, to 25 loads per year. This equates to a \$12,000 savings for 2026. The budget for 2025 was 16.9% below budget. \$26,970 savings due to reduced staffing. \$2000 due to new vendor for hauling electronics. \$2200 not spent on machinery and equipment. Areas that were overbudget include \$8323 for new garage doors. \$3025, due to a major repair to the older truck was required due to some cracked DEF piping that was causing some issues. I continue to run this truck weekly to cover Gilmanton and Modena loads to keep it in running order. Also to make sure a backup is available in case issues were to arise with the new truck which is approaching 100,000 miles.

The annual report contains tables to compare previous years' data with 2025.

I welcome any comments, recommendations, and feedback as we move into 2026, and I remain committed to making improvements and efficiencies within the program.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bauer
Recycling Coordinator.

Section I: 2025 Fiscal Report

Revenues and Fund Balance Requirements

Based on the 2025 Revenue Guideline adopted by the County Board, revenues were projected to be \$144,087 including a \$99,400 DNR Recycling Grant. With annual budgeted expenses projected to be \$168,012.

Expenses

Based on the adopted Recycling budget for 2025, expenses were projected to be \$168,012 The final 2025 expenditure figures suggest that expenses are \$143,771 or 16.9 % Under budget.

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Revenue	\$150,905.54	\$153,388.00	\$141,216	\$146,426.00	\$144,518.37
Expenses	\$149,132.59	\$155,636.00	\$147,397.00	\$170,179.00	\$143,771.34
Revenue Less Expenses	+\$1,772.95	-\$2,248.00	-\$6,181.00	-\$23,753	\$747.03
Adopted Expenses	\$198,776	\$184,903	\$157,156	\$168,429	\$168,012
	Tony took over the Recycling and Solid Waste Depts on Dec 13 th of 2021. Expenses were \$49,643 or 25% under budget	Expenses were \$29,267 or 15.8% under budget	Jan 1 st , 2023 was the transition for BBC&M to be serviced by WRT. This budget represents the first year expenses without them. Expenses were \$9,759 or 6.3% under budget		16.9 % Under Budget.

Year	Recycling Fund begging balance.
2024	\$ 169,369
2025	\$ 144,518
2026	\$ 150.805 Estimated

Section II: Loads, Tonnage, Appliance Data and Electronic Data

The County's recycling program has continued to evolve since its inception in the early 1990's. For over a decade, materials were separated into multiple streams and marketed to vendors directly. In 2014 the County switched to a dual-stream program, where the sorting requirements were reduced to only two categories – containers (glass, plastic, aluminum, and tin) and fibers (newspaper and cardboard). Then in 2020 the program evolved into a single-stream system, where all recyclables can be co-mingled. The changes in our system have impacted the labor side and simplified recycling for the public by not having to sort recyclables. The same recyclables continue to be hauled but can now be hauled together in the same roll-off containers. The conversion to single stream has improved efficiencies by reducing the hauling of less-than-full roll-off containers due to previous sorting requirements. The tables below represent various categories of information that provide an overview of recycling program outcomes:

Table 1.0 Loads from Municipal Sites

Site	2023 LD	2024 LD	2025 LD	2023 TN	2024 TN	2025 TN
BBC&M (site)	**N/A	**N/A	**N/A	96.57	94.4	92.37
Town of Buffalo	76	58	60	36.32	25	24.4
Gilmanton	52	23	52	23.03	22.9	21.1
Maxville	14	14	13	5.76	6	5.3
Modena	24	25	24	10.63	10.8	9.7
Town of Nelson	99	95	78	42.97	41	31.7
Town of Alma	31	39	40	15.5	16.8	16.2
City of Alma	103	104	102	44.3	44.9	41.4
City of Mondovi (site)	114	110	104	44.3	47.4	42.2
City of Mondovi (Curbside Durand Sanitation)	N/A	N/A	N/A	162.63	224.5	226
LaCrosse Milling	31	38	42	15	19	21
Totals	544	495.29	544	495	550.0	531

** 2023 was the first year BBC&M was serviced by Waste Recycling & Transfer, LLC
9 Tons hauled directly to La Crosse.

2021 - 743 loads @ 920 pounds per load average
2022 - 751 loads @ 886 pounds per load average
2023 - 544 loads @ 814 pounds per load average
2024 - 536 loads @ 862 pounds per load average
2025 - 515 loads @ 813 pounds per load average

Table 2.0: COMPACTED LOADS TO PROCESSOR

Green Circle Recycling (2021)	51 Loads
Green Circle Recycling (2022)	52 Loads
Green Circle Recycling (2023)	36 Loads
Green Circle Recycling (2024)	36 Loads
Green Circle Recycling (2025)	32 Loads

Table 3.0: ANNUAL TONNAGE PROCESSED

	Loads	Ave/Load	Total tons of single stream shipped.
2021	51	6.71 Ton	342.07
2022	52	6.40 Ton	332.66
2023	36	6.15 Ton	221.38
2024	36	6.42 Ton	231.17
2025	32	6.41 Ton	205.99

We shipped 206 tons of single stream recyclables to Green Circle
 GFI collected 226 tons (Curbside) City of Mondovi
 Waste Recycling & Transfer, LLC collected 92.37 tons (BBC&M)
 9.1 Tons hauled directly Started 10-21-25
Total 540 tons Single Stream Recyclables in 2025

Table 4.0: FEE PER TRIP HAULING

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
La Crosse Milling	18	30	31	38	42

The sole business that pays the County to haul their recyclable fibers away is La Crosse Milling located in Cochrane. The County bills La Crosse Milling \$250 per load transported to the recycling center in Mondovi until 10-21-25. Then loads were hauled directly to Green Circle in La Crosse.

Table 5.0: REFRIGERANT APPLIANCES

Site	2022	2023	2024	2025
BBC & M	44	60	35	NA
Town of Nelson	17	14	13	33
City of Mondovi	95	88	87	81
Total Collected	156	162	135	114

147 units shipped for recycling from Mondovi at a cost of \$ 9.70 each

Table 6.0: ELECTRONICS

Site	2022	*2023	2024	2025
BBC&M	169	128	143	0
City of Mondovi	167	307	169	102
Total Collected	336	435	312	102
Total Pounds		23,082	16,555	5197

*First full year of being an E-Cycle Wisconsin Registered Collector and reporting total pounds of EED collected to the Wi DNR. (In the past only the total number collected was reported)

Estimated 2.5 tons of electronics recycled in 2025, Mondovi receipts for this were \$2461 verses expenses of \$0. Collected 396 fluorescent bulbs. Received \$433 and paid \$268.35. BBC&M collected in 2025 but did not ship anything in that year. 5700 lbs were shipped in Jan of 2026 and will show on next years report.

Table 7.0: Tires

Site	2022	2023	2024	2025
Mondovi and Nelson	\$3175.49	\$4648.49	\$6057.70	\$2673.93
Dates hauled	4-22	4-23	3-24& 10-24	11-06-25
Total Tons	8.4tn	12.81	15.1	5.95
Rate per tn	\$300 tn	\$320tn	\$350/\$375	400

Tire rates have increased year after year for the previous 4 years and I would expect them to continue. We may have to look at price adjustments in the future if they continue to increase. \$2654 was collected in 2025 for tires for Mondovi and Nelson, Charges for 2025 were \$2673.93.

Section III: PERSONNEL

In 2024, the County Recycling program was operated by a staff of two employees. One position is a full-time Recycling Coordinator (40 hours per week), and one position is split with the Hwy Dept (10 hours per week Recycling and 30 hours per week Hwy Dept). Both employees were hired in 2024 so they are gaining experience on the job. Richard Bauer was hired as the Recycling Coordinator. Tim Baker was hired for the Hwy Dept.

In 2025 Tim went to full time for the Hwy Department but is being utilized to cover for vacation time when required.

With the changes to the program since 2020, the manpower hours per week to operate the Recycling/Solid Waste Depts has been reduced. The following is a breakdown to illustrate:

2020: Randy (40) + Tony (20) + Bruce (10) = 70 hours per week

2021: Randy (40) + Tony (20) + Bruce (10) = 70 hours per week

2022: Tony (40) + Rafael (20) = 60 hours per week

2023: Tony (40) + Rafael (10) = 50 hours per week

2024: Tony/Rich + Rafael/Tim= 50 hours per week

2025: Rich (40) Tim as required= 40 hours per week

Section IV: OPERATIONS AND FUTURE PLANNING

2025 was an efficient year for Buffalo County Recycling as no big purchases were required. We did have a \$4900.00 mechanical repair. Costs at all levels seem to be increasing but I will do my best to keep them under control.

Any number of considerations, such as program growth and associated costs, the fiscal impact of a disappearing fund balance, the potential for greater cooperation with the Highway Department or Private Sector. The potential for other municipalities to join or leave the program would all create situations that could stimulate potential changes in the program.



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