



VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB

E. Main Street

Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Phone: (608) 437-6884 Fax: (608) 437-3190

Email: mhinfo@mounthorebwi.info Web: mounthorebwi.info

SUSTAINABILITY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Municipal Building Board Room

138 E. Main Street

Mount Horeb, WI

- 1) Call to order
 - a. Roll Call
- 2) Public Comments
- 3) Consent Agenda
 - a. Consideration of June 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes
 - b. Adopt A Municipality Reports
 - c. Green Team Update
- 4) Agenda Items
 - a. Yard in a Yard Program - Katie Hartman
 - b. Bird City Designation
 - c. Bike City Designation
 - d. Pollinatory Pathway Discussion
 - e. 2026 Budget Request
 - f. Idling Reduction Project
 1. Idling Reduction Utility Mailing Update
 2. Discussion on idling reduction column
 - g. Discussion on Renewable Diesel
- 5) Future Agenda Items
- 6) Meeting adjournment.

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SUSTAINABILITY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 7:00 PM

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

- 1) Call to order
Chair White called the meeting to order at 7:00. Members present: White, Grabe and Roethle. Members absent: Beheler, Saltes and Halverson. Also Present: Administrator Owen.
- 2) Public Comments
No comments.
- 3) Consent Agenda
Motion by Roethle to approve the consent agenda, second by Grabe. Motion carried.
 - a. Consideration of May 27, 2025 Meeting Minutes
 - b. Adopt a Municipality Reports
 - c. Green Team Update
 - d. Solsmart Update
- 4) Agenda Items
 - a. Pollinator Pathway Update
Beheler was unable to attend this month and will present this item at the July meeting.
 - b. Bird City Update
White presented a handout with details on the Bird City program. There are two tiers based on the number of points scored and a \$175 annual membership fee. The program includes a tool kit with program ideas. The consensus of the committee was to discuss again next month, but it was worth consideration.
 - c. Bike City Update
Roethle volunteered to research program requirements for next month's meeting.

- d. **Report on Sustainability Leaders Collaborative Meeting**
Roethle reported on the meeting highlighting elective pay, the Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition, population growth, sustainability plans, goals and priorities, and Madison seeking renewable diesel partners. White added he talked to Kathy Kunz about monthly updates on what all Dane County sustainability committees are doing. Kunz is sending out a note in the next newsletter to encourage committees to include an update. Grabe added that she has signed up for a renewable diesel webinar in September.
 - e. **Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition Membership**
The committee discussed the membership requirements and Administrator Owen added he felt like it would be a good fit. Owen will reach out to their staff to start the process. The Village Board would need to adopt a resolution approving the membership but there is no fee to join. Motion by Grabe to recommend the Village join the Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition, seconded by Roethle. Motion carried.
- 5) **Future Agenda Items**
Future agenda items include: Pollinator Pathways, Bird City and Bike City Designations, Green Team and Solsmart Updates, 2026 SNR Budget Request.
- 6) **Meeting adjournment.**
Motion by Grabe to adjourn, seconded by Roethle. Motion carried at 7:23 p.m.

7/1/25 Green Team Meeting Notes



Green Team meeting notes 🇺🇸

Happy July 4th. Sending you notes from Tuesday's meeting. It's exciting to see new faces at our gathering, and to see projects unfolding through our community.

Attendance is recorded on the team's shared document (see link below).

Consent items, starting with the travel green designation that originated from the chamber of commerce, village tourism and SNR committees. The program works with local businesses to work in conjunction with the state tourism board. Designation involves following practices which encourage sustainability. Jennifer volunteered to take on the task, joined by Tim White and Elizabeth Grabe.

Next up was a short discussion about our Water treatment facility to adopt adaptive management using permanent cover crops and to remove land from traditional agriculture. Members are requested to reach out to land owners south of town and consider enrolling in a conservation easement. 20 acres of prairie has been planted out by the facility.

Questions about how much solar energy use there is in the village. The village has the Sol Smart bronze designation: silver is possible once some zoning updates are enacted. WIPPI presentation is available on the [village meeting archives](#) sometime in 2023. Also discussed was a \$75k grant from Slipstream for audit / energy use survey. Bill Dunnington mentioned that he has experience with working with solar in schools, churches, parking lots.

A program available from Rotary, "Operation Pollination". Katie spoke about the pollinator incentive program, "a yard for every yard" with handout, (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vz4uK8NZYgm8vfvvELhmahOxdBzF2JRGTMvoxuFMnSQ/edit?usp=sharing>) going over time line, and steps to get village-wide buy in, she is working with ? Johnson to get a selection of annuals so participants can see flowers in the first season. Sow seeds in October, spring start showing photos of the process, and the desired plants. She believes we don't have the time to launch, but we can get possible sites for pilot program with green team members.

Action items: find yards and locations in town for the pilot program this year, document the process for outreach next year.

Tim: get in touch with Mt. Horeb mail about the project after No Mow May next year.

Katie is willing to do some of the work entailed such as seed collection, or installation. Carolyn from the community garden and garden club mentioned using Himsel park garden tour in August as a suggestion. Having signage designating participants was discussed, as well as options for working with pots instead of yard, installing around mailboxes, site selection. Signage from the Pollinator pathway was passed around as an example of signage.

Organization & housekeeping: getting the EIN# and registration with the IRS
Centralized email address using google account, workspace, options with MHTC, registering a domain name. Jennifer volunteered to look into setting up a gmail address.
Using a [shared document](#) with the calendar of events, scheduling content, having a link to our page on the Rotary club website. Some discussion of the Facebook page, if members are interested in producing content on Facebook have them friend [Elizabeth Grabe](#) to be added.

Future agenda items: bird city information was discussed and would be easy to initiate, bike friendly city.

Forming committees for the various projects was discussed with a few members volunteering to help coordinate.

Climate champions nomination deadline has been extended to **July 14th** Dane County Office of Energy and Climate change reminder. More information is on this link:
<https://daneclimateaction.org/initiatives/Climate-Champions>

Discussion touched lightly on bird city status, which will be discussed further by the village SNR committee, as well as feasibility of consideration of bike friendly city status.

Meeting adjourned 8:00

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Bird City Wisconsin

PHOTO CREDIT

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[Bird City Wisconsin](#) > [Apply and Renew](#)

Apply and Renew

How to apply for designation

All applications and renewals must be submitted ONLINE.
Contact us to set up an account.

BIRD CITY RECOGNITION

Achieve a total of at least 9 points, meeting all of the following conditions:

- a) A minimum of nine actions
- b) At least four actions in Habitat, including at least one of the following taken by the municipality itself:
 - Tree City USA status (1.1.4)
 - Completion of Wisconsin DNR's Wisconsin Community Tree Management Institute (1.1.6)
 - Native species in public or large-scale private landscaping (1.3.3)
 - Native species in annual street tree and non-street tree budgets (1.3.4)
 - A moratorium on trimming and mowing (1.5.1)
 - Another action taken by your municipality
- c) At least three actions from Education & Engagement, including the following:
 - World Migratory Bird Day (3.1.1)
 - An officially enacted resolution (3.7.1)
- d) At least one action in every category

HIGH FLYER RECOGNITION

Achieve a total of at least 22 points, meeting all of the following conditions:

- a) A minimum of six actions worth 2 or more points from at least two categories
- b) Requirements b, c, and d in "Bird City Status" (above)
- c) Action 2.1.4 in category 2 (Threats to Birds) showing that your community does not support outdoor cats

PAYMENT

The fee for both initial applications and annual renewal applications is \$175 (non-refundable).

PAY ONLINE: [Click here](#)

PAY BY MAIL: Send a check made out to "Bird City Wisconsin" to:

(NOTE: This is a new address, effective December 1, 2024)

Bird City Wisconsin
c/o Lake Michigan Bird Observatory
PO Box 487
Port Washington, WI 53704

**If you pay by mail, please send an email to director "at" birdcitywisconsin.org with the subject line "Application/Renewal Fee Paid By Mail" and in the body of the email enter your community's name.*

New Applicants

Submission: Rolling

Review: Rolling

Fee: \$175 (non-refundable)

Renewals

Submission: March 15

Review: Begins March 15

Fee: \$175 (non-refundable)

[View Action List](#)

[Back to top](#)

**Bird City Network. Overall information: <https://birdcity.org/>
Making our communities healthy for birds ...and people**

Bird City Wisconsin, the first Bird City program, provides highly visible public recognition to municipalities that understand that healthy communities are the sum of many parts, including birds. We support our communities in their efforts to protect and manage green space, educate their citizens, build and erect nesting structures, landscape with native plants, reduce threats to birds such as collisions and outdoor cats, and generally make urban areas both friendlier for birds and places where people want to live and work.

To earn Bird City designation, communities fulfill a specific number of actions across 4 categories (below). The specifics of their achievements can be viewed on [each community's webpage](#). In general, we ask community teams to focus on the following types of actions:

1. HABITAT

- 1.1. Promote best management of community habitat
- 1.2. Create and protect habitat
- 1.3. Promote native plants
- 1.4. Control invasive plants
- 1.5. Provide nesting habitat
- 1.6. Support focal species
- 1.7. Ensure clean water in natural waterways

2. THREATS TO BIRDS

- 2.1. Address disturbance by harmful species
- 2.2. Address collisions with glass
- 2.3. Address light pollution
- 2.4. Address direct human-related threats
- 2.5. Address the threat of pesticides and other toxins

3. EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT

- 3.1. [Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day \(WMBD\)](#) - see [About: Bird City Network](#) for theme and links
- 3.2. Increase awareness of birds and their habitats
- 3.3. Educate and engage all ages
- 3.4. Ensure access to nature
- 3.5. Involve the community in conservation and stewardship
- 3.6. Promote scientific research and monitoring
- 3.7. Mobilize support / funding for community bird conservation

4. SUSTAINABILITY

- 4.1. Educate residents about climate impacts and renewable energy
- 4.2. Reduce energy use and carbon emissions
- 4.3. Promote sustainable infrastructure and practices

Within this framework, each [Bird City Program](#) curates a customized action list that communities work from to apply for designation. These custom action lists are found on each program's Apply/Renew page and serve as a valuable educational tool in their own right. Through the action list, community leaders can determine the types of actions that are needed, think about what is already being done locally, and chart a course for bird-friendly action over time that fits with broader community conservation goals.

Requirements: Achieve a total of at least 9 points, meeting all of the following conditions:

a) A minimum of nine actions

b) At least four actions in Habitat, including at least one of the following taken by the municipality itself:

- Tree City USA status (1.1.4)
- Completion of Wisconsin DNR's Wisconsin Community Tree Management Institute (1.1.6)
- Native species in public or large-scale private landscaping (1.3.3)
- Native species in annual street tree and non-street tree budgets (1.3.4)
- A moratorium on trimming and mowing (1.5.1)
- Another action taken by your municipality

Tree City Mount Horeb: Mt H Public Services Department is responsible for managing and maintaining Mount Horeb's urban forest, including over 4,000 street trees and hundreds of park trees. The Village has shown its commitment to forestry management by earning a "Tree City USA" status every year since 1997.

To qualify for Tree City USA, municipalities must have a Tree Board, adopt a Community Tree Ordinance, have a Community Forestry Program, and have an Arbor Day Celebration.
<https://www.mounthorebwi.info/192/Urban-Forestry#:~:text=The%20Mount%20Horeb%20Public%20Services,have%20an%20Arbor%20Day%20Celebration.>

c) At least three actions from Education & Engagement, including the following:

- World Migratory Bird Day (3.1.1)
- An officially enacted resolution (3.7.1)

d) At least one action in every category

Welcome Back Bird Day: part of the annual requirement for the Bird City designation (publicly celebrating bird migration).

Date: Wednesday, May 21st (always the third Wednesday of May)

Location: Wherever you deem safe, and advantageous to your health and personal recreational objectives. People will be actively birding area locales. Bird for as long as you like (between the hours of whenever AM and whenever PM), with whatever company you deem appropriate.



Bicycle Friendly Communities

The League of American Bicyclists' Bicycle Friendly Community Program ranks communities across the United States as Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze and honorable mention.

The **Bicycle Friendly Community program** provides incentives, hands-on assistance and award recognition for communities that actively support bicycling through a combination of infrastructure, programs and policies. There are currently **22** Wisconsin Bicycle Friendly Communities in the **League of American Bicyclists Award Database** (select WI from the map and scroll for lists):

- **Platinum:** Madison
- **Silver:** Appleton, Fitchburg, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Shorewood, Stevens Point, Sun Prairie
- **Bronze:** Eau Claire, Green Bay, Janesville, Kenosha County, Menasha, Menomonie, Monona, Onalaska, River Falls, Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Sturgeon Bay, Verona, West Allis



People on bicycles are an indicator species for vibrant, economically healthy communities where people want to live, work, do business and visit. Investments in bicycling yield tremendously high returns at a very small cost. Bicycling is such a cost-effective, simple solution for so many of today's complicated problems, it's no wonder communities across the state are working to make themselves more bicycle friendly.

Get started in applying for a Bicycle Friendly Community Award!

- Begin by downloading and reading the **Bicycle Friendly Community Overview**.
- Take a few minutes to evaluate your community with this quick **Bicycle Friendly Community Scorecard**.
- Visit the League's **Application Portal**. The online application and process will require some research into demographics and infrastructure to complete.
- Plan your strategy for pitching bicycle-friendly improvements.
- Gather support.
- Call your government official and request a meeting.
- Ask for something specific and try to get a specific commitment. A good starting point is to ask if the person will submit the application for Bicycle Friendly Community status.
- Follow up and follow up (and follow up).
- Consider hiring the Bike Fed to create and submit your application – We have a proven track record of procuring designations including Madison's Platinum Status.

The Five E's of the League of American Bicyclists Ranking Assessment:

- **ENGINEERING** – Bike lanes, bike routes, trails, bike parking, etc.
- **EDUCATION** – Availability of cycling education, safety materials, Safe Routes to School programs and number of League cycling instructors
- **ENCOURAGEMENT** – Bike to Work Week events, Bike Challenge participation, printed materials such as maps and brochures, fun events like Tour de Fat, etc.
- **EVALUATION and PLANNING** – Community Bike Plan, annual bike counts, evaluation of crash data, mode share, etc.
- **EQUITY** – while not an official "E", equity is an important consideration, and is the recognition that recognize that youth, women and people of color are underrepresented in many bike advocacy efforts and local transportation decisions.

Funding and Technical Assistance Grant Opportunities courtesy of League of American Bicyclists as of February 2025:

- AARP Community Challenge Grant
 - <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/>
 - Their microgrant category includes a Bike Audit microgrant that includes funding and technical assistance from the League of American Bicyclists!
- USDOT Grant links:
 - Key Notices of Funding Opportunities: <https://www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/key-notices-funding-opportunity>
 - Discretionary Grants dashboard: <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/dashboard>
- U.S. Conference of Mayors Grant Application Bootcamp:
 - <https://localinfrastructure.org/application-bootcamp/>
- Federal Funding Resources from the League:
 - <https://bikeleague.org/federal-funding-resources/>
 - <https://data.bikeleague.org/in-this-report/federal-transportation-funding/>

Keep Wisconsin Biking Strong!

Wisconsin Bike Fed's advocacy work to help residents and communities is made possible thanks to our supporters. Please consider making a gift or joining as an organizational member today!

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MAY 14, 2025

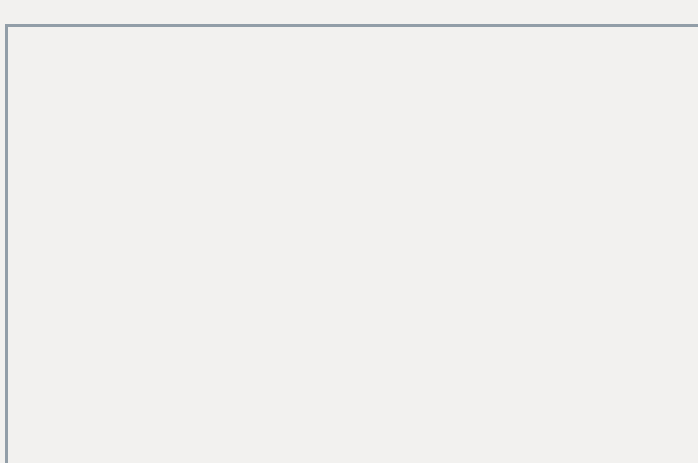


ADVOCACY

Wisconsin River Recreational Bridge

May 8 2025 Celebration of Progress

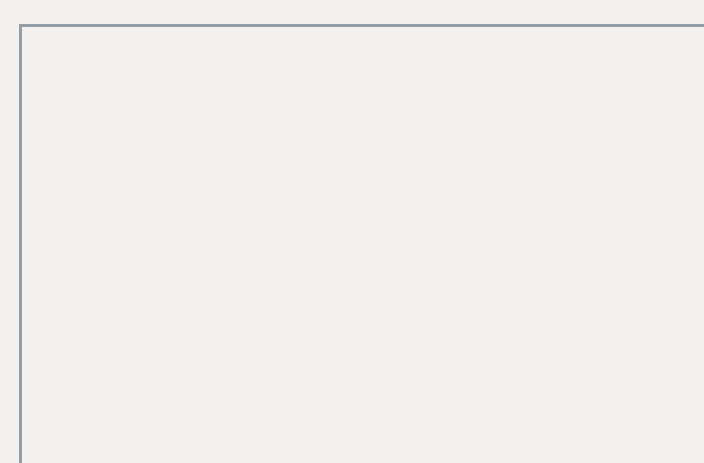
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Things are Moving so Fast

... And Not All of it is Great

APRIL 24, 2025



What Do you Do with Unimaginable Grief?

In partnership with Madison Bikes and Machinery Row, Alicia Bosscher and Dirk...

We're building a better, more bike-friendly Wisconsin.

The Bike Fed is here to cultivate, motivate and unite a strong community of residents as well as business and political leaders to move bicycling forward in Wisconsin – through education, legislation and involvement.

[SUPPORT US!](#)



Our Locations

187 E Becher Street - Suite B
Milwaukee, WI 53207-1245

612 W Main St - Suite 200
Madison, WI 53703-4714

Office Hours Vary. Visits by Appointment.

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AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

July 22, 2025

PREPARED BY

Nicholas Owen, Administrator

AGENDA ITEM # 4.e

2026 Budget Request

BACKGROUND

In 2025, \$1,000 was approved for the SNR to use for projects. So far, we have committed funds to printing flyers for the idling campaign. In July, Committees review their proposed budget requests to submit to the Finance and Personnel Committee for review in October.

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

None