



VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB

E. Main Street

Mount Horeb, WI 53572

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

Email: [mhinfo@mounthorebwi.info](mailto:mhinfo@mounthorebwi.info) Web: [mounthorebwi.info](http://mounthorebwi.info)

**SUSTAINABILITY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 7:00 PM**

Municipal Building Board Room

138 E. Main Street

Mount Horeb, WI

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items\*
- 3) Consent Agenda
  - a. Consideration of October 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes
  - b. Consider bike friendly community designation
  - c. Green Team Update
  - d. Addition to Wastewater Treatment Utility Adaptive Management Program
  - e. Food Waste Pickup Location Update
  - f. Report on Sustain Dane Summit
- 4) Agenda Items
  - a. Review of Dark Sky Standards for Revised Zoning Code
  - b. Announcement of Mount Horeb Green Team receiving official Community Corps Recognition from Rotary International
  - c. SolSmart Wind-down and Timeline for Incentive Sunset
  - d. Bird City Designation Application
  - e. Board Discussion on SNR Park Proclamation
  - f. 2026 Budget Update and Discussion
- 5) Future Agenda Items
- 6) Meeting adjournment.

**\*Public Comment Policy**

Members of the public are invited to speak at meetings of all Mount Horeb Public Bodies. To comment, please complete a Public Comment Form at the Meeting Room entrance and submit it to staff before the meeting begins. Comments are limited

to **three minutes**, must be made from the podium, and the speaker must return to the audience after speaking.

- **Non-agenda item comments** are heard at the start of the meeting. Public Body members and staff will not engage in discussion during public comment but may consider topics for future agendas.
- **Agenda item comments** are heard during the relevant item, after the proposers or staff present the item and before Public Body discussion. All public comments on the item will be heard before any discussion by the Public Body.

Members of the public will only be allowed to speak outside these public comment times if they are invited by the meeting chair to share additional information requested by the Public Body. If so invited to speak, the member of the public must do so from the podium.

Written comments are also welcome. Written comments shall include the name and address of the submitter and should be submitted to the Deputy Treasurer/Governance Coordinator by email at [niki.erickson@mounthorebwi.info](mailto:niki.erickson@mounthorebwi.info) (subject line: *Public Comment Request-Name of Public Body*) or delivered by to the Village at: 138 E Main Street, Mount Horeb WI, 53572, ATTN *Public Comment Request-Name of Public Body*.

UPON REASONABLE NOTICE, EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEEDS OF DISABLED INDIVIDUALS THROUGH APPROPRIATE AIDS AND SERVICES. FOR INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST THIS SERVICE, CONTACT ALYSSA GAFFNEY, CLERK, AT 138 E MAIN STREET, MOUNT HOREB, WI (608) 437-9404.



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### **SUSTAINABILITY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 7:00 PM**

#### **DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

- 1) Call to order  
Chair White called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present: White, Beheler, Grabe, Rothle and Saltes. Absent: Best. Also present: Administrator Owen.
- 2) Public Comments  
None
- 3) Consent Agenda  
Motion by Beheler to approve the consent ageand as presented, seconded by Roethle. Motion carried.
  - a. Consideration of September 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes
  - b. Green Team Report
  - c. Adopt a Municipality Report
- 4) Agenda Items
  - a. Discussion with Nic Veech on Styrofoam Recycling Collection Point  
Nic Veech of Eco Synergy Partners, a nonprofit, provided an overview of his Styrofoam recycling program and the importance of keeping Styrofoam out of landfills. As part of his program, Veech provides bags for households or a central collection point for drop off. From there, he takes the Styrofoam to Reynolds Recycling in Madison. Reynolds does not charge for the drop off of the material. Reynolds grinds the Styrofoam down and ships it off to be manufactured into various products. The estimated fee for the first year of service would be \$1,500, including education, bags for collection and collection and transportation. The problem with a central collection site is that it would need to be monitored to verify the Styrafoam is clean, and no other materials are deposited. The Styrofoam must be clean and dry to be recycled. Lori Whitman, citizen member of McFarland's Sustainability Committee, was also present; she started the program on her own with the support of the McFarland Village Board and collects the Styrafoam herself, and when

she has a full load, takes it to Renyolds. Saltes asked if the education component included talking to restaurants about alternatives to Styrafoam take-out containers. Veech stated it did, but price was a big factor in restaurants using them. The committee thanked Veech and Whitman for their time.

b. Approval of Mount Horeb Receration Complex Proclamation

The committee discussed the requirement for 50% native plantings. The consensus was it was good as is and referred to 50% of the species planted versus 50% of the area. The committee discussed the last paragraph and Grabe suggested adding "for recommendation" to the end of the sentence, to strengthen the language. Motion by Saltes to approve the proclamation with the amendment, second by Grabe. Motoin carried.

c. Sustainability Plan Update

Saltes reported that Diane Stojanovich has sent emails to several professors at the Nelson institute about students taking on the project. She is also working to set up a meeting with staff at UniverCity Alliance to discuss the project. Saltes will report back next month on progress.

d. Bird City Designation

Beheler reviewed the packet information with the committee looking for feedback on the timeline for approval, with the budget funds needing to be approved by the end of the year. Beheler feels we have a lot of the work done already between the work of the Committee and her own birding activity. Beheler will work with the Green Team on getting the application together for review at the November meeting for submission for Village Board approval in December. The Committee thanked Beheler for all her work on the application material.

e. Bike Friendly City Update

Scott Roethle reviewed his Blke Friendly City article with the group. Beheler suggested expanding on the levels of recognition. Grabe said he could expand on things that the cities do to earn the levels, such as Madison's Bcycle partnership to offer rentable e-bikes. Roethle will make the edits and submit for publication.

f. Recap of Slipstream Public Engagement Meeting and Final Report

Administrator Owen reported that Slipstream has not finished their work on the plan, but will have it ready for review at our November meeting. He added the public meeting had moderate attendance, but the attendees were all very well engaged and provided good feedback. He also thanked the Library and Library Director Jessica Gretzinger for allowing the display boards to remain up for an extra two weeks to provide additional feedback.

5) Future Agenda Items

Zoning Code Rewrite, Styrafoam Recycling Program Discussion, Bird City Update, Bike Friendly City Update, 2025 Budget Update, Green Team Update,

Slipstream Energy Plan, Update on Green Team Official Rotary Community Corp Announcement, Stewart Lake Stormwater Project.

6) Meeting adjournment.

Motion by White to adjourn, seconded by Beheler. Motion carried. 8:18 p.m.

## **Update on the Bicycle Friendly Community Application**

The Mount Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee has been actively researching and compiling information for the Village's 2026 application to the League of American Bicyclists' *Bicycle Friendly Community* program.

To date, the committee has completed the following activities:

- Begun drafting the sample application, including substantial progress on the Engineering and Planning sections.
- Developed and launched a community survey to gather resident input.
- Submitted a "Sustainability Notes" article to the *Mount Horeb Mail* to promote the survey and raise public awareness.
- Engaged with the Mount Horeb Green Team to coordinate community outreach efforts.

Our preliminary review indicates several opportunities for improvement if the Village aims to earn a Bicycle Friendly Community designation:

- The 2020 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan includes a map of existing bicycle routes; however, it should be updated with community input. Identified routes would benefit from signage, expanded wayfinding, and increased communication through both online and printable maps.
- Development of a village-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, recommended in the 2022–2025 Comprehensive Plan, remains a critical need.
- Expanded bicycle education opportunities for both youth and adults would strengthen the Village's standing in the Education and Encouragement categories.
- Increased coordination between the Village, Mount Horeb Green Team, Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission will be essential for completing the full application and ensuring alignment across departments and community partners.

- **Kathy Plath** introduced the idea of exploring a community composting program, inspired by a presentation to the Lions Club.
- Early research shows costs of approx. **\$55 per pickup + \$13.50 per bin**, with potential bi-weekly or weekly service.
- Possible pilot location: **Spring Garden** (1 bin to start).
- Focus will be on **gauging community interest**, particularly residents without yard space (apartments, senior housing, etc.).
- Considering collaboration with **Rotary Club, Lions Club** and exploring other **grant opportunities**.
- Next step: Kathy will present to the Lions Club and report back.

## **Styrofoam Recycling Pilot Program**

- A pilot project is being explored to establish a local styrofoam recycling option, since the community currently lacks any collection site.
- Renold's Recycling (east side of Madison) is one of the only facilities in the region equipped to properly process styrofoam, and would be the likely



## AGENDA ITEM REPORT

### MEETING DATE

November 25, 2025

### PREPARED BY

Nicholas Owen, Administrator

### AGENDA ITEM # 3.d

Addition to Wastewater Treatment Utility Adaptive Management Program

### BACKGROUND

From Wastewater Utility Superintendent Mike Brace: Notice of addition of abatement property — We confirmed our commitment to a local landowner, as part of our Adaptive Management Program, to help support the conversion of almost 150 acres in the watershed from traditionally farmed row crops to continuous cover crops. 29 acres have already been converted, while the remaining fields will be done in the spring of 2026. We are awaiting data from the county regarding the conversion of these fields, which will help us gain a better understanding of how these projects may impact water quality.

The Farm is located south of 18-151 and is adjacent to the land recently transitioned to prairie plantings under this program owned by the Wastewater Treatment Facility. A map of the general area is attached.

### RECOMMENDATION

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Adaptive Management Land





## AGENDA ITEM REPORT

### MEETING DATE

November 25, 2025

### PREPARED BY

Nicholas Owen, Administrator

### AGENDA ITEM # 3.e

Food Waste Pickup Location Update

### BACKGROUND

Message from DC waste management supervisor Dalaney Gobster on food waste pickup locations - "At the moment we're picking up from the Sodexo kitchen at the Alliant Energy Center, as well as doing event collections with them. We're working with the Glacier Grille at the County zoo, and offer additional organics recycling programs (manure/ yard waste/ brush) to Alliant and the zoo as municipal facilities as well. We also service the Ugly Apple Cafe's county building locations, and have been working with the County jail and juvenile detention center in the same area to set up food scrap compost collections and educational programs. Those are the accounts we offer pickup service to that we can mention to the public at this time, though have a number of private businesses we're in the contracting process with currently."We also have Badger Prairie Needs Network who drops off with us, and a number of occasional haulers.

### RECOMMENDATION

### ATTACHMENTS

None

# Recap Of Sustain Dane Summit

November 7, 2025

Attendee Tim White

On November 7, I participated in the Sustain Dane Summit, which featured several notable keynote speakers. Arielle King, Environmental Justice Staff Attorney, delivered a particularly impactful message focused on hope, an increasingly scarce resource. Her presentation stood out as highly motivational. Other sessions and group discussions addressed local collaboration initiatives. Of particular interest was a presentation detailing how local businesses are advancing sustainability by implementing recycling, reusing materials, and reducing their carbon footprint. Another significant session centered on housing needs and solutions across Wisconsin, with Elmer Moore, CEO of WHEDA, providing valuable insight into the state's affordable housing crisis.

Here are links to Summit Youtube videos.

- [Keynote with Arielle King](#)
- [Housing + Sustainability Panel](#)
- [Ideas to Impact: Local Businesses Taking Action](#)
- [Earth Signals: Collaboration of Music & Science](#)
- [Live Forward Awards](#)

Attendees had multiple opportunities to engage in networking and collaborative dialogue within assigned groups based on table designation. During these exchanges, I emphasized Green Team formation and Sustainability Committee accomplishments, including progress on community. Table assignments shifted after lunch, allowing me to connect with additional attendees.

I had productive conversations with Delaney Gobster regarding food waste collection, and she subsequently provided information on potential participation in the County's program for Mount Horeb. Additionally, I spoke with Kathy Kuntz about renewable energy incentives and options for accessing available funding. Our discussion explored reframing renewable energy dialogues, emphasizing that even in the absence of direct incentives, such investments remain economically viable due to self-sustaining installations which continue to benefit municipalities seeking clean energy adoption.

Numerous vendors were present, including Focus on Energy, as well as the Dane County Waste, Recycling, and Renewable Resource Departments. Several companies showcased environmentally responsible products ranging from toilet paper to solar panels. Overall,

the summit was highly productive and facilitated meaningful interactions with representatives from throughout Dane County and the state.

I recommend the summit to others, committee members have access to a limited number of complimentary registrations for next year's summit.



## AGENDA ITEM REPORT

### MEETING DATE

November 25, 2025

### PREPARED BY

Nicholas Owen, Administrator

### AGENDA ITEM # 4.a

Review of Dark Sky Standards for Revised Zoning Code

### BACKGROUND

Here is a link to the full draft of the [draft zoning code rewrite](#). The rewrite includes multiple sustainability-related items, including permitting solar panels in all zoning districts, the commercial landscaping point system providing 2x the points for preserving existing desirable landscaping and 1.5x the points for installing native plants and dark sky standards for lighting.

Below is a statement from Village Planner Ben Rohr on the lighting standards:  
Hello,

The 11/12 draft includes additional elements that were requested by the Plan Commission in the Exterior Lighting Standards Section 17.06.20.

Those include the requirement to extinguish lighting within 60 minutes after closing, additional dark sky references within the purpose statement, and a reduction in the lighting output that's exempt from the requirements of the ordinance. I did not add a maximum lumen level standard and instead continued to use the maximum footcandle at the property line and average for the lot standards that were already in the draft.

I'm admittedly not an expert on this topic, but have worked on a few different dark sky-oriented ordinances in Middleton and Lake Geneva that utilize similar standards to what we have in the draft right now.

If the Sustainability Committee wishes to recommend further changes to this section, they are welcome to do so.

### RECOMMENDATION

### ATTACHMENTS

None



# ROTARY COMMUNITY CORP

## Certificate of Organization

This certificate recognizes that the Rotary Community C

**Mount Horeb Green Team**

**Founded on: 01 July 2025    ID: 230013**

has been organized and has agreed, through its members, to be bound b  
and bylaws of the Rotary Community Corps program of Rotary Inte

Sponsored by

**Rotary Club of Mt. Horeb**



## AGENDA ITEM REPORT

### MEETING DATE

November 25, 2025

### PREPARED BY

Nicholas Owen, Administrator

### AGENDA ITEM # 4.c

SolSmart Wind-down and Timeline for Incentive Sunset

### BACKGROUND

Email from Kathy Kuntz, Director, Dane County Office of Energy and Climate Change

**From:** Kuntz, Kathryn

**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 4:01 PM

**To:** Tim White

**Subject:** Solar tax credits

Hi Tim –

This email follows up on our conversation...

The federal clean energy tax credits for businesses – and local governments and nonprofits – went through changes this year but, different than residential credits, there still are solar credits for businesses and nonprofits/local governments. To qualify for wind or solar credits, systems must be placed in service by December 31, 2027 unless construction began by July 4, 2026 (in which case entities have four years to complete construction). Energy storage co-located with wind or solar can still claim the full credit through 2032. There are new Foreign Entity of Concern (FEOC) restrictions for projects that commence construction after December 31, 2025.

So the best thing is to start construction on a project before 12/31/2025 because then all the old rules apply. (This is different than residential projects, which have to be done by 12/31/2025.) Starts construction means that at least 5% of the total project construction cost has to be spent by 12/31/2025. At this point it's probably not practical to hit that milestone because most installers are really busy these days.

Even after January 1, though, you can still get the credits – you just need to follow the new rules about Foreign Entities of Concern and get the project done by 12/31/2027 unless it starts construction before July 4, 2026 (then you've got 4 years to finish it).

There's lots more details and links on our website at <https://daneclimateaction.org//what-you-can-do/Federal-Funding/Inflation-Reduction-Act-Resources-for-Nonprofits> , including links to the rules that are available.



## AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Significantly, the IRS has not yet issued rules for the Foreign Entities of Concern. That could make projects more complicated. At the same time, political change in the midterms could restore tax credits without these restrictions. The Village of McFarland started their Public Safety Center before the IRA passed and it was in place when they finished so they got more than \$1million in clean energy tax credits – that’s unrestricted dollars back to their municipality. Sometimes karma is amazing.

I hope that all helps – good luck!

**Kathy Kuntz, CC-P | Director**  
Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change  
She/her/hers

Visit our website – [www.DaneClimateAction.org](http://www.DaneClimateAction.org)



### RECOMMENDATION

### ATTACHMENTS

None



## AGENDA ITEM REPORT

### MEETING DATE

November 25, 2025

### PREPARED BY

Nicholas Owen, Administrator

### AGENDA ITEM # 4.d

Bird City Designation Application

### BACKGROUND

From application author Kerry Beheler: 1. Attached is the **draft** Mount Horeb information I sent to the WI Bird City program coordinator today 20 Nov 2025. Please disseminate to the SNR, and to the Parks and Rec Committees. **This is a DRAFT, not the final form Bird City requires.** Bird City has a specific process and online portal in which to enter the application info. I began the process with her today, 20 Nov 2025. I just wanted everyone on the Mt H committees to see what information was gathered and sent, and revise the info as needed.

### RECOMMENDATION

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Bird City app dft 1 20 Nov 25

To: Kelsey Bell, Bird City Wisconsin Program Director

From: Kerry Beheler, citizen member of the Mount Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee

RE: Mount Horeb WI Bird City customized action list for application

Date: 20 November 2025:

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:

## **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 local species
- 1.7. Ensure clean water in natural waterways

1.1 Tree City USA: Mount Horeb received Tree City USA status in 1997. We reapply annually, and have achieved re-designation every year since 1997.

1.1 Municipal Forestry Actions include:

1. Expertise: Village Forester is a certified ISA arborist with 25 years of expertise, who holds a BS in Forestry and has taught a portion of the Wisconsin DNR's Wisconsin Community Tree Management Institute.
2. The Mount Horeb Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission serves as the Village Tree Board.
3. Mount Horeb has a municipal tree ordinance, Chapter 8.10 of the municipal codes.
4. Mount Horeb has an annual Arbor Day observation.
5. Mount Horeb has a community forestry program.

1.2 and 1.3 Create and protect habitat, and promote native species in public or large-scale private landscaping: Mount Horeb enacted a natural landscaping native plant pollinator garden ordinance in September 2023, which allows homeowners to plant native forbs, grasses, edible plants, shrubs, or trees for bird and pollinator habitat.

<https://ecode360.com/27692202#27692210>

1.3 and 1.6 Promote Native Plants, Use Native Species in annual street tree and non-street tree budgets: Mount Horeb promotes and utilizes native tree, shrub, and forb species in public species in public landscaping, annual street tree and non-street tree budgets.

1.4 Control invasive plants: Mount Horeb natural landscaping native plant pollinator garden ordinance states "Plantings shall be deliberately selected and arranged as part of a coherent

overall plan. Overgrowth of conventional turf grasses or weeds, or any other unmanaged vegetation growth, shall not constitute a planned natural landscaping area.” Also, the natural landscaping ordinance states “No species identified on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Regulated Invasive Plants list, Chapter NR 40, whether designated as Prohibited or Restricted, shall be permitted. <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/RegulatedSpecies>”

#### 1.5 Provide Nesting Habitat:

1. Dane County’s oldest park, Stewart Lake County Park, is located on the northern edge of Mount Horeb. A bluebird nest box trail has been installed and maintained for 25 years at Stewart Park. The bluebird trail now comprises 31 nest boxes, in which 1020 bluebirds have fledged. Black-capped chickadees, tree swallows, and house wrens have also fledged from the nest boxes.

2. Multiple initiatives mentioned above in Mount Horeb for natural landscaping creates and maintains nesting habitat for native bird species.

#### 1.5 Moratorium on trimming and mowing:

1. Mount Horeb municipal maintenance crews mow the storm water detention basins once per year in the fall.

2. There are areas set aside in Village parks that are not mowed, or mowed only once per year in the fall, to provide nesting and foraging habitat for birds and pollinators.

3. Mount Horeb participates in “Slow Mow May”, sponsored by the Mound Vue Garden Club, allowing homeowners to not mow their properties to create foraging and nesting habitat.

#### 1.7. Ensure clean water in natural waterways

1. Mount Horeb’s state-of-the-art water pollution control Waste Water Treatment Plant facility was completed in 2021, and meets future development needs while improving water quality. It received funding from the Wisconsin Clean Water Fund Program and a grant from Focus on Energy due to implementation of energy saving features.

2. An Adaptive Management Program at the municipal Waste Water Treatment Plant includes supporting conversion of nearly 150 acres in the watershed from traditionally farmed row crops to continuous cover crops. 29 acres have been converted, and the remaining fields will be done in spring 2026. We await data from Dane County regarding conversion of these fields, which will help us gain a better understanding of how these projects will impact water quality.

3. Mount Horeb is in the Upper Sugar River watershed, and promotes clean water in natural waterways. <https://www.uppersugar.org/about>

4. Dane County’s oldest park, Stewart Lake County Park, is located on the northern edge of Mount Horeb. Mount Horeb promotes clean water in Stewart Lake, and has partnered with restoration efforts there.

#### 1.8 Another action taken by your municipality:

1. Mount Horeb has a Community Garden at one of our municipal parks. There are portions of the Community Garden designated as bird and pollinator habitat.

2. Yard in Every Yard (YEY) native plant project sponsored by the Mount Horeb Green Team began in August 2025. YYY promotes best management of community land by using Village

park lands for pollinator and bird gardens; creates and protects pollinator and bird nesting and feeding habitat by planting gardens; uses native plants and seeds; provides training for control of invasive plants in the plots; provides educational brochures for all ages; and involves the community in partnership and stewardship of the native plant plots.

## **Section 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

2.1. Address disturbance by harmful species: Mount Horeb has municipal ordinances restricting cats at large, and cats which “Kills, or attempts to kill, any domestic animal or songbirds, but not including rodents such as mice, gophers or moles.”

2.3. Address light pollution: Mount Horeb has drafted a zoning ordinance for dark sky best practices. The dark sky ordinance will be reviewed and voted on within the next few months by the Village Board.

2.5. Mount Horeb uses herbicides as little as possible on Village properties Most use is limited to Village maintained athletic fields.

## **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

**3.1 World Migratory Bird Day Welcome Back Bird Day: part of the annual requirement for the Bird City designation (publicly celebrating bird migration). Mount Horeb will engage in this effort.** Date: Wednesday, May 21st (always the third Wednesday of May)

3.2, 3.3, and 3.4 Increase awareness of birds and their habitats; Educate and engage all ages; and Ensure access to nature:

1. Mount Horeb participates in the Christmas Bird Count: 36 years of continuous counting and data, open to all participants, training provided. We hold a post-count gathering for discussion and bird identification. We send a post-count summary to National Audubon and coordinate with Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance.

2. Mount Horeb has a municipal Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee (SNR), in existence since December 2022.

3. The SNR writes a “Sustainability Notes” semi-regular column for the local newspaper, The Mount Horeb Mail. Columns have included educational information on birds and habitat threats, native plantings and pollinators, and achievable community actions.

4. The Stewart Lake County Park bluebird trail provides at least 3 scheduled community educational tours annually to school groups, Dane County Parks youth summer program, Dane County Parks Commission, and others. The bluebird trail is monitored weekly from April - August, providing many spontaneous educational opportunities for families and individual hikers during nesting season.

5. Stewart Lake County Park maintains an updated Bird Species list that is posted at main Park entrances. Bird sightings and information are regularly posted in various birding groups by local birders (eBird, WisBirdNet, SoBA, etc), including the rare Limpkin who was at Stewart Park September - October 2023.

6. Free public educational events are organized and offered by the SNR, coordinating with local groups including the Mount Horeb Climate Action, Green Team, Friends of Stewart Park, Mound View Garden Club, Mount Horeb High School Ecology and Energy Club, and others.

7. The 18 Mount Horeb free municipal public parks of various sizes provide bird nesting and foraging habitat. <https://www.mounthorebwi.info/191/Parks-Information>

3.5. Involve the community in conservation and stewardship: The Mount Horeb Green Team is a citizen-led group partnered with the Mount Horeb Rotary Club. The Green Team follows the core principles of Rotary's Environmental and Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG) by implementing projects and working with local government, the chamber of commerce, and service organizations as a catalyst for resilience and sustainability. <https://esrag.org/>

A few of the Green Team’s initiatives include: Village-wide native species pollinator planting project (Yard in Every Yard); collecting data to facilitate bicycle friendly and bird city designations; home energy efficiency education; waste stream management through composting and village wide recycling programs; organizing outreach for Village-wide Travel Green designation.

### **3.7. An officially enacted resolution: Mount Horeb will draft and enact a resolution confirming Mount Horeb as a Bird City.**

## **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

4.1. Educate residents about climate impacts and renewable energy:

1. Mount Horeb has a municipal Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee (SNR), in existence since December 2022. The SNR’s official Mission Statement is “to collaborate with Village residents to create and expand sustainability practices which are inclusive, safe,

and resilient, and which improve the quality of life for current and future generations who call Mount Horeb home; to advocate and promote sustainable policies and practices and seek innovative solutions while recognizing the interdependence of environmental quality, economic resilience and growth, and social equity.”

2. The SNR serves in an advisory capacity, and acts in the long-term interests of environmental and economic sustainability for the Village. The SNR’s Charge is to advocate partnering with other communities and regional governments to leverage resources and funding for possible projects, and to reduce Mount Horeb’s carbon footprint to mitigate the effects of climate change.

3. The SNR writes a “Sustainability Notes” semi-regular column for the local newspaper, The Mount Horeb Mail. Columns have included educational information on birds and habitat threats, native plantings and pollinators, community and homeowner solar and energy efficient achievable actions, bike friendly community, and other relevant topics.

4. The SNR partners with local and state groups to provide free public events including Solar 101, community composting, local hands-on habitat work parties, and others.

4.2 Reduce energy use and carbon emissions: 1. The Mount Horeb Area School District was awarded funding for an electric school bus in June 2024.

2. The Mount Horeb High School Energy Team received a \$2500 award from Focus on Energy’s “Renew Our Schools Challenge” in March 2024.

3. A plastic bag recycling program sponsored by the local Lions Club collects bags, which are made into durable benches. These benches are then donated to the Village by the Lions Club and placed around town accompanied with educational information.

4. There are 4 Electric Vehicle charging stations at the east side Mount Horeb KwikTrip.

4.3. Promote sustainable infrastructure and practices: 1. Mount Horeb achieved bronze certification from SolSmart in June 2024. <https://solsmart.org/>

2. The Mount Horeb business community supports sustainability and climate actions. Local organizations and businesses have been recognized as “Climate Champions” by the Dane County Office of Energy and Climate Change in (3 in 2023 and 4 in 2024).

3. Mount Horeb received an Innovation Energy Grant of \$75,000 in October 2024 from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission to develop a comprehensive municipal energy plan. The report will be finalized in 2025.



## AGENDA ITEM REPORT

<b>MEETING DATE</b>	<b>PREPARED BY</b>
November 25, 2025	Nicholas Owen, Administrator

### **AGENDA ITEM # 4.e**

Board Discussion on SNR Park Proclamation

### **BACKGROUND**

At the November Village Board meeting, I placed the SNR proclamation recommending including sustainable plantings and features in the new park on the consent agenda to inform the Board on the SNR's activity. One of the Board members requested that the item be pulled from the consent agenda for discussion. Generally, items on the Board's consent agenda are items that are considered and approved with one vote for all items. During discussion, they commented that while they supported the proclamation and the effort to include the sustainable features, they felt it should not be on the consent agenda because it was a Committee proclamation and therefore did not need Board approval. In lieu of an approval vote, they made a motion to accept the adopted resolution from the SNR, and that motion passed. As a procedural note, any future committee proclamations or resolutions that do not need full Board approval will be included as Committee Report items and reported on as such to inform the Board.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

### **ATTACHMENTS**

None



## AGENDA ITEM REPORT

### MEETING DATE

November 25, 2025

### PREPARED BY

Nicholas Owen, Administrator

### AGENDA ITEM # 4.f

2026 Budget Update and Discussion

### BACKGROUND

At their special meeting last week, the Village Board held a public hearing and took action to approve the 2026 budget. The budget included the same \$1,000 budget for SNR committee operations as the previous year.

### RECOMMENDATION

### ATTACHMENTS

None