

Wisconsin LocalGov Hub Briefing

June 13 to June 20, 2026

The Wisconsin LocalGov Hub Briefing is a weekly governance intelligence product curated by BoldPath Consulting from Wisconsin local journalism, public-sector think tanks, and credible regional media. Source collection is automated; editorial selection, summarization, and topic assignment are overseen by Patrick Glynn. Source links accompany every item so readers can verify the underlying reporting. The briefing is offered as an informational service and does not constitute legal, financial, or policy advice.

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Announcement

Public-sector collective bargaining training set for August 17-18 at WCTC

A note from the editor: I will be co-teaching Wisconsin Labor Relations and Collective Bargaining for the Public-Sector Supervisor with Attorney Kyle Gulya of von Briesen and Roper on August 17-18, 2026, at Waukesha County Technical College, 800 Main Street, Pewaukee. The 12-hour program runs 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Day 1 and 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Day 2, with registration at \$385 per participant. The curriculum covers Wisconsin collective bargaining law, negotiation preparation through interest arbitration, contract administration, grievance processing, past practices and prohibited practices, and leverage dynamics, delivered through instruction, scenarios, and hands-on grievance and bargaining exercises. The session is designed for administrators, human resources, finance, public safety supervisors, transit supervisors, and school district administrators. Registration is at www.wctc.edu/cjtraining under Specialized Training.

Budgets and Finance

Stetsonville Board moves forward with sewer rate increases

The Stetsonville Village Board voted at its June 16, 2026 meeting to move forward with phased sewer rate increases to be implemented over three years, based on results of a rate study presented to board members. The increases are designed to cover debt service obligations and costs associated with a planned sewer regionalization project. The rate study also identified clear water infiltration into the village's sewer system as a contributing cost driver. Specific dollar figures for the increases and the board vote count were not disclosed. The phased structure will spread the increases incrementally across the three-year period.

Source: Medford Star News (Central/Northern) | <https://www.centralwinews.com/news/2026/06/17/stetsonville-board-moves-forward-with-sewer-rate-increases/?destination=star-news>

Manitowoc County Approves Resolution For Less Capital Borrowing This Year

The Manitowoc County Board voted 24-1 on June 19, 2026, to approve a resolution authorizing \$2.45 million in capital borrowing for highway and other projects, a reduction from the originally budgeted figure of approximately \$3.45 million. County Executive Tyler Martell amended the borrowing amount after highway project costs came in lower than anticipated and sales tax revenue produced a surplus in the county's general fund. The amendment is projected to save approximately \$500,000 on highway projects, apply \$500,000 in county sales tax revenue, and reduce the county's overall debt by approximately \$385,000. Twelfth District Supervisor Kevin Behnke cast the lone dissenting vote, noting that available ARPA funds provide a contingency for potential highway budget overruns. As a consequence of the reduced borrowing authorization, planned upgrades to the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office will be deferred.

Source: Seehafer News (Northeastern) | <https://www.seehafernews.com/2026/06/19/manitowoc-county-approves-resolution-for-less-capital-borrowing-this-year/>

Workforce and Labor

Neville Public Museum gets interim director after 9-month stretch without a leader

Brown County Executive Troy Streckenbach announced Friday the executive appointment of Mike Reed as interim director of the Neville Public Museum in Green Bay, filling a leadership vacancy that has existed since September 2025. Reed, who directed the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary from 2011 until his retirement in 2019 and previously worked at the Field Museum in Chicago, will assume the role effective June 29, 2026. The museum operates on a budget exceeding \$1 million, approximately 75% of which is taxpayer-funded. The interim appointment coincides with a Brown County task force convened to evaluate a potential partnership between the Neville and the Children's Museum of Green Bay. Brown County Supervisor Pat Evans raised concerns about the prolonged vacancy, citing potential risk to the museum's American Alliance of Museums accreditation. Streckenbach stated his intent to have a permanent executive director in place by the end of 2026.

Source: WLUK FOX11 Green Bay (Northeastern) | <https://fox11online.com/news/local/neville-public-museum-brown-county-mike-reed-interim-director-partnership-talks-green-bay-childrens-museum>

County to bolster court program as cases increase

The Ozaukee County Public Safety Committee approved converting the District Attorney's Office's vacant part-time assistant position in the Victim Witness Program to a full-time position with benefits, at a projected annual cost of \$92,436 to the county. The committee acted Tuesday, with County Administrator Jason Dzwinel and County Human Resources Director Chris McDonell presenting the staffing request. The state reimburses the county for 55% of Coordinator Lisa Haasch's salary and benefits and for two-thirds of the assistant's current hours, but will not reimburse the additional 14 hours or benefits associated with the upgraded position. The change will add approximately \$18,300 in county costs for the remainder of this year and \$42,858 in additional costs for 2026. Program caseload has grown from 1,998 cases in 2016 to 3,370 in 2025. The resolution must next receive approval from the county Finance Committee and the full County Board, and additional 2026 funding would require inclusion in the 2026 budget process.

Source: Ozaukee Press (Southeastern) | <https://ozaukeepress.com/content/county-bolster-court-program-cases-increase>

Infrastructure and Utilities

Rib Lake OKs engineer for sewer work

The Rib Lake Village Board voted at its June 10, 2026 meeting to approve MSA as the engineering firm for upcoming sewer system work. Project Manager Pat Morrow of MSA appeared before the board to provide updates on past and current projects prior to the approval. The action constitutes a formal procurement award designating MSA as the engineer of record for the sewer-related work, which includes addressing a new disinfection requirement the village was notified of in the prior year. No specific contract dollar figure or vote count was included in the available article text. The Village Board holds procurement approval authority for municipal infrastructure engineering services, and the disinfection mandate remains the operational driver for the engagement.

Source: Medford Star News (Central/Northern) | <https://www.centralwinews.com/news/2026/06/17/rib-lake-oks-engineer-for-sewer-work/?destination=star-news>

Agreement paves way for data center roadwork

The Port Washington Common Council voted Tuesday to approve an intergovernmental agreement with Ozaukee County granting the county authority to repair city streets, town roads, and county highways near the Vantage Data Centers Lighthouse Campus that are damaged by construction activity, with repair costs billed directly to Vantage. The agreement also authorizes the county to make intersection improvements and install temporary traffic lights at I-43 on and off ramps on Port Washington's north side. City Engineer Roger Strohm, City Administrator Melissa Gossett, and Mayor Ted Neitzke spoke in support during the meeting. We Energies will install power lines for the traffic lights within the coming weeks, with streetlight installation anticipated in mid-July, and approximately five intersections will be widened. The city next awaits Public Service Commission approval before issuing bids for a sewer and water extension to Highway KW, Mink Ranch Road, and Highland Drive, with contract award anticipated in August and construction beginning in early September.

Source: Ozaukee Press (Southeastern) | <https://ozaukeepress.com/content/agreement-paves-way-data-center-roadwork>

Placating Union Pacific to cost county \$25,000

Ozaukee County supervisors voted to approve a procurement of \$24,810, including a \$3,510 contingency, to hire a real estate consultant for the Ozaukee Interurban Trail repaving project in the Village of Belgium. The Natural Resources Committee, chaired by Rob Holyoke, received the recommendation from county Planning and Parks Director Andrew Struck, who explained that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation required the consultant to complete property appraisals and coordinate real estate requirements after Union Pacific railroad mandated that trail sections encroaching on its right of way south of Highway D and near Main Street be relocated. The county, Village of Belgium, and Belgium Fire Department coordinated a rerouting along Main Street and Elm Street to reconnect to the existing trail north of a We Energies substation. The approximately \$1.2 million trail repaving grant cannot cover the consultant cost or an additional \$20,000 to \$30,000 in railroad-required flagging expenses, both of which fall outside grant-eligible expenditures.

Source: Ozaukee Press (Southeastern) | <https://ozaukeepress.com/content/placating-union-pacific-cost-county-25000>

Panel accepts \$23.5M Kenosha Innovation Center as completed

The Kenosha City Council's Public Works Committee accepted the Kenosha Innovation Center as satisfactorily completed by Miron Construction of Neenah at a final contract amount of \$23.57 million. The committee's acceptance this week constitutes formal project closeout under the City Council's procurement authority. Miron Construction served as the general contractor for the facility, located within the City of Kenosha. No vote count was reported, nor were dissenting members identified. The Public Works Committee action represents the formal governing determination that the contractor fulfilled its contractual obligations on the \$23.57 million project.

Source: Journal Times (Southeastern) | https://journaltimes.com/news/local/government-politics/collection_48acd2df-acd8-55dc-ad12-e02c0bf651d0.html

Eau Claire County sues 3M, other PFAS makers, in Chippewa County Court

Eau Claire County filed a civil lawsuit in Chippewa County Court against 20 defendants, including 3M Company, Chemguard Inc., The Chemours Company, and DuPont de Nemours, seeking unspecified punitive and compensatory damages plus attorney fees for PFAS contamination at the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport, located at 3800 Starr Avenue. The 34-page complaint, filed the week of June 17, 2026, alleges defendants designed, manufactured, and sold fluorosurfactant products including aqueous film-forming foam used at the county-owned airport from the 1960s through the present, contaminating soil, groundwater, surface water, and stormwater on the property. Milwaukee-based Attolles Law Firm represents the county. The case has not yet been assigned to a judge, and no court dates have been scheduled. The county is not party to any existing municipal settlement with the named defendants and is not seeking damages related to the public drinking water system.

Source: Leader-Telegram (Western) | https://www.leadertelegram.com/news/daily-updates/eau-claire-county-sues-3m-other-pfas-makers-in-chippewa-county-court/article_c8843e0e-3944-4d2e-b8bf-d633c121b609.html

Milwaukee County approves \$1.1M study to design and permit plans to fix Sheridan Park bluff erosion

The Milwaukee County Board approved a resolution this week authorizing \$1.1 million for a design study and permitting effort to address lakeside bluff erosion at Sheridan Park in Cudahy. The procurement targets stabilization of the eroding bluff, which threatens the Oak Leaf Trail and Cudahy city infrastructure including water pipes, electrical equipment, and sanitation systems beneath adjacent roadways. County Supervisor Steven Shea spearheaded the resolution. The approved study is a procedural prerequisite for Wisconsin Emergency Management to apply for federal funding through FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program, which, if awarded, would finance the larger remediation project. Cudahy Mayor Ken Jankowski noted the erosion occurs on county land but poses direct risk to city streets and municipal infrastructure serving a community of fewer than 20,000 residents. The next procedural step is Wisconsin Emergency Management's submission of the FEMA grant application.

Source: WTMJ 4 NBC Milwaukee (Southeastern) | <https://www.tmj4.com/news/local-news/in-your-community/milwaukee-county/milwaukee-county-approves-1-1m-study-to-design-and-permit-plans-to-fix-sheridan-park-bluff-erosion>

Pilot project aims to remove PFAS from Superior landfill leachate

The Superior City Council voted Tuesday, June 16, to approve a PFAS leachate pilot project at the Moccasin Mike Road landfill and a related engineering contract, together totaling approximately \$617,500. The pilot project, costing \$182,500 drawn from the wastewater enterprise fund, engages Maine-based Xylem to conduct a five-week full-scale equipment test evaluating PFAS treatment technology effectiveness at the landfill. Environmental Services Director Steve Roberts, who had briefed the Public Works Committee on June 4, identified landfill leachate as a concentrated PFAS source entering the city's treatment plant. The Council also approved a separate engineering contract with Donohue and Associates for nearly \$435,000 to develop a facilities plan addressing PFAS. The city currently operates under a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources wastewater discharge permit that does not yet require PFAS remediation; results from the pilot project will inform the city's technology selection ahead of anticipated future permit requirements.

Source: Superior Telegram (Western) | <https://www.superiortelegam.com/news/local/pilot-project-aims-to-remove-pfas-from-superior-landfill-leachate>

Public Safety

Some Wisconsin communities considering restrictions on use of e-scooters, e-bikes

The West Bend Common Council passed an ordinance in early June prohibiting persons over the age of 16 from operating electric bikes on permitted city sidewalks, with exceptions for sidewalks designated as recreational trails or used solely to access crosswalks, recreational trails, or parking lots; riders age 16 and younger retain sidewalk access. No vote count was reported. West Bend Police Chief Tim Dehring announced the measure publicly via a city website post. Separately, Milwaukee Alder Bob Bauman called for a formal review of safety protocols in Milwaukee's electric scooter rental program following a felony second-degree reckless injury charge arising from a Lime scooter sidewalk incident. The Waukesha Common Council has a committee meeting scheduled to discuss e-bike and e-scooter regulations, and a Muskego city committee may draft a limiting ordinance; neither body has yet taken a recorded vote.

Source: WPR News Madison (Southeastern) | <https://www.wpr.org/news/wisconsin-communities-considering-restrictions-on-use-of-e-scooters-e-bikes>

La Crosse County doubles life of Civilian Review Board

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors voted Thursday, June 19, 2026, to extend the pilot project status of the Civilian Review Board from its previously scheduled sunset of November 2026 to November 2028, effectively doubling the body's remaining lifespan. The Civilian Review Board, which functions as an independent liaison between county residents and local law enforcement agencies, requested the extension on the grounds that it had not yet received a sufficient volume of complaints to fully evaluate the program. Co-chair Allan Beatty communicated the extension request on June 11. Since opening its online complaint form, the board has received 13 total complaints. Board member Grant Mathu spoke in support of the body's distinct role in providing advocacy and community engagement. The board operates at virtually no cost to the county and holds no authority to discipline law enforcement officers.

Source: La Crosse Tribune (Western) | https://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/government-politics/article_2f847697-5c21-479e-8709-c6aebcb60ca1.html

Formation of Northwoods EMS District cutting response times

The towns of Manitowish Waters, Boulder Junction, Presque Isle, and Winchester in Vilas County formally established the Northwoods EMS District, a first-of-its-kind inter-municipal special purpose district in Wisconsin, funded by taxpayer revenue and operational since 2025. The four town boards collectively authorized the consolidation of emergency medical services resources, replacing volunteer-dependent response models with a staffed district employing 14 full-time benefited employees and additional part-time staff under Chief Jason Joling. The Wisconsin Office of Rural Health's Rural EMS Outreach Program Manager James Small provided technical assistance including budget design, staffing planning, and data collection during district formation. The district's governing structure and funding mechanism were approved through the participating town boards' formal action. Operationally, the district reduced average emergency response times

from approximately 40 minutes to 13 minutes, with a stated performance target of units departing the station within 90 seconds of call receipt in more than 90 percent of calls.

Source: WXPR 91.7 FM Rhinelander (Central/Northern) | <https://www.wxpr.org/health/2026-06-17/formation-of-northwoods-ems-district-cutting-response-times>

Recent Racine County Board of Supervisors stories

The Racine County Board of Supervisors approved borrowing \$23 million in bonds to complete construction of a mental health facility, a figure consistent with the county's original capital project financing plan. Separately, the Board approved a policing contract between the Racine County Sheriff's Office and the Village of Sturtevant running through December 31, 2030. The Board also approved salary increases for the Racine County sheriff and clerk of courts after rejecting two substitute salary resolutions. Supervisors ratified a tentative union agreement for sheriff's deputies providing a retroactive 2.5% wage increase for 2025, a 4% increase for 2026, and 6% increases for both 2027 and 2028. Additionally, the Board approved grants funding digital forensic technology software and investigative analyst training for the Racine County Sheriff's Office. The county also authorized pursuit of state funding toward a Rochester Dam repair project estimated at approximately \$750,000.

Source: Journal Times (Southeastern) | https://journaltimes.com/news/local/government-politics/collection_ee7d523f-719c-4b64-b5dd-0a0e6c8fb966.html

Caledonia trustees rescind decision to reopen Gorney Park police shooting range

The Caledonia Village Board voted to rescind its earlier decision to reopen and revitalize the Gorney Park police shooting range, reversing a formal action the board had taken in January. The Caledonia Police Department originally discontinued use of the firing range in 1997 for reasons described as unknown, and Caledonia Police Chief Christopher Botsch had previously noted the range remained largely in good condition. The Village Board, exercising its authority as the governing body of the Village of Caledonia in Racine County, formally undid the prior approval through the rescission vote. No vote count, ordinance identifier, or replacement plan for the site was reported, leaving the range's future use unresolved.

Source: Journal Times (Southeastern) | https://journaltimes.com/news/local/government-politics/collection_6737bcc0-ba8e-4520-896f-9d4769207d0f.html

Madison police watchdog rules in-custody death a homicide

Madison's Office of the Independent Monitor, led by Independent Monitor Aeiramique Glass, released a formal report on June 15, 2026, concluding that the December 2024 in-custody death of Richard Johnson, 32, should be classified as a homicide rather than an accidental death. The report was based on a review by board-certified forensic pathologist Victor Weedn, who determined Johnson died from restraint-related cardiac arrest and metabolic acidosis after Madison Police Officer Alex Gonzalez and two additional officers held Johnson prone for more than three minutes. The report further found that officers omitted use-of-force details from official reports and delayed initiating CPR by approximately ten minutes. Dane County District Attorney Ismael Ozanne had declined to file charges against the involved officers in December 2025. Police Chief John Patterson indicated an internal affairs review by the Police Department is underway as the next procedural step.

Source: Capital Times (South Central) | https://captimes.com/news/government/madison-police-watchdog-rules-in-custody-death-a-homicide/article_f11a68d0-0473-4a2f-b8b9-0fdd60d80912.html

Alder: Fitchburg council 'shot themselves in the foot' with 2024 referendum

The Fitchburg Police Department implemented reduced response protocols effective earlier in June 2026, eliminating officer responses to minor crashes without injuries or road blockage, animal nuisance calls without threat to life or property, most alarm activations, and vehicle thefts lacking felony status or suspect information. The operational change follows the failure of a November 2024 city referendum in which voters rejected a \$3.6 million property tax levy increase by a 53% to 47% margin. That levy would have funded five additional police positions, six fire department staff, and other personnel at an estimated annual cost of approximately \$300 to the median Fitchburg homeowner. Alder Dave Herbst, citing pre-referendum city survey data showing 66% support for a smaller ask of \$2.2 million to \$2.9 million, attributed the failed referendum partly to the council's decision to pursue the higher figure. Mayor Julia Arata-Fratta, acknowledging broad departmental understaffing, stated she trusts the police department to continue serving community needs under the modified protocols.

Source: WISC CBS3 Madison (South Central) | https://www.channel3000.com/news/alder-fitchburg-council-shot-themselves-in-the-foot-with-2024-referendum/article_606acb3c-721f-4611-9120-87d32b672876.html

Waunakee to officially withdraw from fire district

The Waunakee Village Board, at its June 15, 2026 meeting, directed staff to begin investigating actionable steps for the Village of Waunakee to withdraw from the Waunakee Area Fire District effective January 1, 2027, and establish a standalone municipal fire department. Board members, including Trustee Nila Frye and Village President Kristin Runge, directed staff to explore creation of a public safety committee and a police and fire commission to govern hiring, discipline, and policy in compliance with state statutes, as flagged in a McMahon Associates report. The village contributes approximately 70% of the fire district's finances while holding two of five board seats. Attorney Stan Riffle is expected to assist all member municipalities, the Towns of Westport, Vienna, and Springfield, in navigating asset division and associated financial payouts. Consultant Robert Whitaker of McMahon Associates advised that asset division proceedings should begin as quickly as possible to determine equipment availability before the January 1, 2027 operational deadline.

Source: Lodi Enterprise (South Central) | https://hngnews.com/tribune_enterprise/news/local/waunakee-to-officially-withdraw-from-fire-district/article_7d3d7b16-e837-48ba-bbd4-b560ddd2e7e1.html

Land Use and Development

Green Bay looks to create policy addressing vacant buildings through registry, fees

The Green Bay City Council voted 6-5 on Tuesday to direct city staff to draft an ordinance establishing a vacant building registry and fee program applicable to both commercial and residential properties. Alder Joey Prestley brought the measure forward following constituent complaints about properties neighboring vacant buildings. The proposed program would impose escalating fees tied to the duration of vacancy, with generated revenue directed toward city inspection, enforcement, and neighborhood development functions. Alder Jennifer Grant was among the five dissenting votes, citing concerns about unintended consequences for property owners facing financial or medical hardship. No fee amounts or specific registration timelines have

been set, as the ordinance language has not yet been drafted. The City Council retains final approval authority over the program's structure, including fee schedules and eligibility exemptions, pending staff development of the formal ordinance.

Source: WPR News Madison (Northeastern) | <https://www.wpr.org/news/green-bay-policy-vacant-buildings-registry-fees>

La Crosse County approves temporary data center ban

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors voted 28-2 on June 19, 2026, to adopt an 18-month moratorium on data center construction in areas zoned by La Crosse County, preventing developers from building such facilities while the board evaluates whether they serve the county's best interests. The moratorium applies only to county-zoned areas, leaving municipally zoned portions of the county unaffected. Board member Dillon Mader led the resolution effort, and the measure is designed to operate alongside a newly established county educational committee on data centers, where representatives from all La Crosse County municipalities convene monthly to receive expert briefings selected by county staff. The committee has a maximum of 12 months to deliver a recommendation to the full board. County zoning and planning manager Dillon Constant noted that few county-zoned parcels are designated for industrial use, limiting the geographic scope of the ban.

Source: Chippewa Herald (Western) | https://chippewa.com/news/local/government-politics/article_ab0bfe00-a291-593f-8680-b15c6ca2c1dd.html

Wausau City Council Approves Ordinance Limiting Where Data Centers Could Operate in City Limits

The Wausau City Council approved a new ordinance restricting data center development within city limits, limiting such facilities to areas zoned for heavy or medium industrial use. Mayor Doug Diny, citing the city's intent to proactively establish regulatory standards before developer proposals emerge, supported the measure. Under the ordinance, developers must obtain a Conditional Use Permit for any data center project, enabling the city to regulate water and power consumption, lighting, noise generation, and related operational elements. The restriction effectively narrows eligible development sites to a small number of parcels of 10 or more acres, concentrated primarily within the city's industrial park. Public comment was accepted from a handful of residents prior to council action. The ordinance advances to the next full Wausau City Council meeting, currently scheduled for July 14, 2026, for further procedural action.

Source: WDLB 1450 AM Marshfield (Central/Northern) | <https://wdlbam.com/2026/06/18/21568/>

SAC recommends the city of Eau Claire to hold a moratorium on data centers

The Eau Claire Sustainability Advisory Commission voted Wednesday, June 17, 2026, to formally recommend that the City Council enact a one-year moratorium on data center development within city limits. The recommendation, advanced by commission Chair Lily Strehlow, is intended to provide the city time to revise its zoning code, which currently defines a data center broadly as a facility housing a large group of networked servers and associated equipment, language Strehlow characterized as insufficiently specific. City Council member Andrew Werthmann serves as the council's representative on the commission. The recommendation carries no binding authority; the City Council must act in a future legislative session to impose the moratorium officially, and retains the option to extend it beyond one year. Concurrent with the recommendation, the commission

indicated it will develop supplemental environmental standards addressing water and air resource impacts to accompany any formal zoning amendments.

Source: Leader-Telegram (Western) | https://www.leadertelegram.com/news/sac-recommends-the-city-of-eau-claire-to-hold-a-moratorium-on-data-centers/article_9cea527c-0121-4902-928e-47cb41062048.html

City of Janesville could extend data center talks with Viridian, create rules for restrictions on data centers

The Janesville City Council is scheduled to consider a 60-day extension of a non-binding letter of intent with Viridian Partners at its June 2026 meeting, continuing negotiations over the potential purchase and redevelopment of the approximately 250-acre former GM/JATCO brownfield site. The letter of intent, originally approved by the council in November 2025, identifies a potential purchase price of \$10 million and anticipates approximately \$4.6 million in predevelopment costs including environmental testing and power studies. Viridian, a national brownfield redevelopment firm, is evaluating an 11-building or 8-building hyperscale data center campus requiring 600 to 800 megawatts of Alliant Energy capacity; the firm would fund an estimated \$30 million or more in soil remediation under a DNR-approved plan. Separately, city staff presented a draft data center companion ordinance framework for council discussion but not a vote, with a multi-step public feedback and plan commission review process required before any ordinance comes to a formal vote.

Source: Janesville Gazette (South Central) | https://www.gazetteextra.com/news/city-of-janesville-could-extend-data-center-talks-with-viridian-create-rules-for-restrictions-on/article_2784fa67-0eff-468f-b15b-d7e128f1c8b7.html

County able to see what it's in for at mill site

The town board voted June 10 to approve a letter granting Ozaukee County official access to inspect and remediate the Button Factory and Waubeka Mill properties in the Waubeka community. The access authorization enables the county to pursue a \$142,800 Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation brownfield assessment grant, which was contingent on site access being secured. Town Chairman Chris Janik presided over the board action. Separately, town electors voted 23-10 on May 27 to authorize purchase of the two properties from owners Charles Sheridan and his son; the Sheridans subsequently agreed to sell for \$40,000 the following day. The county's stated objective is to convert the blighted properties into a public park. The access letter specifies that the town bears no liability for injuries or damages incurred during site evaluation activities. The next procedural step is for the county to conduct site evaluations and submit grant applications to WEDC or other available funding sources for demolition and cleanup.

Source: Ozaukee Press (Southeastern) | <https://ozaukeeexpress.com/content/county-able-see-what-it%E2%80%99s-mill-site>

County housing study to be conducted as prices soar

Ozaukee County supervisors voted to award a \$72,000 procurement contract to Baker Tilly, a Milwaukee firm, to conduct a housing needs assessment for the county. The contract was selected from a pool of 16 firms that submitted proposals, with five advancing to interviews before Baker Tilly was chosen. Ozaukee County has budgeted \$50,000 toward the study, with the remaining \$26,000 pledged by local municipalities and Ozaukee Economic Development: Mequon, Port Washington, Grafton, and OED each contributing \$5,000; Saukville and Thiensville each pledging \$2,500; Belgium \$600; and Fredonia \$500. County Policy and Budget Analyst Jason Wittek

communicated the selection committee's recommendation to the county Executive Committee. Baker Tilly's scope of work includes assessing housing affordability conditions across the county. The study is expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

Source: Ozaukee Press (Southeastern) | <https://ozaukeepress.com/content/county-housing-study-be-conducted-prices-soar>

Kenosha Area Business Alliance receives \$240K grant

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation awarded a \$240,000 grant to the Kenosha Area Business Alliance to expand its Life Balanced Kenosha County talent attraction and retention initiative. The grant is part of a \$5 million investment announced by Governor Tony Evers and WEDC to address workforce shortages through talent attraction and recruitment across Wisconsin communities. KABA President Nicole Ryf and Kenosha County Executive Samantha Kerkman are the named authorities overseeing the initiative. Planned expenditures include digital marketing, employer partnerships, relocation incentives, and community ambassador programs designed to promote Kenosha County as a destination for workers and families. No vote count or formal procurement process was reported. The funded effort will highlight Kenosha County's career opportunities, quality of life, and location along one of the Midwest's fastest-growing corridors.

Source: Lake Geneva Regional News (Southeastern) | https://lakegenevanews.net/news/local/business/article_ddfb4a6d-8776-5b25-bdce-40bb9d4c2dce.html

Racine Common Council OKs \$1 million from expired TID for vacant home repair program

The Racine Common Council on Tuesday unanimously approved the authorization of \$1,057,000 in funds from the expired Tax Increment District No. 8 to launch Racine: Rehabbed and Ready, a reimbursement program for renovation of abandoned or tax-foreclosed vacant homes. The program caps grants at \$25,000 per property and limits each property to one participation. Reimbursement will not be issued until work is completed, inspected by city development department staff, and a deed restriction is recorded. Real estate developers and private individuals are both eligible applicants. The Racine Community Development Authority will administer the program. Assistant Director of City Development Jeff Hintz is targeting presentation of program guidelines to the Racine Community Development Authority for approval in July so the program can begin operating within 2026. The council also unanimously approved, as part of the consent agenda, a management agreement for Racine civic centers with 5Kevents expiring December 31, 2027, including a \$150,000 annual management fee plus operating subsidies of \$225,000 in 2026 and \$237,000 in 2027.

Source: Lake Geneva Regional News (Southeastern) | https://lakegenevanews.net/news/local/government-politics/article_90e08153-bac7-55a5-8a45-101c5309b207.html

Apartments above Eau Claire Transfer Center still empty, developer hit with liens

Two subcontractors have filed construction liens totaling nearly \$160,000 against Iowa-based developer Merge Urban Development Group for nonpayment on the Alto Station Apartments project in Eau Claire. Sierra Metals Inc., a custom metals fabricator, and Balestrieri Environmental and Development Inc., an engineering firm, filed the liens through Eau Claire County court records; Balestrieri's last recorded work on the project was December 2025 and Sierra Metals' was February 2026. The City of Eau Claire approved a development agreement with Merge in February 2023 to

construct 80 residential units atop the Eau Claire Transfer Center, with half designated as affordable housing for residents earning at or below 80% of area median income. City Manager David Solberg, exercising administrative oversight authority, confirmed the city's dissatisfaction with construction progress and stated that municipal building, electrical, plumbing, and HVAC inspectors are actively monitoring code compliance. Merge has communicated to the city a target completion date of October 2026, which Solberg indicated may not be achievable.

Source: WEAU NBC13 Eau Claire (Western) | <https://www.weau.com/2026/06/19/apartments-above-eau-claire-transfer-center-still-empty-developer-hit-with-liens/>

Property off County Road M sets stage for future development

The River Falls City Council voted unanimously to approve an annexation and rezoning of approximately 55 acres at the southeast corner of County Road M and 1060th Street on June 9, transferring the parcel from the Town of Clifton to the City of River Falls. The property, owned by Delbert and Elaine Johnson in collaboration with BW Homes, was rezoned from agricultural use to R-2 Multiple Family (Medium Density) Residential and B-3 Highway Commercial, with a future land use classification of mixed use and medium density residential. Senior Planner Harley Mehlhorn presented the item, noting no specific development proposals were under review at the time of the vote. Several adjacent residents raised concerns about road maintenance responsibilities and compatibility with surrounding land uses during the public hearing. Any future development proposals for the site will require separate council review and approval at each stage of the process per city policy.

Source: Pierce County Journal (Western) | <https://www.piercecountyjournal.news/stories/property-off-county-road-m-sets-stage-for-future-development,194606>

Rezoning approved for boat business, Pabst Farms development

The Oconomowoc Common Council unanimously approved two separate rezoning actions at its June 17, 2026 meeting. The first rezoning converts three industrially zoned parcels totaling 5.62 acres at 520 and 521 W. Second St. and 126 S. Park Ave., former Silgan Containers properties, to accommodate CenterPointe Marine's boat sales, service, and storage operation relocating from Pewaukee. The second rezoning converts approximately 10.4 acres of commercially zoned land within the Village Square area of Pabst Farms to residential, enabling development of a senior living facility with independent living and memory care components, plus 40 buildings containing 80 single-family residences. City Planner Jason Gallo noted developers cited difficulty attracting commercial activity to the Village Square location. Both rezonings received unanimous council approval, allowing both projects to move forward with development.

Source: Oconomowoc Enterprise (Southeastern) | https://oconomowocenterprise.com/oconomowoc_enterprise/news/oconomowoc-centerpointe-marine-approved/article_89f4cc24-82c7-4473-a1ad-3418d7b61078.html

Inaugural Regional Outdoor Rec Plan Gains USDA Approval

The U.S. Department of Agriculture approved the Regional Outdoor Recreation Plan submitted by the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Committee around the start of 2026, with formal announcement issued May 28, 2026. The plan covers eight counties, Buffalo, Clark, Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, Trempealeau, Pepin, and Jackson, and constitutes the first regionally unified outdoor recreation strategy for western Wisconsin. The plan identifies five focus areas including

trail and waterway connectivity, outdoor business development, visitor infrastructure investment, land conservation, and regional identity building. No specific appropriation figure was reported. Kennedy Domerchie, outdoors development manager for Visit Eau Claire, identified immediate next steps including a National Park Service-led strategic planning meeting, formation of a governing entity, and potential pursuit of a Travel Wisconsin Joint Effort Marketing Grant to fund regional branding work. Wayfinding signage was identified as an early tangible deliverable.

Source: Volume One (Western) | <https://volumeone.org/articles/2026/06/15/391972-inaugural-western-wisconsin-regional-outdoor-recreation-plan-rorp-gains-usda-approval>

Governance and Elections

City of Lodi replaces municipal golf cart use ordinance

The Lodi Common Council voted at its June 16, 2026 meeting to repeal and replace the city's public golf cart use ordinance, codified as municipal code Section 325-10.2, with the new ordinance effective the day after publication. The replacement ordinance establishes 13 requirements for golf cart operation on city streets, including restricting use to roads with posted speed limits of 25 mph or less, prohibiting operation on or across state highways, including portions of Lodi Street, Water Street, Corner Street, North and South Main Street, and Portage Street, and requiring a valid driver's license, insurance, safety equipment, operation between sunrise and sunset only, and a maximum speed of 20 mph or the posted limit, whichever is lower. The Lodi Police Department retains authority to grant explicit exceptions. Council President Rich Stevenson cast the sole nay vote, citing the ordinance's geographic restriction that prevents residents living on the highway-divided side of the city from driving carts to the golf course.

Source: Lodi Enterprise (South Central) | https://hngnews.com/tribune_enterprise/news/local/city-of-lodi-replaces-municipal-golf-cart-use-ordinance/article_d2fccb6a-dd24-4a87-8a74-a56eafbb9084.html

Superior council further restricts vending machine sales

The Superior City Council adopted an amendment to the city's health and sanitation code on Tuesday, June 16, expanding restrictions on vending machine sales of age-restricted products. The ordinance prohibits the sale of any product containing cannabinoids, nicotine, or other substances with psychoactive, intoxicating, or impairing effects through vending machines, extending beyond the prior year's regulations that had restricted only licensed cigarette, tobacco, and vaping device sales via vending machines. City Clerk Heidi Blunt, who cited monthly inquiries from individuals seeking to install such vending machines, indicated that not all of the newly prohibited products are currently licensed under existing frameworks. No vote count was reported. The amended health and sanitation code takes effect following the June 16 council action.

Source: Superior Telegram (Western) | <https://www.superiortelegam.com/news/local/superior-council-further-restricts-vending-machine-sales>

Records lawsuit against Douglas County dismissed

Douglas County Circuit Court Judge Kelly Thimm dismissed both actions in a lawsuit filed by Gondik Law against the Douglas County Board on Wednesday, June 17, in Superior. Gondik Law had originally filed suit in May against the board, all 21 of its members, and County Administrator Dave Sletten seeking public records related to the firm and the Gondik Law Speedway in Superior,

and separately sought an injunction to prevent the county from renaming the facility to Douglas County Gondik Law Speedway. Attorney Rick Gondik Jr. stated he received 13 records responses prior to filing the suit and nine responses afterward, and subsequently declined to pursue a permanent injunction. Attorney Andrew Jones, representing the Douglas County Board, had filed a motion for dismissal on both aspects of the case. Judge Thimm struck down the temporary naming injunction that had been in place and dismissed both actions.

Source: Superior Telegram (Western) | <https://www.superiortelegram.com/news/local/records-lawsuit-against-douglas-county-dismissed>

Alyce's Palace surrenders, 2 convenience stores lose licenses

The Superior City Council voted on June 16 to deny renewal of six licenses held by WI Cstore for two convenience stores located in the 300 and 400 blocks of Belknap Street, effective June 30, rendering both locations unable to sell beer, cider, tobacco, or vaping products. The License and Fees Committee had recommended nonrenewal following a public hearing on June 11, after owner Mallik Panda self-reported that 15% of retail floor space was dedicated to tobacco and vape products, exceeding the 10% cap established under zoning regulations the council adopted in 2024. City Attorney Frog Prell advised that Panda may reapply once the stores achieve ordinance compliance. Separately, Alyce's Palace owner Gary Nelson voluntarily surrendered his liquor and beer licenses, originally issued in February 2025, after Assistant Police Chief Michelle Pope cited numerous police calls to the Tower Avenue establishment. The council took no formal vote on the Alyce's Palace licenses and confirmed that future applicants for that premises would not be barred.

Source: Superior Telegram (Western) | <https://www.superiortelegram.com/business/alyces-palace-surrenders-2-convenience-stores-lose-licenses>

Withdraw notice: Common Council votes 6-2 to leave Economic Development Consortium

The Watertown Common Council voted 6-2 on June 17, 2026, to issue a withdrawal notice from the Economic Development Consortium, an intergovernmental economic development arrangement. The formal vote by the Common Council, the city's governing legislative body, authorizes the city's exit from the consortium. The withdrawal notice represents the procedural mechanism by which a member jurisdiction initiates separation from the shared arrangement. No additional details regarding the effective date of withdrawal, the financial implications of leaving the consortium, or the next procedural steps were reported in the available coverage, which appeared on the outlet's state news index page.

Source: Watertown Daily Times (South Central) | <https://www.wdtimes.com/news/state/>

Human Services

Racine's Financial Empowerment Center program ending as federal funding expires

The City of Racine will terminate its Financial Empowerment Center program effective June 30, 2026, following the expiration of federal funding that had sustained the initiative since 2020. The program was operated locally by Housing Resource Inc. in partnership with the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund. Over the program's lifespan, more than \$1.75 million in debt was reduced,

residents increased savings by more than \$172,000, and 716 residents were served through 2,551 counseling sessions, according to the city. No ongoing funding source has been identified to continue the program. Center staff will work with program partners to connect current and former participants with other available financial resources where possible.

Source: Lake Geneva Regional News (Southeastern) | https://lakegenevanews.net/news/local/article_b618ef35-3ed5-519a-af05-ce9b22973091.html

School Districts

School board accepts Lincoln County Opioid Task Force grant for district social worker position

The School District of Tomahawk Board of Education voted on June 9, 2026, to accept a grant of \$154,000 from the Lincoln County Opioid Task Force to fund a social worker position within the district. The grant funding originates from Lincoln County's share of a national legal settlement with major drug companies, of which more than \$600,000 was allocated to the county in total. Prior to the board's vote, both the Lincoln County Opioid Task Force and the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors had separately approved the proposal to direct settlement funds toward the district social worker position. District Administrator Wendell Quesinberry identified a significant and growing need for social services coordination among the student population. Lincoln County Department of Social Services Director Jessi Rumsey presented supporting data to the board, noting 96 CPS reports originated from Lincoln County education personnel in 2025. The grant acceptance authorizes the district to fund the social worker position from the settlement allocation.

Source: WXPB 91.7 FM Rhinelander (Central/Northern) | <https://www.wxpr.org/health/2026-06-17/school-board-accepts-lincoln-county-opioid-task-force-grant-for-district-social-worker-position>

MPSD Superintendent Feels District Is In A Good Place While Transitioning To Next Year

The Manitowoc Public School District is implementing a consolidation plan, approved by the district board earlier in 2026, that closed Madison and Jackson Elementary Schools ahead of the 2026-27 school year. Under the plan, fifth and sixth graders will transition to Wilson Middle School and seventh and eighth graders to Washington Middle School, and elementary instruction will be consolidated at Jefferson, Franklin, Monroe, Riverview, and Stangel. Stangel Learning Academy will be converted into an elementary school. Madison Elementary is to be sold to the City of Manitowoc, while Jackson Elementary will serve as a staging area for surplus furniture and equipment, with Superintendent Lee Thennes indicating that nonprofit organizations and other school districts will receive priority access to unneeded assets. Staff in-service days are scheduled for teachers to prepare classrooms before the August 2026 student start date.

Source: Seehafer News (Northeastern) | <https://www.seehafernews.com/2026/06/19/superintendent-feels-district-is-in-a-good-place-while-transitioning-to-next-year/>

Cornelius, Myers named to Antigo School Board

The Antigo School Board appointed Dr. Randy Myers and Melissa Cornelius as new board members during its June 16, 2026 meeting, following a nearly four-hour interview and multi-round selection

process. The two appointments fill seats vacated by Dave Bardo, who resigned in May, and Abby Mattek, who resigned June 9. Nine candidates were interviewed: Cornelius, Donna Smith, Carol Bardo, Bob Wilson, Beverly Krejci, Jeremy Henke Sr., George Shinnors, Myers, and David DeBroux. Multiple rounds of voting narrowed the field to four finalists, Bardo, Cornelius, Myers, and Smith, before a final vote produced the two appointees. A prior special board meeting had interviewed 11 candidates but yielded no selection because no candidate received a majority vote. Board clerk Deyonna Shannon administered the oath of office to both new members. The board also voted unanimously to postpone remaining agenda items to 7 p.m. Monday at the middle school library.

Source: Antigo Daily Journal (Central/Northern) | https://www.antigojournal.com/news/cornelius-myers-named-to-antigo-school-board/article_2f1cc347-a1d6-4c1d-8f0f-c04052f018a4.html

Pyeatt named school board president

The Antigo School Board voted 4-3 to elect Danny Pyeatt as board president during its June 16, 2026 meeting, resolving a leadership impasse that had produced deadlocked votes across two prior meetings. Superintendent Glenda Oginski served as chair pro tem to preside over the presidential nomination process. In the same meeting, the board voted 4-3 to elect Kristen Mattmiller as vice president and 4-3 to elect Mike Parizek as board clerk. The clerk position had been vacated by Abby Mattek, who submitted her resignation from the board on June 9, 2026. Nominations were made by board members Daniel Nicholson, Jean Adams, Angi Schreiber, and Mattmiller. Pyeatt assumed the role of presiding officer immediately upon his election as president.

Source: Antigo Daily Journal (Central/Northern) | https://www.antigojournal.com/news/pyeatt-named-school-board-president/article_8d1edb8b-c029-4970-a43f-6596fef7354e.html

Racine Unified School District selects construction manager for school demolition project

The Racine Unified School District Board awarded a construction manager contract for a school demolition project at an estimated cost of \$1.87 million. The RUSD Board of Education holds formal authority over procurement decisions for the district. The available reporting did not identify the selected contractor, the specific school sites targeted for demolition, the vote count, or a contract identifier. The \$1.87 million award authorizes the district to proceed with construction management services for the planned demolition work.

Source: Journal Times (Southeastern) | https://journaltimes.com/news/local/education/collection_20ee748b-5a85-4052-b403-8b40ab0a068d.html

Judge rules that UGHS can take possession of land in eminent domain dispute

Racine County Circuit Court Judge Eugene Gasiorkiewicz ruled that Union Grove High School District may take possession of 80 acres owned by Daniel Riedel through eminent domain condemnation proceedings, contingent upon the district first paying \$2.4 million to the Racine County Clerk of Circuit Court and receiving a formal court order. In a separate ruling, Judge Gasiorkiewicz also determined that Riedel is entitled to have UGHS cover his attorney and expert costs associated with the condemnation, with a subsequent hearing establishing that UGHS must pay Riedel more than \$106,000 in legal fees. The district sought the 80-acre parcel to expand the high school campus and facilities in connection with a voter-approved referendum. The parties remain far apart on the ultimate purchase price for the property, and final valuation is expected to be resolved through continued court proceedings.

Source: Lake Geneva Regional News (Southeastern) |

https://lakegenevanews.net/news/local/education/collection_79b20f43-5fd5-5b34-9208-67449c8bba91.html

Stephanie Filter replaced by Matt Peerenboom as Janesville's Madison Elementary School principal

The Janesville School District, under Superintendent Mark Holzman, announced the appointment of Matt Peerenboom as principal of Madison Elementary School, effective the beginning of July 2026, replacing Stephanie Filter, who retired following a period of paid administrative leave. Peerenboom previously served as principal of Washington Elementary School, which has been closed since April 17 flooding and is not expected to reopen until 2028 at the earliest; during Filter's absence he served as acting principal at Madison. Prior to his Washington Elementary role, Peerenboom served six years as assistant principal at Edison Middle School and twelve years at Franklin Middle School. The district has not disclosed the circumstances surrounding Filter's administrative leave. The Janesville Gazette has filed an open records request seeking district records detailing the basis for Filter's initial administrative leave, which represents the next procedural step in public disclosure of the matter.

Source: Janesville Gazette (South Central) | https://www.gazettextra.com/news/stephanie-filter-replaced-by-matt-peerenboom-as-janesvilles-madison-elementary-school-principal/article_f6132679-1517-424c-8667-464ea6f720b3.html

Janesville School District weighs closing Washington Elementary with pending renovations

The Janesville School Board voted this week to keep Washington Elementary School closed through at least August 2028 following severe flood damage sustained April 17, while deferring a final decision on permanent closure to its July 14 meeting. The 90-year-old west-side school had been slated for \$11 million in referendum-approved renovations, part of a broader \$152 million capital referendum approved by voters in 2024, covering HVAC upgrades, restroom compliance, special education space, and interior security improvements. April's flash flooding added an estimated \$3 million in separate repair costs, with Chief Financial Officer Dan McCrea stating the funding source remains unidentified. Construction manager JP Cullen advised the board it requires a decision by end of July to meet summer 2027 reopening timelines. Stabilizing the shuttered building will cost more than \$300,000, and the district faces an additional \$250,000 in transportation costs next school year. Approximately 400 students and 70 staff have been displaced, with Madison and Adams elementary schools to be reconfigured for Washington students.

Source: Janesville Gazette (South Central) | https://www.gazettextra.com/news/janesville-school-district-weighs-closing-washington-elementary-with-pending-renovations/article_33af6226-9897-4a3f-91a6-752b45f72891.html

Madison schools' draft budget proposes 8.5% property tax increase

The Madison Metropolitan School District has released a preliminary \$609 million operating budget for 2026-27 that proposes an 8.5% property tax levy increase, translating to approximately \$311 more annually for the owner of a median \$500,000 home. The budget represents a \$35.5 million increase over the prior year, driven primarily by staff and benefits costs. Key expenditures include \$3.8 million to address salary compression for 931 veteran teachers, \$4.7 million for districtwide 2% salary schedule increases, and \$1.1 million to administer a newly approved 60-day paid parental leave policy, which the School Board approved in May. An additional \$1 million is proposed to expand Madison School and Community Recreation facilities near West Towne Mall,

part of a project estimated at up to \$9.4 million total. The School Board is scheduled to vote on the preliminary budget at its June 22 meeting, with final budget adoption expected in October once enrollment and state aid figures are confirmed.

Source: Capital Times (South Central) | https://captimes.com/news/education/madison-schools-draft-budget-proposes-8-5-property-tax-increase/article_f268f5a3-a8af-4acc-b589-49efef17905e.html

State-Local Interface

Wisconsin Supreme Court finds race-based college grants unconstitutional

The Wisconsin Supreme Court issued a unanimous ruling on June 18, 2026, finding the state's Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant unconstitutional, ending the 40-year-old program created by the Legislature in 1985. The majority opinion, authored by Justice Annette Ziegler and joined by Justices Rebecca Bradley, Brian Hagedorn, and Janet Protasiewicz, held that the program is not narrowly tailored and fails to meet the Legislature's goals of improving diversity in college enrollment. The grant, which provided awards of up to \$2,500 annually to Black, Indigenous, Hispanic, and certain Southeast Asian students attending private, tribal, or technical college institutions, was challenged by four Madison-area residents. The case originated in Jefferson County, where it was dismissed in 2021 before being revived following the U.S. Supreme Court's 2023 Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard decision. The ruling may become moot if voters approve a pending state constitutional amendment barring consideration of race in any facet of state government.

Source: Chippewa Herald (Statewide) | https://chippewa.com/news/state-regional/wisconsin/article_67f296e4-753f-5a95-974a-b367999aa7a2.html

Judge denies effort by school choice groups to join school funding lawsuit

Eau Claire County Circuit Court Judge Sarah Harless on Wednesday denied motions to intervene filed by several private schools and parents of children enrolled in Wisconsin school voucher programs in a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Wisconsin's school finance system. Harless ruled the case concerns public schools and public school funding, not school choice, describing any potential impact on voucher programs as an indirect consequence of any eventual decision. The judge did allow parents of public school children to intervene, and encouraged the denied parties to submit non-party briefs. The underlying lawsuit, filed on behalf of 19 plaintiffs including the Wisconsin PTA, the Wisconsin Public Education Network, multiple school districts, and public school employees, students, and parents, asks a court to compel the Legislature to create a new school funding system. Nearly \$700 million in state funds was directed to private school vouchers in the 2025-26 school year. The case is expected to reach the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Source: WiscNews (Statewide) | https://wiscnews.com/news/state-regional/government-politics/article_c8a4bfca-4f4b-5249-9d7f-a15d4393d228.html

After political standoff, Wisconsin closed fish hatcheries. Anglers say it's a huge mistake.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources closed the Brule River State Fish Hatchery and the Osceola fish hatchery and implemented statewide fish stocking reductions of approximately 7

percent, more than half a million fish, following a funding authorization failure by the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee. The DNR had requested authority to spend \$4 million by an April 12 deadline to avoid cuts; after lawmakers missed that deadline, the agency proceeded with reductions including an initial 70 percent musky stocking cut and 45 percent walleye stocking cut. The state fish and wildlife account carries an \$11 million shortfall despite a legislatively approved \$15 million annual forestry account transfer in the 2025-27 biennial budget. Lawmakers subsequently approved the \$4 million spending authority request, allowing the DNR to partially restore musky stocking, but hatchery operations and stocking reductions cannot be fully reversed for the current production cycle. The article's language is partly advocacy-oriented.

Source: WXPB 91.7 FM Rhinelander (Statewide) | <https://www.wxpr.org/energy-environment/2026-06-18/after-political-standoff-wisconsin-closed-fish-hatcheries-anglers-say-its-a-huge-mistake>

Judge allows some work to continue at Potawatomi State Park amid lawsuit

Door County Circuit Court Judge Jennifer Moeller issued a partial injunction barring further tree clearing by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at Potawatomi State Park, while allowing road paving work to proceed, according to court records. The ruling came in response to a lawsuit filed by Potawatomi Advocates for Trees, Conservation and Heritage, which sought a full halt to DNR activities at the park, alleging that tree clearing and road widening were conducted without proper statutory authorization. Assistant Attorney General Gabe Johnson-Karp, representing the DNR, stated that tree clearing had already been completed and requested that paving operations be permitted to continue. Judge Moeller declined to extend the injunction to cover pavement work. The court has scheduled additional arguments for a hearing on July 14, 2026, at which broader legal questions regarding the DNR's authorization for the park improvements are expected to be addressed.

Source: WTAQ 1360 AM / 97.5 FM Green Bay (Statewide) | <https://wtaq.com/2026/06/19/judge-allows-some-work-to-continue-at-potawatomi-state-park-amid-lawsuit/>

Each edition reflects ongoing refinement of the underlying workflow, and I expect the product to keep improving. Source articles are not independently verified beyond the curation process, and errors in source reporting may occur. Some Wisconsin news outlets restrict automated access to their content, which can limit coverage in any given edition. If you notice an inaccuracy, a story of statewide governance significance that was missed, or have feedback on how this briefing can better serve your work, I welcome hearing from you. Forward this edition to a colleague who works in Wisconsin local government if you find it useful. Reach me at patrick@boldpathconsulting.com or (920) 522-2413.
