



**Champaign County Board
Environment and Land Use Committee (ELUC)
County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois**

MINUTES – Approved as Distributed on December 4, 2025

DATE: Thursday, October 9, 2025
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Shields-Carter Meeting Room
Bennett Administrative Center
102 E. Main St., Urbana, IL 61801

Committee Members

Present	Absent
Aaron Esry (Vice-Chair)	
John Farney	
Jennifer Locke	
	Emily Rodriguez
Jilmala Rogers	
Monique Settles	
Eric Thorsland (Chair)	

County Staff: John Hall (Zoning Administrator), Trevor Partin (Associate Planner) and Mary Ward (Recording Secretary)

Others Present: None

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Thorsland called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

Ms. Rogers joined the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum

MOTION by Mr. Esry to approve the agenda; seconded by Ms. Locke. Upon voice vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. September 4, 2025 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Mr. Farney to approve the September 4, 2025 minutes; seconded by Ms. Settles. Upon voice vote the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

V. Public Input

Debbie Bunch, Mahomet, spoke against the Mahomet Solar Farm I. There is a community meeting coming up and the County Board is invited to attend. Hopes you would want to attend to hear what they have to say. They do not recall any requested project changes from community members, but a couple of requests have been made. One, regarding the type of fencing and one about the road being developed by the railroad. She also asked if the County could come record the community meeting.

Linda Hambleton, Mahomet, spoke against Mahomet Solar Farm I. She would appreciate County Board attendance at the community meeting being held at the American Legion. Feels like the community outreach is at the 11th hour. She invited the committee to come early and visit the area where the project is going in. She had heard that the developer is calling people to donate to their causes. They also sent another site-plan revision when they sent invitation to the meeting.

VI. Communications

Mr. Esry, in answer to Ms. Bunch's question about recording the community meeting, said that we do not do that. Mr. Thorsland welcomed Ms. Settles to the Committee.

VII. New Business: Items for Information Only

A. Ted Hartke email

No discussion as this was an information only item.

VIII. New Business: Items to be Approved by ELUC

A. Recreation & Entertainment License for All American Entertainment dba The Great Benjamins Circus at the Champaign County Fairgrounds, 1302 North Coler Avenue, Urbana, IL to be held October 16 through October 19, 2025.

MOTION by Mr. Farney to approve the Recreation & Entertainment License for All American Entertainment dba The Great Benjamins Circus at the Champaign County Fairgrounds October 16 through October 19, 2025; seconded by Ms. Locke.

Mr. Hall stated that they turned in a very complete application. He also said he gave Eastern Prairie Fire District a heads-up about the Circus, so they are aware.

Upon voice vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- B. Zoning Case 178-AT-25.** Amend the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance to extend for six months a temporary safety moratorium on Carbon Sequestration Activity as described in the legal advertisement.

MOTION by Mr. Farney to amend the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance to extend for six months a temporary safety moratorium on Carbon Sequestration Activity; seconded by Ms. Rogers.

This item is on the agenda for next week's ZBA meeting. It can be pulled if this does not pass tonight. Mr. Esry said he is not surprised we need an extension. Getting a quorum for the task force meetings has been difficult.

Upon voice vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

IX. New Business: Items to be recommended to the County Board

- A. Zoning Case 130-AT-24 On Remand.** Amend the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance to add "Battery Energy Storage System" as a new principal use under the category "Industrial Uses: Electric Power Generating Facilities" and indicate that a Battery Energy Storage System may be authorized by a Special Use Permit in the AG-1 Agriculture, AG-2 Agriculture, B-1 Rural Trade Center, B-4 General Business, I-1 Light Industry and I-2 Heavy Industry Zoning Districts; add requirements and fees for "Battery Energy Storage Systems"; add any required definitions, and make certain other revisions to the Ordinance as detailed in the full legal advertisement.

MOTION by Mr. Esry to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving Zoning Case 130-AT-24 on Remand to amend the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance; seconded by Ms. Locke.

Mr. Hall said there is an update to the description, it is a County Board Special Use Permit and not just a Special Use Permit.

Mr. Esry asked if there were concerns from any of the municipalities. There were no comments received. Mr. Farney asked if we had any questions from fire districts on this. No. Copies were sent to the Illinois Fire Institute and some Fire Chiefs. The Chief from Sidney/South Homer was satisfied with the plan. Mr. Thorsland added that the tech has changed to help prevent issues with these systems.

Upon voice vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- B. Notice of Intent (NOI)** for period from November 1, 2025, to October 31, 2030, for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Storm Water Discharge Permit with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

MOTION by Ms. Locke to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving a Notice of Intent for period from November 1, 2025, to October 31, 2030, for the National Pollutant Discharge

Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Storm Water Discharge Permit with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA); seconded by Mr. Esry.

Mr. Hall said that back in March he told the committee this was coming. Mr. Hall introduced Trevor Partin from his office. Trevor is the main author of this report. There were some changes to the requirements. For our population size, we only have to do visual observation and not actual sampling. There are a required number of observations. There are some items they're not sure how they will do. They do hope to continue their collaboration with the City of Urbana. IEPA has been reasonable with their inspections.

Mr. Esry asked if they have discussed it with other counties. They have. Some hire consultants and in a couple of counties it is done by Highway.

Upon voice vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

X. Other Business

A. Monthly Reports

There were no monthly reports.

XI. Chair's Report

There was no Chair's report.

XII. Designation of Items to be Placed on the Consent Agenda

Items to be placed on the Consent Agenda include items IX. A. and B.

XIII. Adjournment

Chair Thorsland adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.