

**Winnebago County Board  
Economic Development Committee**

County Administration Building  
404 Elm Street  
Room 303  
Rockford, IL 61101

**MINUTES** of  
Monday, March 03, 2025 at 5:30 PM

**Members Present:**

John Sweeney, Chairman  
Angela Fellars  
Valerie Hanserd  
Brad Lindmark  
Tim Nabors  
John Penney (via virtual)  
Ray Thompson

**Other Present:**

Chris Dornbush, Chief Operations Officer, Winnebago County  
Kevin McCarthy, County Board Member, Winnebago County  
Gretchen Gilmore, RAVE

**AGENDA:**

**A. Call to Order**

Chairman John Sweeney called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM.

**B. Roll Call**

A roll call was taken of all members present. Chairman John Sweeney, Angela Fellars, Valerie Hanserd, Brad Lindmark, Tim Nabors, and Ray Thompson were in attendance.

A quorum is present.

Chairman John Sweeney called for a motion to include John Penney in the meeting via Zoom.

Motion: Tim Nabors. Second: Angela Fellars.

**Motion APPROVED (6-0).** Aye votes were: Chairman John Sweeney, Angela Fellars, Valerie Hanserd, Brad Lindmark, Tim Nabors, and Ray Thompson.

John Penney was welcomed to the board meeting.

**C. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION TO APPROVE** the minutes of **February 13, 2025**, Economic Development Committee by Valerie Hanserd and seconded by Brad Lindmark.

**Motion APPROVED (7-0).** Aye votes were: Chairman John Sweeney, Angela Fellars, Valerie Hanserd, Brad Lindmark, Tim Nabors, John Penney, and Ray Thompson.

**D. Public Comment**

Chairman John Sweeney noted for the record that no members of the public were here to speak for the public comment section; therefore, the public comment will not be read in.

**E. Resolution Electing To Opt-In To The Illinois Electronics Recycling Program For Program Year 2026**

**Motion to APPROVE** was made by Tim Nabors and seconded by Valerie Hanserd.

Discussion followed by Chris Dornbush, Valerie Hanserd, Angela Fellars and Ray Thompson.

**Motion APPROVED (7-0).** Aye votes were: Chairman John Sweeney, Angela Fellars, Valerie Hanserd, Brad Lindmark, Tim Nabors, John Penney, and Ray Thompson.

**F. Resolution Allocating Host Fee Funds To The Rockford Metropolitan Exposition, Auditorium And Office Building Authority D/B/A The Rockford Area Venues And Entertainment Authority (RAVE) For Capital Improvement Projects And Infrastructure At The BMO Center**

**Motion to APPROVE** was made by Valerie Hanserd and seconded by Tim Nabors.

Discussion followed by Chairman John Sweeney.

**Motion to AMEND** the Resolution made by Chairman John Sweeney.

**by adding after the 7th WHEREAS, to read;**

“WHEREAS, this agreement shall be null and void if the Chicago Blackhawks’ American Hockey League affiliate, the Rockford IceHogs were to end their agreement with utilizing the BMO; and”

**and after the 9th WHEREAS, to read;**

“WHEREAS, said County allocation shall be in effect as long as the City of Rockford contributes to the BMO or up to a maximum of five (5) years as outlined within this document or whichever ends first; and”

**and at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to continue as follows to say;**

... “as long as the City of Rockford contributes to the BMO during this stated period of time in said Host Fee Schedule”

**and adding after the 1<sup>st</sup> BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, below the Host Fee Schedule, to read;**

**“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, this agreement shall be null and void if the Chicago Blackhawks’ American Hockey League affiliate, the Rockford IceHogs were to end their agreement with utilizing the BMO; and”

Second: Valerie Hanserd.

Chairman John Sweeney called for any discussion.

Discussion followed by Chairman John Sweeney, Angela Fellars, Gretchen Gilmore, Kevin McCarthy, Brad Lindmark, Tim Nabors, Valerie Hanserd, and Chris Dornbush.

**Motion To APPROVE AMENDMENTS (6-1).** Aye votes were: Chairman John Sweeney, Valerie Hanserd, Brad Lindmark, Tim Nabors, John Penney, and Ray Thompson. Opposed: Angela Fellars.

Chairman John Sweeney called for discussion on the main item as amended.

**Motion APPROVED As AMENDED (7-0).** Aye votes were: Chairman John Sweeney, Angela Fellars, Valerie Hanserd, Brad Lindmark, Tim Nabors, John Penney, and Ray Thompson.

**G. Discussion – GoRockford (RACVB) FY-2025 Quarter 2 (October-December) Report**  
Chris Dornbush discussed the GoRockford (RACVB) FY-2025 Quarter 2 Report.

**H. Other Matters**

None reported.

**I. Adjournment**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN** the meeting by Ray Thompson, seconded by Tim Nabors.

**Motion APPROVED (7-0)** to adjourn at 6:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Bleile  
Executive Assistant