



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Advisory Committee on Data Centers

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

12:30 PM Hybrid Meeting, at Room 357 City County Building, 210
Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd

See below for additional instructions on how to attend the meeting and provide public testimony.

A. Call To Order

Staff Present: Majid Allan, Jaron McCallum, Ben Kollenbroich, Josh Schroeder, Todd Violante

Chair Miles called the meeting to order at 12:31 PM.

Present: 12 - CYNTHIA RICHSON, DOUG YELK, BOB WIPPERFURTH, CINDI KELM-NELSON, CIARAN GALLAGHER, CAITLIN SHANAHAN, DON POSTLER, KERRY MARREN, PATRICK MILES, TERRY BRADSHAW, TONY ABATE and LAURA SCANDURRA

Excused: 1 - COREY SINGLETARY

B. Introductions

Committee members and staff introduced themselves. Committee members explained what role they are filling in this committee, and what interested them in joining this committee.

C. Explanation of Meeting Process

Chair Miles gave an explanation of the charge of the committee, explanation of meeting process, and how the public can provide comment.

Members of the public may submit comments and feedback via the public comment form located at the below link, or by email at:

ACDC@danecounty.gov.

<https://danecountyplanning.com/Planning/ACDC>

Webpage created for the committee can be found at the link below.

<https://danecountyplanning.com/ACDC>

[2025
PRES-253](#)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DATA CENTERS - FIRST MEETING

Attachments: [2025 PRES-253.pdf](#)

D. Election of Officers

1. Chair

A motion was made by WIPPERFURTH to nominate MILES as Chair. The motion carried by a voice vote.

2. Vice-Chair

A motion was made by MILES to nominate POSTLER as Vice-Chair. The motion carried by a voice vote.

E. Schedule of Meetings

The committee discussed the meeting schedule and duration and agreed to meet monthly on the second Tuesday of each month, beginning at noon. Meetings will last 90 minutes. Staff was directed to report back if any meeting date would fall on a holiday.

F. Review of Enacting Resolution

Members reviewed summary information regarding the committee's charge to examine issues surrounding hyperscale data centers, which include:

- Energy consumption and emissions impacts
- Electrical transmission and distribution infrastructure
- Water usage, sustainability, impacts to surface and groundwater resources
- Land use, environmental compatibility, farmland conversion
- Noise, lighting, and other aesthetic and community character impacts
- Emergency services and security implications (fire-fighting, hazmat, etc.)
- Economic benefits, including potential tax base growth, employment
- Lifespan of facilities and considerations for decommissioning
- Intergovernmental relations
- Regulatory authorities, policy mechanisms
- Other relevant issues that merit exploration

Miles asked members if there are other issues that merit investigation or review by the committee. Discussion ensued with members suggesting the following items be added to the list of issues for committee review:

- Monitor state and federal efforts to regulate data centers
- Changes in technology that may impact data centers in a manner that leads to obsolescence and decommissioning of massive buildings/campuses
- Overview of how the growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is affecting the rapid build out of data centers, as well as issues and concerns over the potential impact of AI technology
- Potential impact of data centers on ecological corridors and habitat fragmentation and other unanticipated "potential risk factors"
- Process management and best practices recommendations for local units of government on handling a large-scale data center proposal given intense public interest and also staffing limitations both in capacity and expertise
- Transparency issues and concerns with data center proposals
- Backup diesel generators to be included in the discussion of Dane County's air quality component

[2025 RES-205](#)

ESTABLISHING THE DANE COUNTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DATA CENTERS

Sponsors: MILES, POSTLER, BROWER, ROSE, MARREN, FURMAN, SMITH, FRIES, CHAWLA, DOOLAN, PETERSON and ENGELBERGER

Attachments: [2025 RES-205](#)

[FISCAL NOTE 2025 RES-205](#)

[2025 RES-205 AS AMENDED IN ZLR AND EANR COMMITTEES](#)

[2025 RES-205 SIGNED COPY](#)

[2025 RES-205 CLEAN COPY](#)

G. Goals/Priority Setting

Staff reviewed a hypothetical schedule of monthly meetings and topics based on the committee's 12 month timeframe for investigation and reporting.

Discussion ensued, with members recommending a number of strategies for addressing the expansive list of issues requiring investigation. Suggestions included the following:

- Include a standing agenda item for news and other relevant updates regarding data centers in Wisconsin, such as PSC meetings/hearings, state legislative efforts, topical meetings/webinars, etc.

- For particularly complex topics, such as energy/water, may need to focus on just one or two discreet topics given limited timeframe to address the issues

- Invite guest panelists representing a variety of perspectives

- Establish hypothetical examples for a hyperscale data center proposal(s) to overcome lack of detailed information and data to facilitate discussion/consideration of potential impacts

- Prepare and/or invite guest speakers to provide members with a "data center 101" presentation

- Develop a list of critical questions that local units of government should consider if/when presented with a hyperscale data center proposal

- Coordinate with committee members with subject matter expertise on particular topics to recommend background materials and plan upcoming meetings

- Consider establishing a repository of background information and other reference materials that local officials and members of the public can access

- Invite guest speakers/panelists from other communities that have engaged in similar efforts (e.g., Loudoun County, VA; Linn County, IA)

Further discussion ensued with members acknowledging the scale and complexity of the committee's charge.

H. Future Meeting Items and Guest Speakers

Staff provided a brief overview of a possible 12 month meeting schedule incorporating 7 issue-area meetings (Mar-Sept 2026), 2 work meetings to draft findings and recommendations (Oct-Nov 2026), 2 public hearings to solicit and incorporate public feedback (Dec 2026, Jan 2027), with the final meeting to release the committee's report (Feb 2027). Members agreed that Chair Miles should work with staff and individual committee members as appropriate to plan and prepare for future meeting topics.

I. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None

J. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

None

K. Adjourn

A motion was made by RICHSON, seconded by WIPPERFURTH, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Majid Allan and Josh Schroeder, pending committee approval