

MARION COUNTY FULL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

6:30 P.M.

Marion County Courthouse, Room 302

Meeting convened at 6:30 P.M. with Steve Whritenour, Marion County Board Chairman, leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Invocation presented by Brock Waggoner.

Roll Call taken by Lori Linder, Marion County Board Secretary. Present were Tracy Murray, Brock Waggoner, Sharon Woodward, Michael Douglas, Jack Riley, Deborah Reed, Timothy McCance, Steven Whritenour, Cody Rose, Judith Meeks-Hakim, Christopher Krupp, Adam Smith, Debbie Smith, and David Iossi. Absent was Chris Krupp.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST

See attached list.

THOSE WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Tammy Guidish was unable to attend the meeting.

Brittany Gowler, Birth to Five, Family & Community Engagement Specialist for Region 13, presented information with respect to their services for citizens of Marion County. A couple of flyers with more information were distributed.

Next, Ms. Gowler stated that she is the new owner of the Apple Tree Child Care Center in Salem. She voiced her displeasure of how the facility was notified and the procedure regarding the closure and repairs to Jefferson Street. In addition, she had complaints with respect to the construction workers' conduct towards her staff during the process. She had spoken to the City of Salem and just wanted the County Board to be aware of the issues.

Following, guest Whitney Purcell addressed the Board by conveying that she and other members of the Community have developed an organization to help Marion County Animal Control with some of their issues. Hometown Paws will be assisting with the spay/neuter program, adoptions, and fostering of stray animals. Additional information can be found on the Facebook page. Ms. Purcell recommended using key words #lostdogMarionCountyIL and #founddogMarionCountyIL when posting lost/found dogs on Facebook. Marion County Animal Control Administrator Ken Ferguson verified that this has helped him when returning dogs to their owners.

Bob Shehorn from VFW Post 2055 and President of the Veterans Assistance Commission in Marion County inquired the status of the County's position regarding funding for their program. He reiterated

that the next opportunity for training is in October, 2025 and would like to have someone be able to attend. This subject will be addressed at a future meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

David Iossi made a Motion to approve the Full Board Meeting Minutes dated April 8, 2025 and was seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Debbie Smith made a Motion to approve the Full Board Meeting Minutes dated April 22, 2025 and was seconded by Sharon Woodward. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

COUNTY CLERK STEVE FOX CORRESPONDENCE

Marion County Clerk Steve Fox was absent.

Marion County State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth presented the Illinois Department of Revenue 2025 figures.

	2025	2024
¾%	\$87,472.08	\$78,175.84
1%	\$50,991.70	\$33,760.87

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN CHRISTOPHER KRUPP:

Finance Committee Chairman Christopher Krupp was absent; therefore, Board Chairman Steve Whritenour asked Committee Member Debbie Smith to present the Committee's Report.

Mrs. Smith then addressed the Resolutions on the Agenda. She stated that the amount of money that Marion County will receive from the Resolutions is \$900.00. Omnibus Motion to approve Resolutions 2025-30, 2025-31, and 2025-32 was made by Debbie Smith and seconded by Adam Smith. Voice Vote: 13 ayes – 1 nay (Brock Waggoner). Motion passed.

Prior to moving forward, Board Member Sharon Woodward questioned Mr. Waggoner to why he always votes against the Permanent Parcel Resolutions. She conveyed that this is monies coming back to the County. He stated that according to a Supreme Court Rule "that this is an illegal process under the Constitution."

Regarding the components under Old Business, Mr. Whritenour relayed that Committee Chairman Chris Krupp had reported at the Committee Meeting on May 12, 2025 that WIPFLI is moving forward with the FY 2023 Audit. He suggested that the County Procurement Process Ordinance be tabled so that Mr. Krupp could address that item. Prior to a Motion to table these matters, Marion County Board Secretary

Finance Committee – Continued:

Lori Linder verified that the auditors are progressing with the FY 2023 Audit and that a copy of the County Procurement Process Ordinance was distributed prior to tonight's meeting for Members to review. Steve Whritenour made a Motion to Table the Audit FY 2023 Update and the County Procurement Process Ordinance and was seconded by Debbie Smith. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

BUDGET COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN BROCK WAGGONER:

Budget Committee Chairman Brock Waggoner began by tabling items b and c under New Business. He proceeded and addressed Ordinance 2025-06: Budget Appropriation for Illinois Extension. He expressed that he has been in contact with Bellwether regarding this matter. Board Chairman Steve Whritenour reiterated that this money is not being taken from the Contingency Fund and was collected from the Levy. David Iossi made a Motion to approve Ordinance 2025-06 and was seconded by Josh Dunahee. Roll call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Next, Mr. Waggoner introduced Justin Greeley and Dustin Harmon, representatives from Bellwether, LLC that were attending the Meeting via telephone. A brief discussion regarding the Letter of Engagement and expectations for the FY 2026 Budget occurred. Questions from newly appointed Board Member Josh Dunahee were responded to. Committee Chairman Brock Waggoner asked for a Motion to accept the Bellwether Letter of Agreement for a fee of \$12,000.00 to assist the Marion County Board during the FY 2026 Budget cycle. Sharon Woodward made the Motion and was seconded by David Iossi. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Mr. Waggoner provided an explanation regarding the request to Office Holders for a hiring freeze going into the FY 2026 Budget cycle. He conveyed that he is aware that exceptions may exist.

In addition, he stated that the State House has passed changes with the Veteran's Assistance Commission and how it works, and any County Board decisions will be made after all of the information is complete.

Lastly, Mr. Waggoner conveyed that a request will be made to Office Holders to add job responsibilities to their employee list for the Marion County Directory. He expressed that this information may be used in making decisions during the FY 2026 Budget process.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN DAVID IOSSI:

Insurance Committee Chairman David Iossi announced that Tom Simpson from Dimond Brothers Insurance, conducted a presentation with respect to his company's coverage for the County on Monday, May 12, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.

BUILDING & HISTORICAL COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN DEBORAH REED:

Building & Historical Committee Chairman Deb Reed began by addressing the termination letter received from the Office of Statewide Pre-Trial Services. The letter stated they are wanting to terminate their Lease Agreement effective June 30, 2025; however, she revealed that they are wanting to extend that date to July 31, 2025. Marion County State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth will be drafting an extension document to clarify this information and it will be presented at the Full Board Meeting scheduled on June 24, 2025. The Marion County Coroner's office will occupy this vacant office space in the Public Service Building.

The next item discussed was the acceptance of the warranty for the Marion County Courthouse and the Public Service Building windows. A copy of the project warranty was included in this meeting's packet. A brief discussion transpired. Certificates will be drawn up to indicate that the start date of the warranty is May 27, 2025 (today). Deb Reed made a Motion to accept the Kawneer warranty and was seconded by Debbie Smith. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Next, Committee Chairwoman Mrs. Reed relayed that there are concerns, from the public, regarding the inability to park around the Courthouse due to employees utilizing these spaces. Board Chairman Steve Whritenour relayed that he is having discussions with the City of Salem to help resolve this issue. An additional brief discussion transpired, including comments from State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth and Supervisor of Assessments Mark Miller regarding their employees parking arrangements.

Following Mr. Miller presented an update with respect to the window blinds in the Courthouse and the Public Service Building. He stated that the installation is anticipated to be completed within the next week. Committee Chairwoman Deb Reed again commended Mr. Miller for his work on this project.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE: CHAIRWOMAN SHARON WOODWARD:

Law Enforcement Committee Chairwoman Sharon Woodward began by allowing Marion County Sheriff Kevin Cripps to address the Board. Sheriff Cripps stated that his report was previously sent to Marion County Board Secretary Lori Linder to distribute to the Board members. Sheriff Cripps shared that his Department has been very busy and that members of the Community could use some prayers. He presented an update in reference to the utilization of the School Resource Officers during the school year. He relayed that he has received very positive feedback. The first reimbursement for their salaries and services is expected to be received within the next 15 -20 days.

Next, Marion County Coroner Claude Howell was absent; therefore, there was no presented.

Following, Chairwoman Mrs. Woodward allowed Marion State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth to provide information regarding a trailer sold by the previous Coroner of Marion County. Details of this matter were addressed including the payment for this item. Board Member Brock Waggoner voiced his concerns. Debbie Smith made a Motion to approve the sale of the trailer to Nathan Storm and accept \$2,400 and was seconded by Adam Smith. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed. Attorney Hudspeth will follow through with this matter.

Prior to Marion County ESDA Coordinator Sherri Barter presenting her report, she stated that she had received 2 invoices that were to go to the Board for payment; GTSI and Technical Advisory. They will be submitted to accounts receivable. Mrs. Barter conveyed that ESDA had helped with the Marion County

Law Enforcement Committee – Continued:

elections, PKC Spring Super Stakes, the Odin Fireman's Picnic, and with the storms. In conclusion, she requested a meeting with the Personnel/Labor Relations and Finance Committees to discuss her position. The meeting arrangements will be made and emailed.

During a discussion regarding Resolution 2025-15: Participation in State of Illinois Federal Surplus Property Program, Brock Waggoner voiced his concerns of it not being a County Resolution. It was determined that this Resolution is only for ESDA, and each entity is able to apply for their own Resolution. Debbie Smith made a Motion to approve Resolution 2025-15 and was seconded by Sharon Woodward. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed. A copy was provided to Mrs. Barter.

COUNTY & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN TRACY MURRAY:

County & Community Chairman Tracy Murray began by allowing Ken Ferguson, Marion County Animal Control Administrator to present his report.

Mr. Ferguson, conveyed that there were 5 dogs housed at the Barking Lot; one being pregnant. During the last 2 weeks, he had a situation with 2 aggressive dogs, but had found the owners. The dilemma remains regarding where to take them if the owners are not located. He continued by conveying that no dogs were taken to the rescue or had been adopted. There were six 911 calls on the interstate and six missing dog calls with 4 returned to their owner. Mr. Ferguson relayed that he still is unable to receive the balance of the Spay/Neuter Program Fund to present to the Board. A brief discussion regarding bringing in revenue for the County through Animal Control transpired. The fees included in Ordinance 2021-01 were also discussed. Mr. Ferguson was given permission to begin issuing citations when the dogs are picked up by their owners.

Chairman Mr. Murray relayed that County Board Secretary Lori Linder was informed that the first application for John Deere Financial was never received and a second application was submitted.

Following, Mr. Murray reiterated that the utilization of the Barking Lot is continuing. In addition, the new program, Hometown Paws by Hometown Collision is helping with homing/rehoming of stray animals and also with the spay/neuter program in Marion County. He commended them for their work. Board Chairman Steve Whritenour stated that they have been assigned as editors to the Marion County Facebook page and will have the ability to add animal information.

In conclusion of the Animal Control portion of the Committee's report, Chairman Tracy Murray emphasized the importance of spaying/neutering and microchipping people's pets.

The next item addressed was Resolution 2025-35: Support of Marion County Agriculture. Steve Brummel, Marion County Farm Bureau President distributed a pamphlet with reference to the Illinois Farm Bureau – pro-Agriculture Resolution. A few of the Bureau's details were explained. The Resolution is brought to the Board for approval every 2 years. Brock Waggoner made a Motion to approve Resolution 2025-35 and was seconded by Cody Rose. Voice Vote: All ayes – no nays. Motion passed. A token of appreciation was presented to County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour from the Illinois Farm Bureau.

County & Community Committee – Continued:

Under Old Business, Committee Chairman Tracy Murray communicated that he and Board Chairman Steve Whritenour spoke with one another and would like to table Ordinance 2025-05: Solar and Wind Ordinance for Marion County, Illinois. After a very brief discussion, Mr. Whritenour stated that this will be addressed at the Special Full Board Meeting to be scheduled in June, 2025. He commended State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth for his diligent work on this Ordinance. Board Member Dr. Mike Douglas questioned Mr. Steve Brummel if the Farm Bureau has an agricultural opinion regarding the solar and wind projects. Mr. Brummel responded that the Bureau is not for or against the projects, but that it is an individual land owner's decision of what to do with his/her property. Marion County Supervisor of Assessments Mark Miller communicated that the solar companies and their projects would bring in a significant amount of revenue in for the County. He voiced his concerns with respect the County missing out on monies from the very large solar farm West of Salem and the one that is anticipated to begin very soon in Vernon. Lastly, he recommended completing this Ordinance as soon as possible. Mr. Whritenour emphasized that it will be presented for approval very soon at a Special Full Board Meeting and will contain all of the appropriate information. An email which Board Brock Waggoner had received regarding the Legislative Update of Solar from UCCI will be sent to all Board Members. Steve Whritenour made a Motion to table Ordinance 2025-05 to the Special Full Board Meeting (date and time to be determined) and was seconded by Cody Rose. Prior to Voice Vote, Ken Ferguson questioned who was responsible for the cleanup after the solar and wind farms' contract. The Board has been informed that the companies have stated that it will be their responsibility. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Following, Committee Chairman Tracy Murray communicated that the information for the Countywide Directory has been received from the Office Holders with the exception of Marion County Circuit Clerk Tiffany Schicker.

Sub-Committee Codification: Brock Waggoner

Sub Committee Chairman Brock Waggoner stated that the documents have been collected for the previous years with the exception of the 2019 Resolutions.

Sub-Committee Broadband:

Nothing new to report.

ROAD & BRIDGE COMMITTEE: CO CHAIRMEN: ADAM SMITH & TIMOTHY MCCANCE

Road & Bridge Committee Co-Chairman Tim McCance began by allowing Marion County Highway Engineer Alex Kreke to present his report. Mr. Kreke reported that the County mowing has begun along with filling potholes and cleaning ditches. The excessive rainfall has caused issues with this process. In addition, he stated that the oiling and chipping of County roads will begin soon. Afterwards, he gave a brief introduction of himself. He then conveyed that the Department will be working 4-10 hour days (Monday – Thursday) beginning today through Labor Day.

Next, Board Chairman Mr. Whritenour voiced his concerns regarding issues on Green Street Road that were discussed at the Committee Meeting on May 13, 2025. Mr. Kreke stated that the Department is

Road & Bridge Committee – Continued:

waiting on final inspection from IDOT and the drainage, clean up, and guard rail issues will then be addressed.

Insurance Committee Chairman David Iossi reiterated that he had contacted the Insurance Agency regarding an estimate on the repairs of a damaged fence at the Department's facility and is awaiting a response.

Following, Road & Bridge Committee Co-Chairman Mr. Smith addressed the Resolution listed on the Agenda and presented a brief description.

Adam Smith made a Motion to approve Resolution 2025-33: Resolution Appropriating Funds for the Payment of the County Engineer's Salary and was seconded by Josh Dunahee. Roll Call Vote: All ayes - No nays. Motion passed.

The side letter to his employment has been completed regarding his vacation and sick days previously approved.

Co-Chairman Adam Smith relayed that the Capital Improvement Plan for Marion County Highway Department facility and equipment is ongoing. Engineer Mr. Kreke will be presenting a list to the Committee at their next meeting scheduled for June 10, 2025.

PERSONNEL/LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN: ADAM SMITH

Personnel/Labor Relations Committee Chairman Adam Smith stated that a Combined meeting with the Finance Committee will be scheduled in June, 2025.

LIQUOR LICENSE COMMITTEE – STEVE WHRITENOUR

Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour stated that there were no renewals of Liquor License.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

911

Marion County Board Representative Steven Whritenour stated that Marion County ESDA Coordinator Sheri Barter gave him the invoices for the sirens' CommanderOne program. Braniff Communications is anticipated to be here June 9-13 for the training.

708 MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Marion County Board Representative Judith Meeks-Hakim stated that the next Meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2025 at 5:30 P.M. at the Community Resource Center in Centralia.

MARION COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Marion County Board Representative Dr. Mike Douglas stated that he was notified of the passing of Ms. Nellie Linder, who was the Director of the Marion County Health Department from 1973-1995 (22 years). He wanted for her to be recognized for her work for the Department.

SCIRPD

Marion County Board Representative Debbie Smith stated that she was not able to attend the last meeting.

MARION COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Marion County Board Representatives Judith Meeks-Hakim stated that the next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2025 at the Chamber of Commerce in Centralia. Board Chairman Steve Whitenour has replaced himself with Chris Krupp for the additional County Board Representative.

WIB (WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD)

Marion County Board Representative Deb Reed stated that there will be a special ZOOM meeting regarding the Budget scheduled for tomorrow with a regularly scheduled meeting the following week. Deb Reed's appointment will expire in September, 2025. CEO Debbie Smith stated that an additional meeting will take place directly after Mrs. Reed's meeting for Budget approval.

ENTERPRISE ZONE

Marion County Board Representative Adam Smith stated that there have not been any recent Meetings, and is unsure if the Committee still exists.

BCMW

Marion County Board Representative Adam Smith stated that the next meeting will be conducted in June, 2025.

Nothing further to come before the Board, Adam Smith made a motion to adjourn with mileage and per diem and seconded by Brock Waggoner. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Next Full Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 6:30 P.M.

Time: 8:40 P.M.

Approved: _____ ✓

Date: 6/24/25

Steve Fox, Marion County Clerk and

Clerk of Marion County Board



5-27-25

Full Board Meeting

Guests

MARK MILLER
Ken Ferguson
John Hunsinger
Robert Shelton
Wally Russell
Wayne Thompson
Heather Zusschlag
Don Wilkins
Anthony Wilkins
Mason Wilkins
Jonathan Wilkins
Rick Wilkins
Lore Eisenhauer
Arusa Eisenhauer
Jordee Kocher
Dannie Markbath
Chris Leekwy
Julie Robertson, Brooks

Steven Brummel
Kara Buser
E. Hunsinger
B. Dolever
Jessica
Alex Kralje
Jeanne Runnaker
Shari Baister
Major Co.
ESDA

Madus Holland

Tabitha Frawley

Connie Williams

Rhonda Mueller

St. Dea

Brief Smith

Jeremy Jett

Kate Sadroge

Tom Lued

Graham Jace

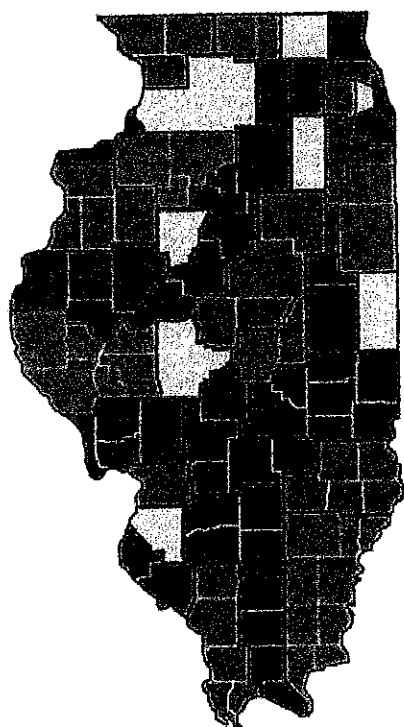
Bob Nasser

Rhonda



JOIN YOUR REGIONAL COUNCILS

Share your experience and knowledge to support positive change and ensure children and families in your community have access to the Early Childhood services they need.



Join a community-driven Action Council or Family Council in one of our 39 Regions to:

- Share your experiences and ideas
- Hear from the community
- Guide next steps as your Region takes action
- Advocate for our youngest learners

Who can join?

- Family Councils: Parents and caregivers of children aged eight and under
- Action Councils: Community members and leaders with and without experience in Early Childhood

www.birthtofiveil.com/councils »





Heather Pruett

Region 13 Clinton, Jefferson, Marion & Washington Counties

RECOMMENDATIONS



EXPAND BIRTH TO THREE SERVICES

Expand Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services for children birth to age three in the entire Region, as there are currently only 100 slots for birth to three services across all four counties.

We increased public awareness through flyers, videos, and family events in all four counties. Enrollment grew from 80 to over 137 families, meeting our initial goal and shifting focus toward full 250-slot enrollment by June 2025.



STRENGTHEN THE WORKFORCE

Locally, efforts are needed to increase quality by promoting and sharing information about the State's current workforce initiatives, furthering the education of current staff, and expanding the workforce in the early stages of career development.

State workforce initiatives and training opportunities were widely promoted, and partnerships with the CCR&Rs are helping raise awareness. Efforts are now focused on improving access to early career pathways.



SUPPORT COORDINATED INTAKE

The Regional Office of Education #13 Early Childhood Collaboration should continue its work to become a Coordinated Intake and family navigation system.

The IRIS system launched in early 2024 with four partners and 10 completed referrals. Ongoing efforts include co-hosting community meetings, raising public awareness, and building long-term support for the system.



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Brittany Gowler