VILLAGE OF EPHRAIM

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VILLAGE OF EPHRAIM GREEN-TIER AD-HOC COMMITTEE

WORKING SESSION

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2026 - 9:00 A.M.

VILLAGE HALL – 9996 WATER STREET

The Village of Ephraim Green Tier Ad-Hoc Committee, established in 2019, is made up of representatives of standing village committees, the Ephraim Business Council, and individuals within the community who meet regularly to discuss ways in which our village can advance our own sustainability goals that we set. This body will not be making policy but rather will engage in broader discussions and pass on recommendations to be considered for action by the Village Board or other standing committees of the village. These are open discussions in which public participation is encouraged.

1. Update on the Request for Proposal (RFP) for Solar Panels at WWTP.
2. Discussion regarding an EV Charger.
3. Review of Goals 2026 and Looking Ahead to 2027

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.
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You can also dial in using your phone.
Access Code: 509-731-845
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There may be a quorum of the Village Board or another Village Committee present; no action will be taken by any committee other than the one listed on the agenda. Please note that upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information, please contact Andrea Collak, Clerk, Village of Ephraim, PO Box 138, Ephraim, WI 54211

Andrea Collak, Clerk

Kim Roberts, Deputy Clerk

Date: 10/23/2026
_X_ Village Administrative Office
_X_ Library
_X_ Post Office
_X_ Website: ephraim.wi.gov
_X_ Emailed: WDOR Radio/ Peninsula Pulse

VILLAGE OF EPHRAIM
GREEN TIER AD-HOC COMMITTEE WORKING SESSION MINUTES
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026 - 9:00 AM - 9996 WATER STREET

Present: Lane Methner (online), Bruce Nelson, Cindy Nelson, Sophie Nelson, and Carly Mulliken - Chair.
Absent: Jeff Lutsey and Zoe Sanders.
Staff: Brent Bristol – Village Administrator, Justin MacDonald – Maintenance Manager/Fire Chief, and Kim Roberts – Deputy Clerk.

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1. **Discussion on mulching at the Ephraim Wetlands:**
   The Committee discussed the timing of the next mulching effort at the Ephraim Wetlands, weighing whether to proceed in the fall or defer to spring. C. Nelson noted the wetlands are currently in good shape, and referenced the general recommendation that mulching be done every couple of years to maintain adequate coverage. MacDonald confirmed that the current spring mulch supply has been fully distributed, though a supply of two-year-old mulch remains available. He indicated the work could be scheduled in September, and noted that early October would also be workable, but that mid-to-late October becomes difficult due to winterization and cleanup obligations. Any day except Friday was identified as generally available. The Committee recalled the logistics from the previous mulching effort, in which Village staff delivered mulch via skid loader to the trailhead, and volunteers transported it via wheelbarrow and raked it into place. Given that less mulch is anticipated this time, the effort was expected to move more quickly, though the depth of the trail into the wetlands remains a significant logistical challenge.

   S. Nelson agreed to reach out to her volunteer contacts early the following week to gauge availability and help narrow down a date. Additional local volunteers previously involved were also identified as potential participants. The Committee also noted with appreciation that the new signage at the wetlands is in place and well received.

2. **Discussion and update on Water Bottle Filling Station:**
   MacDonalsd provided an update confirming that all three water filling stations are now fully installed and operational. The previously noted concern regarding the quality of drain installation at the Visitors Information Center (VIC) station, was reported as resolved as of the prior day. MacDonald also noted a positive secondary benefit at the VIC: A rust removal system installed alongside the filling station appears to be functioning effectively, as evidenced by improved water quality in the facility's restrooms.

   B. Nelson shared usage data for each station. The Firehouse marina station, being the first installed, has registered 749 water bottles saved. The VIC station has registered 53, and the beach station—operational for approximately two weeks—has already recorded 106. The Committee viewed these numbers positively, particularly given the relatively short time the beach station has been active.

   Mulliken suggested that the locations of the water filling stations be added to the EBC's published maps and brochures. Methner expressed support for incorporating this into future materials, including the visitor brochure. It was also noted that the exterior stations require frequent cleaning due to insect activity, which was acknowledged as an ongoing and unavoidable maintenance consideration.

3. **Update on Request for Proposal (RFP) for Solar Panels at the WWTF:**
   B. Nelson provided an update on the status of the solar panel Request for Proposal (RFP**)** for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). He reported that a task force, including himself, Bristol, Karen McMurtry (Chairperson of the Wastewater Committee), Ken Nelson, Brad Rasmusson, and Dan Oakely had previously convened to review examples of similar RFPs from other projects. B. Nelson has since completed a draft RFP tailored to the Village's specific needs and is prepared to bring it back to the task force for review, revision, and finalization.

   The draft RFP includes standard language clarifying that the Village of Ephraim may or may not award a contract following the bidding process. The intent is to solicit bids that will provide the Board with concrete information on sizing, cost, and implementation options. The Committee's hope is that responses will allow the Village to identify a preferred vendor and a financing approach in time to take advantage of available incentives, specifically the Focus on Energy program and the 30 % rebate available under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

4. **Discussion on an EV Charger:**
   The Committee opened a broader discussion on the potential installation of an electric vehicle (EV) fast charger as part of the Village's annual Green Tier goals. It was emphasized that the focus is specifically on a fast charger—a distinction from the more common Level 2 chargers—as no fast charging station currently exists in Northern Door County.

   It was noted that Jeff Lutsey, who sits on the Door County Destination Development Corporation (DDC) board and is a Green Tier Committee member, has indicated that DDC s actively seeking a Northern Door community to host a fast charger and that grant funding may be made available to whichever community moves forward first. C. Nelson agreed to reach out to Lutsey directly to gather additional data on the grant opportunity and learn more about other communities that may be pursuing similar installations.

   The discussion turned to potential locations. Harborside Park was identified as a logistically and experientially favorable location, given its proximity to the waterfront, allowing visitors to enjoy the area while their vehicle charges. MacDonald raised a caution about the area near the Smith Building (Lift Station #2), noting that a potential reconstruction of that parking area tied to a future Wastewater Plant Upgrade could complicate placement there. Harborside Park itself was acknowledged as a candidate for a broader future redevelopment, though the Committee generally felt that an EV charger installation need not wait for that larger project, as parking infrastructure would remain in place regardless.

   MacDonald offered to contact the Village's electrical vendor to inquire about fast charger installation experience and estimated costs.

   On the question of cost recovery, the Committee discussed the expectation that users would pay for charging via credit card, consistent with how most public fast chargers operate. There was general agreement that the public does not expect free charging and that the Village should not absorb the ongoing electricity cost.

   It was agreed that the topic would be added to the agenda for the upcoming Q3 quarterly meeting involving the Village, the EBC, and EHF, in order to gather broader stakeholder input. Methner also agreed to explore whether other communities are discussing similar installations through the business council network. A phased approach was suggested, with an initial presentation to the Board for directional feedback on location and rough cost estimates before bringing a final concept forward.

5. **Next meeting**:
   The Committee scheduled its next meeting for October 1, 2026, at 9:00 AM

   The meeting adjourned at 9:26 AM.

   Recorded by Kim Roberts – Deputy Clerk

VILLAGE OF EPHRAIM
GREEN TIER AD-HOC COMMITTEE WORKING SESSION MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026 - 8:00 AM - 9996 WATER STREET

Present: Lane Methner (online), Cindy Nelson, and Carly Mulliken- Chair (online).
Absent: Jeff Lutsey, Bruce Nelson, and Sophie Nelson.
Staff: Brent Bristol – Village Administrator and Kim Roberts – Deputy Clerk (online).

1. **Discussion regarding 2026 goals:**

Continuing Goals:

- Finish signage at the Wetlands. Information is needed on the history of the wetlands for the front kiosk.
- Water Filling Stations: Continue to follow through with installation.
- Solar for the Wastewater Treatment Facility "WWTF": Present to the Village Board information to be able to make an informed decision. More than a narrative, provide the Board with data from both contractor models as well as local examples such as the Moravian Church.
- Public Electric Vehicle Charging Stations: The Committee agreed that the need continues to increase for people looking for charging stations. It has been recommended to look into fast chargers. Locations with potential upcoming project opportunities that might be a location fit: Smith Garage, Harborside Park, and the Administration Building.
- Continue to update the Green Tier website as the Committee completes projects or has information to share.
- Community Cleanup expansion with the addition of battery drop-off.
- Ephraim Business Council materials updated with North End Path information. Deadline of March 2, 2026.

Projects for the Committee to be aware of and be a part of the conversation:

- Moravia Point: PFU is presenting a rough concept to the Village Board in January.
- Goose Roundup: The Committee desired to be present and aware of what is developing.
- Harborside Park: Green Tier, Library, and EBC should be a part of the conversation if a project develops.
- Trees: As a result of the August 4, 2025, storm, many trees were lost throughout the Village (Moravia Point, Marina, and Harborside Park. Earlier in the year, a tree at the library was lost as well.) Additionally, with the North End Path project, trees will be lost. However, once the project is complete, a conversation will be held about replanting some trees back in the streetscape.
- Playground at the Administrative Building. The Committee noted it needed some love. With the potential of a project at the Administrative Building, the Committee would like to be a part of the conversation.

Items for the Committee to watch for updates and future year goals:

- Development and updates from the Door County Trails group.
- Watch for development with the county Green Tier group regarding compost initiatives.
- Community Garden: There is no room at the WWTF to re-establish the garden, nor does the Committee know if there is still community interest. Watch for opportunities and interest.

2. **Discussion regarding new member recruitment:**
   The Committee discussed recruiting new members. Ideally, the Committee would like to add two (2) members with emphasis on reestablishing a member from the staff of the Ephraim Historical Foundation. The Committee stressed that they really want to have people who join who have an interest and the capacity to participate.

3. **Discussion regarding Ephraim Business Council Presentation:**

   Mulliken explained that the purpose of the presentation was to take what Methner reports back to the Ephraim Business Council "EBC" a bit further. It would provide the opportunity to share with the EBC Board the wins that Green Tier has achieved and highlight that many of these wins have been a result of collaboration between Green Tier and EBC. Mulliken further noted that she wanted to highlight that small changes can add up to make a big difference. She hoped to include" buy better" information as well as sharing best practices between businesses.

4. **Next meeting**:

   The Committee scheduled its next meeting for February 5, 2026, at 8:00 AM

   - Need to determine the number of trees to order for the seedling giveaway.
   - Finalize goals, determine priorities, and assign responsibilities.
   - Ephraim Business Council Presentation outline.
   - Continued discussion of new member recruitment.

   The meeting adjourned at 8:51 AM.

   Recorded by Kim Roberts – Deputy Clerk