

MINUTES OF THE  
KEARNEY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION  
January 26, 2026

Notice of meeting was advertised in Minden Courier, Calendar of Kearney County website. The agenda was kept continuously current at the office of the Kearney County Zoning Administrator.

A meeting of the Kearney County Joint Planning Commission was called to order by Chariman Dawn Thompson at the Fairgrounds Building in Minden, Nebraska, Kearney County at 6:04 pm on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Announced that a copy of the board packet was available for review and all proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the meeting was open to the attendance of the public and in accordance with the Open Meeting Act.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Dawn Thompson, Tom Anderson, Terry Buettner, Malcom Dornhoff, John Harris, Bennett Petersen, Kevin Raun, Jody Casper.

Members Absent: Patty Lundeen

Also present: Kearney County Zoning Administrator, Carrie Favinger & Kearney County Attorney, Melodie Bellamy

Chairman Dawn Thompson called the meeting to order and stated the meeting was a public meeting, not a public hearing. There is a current moratorium on accepting applications for any wind, solar, nuclear energy permits, but we need to review current regulations. Dawn Thompson reviewed the Agenda and stated the role of the Planning and Zoning Commission is to develop recommendations to present to the County Commissioners. No comments from the public.

Chairman Dawn Thompson asked if everyone had a chance to look over the minutes from the previous meeting held on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025. After reviewing the minutes Malcom Dornhoff made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Jody Casper.

No Further discussion.

Aye: Tom Anderson, Terry Buettner, Jody Casper, Malcom Dornhoff, John Harris, Bennett Petersen, Kevin Raun, Dawn Thompson

Nay: NONE

Members Absent: Patty Lundeen

Chairman Dawn Thompson stated that since this was the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the year, the board needs to re-elect officers. Jody Casper made a motion to have Dawn Thompson remain as Chair, John Harris as Vice Chair, and Carrie Favinger, Zoning Administrator as Secretary. Motion seconded.

No Further Discussion.

Aye: Tom Anderson, Terry Buettner, Jody Casper, Malcom Dornhoff, John Harris, Bennett Petersen, Kevin Raun, Dawn Thompson

Nay: NONE

Members Absent: Patty Lundeen

Chairman Dawn Thompson then introduced John Hay, UNL Extension Educator on Energy as presenter for tonight's meeting. John Hay's presentation was titled: Navigating the Landscape of Rural Land Development for Solar and Wind. John Hay's presentation included Renewable Energy Drivers – Trends & Subsidies, Community Topics – Socioeconomic, Environmental, Planning process and trust, Water and Simplified overview of project process. Following John Hay's presentation, he included his contact information and sources. Board members asked questions regarding KWH and MWh, what landowners are being paid, lifespan of wind turbines and solar.

John Hay stayed for the duration of the meeting and was available to the public following the meeting.

Dawn Thompson then opened the meeting for public comment.

Anson Nielson spoke and referenced Buffalo County, NE resolution and Franklin County regulations. He presented copies of Buffalo County Resolution 2023-09.

Marcos Stoltzfus spoke as the Center Director of Rowe Sanctuary and stated the need to protect birds today and tomorrow and the need for responsible energy generation. He referred to the Whooping Cranes as an endangered species and the flight path of birds. Cranes will avoid energy generation area up to 6 miles and asked for a buffer of 6 miles.

Kirby Wilson spoke and referenced single axis solar tracking in Cozad that is not currently operating, and the issues encountered in Idaho when solar was destroyed and land unusable. Additionally, Kirby Wilson stated there are some dog breeds which cannot tolerate the sound generated and stated the subsidies expire July 5, 2025. Kirby referenced 2026 LB 1204 by Stan Clouse, District 37 and no one will have any rights as the bill is written.

Joe Filkensher spoke and stated whether for or against, how do you respond from an emergency management perspective. How do you equip and train fire departments? He stated the board needs to answer 3 questions- How do you invest in infrastructure to help mitigate damage? What training is needed? And What is the investment in equipment?

Mike Boudreau spoke and asked for the public to help gather data and exhibits.

Dawn Thompson, Chairman, then asked the Board if there was any old business to discuss. It was stated the next meeting would be held on February 23, 2026, at 6 pm and would be a Public Hearing. Anyone wishing to speak and provide copies of exhibits needs to provide 12 copies. With no other business a motion to adjourn at 7:31 pm was made and seconded.

No Further Discussion.

Aye: Tom Anderson, Terry Buettner, Jody Casper, Malcom Dornhoff, John Harris, Bennett Petersen, Kevin Raun, Dawn Thompson

Nay: NONE

Members Absent: Patty Lundeen