

MINUTES OF THE
KEARNEY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
April 1, 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 Chairman Dawn Thompson at the Fairgrounds Building in Minden, Nebraska Kearney County at 6:04 pm on April 1, 2026. Announced that a copy of the Open Meeting Act was posted on the wall for anyone that wishes to review, and 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, John Harris, Kevin Raun, Patty Lundeen, Jody Casper, Bennett Petersen, Malcom Dornhoff

Members Absent: NONE

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

Chairman Dawn Thompson called the meeting to order and provided guidelines for public comment.

Chairman Dawn Thompson asked if everyone had a chance to look over the minutes from the previous meeting held on February 23, 2026. After reviewing the minutes Terry Buettner made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Kevin Raun.

No Further discussion

Aye: Dawn Thompson, Tom Anderson, Terry Buettner, John Harris, Kevin Raun, Patty Lundeen

Nay: NONE

Members Absent: Jody Casper, Bennett Petersen, Malcom Dornhoff

Call was made to Open Public Hearing. Motion made by Patty Lundeen, John Harris seconded the motion. No Further Discussion.

Aye: Dawn Thompson, Tom Anderson, Terry Buettner, John Harris, Kevin Raun, Patty Lundeen

Nay: NONE

Members Absent: Jody Casper, Bennett Petersen, Malcom Dornhoff

Speaking members of the public were as follows:

Amy Wilson- Stated the wind systems do not pay for themselves, and it is dirty energy.

Kirby Wilson –Stated the constitution provides for the protection of property rights. Wind turbine noise gets louder over time and can frighten cows. There is added traffic. Shadows have detrimental effects on yearling cattle. Asked for a minimum 5-mile adjacent property setback. Turbine companies should be responsible for roads/bridges/irrigation/railway.

Mike Boudreau –Provided handout titled “Final Report – The 2025 Economic Impact Study of the Spring Migration on Central Nebraska”. Spoke about Wind turbines and migration would not work together. Crane migration brings 35k visitors watching migration. He referenced the NE Wind & Wildlife Working Group.

Aaron Young – spoke on behalf of Deriva Energy. Wind developments and provided a handout from Deriva Energy titled, Wind Development 2025

Wayne Anderson – Neutral – stated he feels we need alternative energies and consider regulations not too tight and not too loose. He asked the board to be flexible.

Jim Jensen – Asked for the board to look at long term effects and stated wind turbines are very profitable to the utility companies, not to property owners or counties.

Marcos Stoltzfus – Rowe Sanctuary – role is to protect birds and places they need... sandhill and whooping cranes. Kearney County is in the middle of the central flyway for millions of birds. This is the largest gathering of cranes anywhere in the world and it provides a 28 million dollar economic impact. He does support alternative energy generation responsibly. Provide 6-mile setbacks from Platte River. Provided a handout with additional information and sources.

AJ Dahlgren – stated the board is to represent the people, leadership – it is okay to advocate for higher restrictions. He has worked on wind farms nearby. Fatal flaws – out of state entity may not have the same outlook as local residents.

Wendy Clark – provided a handout. Stated solar energy, when abandoned can easily be picked up and removed, wind energy doesn't allow that. Wind energy is only 30% efficient.

Anson Nielsen – provided 2 handouts and spoke on wind companies requiring a 30-year easement in some cases and 20 years + to rebuild infrastructure. Landowners would need to get approval from wind company to build a house, etc.

Logan Ellis – stated he doesn't want to restrict what future is bringing and we have only so many fossil fuels. Solar is a good option. He would like to see the bird population protected.

Steve Petersen – spoke from an engineering viewpoint and asked the Board to consider what it takes to install wind turbines. Without tax credits, it's not viable.

Melanie Garrett- spoke against wind /solar. Turbines take up a lot of space, and it's leaving a mess for generations. Solar/wind isn't recyclable. It's not clean energy and it ruins the landscape. They ruin roads, produce adverse health effects, and create consistent noise.

Josh Jorgensen – Inquired about how this draft came about. Would like a map showing what is protected and not protected. It all needs to be clear and transparent.

Evan Moody – lives at 29 road and looks out over a pasture every night. A person's rights stop when it starts affecting other people. Nothing beautiful about blinking lights and noise, etc.

Terry Buettner made a motion to close the public hearing. Patty Lundeen seconded the motion.

No Further Discussion

Aye: Dawn Thompson, Tom Anderson, Terry Buettner, John Harris, Kevin Raun, Patty Lundeen

Nay: NONE

Members Absent: Jody Casper, Bennett Petersen, Malcom Dornhoff

The board will look for a date in March or April for the next public meeting and take into consideration the public comments and exhibits provided.

John Harris made a motion to close the meeting. Tom Anderson seconded the motion.

No Further Discussion

Aye: Dawn Thompson, Tom Anderson, Terry Buettner, John Harris, Kevin Raun, Patty Lundeen

Nay: NONE

Members Absent: Jody Casper, Bennett Petersen, Malcom Dornhoff

Meeting Adjourned at 7:54 pm