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Thomas P. German, *Executive Secretary*

## **AGENDA**

August 5, 2025

2:00 P.M.

Board of Commissioners of Public Lands

101 E. Wilson Street, 2nd Floor

Madison, Wisconsin

### **Routine Business:**

1. Call to Order
2. Approve Minutes – July 15, 2025 (Attachment)
3. Approve Loans

### **Old Business:**

4. None

### **New Business:**

5. Milwaukee County Fines and Forfeitures
6. Pigeon Lake Field Station, Bayfield County – Offer to Purchase

### **Routine Business:**

7. Chief Investment Officer's Report
8. Executive Secretary's Report
9. Board Chair's Report
10. Future Agenda Items
11. Adjourn

### **AUDIO ACCESS INFORMATION**

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Conference Line Number: 608-571-2209

1st Tues of the month Conf ID Code: 207 822 241#

3rd Tues of the month Conf ID Code: 335 125 302#

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Board Meeting Minutes  
July 15, 2025

Present were:

Sarah Godlewski, Board Chair  
John Leiber, Commissioner  
Josh Kaul, Commissioner  
Nicole Pegram, Deputy Chief of Staff  
Tom German, Executive Secretary  
Rich Sneider, Chief Investment Officer  
Chuck Failing, IT Manager  
Denise Nechvatal, Controller  
Thuy Nguyen, Office Manager

Secretary of State  
State Treasurer  
Attorney General  
Secretary of State  
Board of Commissioners of Public Lands  
Board of Commissioners of Public Lands  
Board of Commissioners of Public Lands  
Board of Commissioners of Public Lands  
Board of Commissioners of Public Lands

### ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Godlewski called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

### ITEM 2. APPROVE MINUTES

**MOTION:** Commissioner Kaul moved to approve the minutes; Commissioner Leiber seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** The motion passed 3-0.

### ITEM 3. APPROVE LOANS

**MOTION:** Board Chair Godlewski moved to approve the loans; Commissioner Leiber seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Sneider reported that loans #1, #3, #5 and #6 are for roadwork. Loan #2 to the Town of River Falls is for equipment, including a tractor and a snowplow cab chassis. Loan #4 is for operations to the Village of Strum.

Board Chair Godlewski asked if the Village of Strum shared specifics about what operations expenses the village was borrowing for.

Mr. Sneider replied that he did not know but there has been a significant increase in loans for operations. The reason may be that Wisconsin municipalities are subject to tax levy limits and in general can only increase their annual tax levy by the amount of net new construction. If a municipality experiences an increase in expenses, they must dip into their fund balances to cover those operations. If fund balances are too low, their only remaining option is to borrow funds because scheduled debt service is not subject to the tax levy limits, and municipalities can add the annual cost of their principal and interest payments to their tax levy. Municipal fund balances are becoming depleted because communities are not able to raise their tax levies. As the law is written, this forces communities to shift the cost of more of their operations to debt financing.

**VOTE:** The motion to approve the loans passed 3-0.

The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) unanimously approved **\$1,152,000.00** in State Trust Fund Loans to support 6 community projects in Wisconsin.

1. Town of Sparta / Monroe County / Finance roadwork / \$60,000.00
2. Town of River Falls / Pierce County / Finance roadwork / \$300,000.00
3. City of Mosinee / Marathon County / Finance roadwork and capital projects / \$425,000.00
4. Village of Strum / Trempealeau County / Finance operations / \$150,000.00
5. Village of Nichols / Outagamie County / Finance roadwork / \$100,000.00
6. Town of Knowlton / Marathon County / Finance roadwork / \$117,000.00

#### **ITEM 4. OLD BUSINESS**

None

#### **ITEM 5. NEW BUSINESS**

None

#### **ITEM 6. CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER'S REPORT**

None

#### **ITEM 7. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Executive Secretary German reported that the new state budget was passed and there were a couple things in the budget that significantly impact BCPL.

The legislature added two new appropriations from the Conservation Fund to the budget which gives BCPL more money for management of its trust lands. These new appropriations for land management expenses and red pine replanting are greatly appreciated.

The legislature also put another new appropriation into the budget from the Conservation Fund which would have given BCPL \$100,000 annually for financial asset management expenses. However, the governor vetoed that appropriation. In his veto message, the governor justified the veto saying the amount was much less than the amount BCPL needed and the funds were coming from an inappropriate source.

The legislature also struck the deputy position and funding for that position. The governor was able to veto the elimination of the position but could not restore funding for the position.

All of BCPL's other requests were deleted by the legislature.

The other budget provision which was inserted at the end of budget negotiations may have even more of a profound impact on BCPL's Common School Fund beneficiaries. The budget concerns for BCPL are serious and concerning, but this other piece has serious ramifications.

The state constitution provides that the clear proceeds of fines and forfeitures that accrue to the state must be deposited in the Common School Fund. The constitution reads, "...all monies and the clear proceeds of forfeitures...". Let's focus on the clear proceeds of fines and forfeitures.

For over 50 years, the statutes have allowed counties to retain 50% of a fine or forfeiture for their costs of

prosecuting said fine or forfeiture case. The remaining 50% is deposited in the Common School Fund as clear proceeds. When that law was originally enacted in the early 70s, BCPL filed a suit challenging the constitutionality of that law. The Supreme Court said BCPL clearly has standing to bring this suit. However, the court said the Legislature has the power to define what clear proceeds are but there are limits. The court cited an earlier court decision that it would not approve of a statute defining clear proceeds that left a mere nominal amount for the School Fund.

The budget amendment that passed at the 11th hour contained a provision that allows Milwaukee County to keep 100% of fines and forfeitures to be used to fund Assistant District Attorney positions. This budget amendment will likely reduce fines and forfeitures or the clear proceeds of fines and forfeitures to the Common School Fund by over \$2,000,000 for the biennium. Years ago, an assemblyman from Sheboygan, who is the uncle of the current Senate Majority Leader sponsored a change in the law to allow counties to keep more money from fines and forfeitures. The Wisconsin Counties Association supported that change. BCPL then weighed in on the change and pointed out the previous Supreme Court decisions. The counties and the representative decided to withdraw the bill.

If this new bill stands, it's likely that more or all of the counties are going to ask for the same treatment that Milwaukee will get. It is anticipated that such changes would reduce the flow of clear proceeds of fines and forfeitures to the Common School Fund by approximately \$10 million a year.

Executive Secretary German asked the board for some direction on how they would like him to respond to this issue.

Board Chair Godlewski shared that she is concerned other counties will follow Milwaukee County, seeking 100% of fines and forfeitures going to the county. She asked Commissioner Kaul what his thoughts are about the next legal steps.

Commissioner Kaul replied that he'd like to give it some thought and circle back. He asked Executive Secretary German if there was any effort by the legislature to explain their basis for this change. Did they defend the constitutionality of this change or was it just included in the budget without explanation?

Executive Secretary German clarified that the budget amendment allows Milwaukee County to retain 100% of fines and forfeiture revenues for violations of state traffic laws and requires these revenues be deposited into a segregated account. That account can only be used for purposes related to the operations of the District Attorney's office. The budget amendment noted that other counties retain current law provisions that require 50% of fines and forfeiture revenues from violations of state traffic laws to be deposited in the Common School Fund. The budget amendment does not mention the Constitutional limitations at all. The documents about this new provision in the budget were not included in today's board packet but will be provided for the next meeting.

Board Chair Godlewski commented that it is fair to question the constitutionality of this budget move.

Executive Secretary German agreed. He reiterated that the Supreme Court noted the Legislature has the power to define "clear proceeds." However, this new amendment extends beyond the leeway that the Supreme Court had given the legislature previously with no discussion about how this change comports with the Constitution in that part of the budget.

Commissioner Leiber shared that the provision does not link the raising of the cost to any sort of expense associated with collecting the fines or fees which the courts generally tried to link to or at least justify. He feels it would be good to challenge this amendment. If Milwaukee County can do this other counties may follow, resulting in counties keeping all the proceeds from fines collected.

Board Chair Godlewski agreed.

Executive Secretary German also agreed. This amendment is written to only include traffic law fines and forfeitures. Counties also collect fines for violating the penal code, disorderly conduct, etc. It is uncertain

what the impact would be on the rest of the state, but there's no reason why other counties would draw the distinction. The budget is now in place and Milwaukee County may post those District Attorney positions and start filling them. What would the board like him to do?

Board Chair Godlewski expressed that at the next board meeting the board will discuss what their options are. This will give Commissioner Kaul time to think through this issue and talk to his team. Coming with real tangible options in two weeks to help guide a potential course of action is reasonable.

Commissioner Leiber agreed and commented that he feels there is no other option except filing suit. The law is not going to change at least until September. It will not happen on its own. He will continue to speak to legislators and explain why this is a bad idea, but that's not going to be enough to get quick action on this. Filing a suit may be the quickest way to go.

Commissioner Kaul agreed with the idea of circling back in two weeks. He would not be surprised if it takes longer than that to fully identify our options. It would be good to get an update in two weeks and take it from there as a board.

Board Chair Godlewski asked Executive Secretary German if he could come to the next board meeting with some viable options for the board.

Executive Secretary German stated that he will do his best.

Executive Secretary German asked if the board would like him to provide them with the various documents before the next board meeting. The article of the Constitution, the supreme court case and the text of the budget amendment language. Would the commissioners like to see all the documents or just hear what the options might be?

Board Chair Godlewski commented that it does not hurt to provide background. The two commissioners who are attorneys would likely appreciate the documents as they may help them think through what our options might be. She asked that the documents be included as background information in the next board packet.

Executive Secretary German confirmed that would be done. He explained that he planned to reach out to the Fiscal Bureau and ask about what constitutional consideration was given at the time this budget provision was put together. The Fiscal Bureau is likely the only one that has that answer. This was the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of working on the budget so not all t's were crossed and i's were dotted.

Commissioner Kaul asked Executive Secretary German to hold off on talking to the Fiscal Bureau and wait until DOJ looks into this and figures some things out.

Executive Secretary German agreed.

Commissioner Kaul commented that we will need to connect with somebody at DOJ so let's get that lined up in the days ahead.

Executive Secretary German agreed.

Board Chair Godlewski asked Commissioner Kaul if there was someone in particular that he would like Executive Secretary German to work with at DOJ.

Commissioner Kaul explained that someone will follow up with Executive Secretary German.

Executive Secretary German continued his report sharing that we will be closing on a land sale transaction that was presented to the board recently. A buyer plans on purchasing land that was previously offered via sealed bid auction that nobody bid on. This buyer has agreed to pay the appraised value and

has already paid their deposit. Commissioners' signatures will be needed in the near future for this transaction.

The deadline for bids for our spring timber sale has passed and we have accepted the winning bids. Timber sales are done twice a year. The estimated value of the contracts sold was about \$850,000. That's for half a year so it's a nice improvement. If our next sale is in the same range, it would mean that a million and a half dollars in timber revenue will eventually be deposited in the Normal School Fund. This is good news.

Board Chair Godlewski confirmed that the governor vetoed the removal of the deputy position. So, the deputy position is still a part of the agency.

Executive Secretary German explained that the governor was able to veto the deletion of the position, but he could not delete the deletion of the funding for that position.

Lastly, Executive Secretary German reported that next Sunday, the National Association of State Lands and State Trust Land administrators are meeting. This gives him a chance to talk to cohorts in the western part of the United States to see if anybody might be interested in coming to Wisconsin to join BCPL. Each of the different state trust land administrators have their own challenges. Some have budgetary challenges similar to what we have and every so often there is someone looking for a fresh start in a new location. It is also a good opportunity to bounce ideas off people. He approaches these meetings with a shopping list mentality. At the beginning of the meeting, there is a roll call where every state talks about what's going on in their state. Most talk about the successes and the things they've accomplished. Executive Secretary German tends to talk more about the challenges BCPL is facing and ask his peers about their experience dealing with similar challenges and see what was done and get suggestions. It's always a good thing to learn from someone else's challenges and mistakes.

## **ITEM 8. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT**

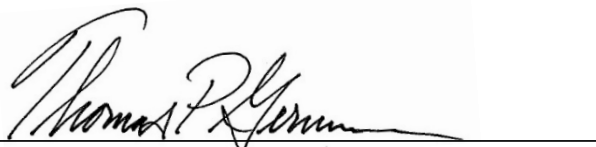
None

## **ITEM 9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Milwaukee County fines and forfeitures

## **ITEM 10. ADJOURN**

Board Chair Godlewski moved to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Kaul seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0; the meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.



Thomas P. German, Executive Secretary

Link to audio recording:

<https://bcpl.wisconsin.gov/bcpl.wisconsin.gov/Shared Documents/Board Meeting Docs/2025/2025-07-15 BoardMtgRecording.mp3>

**BOARD MEETING  
AUGUST 5, 2025****AGENDA ITEM 3  
APPROVE LOANS**

Municipality	Municipal Type	Loan Type	Loan Amount
1. Mishicot Manitowoc County Application #: 02026006 Purpose: Finance roadwork	Village Rate: 5.50% Term: 3 years	General Obligation	\$100,000.00
2. New London Outagamie and Waupaca Counties Application #: 02026007 Purpose: Finance purchase of DPW Bucket Truck	City Rate: 5.50% Term: 3 years	General Obligation	\$214,000.00
3. New London Outagamie and Waupaca Counties Application #: 02026008 Purpose: Finance roadwork	City Rate: 6.00% Term: 10 years	General Obligation	\$386,000.00
4. Summit Waukesha County Application #: 02026009 Purpose: Finance 2025 Capital Improvement Plan	Village Rate: 5.50% Term: 5 years	General Obligation	\$1,200,000.00
5. Salem Pierce County Application #: 02026010 Purpose: Finance roadwork	Town Rate: 5.50% Term: 2 years	General Obligation	\$180,000.00
6. Wisconsin Rapids Wood County Application #: 02026011 Purpose: Finance roadwork	City Rate: 5.50% Term: 5 years	General Obligation	\$725,000.00
7. Shelby La Crosse County Application #: 02026012 Purpose: Finance stormwater project	Town Rate: 5.50% Term: 3 years	General Obligation	\$400,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$3,205,000.00</b>

## WISCONSIN CONSTITUTION ARTICLE X, SECTION 2

**School fund created; income applied.** Section 2. *[As amended Nov. 1982]* The proceeds of all lands that have been or hereafter may be granted by the United States to this state for educational purposes (except the lands heretofore granted for the purposes of a university) and **all moneys and the clear proceeds of all property that may accrue to the state by forfeiture or escheat; and the clear proceeds of all fines collected in the several counties for any breach of the penal laws,** and all moneys arising from any grant to the state where the purposes of such grant are not specified, and the 500,000 acres of land to which the state is entitled by the provisions of an act of congress, entitled "An act to appropriate the proceeds of the sales of the public lands and to grant pre-emption rights," approved September 4, 1841; and also the 5 percent of the net proceeds of the public lands to which the state shall become entitled on admission into the union (if congress shall consent to such appropriation of the 2 grants last mentioned) shall be set apart as a separate fund to be called "the school fund," the interest of which and all other revenues derived from the school lands shall be exclusively applied to the following objects, to wit:

- (1) To the support and maintenance of common schools, in each school district, and the purchase of suitable libraries and apparatus therefor.
- (2) The residue shall be appropriated to the support and maintenance of academies and normal schools, and suitable libraries and apparatus therefor. *[1979 J.R. 36, 1981 J.R. 29, vote Nov. 1982]*



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**203 N.W.2d 84**  
**56 Wis.2d 666**  
**STATE of Wisconsin ex rel. COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC LANDS, Appellant,**  
**v.**  
**Walter E. ANDERSON, County Treasurer of Kenosha County, Respondent.**  
**No. 229.**  
**Supreme Court of Wisconsin.**  
**Jan. 3, 1973.**

Robert W. Warren, Atty. Gen., LeRoy L. Dalton, Robert D. Martinson, Asst. Attys. Gen.,  
Madison, for appellant.

Stafford, Rosenbaum, Rieser & Hansen, Madison, for respondent.

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HALLOWS, Chief Justice.

This appeal raises the question of whether the legislature may define 'clear proceeds' as used in Article X, Section 2, of the Wisconsin Constitution, and whether sec. 59.20(8), Stats., is a valid declaration of clear proceeds.

[56 Wis.2d 668] The constitution provides the clear proceeds of all fines collected in the counties for breaches of the penal laws shall be set apart as a separate 'school fund.'<sup>1</sup> The commissioners are constitutional officers and charged with the duty as trustees to administer the school fund. See Article X, Section 7, Wisconsin Constitution; secs. 25.01 and 25.21, Stats. The trial court correctly found the commissioners had standing to raise the issue of the constitutionality of sec. 59.20(8), Stats. They are not an agency of the state created by the legislature within the meaning of the rule of *Fulton Foundation v. Department of Taxation* (1961), [13 Wis.2d 1](#), [108 N.W.2d 312](#); see also *State ex rel. La Crosse v. Rothwell* (1964), [25 Wis.2d 228](#), [131 N.W.2d 699](#); *Columbia County v. Wisconsin Retirement Fund* (1962), [17 Wis.2d 310](#), [116 N.W.2d 142](#).

Prior case law does not require or dictate that sec. 59.20(8), Stats., be declared constitutional. Since 1849, one year after the adoption of our constitution, a treasurer of a county could retain 2 percent of the fines as his fee for collecting and transmitting the fines derived from the conviction of the violations of criminal statutes. See Revised Stats. (1849), ch. 10, secs. 111, 115, 116. By the Laws of 1929, ch. 287, this amount was increased to 10 percent to be kept by the county; and, by the Laws of 1941, ch. 206, sec. 1a, the legislature increased the amount the county could retain from 10 to 50 percent of the fines and penalties collected under the statute relating to motor vehicle laws.

The question of what amount constitutes 'clear proceeds' which the state must constitutionally receive from fines collected by the counties under state penal [56 Wis.2d 669] laws is not resolved by resort to any definition in the constitution because the term is not therein defined. Consequently, the legislature must determine the meaning and the application of clear proceeds. From prior cases it is apparent the legislature has such power but it is limited and the

legislature may not grant so large a percentage of the fines that the sum left for the school fund is merely nominal, and the sum allowed to be withheld by the collecting county must not be for a purpose other than reimbursement of the expense of prosecuting the offense which generates the fines. Obviously, 'clear proceeds' should mean net proceeds and any deduction from the amount of the fines should represent the actual or reasonably accurate estimate of the costs of the prosecution.

The first case considering 'clear proceeds' was *Lynch v. The Steamer 'Economy'* (1870), [27 Wis. 69](#), which involved a statute providing a penalty for violating a requirement that spark catchers be used on river boats and which granted one half of the penalty to the complainant or informer who prosecuted the case. The other half of the penalty was allocated to the county, but the court said this allocation to the county was undoubtedly invalid because the state and not the county was entitled to the remaining one half of the fine. By implication this court in determining clear proceeds allowed an informer or collector's fee, which was traditional at common law, of 50 percent as an expense. But, in the next year, this court struck down a statute which imposed a penalty for permitting sheep infected with 'foot rot' to be driven upon a public highway because the statute provided that the entire penalty recovered would go to the complainant. *Dutton v. Fowler* (1871), [27 Wis. 427](#). Apparently on

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the theory the amount of the penalty exceeded the cost of prosecution or a controllable item of deduction should not equal [56 Wis.2d 670] the penalty, this court intimated some part of the penalty had to be reserved for the school fund. Thus, where it was possible to have clear proceeds of a fine, such proceeds must be reserved to the state. In both these case, the court by implication or assumption recognized the power of the legislature to determine what constituted clear proceeds.

In *State ex rel. Guenther, State Treasurer v. Miles, County Treasurer* (1881), [52 Wis. 488](#), [9 N.W. 403](#), the state sought to recover money received as fines which the county treasurer claimed the expense of prosecution had absorbed. The statute required the county treasurer to remit the fines after deducting his 'legal fees' which were set at 2 percent. This court held the county treasurer was bound by the 2 percent set by the legislature in the statute; it was the duty of the legislature to determine what deductions were to be made, and even this legislative power was limited. This case held all money collected as forfeited recognizances could be retained by county treasurers without violation of any constitutional provision because a forfeiture was not a fine. This holding was affirmed in *State v. Wettstein* (1885), [64 Wis. 234](#), [25 N.W. 34](#). Section 345.13(2), Stats., now treats forfeitures of bail as payments of fines.<sup>2</sup>

The power of the legislature to determine 'clear proceeds' was reaffirmed in *State v. De Lano* (1891), [80 Wis. 259](#), [49 N.W. 808](#). The statute involved therein provided two thirds of the fine would go to the informer and one third to the school fund. The court [56 Wis.2d 671] noted that in the *Lynch Case* the legislative power to determine what amounted to clear proceeds was assumed rather than decided. Addressing itself anew to the question of what 'clear proceeds' meant, the court stated that 'clear' meant something could be deducted from the fine so that the balance was free from all charges and thus the equivalent of the term 'net profit' as used in business transactions. Reasoning from the premise that a power must exist to declare what constitutes clear proceeds, the court said it did exist and rested in the legislature. Although the

court thought two thirds of the fee paid to the informer was large, it approved the fee but warned, however, that it would not approve a mere nominal amount being left for the school fund.

In *State ex rel. Johnson v. Maurer* (1915), [159 Wis. 653](#), [150 N.W. 966](#), a statute provided for one third of the fine received for fish and game violations to be paid to the informer, one third to the state, and one third to the county treasurer, who was instructed to designate and establish 'a fund for the protection of fish and game to reimburse the county for the moneys which it shall expend for the enforcement of the fish and game laws . . .' The part of the fine given the county treasurer was held unconstitutional on the ground it was not a valid deduction or an expense incurred. The amount paid the county was for future enforcements and not for present enforcement of the laws.

We hold, therefore, the legislature from sheer necessity has the implied power to determine what amount of a fine constitutes 'clear proceeds' as used in Article X, Section 2, Wisconsin Constitution, and in doing so may estimate the reasonable costs of collecting such fines.

We also hold that sec. 59.20(8), allowing 50 percent of the fines in motor vehicle cases to be retained by the county,

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is reasonable and bears a reasonable [56 Wis.2d 672] relationship to the county's costs of enforcing such laws. The evidence showed Kenosha county lost money in 1970 in collecting such fines. The commissioners argue this evidence is immaterial and the test is the cost of prosecution when the statute was enacted; we find no merit in this argument. The statute is not unconstitutional on its face and the test of constitutionality of its application is keyed to the present, not to the past. A statute, unconstitutional on its face, is void from its beginning to the end; but a statute unconstitutional in an application is only void as applied in a certain time and to the specific circumstances.

Relying on *Scharping v. Johnson* (1966), [32 Wis.2d 383, 396](#), [145 N.W.2d 691](#), the commissioners argue the statute violates the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution because no valid distinction exists between motor-vehicle-code violations and other crimes which would justify the legislature's authorizing counties to retain 50 percent of the motor vehicle fines and only 10 percent of the fines for other crimes. Because of the silence of the constitution, the commissioners also question the power of the legislature to make any classification of crimes for the purpose of determining clear proceeds. We think the legislature has the implied power to make classifications for such purpose and the classification made is reasonable and bears a reasonable and just relationship to the object sought to be obtained, i.e., the allowance to the county of a reasonable cost of collection of the fines.

A legislative classification is presumed to be valid. *State ex rel. Real Estate Examining Board v. Gerhardt* (1968), [39 Wis.2d 701](#), [159 N.W.2d 622](#). The burden of proof rests on the party challenging the statute, and if there is any reasonable basis for the classification, the court will uphold the statute. *Chicago & North Western Railway Co. v. La Follette* (1969), [43 Wis.2d 631](#), [169 N.W.2d \[56 Wis.2d 673\] 441](#). Thus the burden of proof is heavy and in addition the invalidity must be established beyond a reasonable doubt. See *Clark Oil & Refining Corp. v. Tomah* (1966), [30 Wis.2d 547](#), [141 N.W.2d 299](#).

The only evidence in the record shows Kenosha county suffered a net loss in prosecuting state traffic cases. Besides traffic violation cases are high-volume cases involving expensive enforcement and carrying lower fines than other crimes. There is no evidence that 50 percent of the fine is an unreasonable estimate of the costs and it may well be that 10 percent of other fines is insufficient in those cases. Under any view of this record, the commissioners have not met their burden of proof that the statutory distinction is invidious or unreasonable. See *McGowan v. Maryland* (1961), [366 U.S. 420](#), 81 Sup.Ct. 1101, [6 L.Ed.2d 393](#).

Judgment affirmed.

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1 'School fund created; income applied. Section 2. . . . 'and the clear proceeds of all fines collected in the several counties for any breach of the penal laws . . . shall be set apart as a separate fund to be called the 'school fund' . . . '

2 '345.13 Posting of bail. . . .

(2) If the person so arrested and released fails to appears, personally or by an authorized attorney or agent, before the court at the time fixed for the hearing of the case, the money deposited by the accused pursuant to sub. (1) shall be retained and used for the payment of the penalty, which may be imposed, together with costs, after an ex parte hearing upon the accused . . . '

BUDGET PROVISION REGARDING FINES AND FORFEITURES IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY

OMNIBUS MOTION #130 (July 1, 2025)

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS (Page 40)

6. Traffic Law Fine and Forfeiture Revenues in Milwaukee County. Specify that Milwaukee County may retain 100% of fine and forfeiture revenues from violations of state traffic laws, and require that these revenues must be deposited into a segregated account from which moneys may be used only for purposes related to the operation of the district attorney's office. For counties other than Milwaukee County, retain current law provisions that require 50% of fine and forfeiture revenues from violations of state traffic laws to be deposited to the common school fund, while the remaining 50% of these revenues are retained by the county. Estimate decreased revenues to the common school fund of - \$2,200,000 SEG-REV annually.

7. Milwaukee Assistant District Attorneys. Provide \$984,400 PR in 2025-26 and \$1,365,000 PR in 2026-27 and 12.5 PR positions annually for Milwaukee County assistant district attorneys, funded with revenue from fines and forfeitures collected by Milwaukee County for violations of state traffic laws



## Bayfield County Administrator

117 E 5<sup>th</sup> Street, PO Box 878, Washburn, WI 54891

Ph: 715-373-6181 Fx: 715-373-6153

Mark Abeles-Allison, *County Administrator*   Kelly Westlund, *Deputy County Administrator*  
Kristine Kavajecz, *Human Resources Director*   Kim Mattson, *Finance Director*   Gail Reha, *Bookkeeper*  
Ryan VanLanduyt, *Energy Specialist*   Paige Terry, *Clerk III*   Jaime Cadotte, *Clerk II*

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July 17, 2025

Tom German, Executive Secretary  
Board of Commissioners of Public Lands  
101 East Wilson Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Mr. German:

Thank you for working with our communities on the future of the Pigeon Lake Field Station in the Town of Drummond, Bayfield County, Wisconsin.

This property, inclusive of parcel tax IDs 14961, 14963, and 15040, has great meaning to residents of our county and region. This site is remembered as a program center providing a variety of youth, senior, and community recreation, as well as a place for education and civic opportunities.

Bayfield County has explored a wide range of potential future uses for the site to keep the tradition alive. The strong history of the campus and desire to restore it is tempered with awareness that the facilities and infrastructure have been unused for over 15 years. Prolonged flooding of Pigeon Lake lasted for several years, raising questions about the functionality of the potable water and sewer infrastructure after being submerged for several years. **Simultaneously, we are aware of new draft floodplain maps under review by the WDNR, which will likely have significant impacts on these parcels (attached).**

Bayfield County is interested in continued community and public access at Pigeon Lake Field Station. We are currently exploring a partnership with an experienced community group that has submitted a proposal to revitalize the property. The Bayfield County Executive Committee discussed this project in detail last week.

Bayfield County would like to extend an offer for this parcel in the amount of **\$750,000**. This offer considers the last appraisal, the current condition of the buildings (37 total), and concerns about the infrastructure at the site that may need renovation or removal. It also accounts for the estimated costs of shoreline stabilization and restoration, as well as public access improvements such as docks, trails, and access roads that will all need to be addressed.

A closer look at the property has resulted in several such concerns. In the interest of preserving public access and the community-oriented history of the site, we hope the Commissioners will consider our offer and negotiate in good faith.

This offer and any other are subject to final approval by the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Abeles-Allison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being the most prominent.

Mark Abeles-Allison  
Bayfield County Administrator

ATTACHMENTS: DNR floodplain map



Attachment 1: WDNR Draft Floodplain Map.

Red Square Shows the Pigeon Lake Field Station

Pigeon Lake, Bayfield County Draft Floodplain

