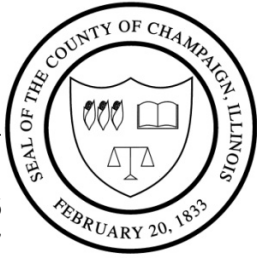


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CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
DATA CENTER ACTIVITIES TASK FORCE AGENDA
County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois
Monday, March 23, 2026 - 6:30 p.m.

Shields-Carter Meeting Room
Bennett Administrative Center
102 E. Main St., Urbana

10 **MINUTES – Subject to Approval**

- 11 Members Present: Emily Rodriguez, Aaron Esry, Dirk Rice, Kevin Sage, Robert Herschfeld (Proxy), Deb
 - 12 Newell
 - 13
 - 14 Members Absent: Eric Thorsland, Andrew Rehn, Carly McCrory-McKay
 - 15
 - 16 Others Present: Steve Summers (County Executive), Michelle Jett (Director of Administration), John Hall
 - 17 (Director of Planning and Zoning), and Kait Kuzio (Recording Secretary)
-

18 **Agenda Items**

19 **I. Call to Order**

20 Chair Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

21 **II. Roll Call**

22 Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

23 **III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum**

24 **MOTION** by Mr. Esry to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Sage. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED**

25 unanimously.

26 **IV. Chair’s Opening Remarks (discussion only)**

27 **A. Purpose of the Task Force**

28 Chair Rodriguez explained that the purpose of the task force is to review data center activities

29 and its impacts within our county as well as to prepare recommendations for consideration to

30 the Environment and Land Use Committee (ELUC) for eventual consideration by the full County

31 Board.

32 **B. Background on Data Center Activities Initiative**

33 Chair Rodriguez stated that we do have an existing data center policy in place in Champaign

34 County, and we are looking at amending that for future data center proposals.

35 **C. Desired Outcomes/expectations for the group**

36 Members intend to provide recommendations to ELUC within three months, meaning by June

37 23, 2026. If members feel as though they need more time, they will provide ELUC with an

38 update on where they are in the process.

39 **V. Member Introductions (discussion only)**

40 Members and present administration and staff introduced themselves and stated their interest/expertise

41 related to data centers.

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52 VI. New Business

53 A. Task Force Structure (discussion only)

54 After his introduction, Director of Planning and Zoning John Hall referenced a handout that he provided to
55 members so they'd have something to start with.

56
57 He explained that Attachment A is the existing data center requirements in Champaign County, which are
58 inadequate for the current kinds of data centers. These were adopted back in 2022 when we were looking at
59 very small data centers—things that didn't use great amounts of water or have large energy impacts. The
60 handout includes a proposed amendment drafted by Director Hall and presented to ELUC. The changes are
61 highlighted and it's based on the solar farm requirements. There are just a few changes for data centers. Then
62 Attachment B is a copy of the application for the Sangamon County data center proposal that they are voting on
63 this evening.

64
65 Mr. Hall stated he has never received an application like the one Sangamon County received; it's a huge project
66 and a huge application. The packet includes a data center impact analysis, which Sangamon County paid for to
67 better assess the impacts on energy costs. Additionally, there is an attachment that includes City of Aurora's
68 proposed changes for data centers. They imposed a six-month moratorium to review impacts and propose
69 ordinance changes. Director Hall will be digging into that more.

70
71 Chair Rodriguez reiterated that we do not have any applications pending for data centers at this time, and we do
72 have five small scale data centers that already exist in the county.

73
74 Ms. Newell asked if an application already exists for proposing a data center in Champaign County. Director Hall
75 explained that we do, it would be our standard special use permit application. He also added that the proposed
76 amendment he drafted previously for ELUC is lacking, and that is the purpose of this task force.

77
78 Mr. Rice brought up that south of Mahomet, some land-owners have been approached about committing land
79 to what sounds like it will be a rather large data center project. Has the county been contacted about this?

80
81 Director Hall had a meeting a while ago with a company that was inquiring about what they called the "Rising
82 area," meaning Rising, IL, but there were never any follow up proposals, plans, or communications about it. The
83 most information he has is that a size of 300 acres was mentioned, but that's it. Mr. Esry stated that the
84 company that Mr. Hall mentioned did also reach out to five board members to introduce themselves and give
85 very basic information, but they have not followed up.

86
87 Mr. Esry said that the current 5 data centers that we have, all owned by the same company, are small enough
88 that they are air-cooled and they came along with a small solar array to assist with power.

89
90 i. Meeting schedule and format (discussion only)

91 Members outlined that they would like to focus on defining large data centers versus small data
92 centers and that should be a priority. They also discussed square footage, water usage,
93 electricity usage, type of cooling, workforce and housing needs, and community benefit
94 agreements.

95
96 Members would like to start with defining data centers and large versus small data centers.
97 They would like to group water use and the Mahomet Aquifer together, energy, environmental
98 (noise, drainage, etc.), transparency, NDA's, workforce, and community benefit agreements,

99 decommissioning and long-term accountability, and public participation. Members will continue
100 to think about the best and most effective way to cover these topics.

101
102 Chair Rodriguez asks that everyone review the handouts that Director Hall provided to discuss
103 policy at the next meeting. She would like everyone to especially focus on reviewing policy, and
104 the examples from Auora and Sangamon are a good starting point.

105
106 Mr. Esry reminds members that the 12-month moratorium on data center applications is
107 pending because of the process to get it to the full board. That should be resolved by next
108 month.

109
110 Chair Rodriguez asks what information do we need and what experts do we need to hear from?
111 Members will think about this and should share any suggestions with the clerk.

112
113 Director Jett reminded members that this is considered an open meeting under the Open
114 Meetings Act. She also reminded them about FOIA and reviewed how that applies to their roles
115 here.

116
117 **ii. Selection of Vice Chair**

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119 **MOTION** by Mr. Sage to nominate Mr. Esry to serve as Vice Chair of the task force;
120 seconded by Ms. Newell. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

121
122 **iii. Proxy Use (discussion only)**

123
124 Proxies may be used for this committee due to the limited timeframe. A proxy form is available
125 for members to identify a proxy and sign; this will allow the named proxy member to attend and
126 participate in action items when the named member is unable to attend.

127
128 **B. Next Steps (discussion only)**

129
130 Chair Rodriguez asks that everyone review the handouts that Director Hall provided to discuss
131 policy at the next meeting. She would like everyone to especially focus on reviewing policy, and
132 the examples from Auora and Sangamon are a good starting point.

133
134 Chair Rodriguez states that what would work best would be for the clerk and Director of
135 Administration to use the general outline of topics they've discussed to work to line up
136 speakers, and we can revisit exact dates for topics once we have an idea of when speakers may
137 be available and how quickly we can get them scheduled.

138
139 **VII. Public Input**

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141 None

142
143 **VIII. Other Business**

144 A. Date of next meeting
145 i. April 13, 2026

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147 **IX. Chair's Report**

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149 None

150

151 **X. Adjournment**

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153 Chair Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 7:46p.m.

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