



Kane County

KC Strategic Plan Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

Government Center
719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg. A
Geneva, IL 60134

STRATHMANN, BATES, Gripe, Linder, Molina, Surges and Pierog (ex-officio)

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

10:00 AM

County Boardroom

1. Call To Order

Chairman Strathmann called today's meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

2. Roll Call

PRESENT	Board Member Cheryl Strathmann Board Member Mavis Bates Board Member Michael Linder Chairman Corinne M. Pierog
REMOTE	Board Member Jon Gripe Board Member Myrna Molina Board Member Clifford Surges

Also present: Co. Bd. members Allan*, Roth; Finance Exec. Dir. Hopkinson; Grant Admin. Cofer; ITD/BLG Exec. Dir. Fahnstock and ITD/ BLG Chief Information Officer Lasky; Transportation Deputy Dir. Rickert*; ITD staff Kash; and members of the press and public.

3. Remote Attendance Requests

Chairman Strathmann announced the remote attendance requests for today's meeting. She asked if there were any objections to Committee Members Gripe, Molina, and Surges attending remotely. There were no objections.

4. Approval of Minutes: None

5. Public Comment

Kane County resident Steve Lefler spoke on potential funding for the Strategic Plan. He believes the plan is important to have, however, he suggests that the county rely on artificial intelligence (AI), and using in-house staff to implement it.

Kane County resident Brian Anderson reminded Board Members of the county's budget crisis, and that saving money is crucial for the county. With budget presentations being presented in October, Anderson hopes the members of the Strategic Plan Committee pause all strategic plan discussions temporarily, or possibly cancel all committee plans.

6. Presentations/Discussions

A. Strategic Plan Discussion

Finance Exec. Dir. Hopkinson explained that the Strategic Plan will collect information from a broad group of stakeholders across the county. This information will be provided to the county identifying what is important to stakeholders who respond to various surveys, questionnaires, social media websites, and focus groups. The strategic plan will facilitate the development of key objectives for the county, effectively prioritize and direct budget resources, and establish benchmarks for achieving specific objectives. Hopkinson stated the a request for approval (RFP) was developed and issued for the plan. The RFP will ensure that the winning consultant would assist the county with report implementations. A total of nine responses were evaluated, with BerryDunn selected and approved on February 11, 2025 as the county's accounting and consulting firm. A kick-off meeting in April was held between the consultants and staff discussing staff roles, designing surveys, and data gathering. A County staff Work Team was developed to facilitate collection of documents and stakeholder lists. In August, there were two staff work team meetings with BerryDunn discussing document collections and ensuring access to the consultant portal for uploading documents. Hopkinson added that the team is in the process of customizing a website used to collect information. To date, documents have been collected for an information and data request. County staff have identified six categories to display on the Social Pinpoint Ideas Wall website, including Jobs and Economic Development, Transportation and Mobility, Public Health, Public Safety and Court Services, Housing Land Use and Environment, and access to county services. The Social Pinpoint Ideas Wall will be available on a website for community engagement. In addition to the Social Pinpoint site, there will be a survey with a series of questions for identifying stakeholders.

Grant Administrator, Paul Cofer, stated that during the week of October 27, BerryDunn will conduct on-site community forums in the area. Stakeholders will be interviewed to develop the final Environmental Scan. There will be facilitated events distributed throughout the county to solicit input from members of stakeholder groups. Cofer noted that it will be important for the subcommittee to prioritize identifying the best stakeholder groups for the community forums.

Hopkinson stated that in November, there will be an in-person strategic planning workshop consisting of a one four-hour session with County Board Members, a one eight-hour session with department heads, elected officeholders, and other leadership staff, reviewing and finalizing all strategic objectives to develop a final draft of the plan. The initial draft plan will be presented to the County Board in December. The final strategic plan will be presented to the County Board the week of January 12, 2026. The strategic plan is projected to be completed in early March 2026. Discussion ensued.

Subcommittee Member Bates presented information and comments about why the need for a strategic plan is important for Kane County. She stated that a strategic plan provides a county government with a future-oriented roadmap, aligns budgeting with priorities, and promotes a unified vision across departments. The key benefits of the plan include improved resource allocation, enhanced community collaboration, proactive identification and mitigation of challenges, increased accountability, and the

ability to achieve long-term sustainability and growth by responding effectively to citizen needs. She noted that the strategic plan can save the county money by identifying inefficiencies, prioritizing critical services, and proactively managing finances to reduce further costs. Further discussion took place.

7. Executive Session (if needed)

None.

8. Adjournment

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Mavis Bates
SECONDER:	Corinne M. Pierog

This meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Rachel Santora
Recording Secretary