

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2025 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM IN  
THE WILCOX COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

## 1. Attendance

### Wilcox County Board of Commissioners

- Jamie Handley – Chairman
- Clay Reid – Vice Chairman
- Jowan Johnson – Commissioner
- Kerney Hair – Commissioner
- Mel Powell – Commissioner
- Michael Pomirko – County Manager/Clerk

### Wilcox County Sheriff's Office

- Jeff Wessel – Sheriff

### Wilcox County Board of Education

- Denita Childs – Chairperson
- Berry Collier – Board Member
- Morris Holloway – Board Member
- Nathan Gibbs – Superintendent
- Philip Worley – Finance Director

### Wilcox County Development Authority

- Michael Frazier – Chairman
- Shane Rhodes – Vice Chairman
- Shermin Styles – Board Member
- Jerek Walton – Board Member

### Silicon Ranch Representatives

- Conner Echols – Project Manager
- Jeff Chestnut – Seyfarth Shaw LLP, Wilcox County Development Authority Counsel (via Zoom)
- Bruce McCall – Miller & Martin Law Firm, Silicon Ranch Counsel (via Zoom)
- Tom Harrold – Miller & Martin Law Firm, Silicon Ranch Counsel (via Zoom)

## 2. Call to Order

Chairman Jamie Handley called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

## 3. Invocation and Pledge

- The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Jowan Johnson.
- All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

## 4. Silicon Ranch Project II – Presentation and Q&A

Chairman Handley opened the meeting by noting that the purpose of this session was to address questions related to Silicon Ranch Project II, located on property previously considered for a single project. He stated that some questions may also relate to Project I, and Mr. Conner Echols was present to provide clarity.

### Overview by Silicon Ranch

Mr. Echols introduced himself and provided an overview of Silicon Ranch's mission, community investment philosophy, and long-term approach of purchasing land rather than leasing. He noted that unlike many solar companies, Silicon Ranch typically maintains ownership of the land beyond the life of the project.

### Summary of Questions and Responses

- **Land Ownership & Sale (Question by Jerek Walton)**  
Mr. Echols addressed the company's value in owning the land and emphasized Silicon Ranch's intent to remain a long-term community partner.
- **Bankruptcy Concerns (Question by Commissioner Hair)**  
Mr. Echols explained that protections are included in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to safeguard the county in such an event.
- **Tax Abatement & PILOT Payments (Wilcox County School)**  
Attorney Jeff Chestnut described how the Wilcox County Development Authority issues the bonds for

project equipment such as solar panels.

The county and school system will receive PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) revenues, replacing traditional property taxes on the equipment (solar panels).

- **Storm Damage to Solar Panels (Question by Commissioner Powell)**

Mr. Echols confirmed that damaged panels would be replaced promptly to maintain the output required under the MOU.

- **Impact on School System Funding**

The Wilcox County School Board raised concerns regarding federal funding impacts.

Mr. Chestnut explained that **PILOT payments do not negatively affect federal funding formulas**, and land value changes are expected to be minimal.

- **Project Timeline and Capacity**

- **Project I:** Construction expected to begin **December 2025**, producing **90 MW**.

- **Project II:** Expected to begin **2027**, producing **50 MW**.

- **Environmental and Site Work (Question about third-party land work)**

Mr. Echols noted that extensive environmental and regulatory testing is required before construction begins.

- **Sheep Grazing Land Management**

Silicon Ranch discussed its investment in sheep grazing as a long-term, sustainable vegetation management strategy.

- **Job Fairs and Local Employment**

Mr. Echols said a job fair is planned to support **100–200 positions** across Projects I and II over the construction period.

## 5. Consideration of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Silicon Ranch Project II

Chairman Handley thanked Silicon Ranch and all participating boards for their attendance and input.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jowan Johnson to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Project II, to commence following the activation of Project I.

- **Second:** Commissioner Kerney Hair

- **Votes:**

- **Yes:** Chairman Handley, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Hair

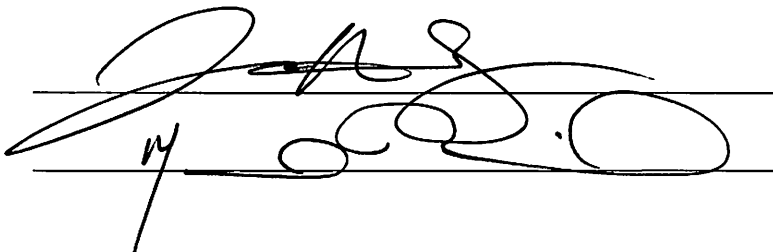
- **No:** Commissioner Powell, Vice Chairman Reid (Vice Chairman Reid abstained from support due to owning adjacent property)

- **Outcome:** Motion passed 3–2

## 6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chairman Clay Reid, seconded by Commissioner Mel Powell, and approved unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.**

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is for Jamie Handley, and the second is for Michael Pomirko. Both signatures are written over horizontal lines that serve as baselines for the text.

Jamie Handley, Chairman

Michael Pomirko, County Manager