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**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING  
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2010**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, April 12, 2010 in the Administrative Center, Room B410. Chair Doyle called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. The County Clerk, Linda Stone, took attendance. All supervisors were present except as noted:

<b>District</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
1	Richmond, Andrea	Excused
2	Geary, Ralph	Present
3	Veenstra, Joe	Present
4	Johnson, Jai	Present
5	Konkel, Bradley	Present; Excused at 7:21 PM
6	Billings, Jill	Present
7	Plesha, Roger	Present
8	Freedland, Maureen	Present
9	Hampson, Sharon	Excused
10	Wood, Margaret	Present
11	Kader, Audrey	Present
12	Flood, Bridget	Present
13	Brockmiller, Bill	Present
14	Medinger, John	Present
15	Mach, Beverly	Present
16	Sebranek, Gerald	Present
17	Meyer, Donald	Excused
18	Johnson, Tara	Present
19	Keil, Robert	Present
20	Bina, Donald	Present
21	Manthei, Dennis	Excused
22	Ebert, Ray	Present; Excused at 7:00 PM
23	Gamroth, Tammy	Present
24	Pfaff, Leon	Present; Excused at 7:19 PM
25	Schroeder, Jeffrey	Present; Excused at 6:50 PM
26	Burke, Vicki	Present
27	Pedretti, Marilyn	Present
28	Doyle, Steve	Present
29	Kruse, Monica	Present; Excused at 7:00 PM
30	Spiker, Charles	Present
31	Fisher, Ann	Absent
32	Benrud, Arlene	Present
33	Berns, Jim	Present; Excused at 7:19 PM
34	Wehrs, Tina	Present
35	Bilskemper, Joe	Present

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## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

#### A) County Board Chair Report - Steve Doyle

- Plaque Presentations: A plaque was presented to Joe Veenstra in appreciation for his years of service as a County Board Supervisor. Mr. Veenstra briefly addressed the Board noting that he had enjoyed the people and the experience. Supervisor Ann Fisher was not present to accept her plaque for the years she served so it will be mailed to her.
- Meeting Attendance: It is important that supervisors give sufficient notice to the Chair's office if they are unable to attend a Committee meeting so a replacement can be found in time to make a quorum or the meeting cannot be held.
- Supervisor Conference Reports
  - Arts Board: Supervisor Burke serves as the County's representative on the City of La Crosse Arts Board; she spoke on the distributed hand-out, *City of La Crosse Arts Board Proposed 2010 Plan of Work*.
  - WCHA: Supervisor Benrud was in Wausau March 23<sup>rd</sup> for a Wisconsin County Highway Association meeting; they discussed the upcoming Capitol Days in Madison where they will be meeting with the Senators on transportation issues.
  - ITBEC: Supervisor Benrud (along with Supervisors Brockmiller and Pedretti and Sustainability Coordinator Nick Nichols) attended an International Trade, Business and Economic Development Council Conference on Energy on March 29<sup>th</sup>; she had distributed information on that to the supervisors. She also attended an ITBEC meeting in Tomah on April 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - Caregiver Training: Supervisor Kader spent the last 3 days of March in Manitowoc at a Powerful Tools for Caregiving training which was co-sponsored by the Aging Commission; she is now a certified leader for that 6 week series for her work.
  - WCA Judicial and Public Safety: Supervisor Flood attended the WCA Judicial and Public Safety Steering Committee meeting in Madison where speakers talked about recent and pending legislative changes. WCA is still not supporting 19 year olds going to Juvenile Detention without the funds and it will likely not get out of committee this year. They engaged in very interesting discussions on mental illness and disabilities and jail versus community support. Drunk driving issues are being considered at the State now; attendance at *Working with OWI Offenders* on May 24<sup>th</sup> in Stevens Point was recommended. Jane Klekamp, our Justice Sanctions Manager, will probably be presenting there. She encouraged anyone in the Judiciary and Law Field to attend.
  - White Privilege Conference: Supervisor Mach spoke about last week's White Privilege Conference. She felt it was very educational and thought provoking. At least 1700 attended, including students, and there were great speakers and workshops. She shared some interesting quotes and pointed out how racism hurts whites as well as those of color; she pointed out we need to educate ourselves and seek out friends with differences.
  - WCA Agriculture Steering Committee: Supervisor Bina, who is a member of the WCA Ag Steering Committee, attended a meeting in Stevens Point. Russ Rasmussen from the DNR was there and they talked about NR151 which is a change in the concept of how they check for soil erosion, changing from nitrate base to phosphate base. There were many differing opinions on the subject. A representative from HSUS, in the name of animal rights, spoke about their concerns with tail docking, dehorning, castration, and even penning animals. In addition they spoke about the Working Lands Initiative; it looks like there may be some amendments in the near future, such as throwing out the penalty clause. WCA went on record as being opposed to that.

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- White Privilege Conference: Supervisor Freedland added her comments about the White Privilege Conference. She felt the County employees that attended will benefit, particularly those that work with clients of difference.
- Voting System: County Clerk Stone explained the differences in the new voting system for the supervisors. Chair Doyle thanked her and Jami Hundt from I.T., who wrote the program, for the time spent on this. We expect it to make the entire meeting process more efficient and accurate.
- Committee Preferences: Chair Doyle needs everyone's Committee Preference sheets tonight and will try to follow their preferences as much as possible despite that many people often ask for the same committee. The Legislative Committee and the Law Enforcement Center ad hoc committee should be added to the list and there is no limit to the number of members on them. He instructed them to remove Hidden Valleys since we are no longer a member, though it is still in the Ordinance so that needs updating in the future.
- The Organizational Meeting will be Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.; all supervisors will be sworn in at that meeting.
- The County Board Retreat will be Thursday at noon at the Midway Motor Lodge. Administrator O'Malley plans on review and discussion of goals and priorities, budget issues and challenges, the campus plan and the County's web site.
- Supervisor Medinger asked about the WCA District meeting and Administrator O'Malley's assistant will find and send out information on that.

B) Administrator Report - Steve O'Malley

Recession Impact on Human Services: Human Services Director Jerry Huber, with the aid of a slide presentation and a printed analysis distributed to the supervisors, spoke about the impact that the recession is having on the demand for services. From 2008 to 2009 crisis contacts increased from about 3700 to 4200, however this was primarily because Human Services now has the responsibility to authorize Chapter 51 detentions so law enforcement is using our crisis workers more and this is a positive thing. However, inpatient expenses have increased significantly; this is why the CARE center has been developed and he expects that will significantly decrease this cost in the future. Residential expenses also went up and his department is looking closely at how beneficial that solution is since we are primarily paying for the cost of the building and not necessarily treatment. Economic Support consists of all public assistance programs, Medicaid, W2, Badger Care, and some aspects of Energy Assistance programs. The graph shows a slight decline in caseload which is largely due to the state implementing the State Enrollment Services and administering Food Share, Badger Care Core and Family Planning Waiver cases for adults without dependent children. So there are many factors involved in the number of caseloads changing, such as state changes in how programs are run. So not all fluctuations are due to the recession, but over-all there have been significant increases in the past 5 years. Caseloads for County workers who handle families and elderly and disabled customers saw an increase of 421 cases from January to December 2009. Food Share in January 2010 was up 505 cases for 1,914 more recipients for an increase of almost \$350,000. In 2010, all of the budgeted W2 emergency funds were exhausted by the end of February. Increases shown in the ADRC-WW (Aging and Disability Resource Center of Western Wisconsin) call and referral volume is partly due to regionalization, so La Crosse County referrals were documented separately as well. They went up over 200 per month the last 1/3 of 2009 compared to 2008. Another area of concern is CPS (Child in Need of Protective Services). We are one of a dozen states where all of Human Services is provided and funded largely by counties. We have raised the bar as to what constitutes abuse or neglect so we are acting on fewer referrals and only being involved in the most egregious cases and only for a limited period of time; this came from National Standards set in 1996. In reference to the graph on CPS resolutions, Huber explained that we are now trying to place children with relatives more. The courts often place children outside the home and the County is responsible for helping that family during this transition. The last graph showed that Juvenile Justice referrals have gone down. The reason is often because counties and courts become more tolerant when budgets are already strained. He continues to be concerned

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whether there is still a "safety net". There is a temptation to provide the bare minimum of services and this results in vulnerable children and adults and we should be relevant in meeting the needs of our citizens. He referred to the "3 E's" (Entry points, Evidence Based and Exits), acknowledging that we need to be more efficient in directing cases to the proper *entry* program, keep better records of results as *evidence* to verify which programs are justified and also have better *exit* strategies and be willing to "let go" even if it involves risk. Huber responded to questions from the Board through-out. Administrator O'Malley concluded by adding that we are constantly looking for better, more cost-effective solutions, such as the CARE Center, and while we don't have all the answers we continue to monitor costs, to be pro-active and even to scale back when necessary. Supervisors serving on the HHS Board weighed in on the discussion, noting that changing Federal and State legislation is always an unknown we have to work around, and that drastic changes, such as possibly closing JDF (Juvenile Detention Center) could result in more expensive solutions. Huber concluded that the next Administration will have a big impact on the future of Human Services in Wisconsin.

- Energy Efficiency and Conservative Block Grant program ARRA report: Administrator O'Malley noted that many larger counties and cities automatically qualify for these allocations; we have to compete for them and don't get every grant that we apply for. He, Sustainability Coordinator Nick Nichols and Community Development Specialist Brian Fukuda (who actually wrote the grant) took an innovative approach in order to compete better. They targeted and strategized on 3 separate projects, solar hot water heating on the LEC addition and at Lakeview in addition to converting the Rotary Lights to LED. They are studying the options and the pay backs and any decisions will be made by the committee(s) and the full Board. The money for the LEC had been set aside pending further investigation into the pay back. The Lakeview local match was also set aside for a new roof in the same area the solar panels would go so there is no extra expense there at all. There had been talk in the Joint Sustainability Committee about closing down Rotary Lights for being a waste of energy; this could be a tool to keeping this public service that raises money and donations for the food pantry and 80+ other organizations in the area. These donations have a public good and favorably impact our Human Services budget. The potential breakdown could be as follows:

	Local Match	Focus Reward	EECBG Grant	Total
LEC Solar Hot Water	\$56,564	\$49,498	\$100,000	\$206,062
Lakeview Solar Hot Water	\$39,649	\$24,975	\$100,000	\$164,624
Rotary Lights Conversion to LED	\$106,297	\$4,000	\$19,400	\$129,697
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$202,510</b>	<b>\$78,473</b>	<b>\$219,400</b>	<b>\$500,383</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>40.47%</b>	<b>15.68%</b>	<b>43.85%</b>	<b>100%</b>

- Update on High Speed Rail Initiatives – LADCO Economic Forum on April 16, 2010: Anyone interested in attending should contact the Chair's office.
- Status of Legislative Issues: The issues we are lobbying for are RTA (a Regional Transit Authority), the nursing homes legislation that will give final approval to the organizational structure of MVHS, and the property tax rate limit that currently penalizes counties like ours that have been fiscally responsible. Representative Shilling has been very critical to these issues because of her position on the Joint Finance Committee and we are making good progress on a number of them. Administrator O'Malley is also looking for legislative ideas that the supervisors would like to initiate legislation on in the Wisconsin Counties Association resolutions packet for the Annual WCA Meeting. The deadline is June 28, 2010.
- La Crosse Area Diversity Coalition formation news conference will be tomorrow morning (April 13, 2010) at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday.

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- Census Statistics: Supervisors Wood and Bina were interested in a breakdown of our county population and who we serve.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

**APRIL 2010 - LA CROSSE COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH "HEALTHY COUNTIES"**

Motion by Brockmiller/Billings to approve passed on a roll call vote with 23 ayes and 1 nay - Veenstra, with 10 excused - Hampson, Ebert, Kruse, Pfaff, Schroeder, Berns, Meyer, Manthei, Konkel, Richmond and 1 absent - Fisher.

**APRIL 2010 - EARTH MONTH**

Motion by Wood/Johnson to approve passed on a unanimous roll call vote with 10 excused - Hampson, Ebert, Kruse, Pfaff, Schroeder, Berns, Meyer, Manthei, Konkel, Richmond and 1 absent - Fisher.

**FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS**

Committee Preferences: Chair Doyle again reminded everyone that he must have their committee preference sheets tonight or he will make your committee assignments without your input.

Post Meeting Social Time: Many members will be meeting at a local establishment and all are welcome to join them.

**ADJOURN**

Motion by Sebranek/Brockmiller to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. passed on a unanimous voice vote with 10 excused - Hampson, Ebert, Kruse, Pfaff, Schroeder, Berns, Meyer, Manthei, Konkel, Richmond and 1 absent - Fisher.

**STATE OF WISCONSIN )**

**COUNTY OF LA CROSSE )**

I, Linda Stone, La Crosse County Clerk, in and for the County of La Crosse, Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Journal of Proceedings of the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors at the Planning Meeting held Monday, April 12, 2010 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 29<sup>TH</sup> OF APRIL 2010.