

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING  
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, DECEMBER 08, 2014**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, December 08, 2014 in the Administrative Center, Room B410. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 23 supervisors were present when Chair Tara Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and those otherwise present, excused or absent are noted in the roll call detail:

<b>District Name</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
1 Richmond, Andrea	Present
2 Geary, Ralph	Present
3 Veenstra, Joe	Present
4 Freedland, Maureen	Present
5 Rosa, Keyla	Absent
6 Plesha, Roger	Present
7 Hampson, Sharon	Present
8 Jerome, Peg	Present
9 Caucutt, Nancy	Present
10 Cable, Kim	Present
11 Scheller, Patrick	Present
12 Holtze, Dave	Present
13 Logue, Brian	Present
14 Schroeder, Jeffrey	Present
15 Kruse, Monica	Present
16 Ferries, Dan	Present
17 Giese, Mike	Excused
18 Berg, Laurence	Excused
19 Hoffman, Hubert	Present
20 Doyle, Steve	Present at 06:45 PM
21 Burke, Vicki	Present
22 Barlow, Patrick	Present
23 Nikolay, Matt	Present
24 Pfaff, Leon	Present
25 Ebert, Ray	Excused
26 Hesse, Dan	Present
27 Wehrs, Tina	Absent
28 Keil, Robert	Present
29 Johnson, Tara	Present

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**County Board Chair Report - Tara Johnson**

- Supervisor Conference Reports – none offered.

**Administrator Report - Steve O'Malley**

**PROCLAMATION DECEMBER 2014 - ZONING, PLANNING AND LAND INFORMATION  
AND METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the staff of these departments assist and advise individuals, businesses, professionals and governmental communities by uniformly administering the zoning, floodplain, shoreland, subdivision, telecommunication, nonmetallic mining ordinances, and consistently carrying out the provisions of the comprehensive land use ordinances; and, **WHEREAS**, they coordinate land information systems for the assessment, taxation, mapping, building permits, planning and the educational needs of the public and private sector, one of which is the county land records website; and, **WHEREAS**, they help provide a safe and efficient transportation system plan, obtaining transportation funding, which is maintained and funded partly through Wisconsin, Minnesota and federally required metropolitan transportation planning department. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the month of December 2014 as Zoning, Planning and Land Information and Metropolitan Transportation Planning Month and urges all residents to join in recognizing the valuable contributions of the staff dedicated to promoting the public health, safety and a property tax base through encouraging planned and orderly land use development.

Motion by D. Holtze/H. Hoffman to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 23 ayes, 2 absent - K. Rosa and T. Wehrs, 4 excused - L. Berg, S. Doyle, R. Ebert, and M. Giese.

- Presentation by Federal Rail Administration, (FRA) – Deputy Administrator Steve Illich, Hazardous Materials Specialist Alan Budleski, and Regional Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Manager Tammy Wagner
  - The FRA was established in the Department of Transportation (DOT) by the Department of Transportation Act on October 15, 1966 and became operational on April 1, 1967. Their mission statement is to enable the safe, reliable, and efficient movement of people and goods for a strong America, now and in the future. Prior to this, the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) regulated railroad safety. Safety is their number one priority with a rigorous oversight and inspection program, proactive approaches for early identification and mitigation of risk and dedicated funding to improve infrastructure through capital investments and robust research and development. FRA's had a fiscal budget of \$1.8 million for 2014 that funded about 900 staff, safety and compliance activities, grant oversight and development, research and technology, operating capital, and debt service assistance to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak). There are about 600 safety inspectors, specialists, and other staff who work out of 8 regional field offices. FRA regulates more than 760 railroads including 27 passenger, 8 switching and terminal, approximately 134 tourist/excursion/historical, and 640 freight railroads. FRA's Railroad Safety Inspectors enforce regulations in five disciplines; hazardous materials, motive power and equipment, track, signal and train control, and operating practices.
  - There were a total of 706 rail-related fatalities in 2013. Fatalities at grade crossings from 1991-2013 is trending downward. Most collisions occur at gates with 48.1%. Most 2013 public crossing collisions were from vehicles which did not stop followed by those who stopped on the crossing. Crossing collisions, crossing fatalities and trespass fatalities have all gone up from June 2013-2014. There were a total of 3,363 events with trespass casualties from 2010-2013. Future activities to prevent trespass include pilot trespass abatement study, research on the use of fencing, research on the use of low-cost technology, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> Right-A-Way Fatality and Trespass Prevention Workshop to be held in 2015. There are 619 Quiet Zones as of November 17, 2014 with 192 being in Region 4.
- Report by SRF Consulting, Railroad Safety Analysis on BNSF Railroad – Andy Mielke and Josh Weiss
  - SRF Consulting Group was hired by La Crosse County in July 2014 to review the structural, crossing, rail infrastructure, and rail mitigations and feasibility study. The report consisted of the safety review of County and State rail

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crossings along BNSF railroad, ensure that crossings, rail infrastructure, and bridges are safe and up to current safety standards. Key stakeholders are La Crosse County, BNSF, WisDOT, and FRA. BNSF railroad has 43 trains per day with 22 during the day and has a 60 mph track speed. All County crossings have lights and gates and crossings have advanced warning signs. A majority of the railroad pavement markings are missing. They identified State and County owned structures that carry vehicular traffic over BNSF railway.

- o The structural data/elements that were evaluated included sufficiency rating, clearances, condition, load capacity, roadway adequacy, and railing and guardrail. Bridge clearances were checked to see they met all vertical and horizontal requirements and bridge conditions. The majority of the safety deficiencies are independent of BNSF's railway operations. Crossing reviews including data/elements that evaluated the existing conditions, safety analysis and sight distances. Rail infrastructure review was done through requested inspection reports. The reports showed 27 track defects, 9 signal defects, 11 operational practices defects, and no defects were reported on subsequent reports. SRF Consulting Group will meet with BNSF to discuss potential improvements, impacts, mitigation measures, and related issues for the rail mitigation and feasibility study.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion by S. Hampson/D. Holtze to go into closed session at 7:13 p.m. pursuant to Wis. Stat., s. 19.85(1)(e) for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, **To Wit:** negotiations with Weber Holdings and the City of La Crosse regarding Lot C development and parking considerations passed on a unanimous voice vote with 24 ayes, 2 absent - K. Rosa and T. Wehrs, 3 excused - L. Berg, R. Ebert and M. Giese.

#### **RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION**

Motion by R. Plesha/D. Hesse to reconvene into open session at 7:45 p.m. passed on a unanimous voice vote with 24 ayes, 2 absent - K. Rosa and T. Wehrs, 3 excused - L. Berg, R. Ebert, and M. Giese.

**CLOSED SESSION ACTION:** Chair Johnson noted that no action was taken in closed session.

#### **SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS**

- Supervisor Ferries asked for an update on the Barron Island plan.

#### **ADJOURN**

Motion by B. Logue/D. Ferries to adjourn at 7:46 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 24 ayes, 2 absent - K. Rosa and T. Wehrs, 3 excused - L. Berg, R. Ebert, and M. Giese.

**STATE OF WISCONSIN )**

**COUNTY OF LA CROSSE )**

**I, Ginny Dankmeyer, 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 La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting held Monday, December 08, 2014 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 15 OF DECEMBER 2014.**