

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2015**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, August 10, 2015 in the Administrative Center, Room B410. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 24 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:

District Name	Attendance
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	Excused
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	Present
18 Berg, Laurence	Excused
19 Hoffman, Hubert	Excused
20 Doyle, Steve	Present
21 Burke, Vicki	Present
22 Barlow, Patrick	Present
23 Nikolay, Matt	Present
24 Pfaff, Leon	Present
25 Ebert, Ray	Present
26 Hesse, Dan	Present
27 Wehrs, Tina	Excused
28 Keil, Robert	Present
29 Johnson, Tara	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

County Board Chair Report - Tara Johnson

- County Board Picnic – Supervisors were reminded that the Board picnic will be Friday, August 21st at Lake Neshonoc. Price to sign up is \$8 and the deadline is Thursday, August 13th.
- County Board Supervisors Computer Upgrade – Supervisors will be leaving their computers on their desks after the Monthly Board meeting next Thursday. IT will pick them up and perform an upgrade and install more memory. IT will then contact Supervisors to pick up their computer when the upgrade has been completed.

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- Supervisor Conference Reports
 - Supervisor Burke thanked Supervisors Freedland, Doyle and Kruse for attending the Dynamic Recycling opening on Brice's Prairie.
 - Supervisor Cable announced that the Homeless Connect event had over 50 vendors who are service providers in the community and 170 people received services that day. A street count on the night of July 29th into July 30th showed 35 unsheltered homeless people.

Administrator Report - Steve O'Malley

PROCLAMATION AUGUST 2015 - COUNTY AGING MONTH

WHEREAS, the County Aging Unit provides services to enable all county senior residents to live in their own homes as long as possible; and, **WHEREAS**, good nutrition is important to seniors and the community and is insured through two dining programs; and, **WHEREAS**, home-delivered meals provide an opportunity for a low cost first intervention to allow residents to remain living independently in their own homes; and, **WHEREAS**, programs to prevent falls, assist and support family caregivers, improve health, are available to seniors and their families; and, **WHEREAS**, quality of life of aging residents is insured through transportation programs, caregiver support, organized activities as well as assistance in filing forms and applying for benefits; and, **WHEREAS**, all staff of the La Crosse County Aging Department work together to provide a healthy and safe environment in the aging community. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the month of August as Aging Month and urges all residents to join in recognizing the valuable contribution of persons dedicated to insuring that the aging residents of La Crosse have the opportunity to live a healthy and productive life.

Motion by P. Jerome/D. Holtze to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 24 ayes, 1 absent - K. Rosa, 4 excused - L. Berg, S. Hampson, H. Hoffman and T. Wehrs.

- Xcel Energy French Island Environmental Report 2014 – Mike Herro, Mark Paitl and Tina Ball presented the 2014 annual report. Xcel and La Crosse County are starting their 20th year in partnership together. Xcel Energy is the top 5 utility in the country, operate in 8 states, has over 11,000 employees, serve 3.4 million electric customers, 2 million gas customers, and own 76 generating plants. In Wisconsin, they serve 222 communities, 260,000 electric and gas customers, and employ 600 employees. The French Island plant consists of a RDF (Refuse Dried Fuel) building where the solid waste is processed and a Generation Plant that contains two boilers that burn the RDF and also wood waste. The two boilers generated 32 megawatts which can serve 10,000 homes. The generating plant employed 31 people in 2014. 65,000 tons was delivered from municipal solid waste and processed 51,700 tons. The plant was in compliance of all permits in 2014 including air quality, water quality and solid waste. 255 tons of aluminum were sent for recycling. Contract extension discussions have begun with La Crosse County.
- County Role in addressing Challenging Trends in City of La Crosse – Administrator O'Malley explained the role that the health of the economics of the City of La Crosse plays in the entire budget process and the entire local economy. The County has been wrestling in what is the County's role in helping work with the City of La Crosse, local businesses, and local home owners on what the impact is of County housing and challenging trends in the neighborhoods.
- Date and Studies describing some Neighborhood Conditions in City of La Crosse – Karl Green from UW Extension gave a presentation on the challenging trends in the City of La Crosse. La Crosse's residential tax base is the single largest tax base component of La Crosse County. Residential development creates the highest demand for services and if the average housing values are low, this creates greater impact on the municipal mill rate. In a city, the four main tax classifications are; residential, commercial, manufacturing, and personal property. The total value of

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these categories equals the total assessed value. The highest jail bookings and 57% of juvenile justice and child placement service cases are in the City of La Crosse. Contributing factors and results of neighborhood deterioration include declining house values, declining resident-owned homes, unkempt and dilapidated properties, and increase in transient population and home turnover velocity. Results of neighborhood deterioration include poor environment and increased crime, declining tax base and an increase in human service needs, especially for children and youth. A La Crosse Housing survey showed the influencing factors in selecting the next residence are perception of crime in neighborhood, neighborhood condition, amount of property taxes, nice parks and other public places, large yard or privacy, move-in ready/new construction, walk-able or bike-able with sidewalks and pedestrian crosswalks, school district, commute time, and proximity to services and family and friends.

- Boundary Agreements and Revenue Sharing Discussion – Jason Valerius gave an overview of Coulee Vision 2050. Coulee Vision 2050 defines a long-range transportation and land use vision for the La Crosse – La Crescent region. It is based on community feedback and establishes “guiding principles” for future policy and investment decisions. It also informs future planning efforts, including the Metropolitan Transportation Plan update and local comprehensive plans. Transportation principles selected include new regional roads will generally be avoided, create a regional transit authority, transit use will increase among all age groups, growth accommodated without significant congestion increase, and bike and pedestrian facilities will become ubiquitous. Land Use principles include a range of new housing types and lot sizes, priority on infill development, new development areas will include a mix of uses, and towns, villages and cities will pursue boundary agreements. Coulee Vision 2050 implementation plan project will evaluate regional transportation projects, conduct final analysis, advance the concept of regional transit service, discuss boundary agreements, and identify action items and milestones. The benefits of boundary agreements are being cooperative, proactive, flexibility, certainty, same money, and enforceable. Types of boundary agreements are stipulations and orders, general agreements, and cooperative boundary agreement plans. Current boundary agreement efforts exist between the City of Onalaska and Village of Holmen, City of La Crosse and Town of Shelby, and the City of Onalaska, City of La Crosse, and Town of Medary.
- La Crosse Promise: Education as a tool for Economic Development – Jerilyn Dinsmor described the La Crosse Promise program. La Crosse Promise is about linking education and economic development and neighborhood revitalization. Education transforms communities. Future Centers were created to provide campus tours, college applications, scholarship opportunities, job shadows, and financial aid planning. The program economically transforms the region by incentivize home buying, revitalize neighborhoods, and education-focused community. 64% of La Crosse homes are valued below \$100,000. The Powell-Poage-Hamilton neighborhood as 200 homes valued at less than \$60,000 each and the Washburn neighborhood has 90 homes assessed below \$70,000. They are planning to build 30+ new homes in challenged neighborhoods. The family incentive is a \$25,000 - \$50,000 in scholarships. Potential financing challenge is the new or substantially remodeled homes may not appraise because of difficulty finding comparables and PMI insurance requirement may be a disincentive to neighborhood re-vitalization. Nine lending institutions have joined together to make \$7.75 million available for funding. The vision is to have well constructed homes for sale in these neighborhoods for families to purchase and agree to live in for at least 4 years; the oldest child is 8th grade or younger, they can sell the home if they outgrow the home but would have to stay within the City of La Crosse until their last child graduates from high school. The family would then receive up to \$50,000 in scholarships to be used at any Wisconsin private or public school.

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SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS – none offered.

ADJOURN

Motion by N. Caucutt to adjourn at 7:59 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 24 ayes, 1 absent - K. Rosa, 4 excused - L. Berg, S. Hampson, H. Hoffman and T. Wehrs.

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, August 10, 2015 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 11 OF AUGUST 2015.