

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING  
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, September 11, 2017 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 21 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</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
1	Richmond, Andrea	Present
2	Geary, Ralph	Present
3	Weidenbach, Doug	Present
4	Freedland, Maureen	Excused
5	Vacant	
6	Plesha, Roger	Present
7	Hampson, Sharon	Excused at 06:43 PM
8	Jerome, Peg	Excused
9	Gundersen, Jerome	Present
10	Cable, Kim	Present
11	Scheller, Patrick	Excused
12	Holtze, Dave	Present
13	Tryggestad, Tina	Present
14	Larson, Margaret	Present
15	Kruse, Monica	Present
16	Ferries, Dan	Present
17	Giese, Mike	Present
18	Berg, Laurence	Present
19	Cornforth, Rick	Present
20	Doyle, Steve	Excused
21	Burke, Vicki	Present
22	Barlow, Patrick	Present
23	Nikolay, Matt	Present
24	Pfaff, Leon	Excused
25	Ebert, Ray	Present
26	Hesse, Dan	Present
27	Wehrs, Tina	Excused
28	Tyser, Kathie	Excused
29	Johnson, Tara	Present

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**County Board Chair Report - Tara Johnson**

- County Board Picnic Sign-up and pay – Supervisors were reminded to sign-up for the picnic on September 22, 2017.
- WI Taxpayer Alliance sign-up – A sign up was passed around for Supervisors who are interested in this publication.
- New County Infographic – Chair Johnson distributed the new County brochure and Supervisors who are interested in copies should contact her.

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- District 5 Vacancy – Keyla Rosa resigned her position from the District 5 seat. A press release will be going out asking for letters of interest which will be followed by interviews. Please let Chair Johnson know if you are interested in participating in the process.
- Supervisor Conference Reports
  - Chair Johnson announced the PRATT Alternative Forum being held by the Chamber of Commerce from 11:30 – 1pm on Monday, September 18, 2017. Please let Alice in the Chair's office know if you are interested in attending.
  - Supervisor Weidenbach noted the new artwork hanging in the Administrative Center. Each piece tells a different Hmong story.
  - Supervisor Barlow attended the opening of the new Holmen Library.
  - Supervisors Tryggstad, Kruse, Johnson, and Doyle attended Rebuilding for Learning, a welcome back to teachers for another school year.
  - Supervisor Kruse attended the International Overdose Awareness Day event to recognize those affected by the drug epidemic.
  - Supervisor Cable attended the Family Policy Board meeting today and a hearing will be taking place on September 28<sup>th</sup> at the County Administrative Building at 5pm by Representatives Doyle and Billings.

**Administrator Report - Steve O'Malley**

**PROCLAMATION NO. 88-9/17 AUGUST 2017 – LIBRARIES AND UW-EXTENSION MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, research-based educational programs for agricultural producers and professionals, businesses, local governments, communities, families and youth are brought to the residents of La Crosse County; and, **WHEREAS**, research-based educational and library programs identify and respond to specific community needs for education, research and knowledge to improve the quality of life in local communities, to strengthen families, to increase the competitiveness of businesses and agriculture, enhance decision-making in local government, and to develop leadership skills for managing resources and planning for the future; and, **WHEREAS**, libraries provide recreational and educational resources for residents in pursuit of life-long learning and provide community gathering places; and, **WHEREAS**, UW-Extension programming combines faculty, campus-based specialists, and staff expertise to bring University research to the people of La Crosse County in the areas of Agriculture/Horticulture; Community, Natural Resources and Economic Development; Family Living Education; and 4-H & Youth Development; and, **WHEREAS**, UW-Extension faculty & staff and area library staff are committed to educating the residents of La Crosse County in order to promote life-long learning and provide a more knowledgeable and informed community. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the month of September as La Crosse County Libraries and UW- Extension Month, and urges all residents to join in recognizing the valuable contribution of persons dedicated to educating the residents and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities in La Crosse County.

Motion by D. Ferries/M. Nikolay to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 21 ayes, 7 excused - S. Doyle, M. Freedland, P. Jerome, L. Pfaff, P. Scheller, K. Tyser and T. Wehrs, 1 vacant – District 5.

- Xcel French Island Report
  - Mike Herro of Xcel, Bray Mower - branch manager, and Tina Ball – Environmental Analysis presented. Xcel is not the largest utility in WI but is located in eight states and is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest in the US. They serve over 3.4 million electric customers and 2 million natural gas customers. La Crosse and Eau Claire are the two largest areas served. A generating plant is located on French Island and in Ashland. Mike Herro presented the top 10 reason to be proud of the partnership between the County and Xcel: 10 – the partnership has allowed Xcel Energy to keep French Island plant running; 9 – the plant

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utilizes all available pollution control technology; 8 - the plant is operated safely with no lost time accidents for the last 10 years; 7 - in 2016, the plant accepted over 76,000 tons of MSW and converted a record 60,000 tons to RDF; 6 - over 1,000 tons of ferrous metal and 307 tons of nonferrous metal; 5 - the river area around the plant is a hot bed for fishing; 4 - nearly 663 citizens toured the plant in 2016; 3 - in 2017 Xcel Energy and La Crosse County celebrates their 30 year partnership; 2 - over 2 million tons of MSW have been burned instead of landfilled; 1 - the partnership gives Hank another garbage related topic to cheer about.

- Annual Couleecap Executive Director Report – Hetti Brown
  - Couleecap fights poverty and promotes self-sufficiency, economic development, and social justice. La Crosse County has a poverty rate of 13%, higher than the state average. The self-sufficiency standard for La Crosse County is \$18.03 - \$19.74/hour (1 adult + 1 preschooler). 43% of La Crosse County families are currently living below ALICE poverty threshold. Federal Poverty Rate shows 33% of County residents and 34% of children are living below 200% FPR. Over 40% of residents pay more than 30% of their income on housing.
  - A Community Needs Assessment is done on housing, employment and other topics of paying for car repairs, training for better job, and getting business startup loans. Low wage, high housing cost, and unmet basic needs equals poor health and higher unemployment rate with no place to sleep. Couleecap helps provide affordable housing, weatherizing homes, connect them to benefits, and transportation.
  - Couleecap will continue to identify emerging issues in the community and strive to meet those needs through excellent service, community collaboration, and advocacy.
- Review of process for changing Speed Zones – Highway Commission Ron Chamberlain
  - Wisconsin Statutes in s.346.57(4) and s.349.11 describe the reasonable and proper speed and as set forth in the Uniform Vehicle Code (UVC). Types of speed limits include advisory, regulatory, and modified. Advisory are recommended safe driving speeds through a curve or other special roadway; regulatory speed limits are enforceable; and modified are speed limits that are utilized in areas requiring speed limits between the statutory maximum speed limits on state, county or local roadways. 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is a or below which 85% of the sample of free flowing vehicles are traveling and has been found to best represent the perceived “reasonable” speed. Unreasonably low speed limits are not effective in changing driver behavior and have several negative effects. Speed zones are typically established on roadways where the statutory speed limit or an existing speed zone is no longer appropriate and is a means of establishing uniform regulatory speed for similar driving conditions. A speed study shall measure prevailing speed characteristics and determine the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed; evaluate reported crash experience for the past three to five years; check the road’s geometrics; determination of the 10 mile per hour pace; determine average speed; evaluate density and roadside development in terms of the number of driveways and access points where vehicles can enter the traffic flow; consider conflicts with parking practices, pedestrians, and bicycle activity; evaluate shoulder widths as well as roadway and shoulder conditions; and determine the current level of enforcement. Objectives of a modified speed limit would reduce the speed differential of vehicles using the highway, be a reasonable speed so the majority of drivers will comply voluntarily, and reflect consistent application of traffic engineering principals and guidelines in common circumstances.
  - The process for speed zone change start with a complaint or concern. A traffic count is done to determine volumes and speed and an evaluation for the 85<sup>th</sup>

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percentile. If the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile “complies” with current posting, the process is complete unless a local municipality wants to bear the cost of a study (\$1,500-\$10,000). If the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile deviates from a posting, a study is started. The study recommendations are reviewed by La Crosse County and WisDOT for approval. An ordinance change is drafted for committee review and recommendation for Board consideration. From start to finish, the entire process can take as much as 9 months.

- Overview of Speed Zone enforcement – Captain Mike Horstman, Sheriff’s Department
  - A big part of the Sheriff’s Department is speed enforcement. If a complaint is filed, a speed board is put up. Enforcement actions are taken to get a person to behave. The cheapest speeding ticket is \$175. Grant money now has to be used on State Highways where before it could be used on any roadway. In August they have received over 360 complaints for driving.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS**

- Supervisor Geary asked for a LADCO update.

**ADJOURN**

Motion by M. Giese/A. Richmond to adjourn at 7:36 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 20 ayes, 8 excused - S. Doyle, M. Freedland, S. Hampson, P. Jerome, L. Pfaff, P. Scheller, K. Tyser and T. Wehrs, 1 vacant – District 5

**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, September 11, 2017 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 20 OF SEPTEMBER 2017.**