

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, September 9, 2019 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. 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 Weidenbach, Doug	Present
4 Freedland, Maureen	Excused
5 Tahiri, Isaac	Present
6 Plesha, Roger	Present
7 Hampson, Sharon	Present
8 Isola, Peg	Present
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 Weber Strauss, Noelle	Present
19 Cornforth, Rick	Excused
20 Doyle, Steve	Excused
21 Burke, Vicki	Present
22 Barlow, Patrick	Present
23 Nikolay, Matt	Present
24 Hoyer, Kevin	Present
25 Ebert, Ray	Present
26 Hesse, Dan	Present
27 Jacobs, Thomas	Present at 06:05 PM
28 Keil, Karen	Present
29 Johnson, Tara	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

County Board Chair Report - Tara Johnson

- County Board Picnic Reminder – Chair Johnson reminded the Supervisors of the picnic being held this Friday at Swarthout Park in West Salem. Lunch will be served at noon.
- A sign-up sheet was passed around for anyone that wants a 2020 budget book.

(96-19/20)

- WCA resolutions for consideration at the WCA meeting on September 22 was passed around.
- A sign-up sheet was also circulated for anyone wanting to help work the table at the Hmong New Year celebration.
- Complete Count Census 2020 – this report will be postponed until next Thursday at the Monthly Board meeting.
- Supervisor Conference Reports
 - Supervisor Burke announced that a dedication ceremony was held for the Fred Funk Landing on Brice's Prairie on Saturday.

Administrator Report - Steve O'Malley

PROCLAMATION SEPTEMBER 2019 - 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; Human Development & Relationship 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/P. Isola to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 25 ayes, 4 excused - R. Cornforth, S. Doyle, M. Freedland and P. Scheller.

- Employee Recruitment video screening
 - Community Development Specialist Brian Fukuda presented four videos that were created to help recruitment for La Crosse County.
- Blufflands Coalition Update – Presented by Josh Blum and Chuck Zauner
 - The Blufflands Coalition's highest priority recreation improvement in the Blufflands to establish the La Crosse Bluffland Trail. A network of interconnected trails throughout the region will offer recreation options for every type of use and skill level and will become a defining feature of the region that attracts tourists and a competitive workforce. The centerpiece will be the "La Crosse Bluffland Trail", a shared use route extending unbroken from the south end of La Crosse to Onalaska, and eventually reaching north of Holmen. The Bluffland Trail concept would link existing trails and roads. The primary goals are to preserve and protect natural resources, provide recreational opportunities, and provide public education. Trails are the most responsible way to access nature and provide exercise and wellness. They increase outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and tourists. Midwest communities have benefited from the Economic impact of trails.

- Overview of Groundwater Conditions in La Crosse County – Presented by Karl Green, Charlie Handy and Gregg Stangl.
 - Water quality issues in La Crosse County include nitrate contamination, sedimentation on lakes, phosphorus contamination – multiple sources, changing hydrology/weather patterns, frequent flooding, and stormwater/run off issues. The factors increasing vulnerability for contamination include permeable soils, thin soils and shallow bedrock, fractured bedrock, karst and solution features, shallow depth to the water table, rapid infiltration and recharge, improperly abandoned wells, and faulty or poorly designed well. The contaminated areas have groundwater sensitive areas – unconfined aquifer and sandy soil, CAFO monitoring shows impact to groundwater, manure and sludge spreading, increasing population with more septic systems and wells, and the groundwater moves southwest toward the Mississippi River at a rate of 3 feet per day. In April and May of 2017, 167 wells tested with nitrate levels above 10. The Nitrate Task Force is led by a consultant and uses a “Health in all Policies” approach to research and develop solutions. They utilized both data gap analysis and root cause. Other water quality issues in La Crosse County include sediments of lakes, phosphorus contamination from multiple sources, changing hydrology/weather patterns, frequent flooding, and stormwater/runoff issues.
 - Topics to investigate for water issues will be the nitrate data and well characteristics, agricultural impact, wellhead protection ordinances, municipal services, land spreading sludge, nitrate mitigation and wetlands, and septic system impact and new technology. The short term next steps are going to be to adopt a branding to improve education and information and to adopt a specific geographic area. Midterm solutions will continue to be to educate and inform (homeowners, builders, townships, realtors, and elected officials), urban development BMP’s, update to the comprehensive plan, and municipal sludge work group. Long term solutions will be extend municipal water or encourage development where it’s available, set locational standards on where to allow expansion/development, agricultural BMP’s / conservation easements, POWTS upgrades in high risk areas, and to continue to gather more data.

- Future evolution of Land Services in La Crosse County
 - Current and changing conditions that are affecting the future of Land Services in La Crosse County include the ground and surface water quality issues, accelerated extreme weather events, challenged agricultural economy, approved platted lots exceeding actual demand, development in some areas is at urban density levels without urban infrastructure, phosphorus removal mandate on water treatment plants, Lake Neshonoc dredging request after only 20 years, and less local control over land use decisions. There is also an aging county work staff, UW Extension is finally at full staff, a new MPO director, and community development needs are much different today. La Crosse County land services include Land Conservation, Zoning Planning and Land Information, Environmental Health, County Surveyor, UW-Extension, Community Development, and the La Crosse Area Planning Committee. Policies and plan updates for 2019 and 2020 will include the land and water management plan 2019, comprehensive plans 2020, farmland preservation plan, city vision 2050 “downtown” plan, strategic plan for sustainability, and 2020 census. We need to look at what sustainable development looks like and are we clear on County policies and expectations. The needs and priorities are much different today. The next steps will include to engage, educate and inform county board on current county policies during Policy Planning meetings, debate and adjust conflicting priorities, develop phosphorus trading plan county-wide, and seek direction from County board on land use policy principles and community needs with updated plans.

(98-19/20)

- Summary & Highlight of 2020 Administrator's Budget
 - Budget priorities for 2020 will include service continuation in all major areas, no health insurance increase or changes in coverage, 1.75% across the board employee wage increase, slight FTE increase, using fund balance for small capital projects without borrowing, use Federal Land Access grant for Goose Island, emergency radios and microwave upgrades, jurisdictional transfer of County Highway B to the Village of Bangor, first year of \$5 million borrowing each year for highway, and first steps toward a phosphorus trading program. Preliminary 2020 mill rate is \$3.59 per thousand. The tax rate per \$1,000 valuation decreased by 9.3% since 2014 and the 2020 proposed tax rate per \$1,000 valuation decreased by 8 cents or 2.2% since 2019.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS – none offered.

ADJOURN

Motion by R. Ebert/M. Larson to adjourn at 8:19 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 25 ayes, 4 excused - R. Cornforth, S. Doyle, M. Freedland, and P. Scheller.

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 9, 2019 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 10 OF SEPTEMBER 2019.