

(26-20/21)

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, JULY 6, 2020**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, July 6, 2020 via Microsoft Teams. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 26 supervisors were present when Chair Monica Kruse 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 Janssen, Barb	Present
4 Freedland, Maureen	Present
5 Mathu, Grant	Present
6 Plesha, Roger	Present
7 Padesky, Gary	Present
8 Isola, Peg	Present
9 Wacek, Dawn	Present at 06:28 PM
10 Cable, Kim	Present
11 Scheller, Patrick	Present
12 Erickson, Randy	Present
13 Tryggestad, Tina	Present
14 Larson, Margaret	Present
15 Kruse, Monica	Present
16 Ferries, Dan	Present
17 Pogreba, Jack	Absent
18 Weber Strauss, Noelle	Present
19 Cornforth, Rick	Present
20 Doyle, Steve	Present
21 Burke, Vicki	Excused
22 Kovacevich, Joe	Present
23 Nikolay, Matt	Present
24 Hoyer, Kevin	Present
25 Hundt, David	Present
26 Hesse, Dan	Present
27 Jacobs, Thomas	Present
28 Keil, Karen	Present
29 O'Neill, Jamie	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

County Board Chair Report - Monica Kruse

- A moment of silence was held for Past County Board Supervisor Mike Forer who served from 1978 – 1989.
- County Board Advance Update – Chair Kruse noted the Advance schedule for July 28 has been postponed to August 26th.
- County Board Supervisor District 22 Update – Chair Kruse announced that due to his employment, Supervisors Kovacevich will need to resign from his position as County Board Supervisor.
- Supervisor Conference Reports – None offered.

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Administrator Report - Steve O'Malley

PROCLAMATION JULY 2020 - NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING MONTH

WHEREAS, La Crosse County residents or members of their family are provided affordable, quality long term care services in a person-centered environment; and, **WHEREAS**, staff is committed to excellence in providing care and rehabilitation to all with respect for the dignity and rights of individuals including those who have special physical, developmental, and mental health needs; and **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County operates two long term care campuses – Hillview Health Care Center and Lakeview Health Center. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the month of July as La Crosse County Long Term Care & Residential Services Month and urges all residents to join in recognizing the valuable contribution of persons dedicated to ensuring quality care to our residents in need.

Motion by G. Padesky/G. Mathu to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 2 absent - J. Pogreba and D. Wacek, 1 excused – V. Burke.

- Annual Report by Couleecap – Executive Director Hetti Brown
 - Couleecap has been the local community action agency for 54 years. They fight poverty and promote self-sufficiency, economic development and social justice in Crawford, La Crosse, Monroe, and Vernon Counties. More than 21,000 neighbors are helped each year through housing, food, energy, transportation, education, and emergency assistance program. 911,000 individuals, families or households were served with more than 230 poverty-fighting programs since 1966. \$8.1 million has been invested in 655 households (weatherization and energy assistance), 235 people (ending homelessness), 323 households (affordable housing, home rehabilitation and homebuyer), 12,652 people (emergency assistance and food programs), 4791 people and businesses (flood recovery), 75 people (employment, transportation, and business development), more than 2700 miscellaneous community programming, and oversight and program performance.
 - From March 15 -May 15: 550,000 unemployment claims from COVID-19. 40% of claims were by people making less than \$40,000 a year. The virus disproportionately impacts low income populations. The economic and public health outlook is unclear. Looking ahead, Couleecap will give emergency assistance during long term unemployment, prevent foreclosure and tax delinquency, prevent eviction, support small business adaptation, and improve rural access to food and other social services.
- Xcel Energy Report on French Island Waste to Energy Plant – Tina Ball, Mike Herro, and Bray Maurer
 - The French Island Plant operates with 33 employees that works 24 hours a day, five days per week. In 2019, the plant burned 57,000 tons of RDF and over 61,000 tons of wood and railroad ties. Since 1987, the plant has burned in excess of 1.6 million tons of RDF and nearly 2.5 million tons of wood and ties. The plant sent 12,500 tons of ash to the La Crosse County landfill for disposal. Burning MSW has saved the County from having to build one to two more landfills and enabled the plant to produce enough electricity to supply approximately 10,000 homes for 5 days per week for 30 years. Over 300,000 metric tons of GHG emissions. The 2019 emissions are way below 2001 emission. Communities with waste-to-energy plants have a 20% higher recycling rate (on average) than communities without waste-to-energy. In 2019, 74,426 tons of MSW was delivered, 57,471 tons of RDF yielding a 77.2%. Xcel Energy priorities include Lead the Clean Energy Transition, enhance the customer experience, and keep bills low. They plan to have an 80% reduction in carbon by 2030 and be carbon free by 2050. That will be accomplished by closing coal plants, add renewables, continue carbon free nuclear, and bridge to carbon free.

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- Comprehensive Planning and County Policies – Planner Charlie Handy
 - A comprehensive plan is a local government’s guide to physical, social, and economic development. Plans provide a rational basis for local land use decisions with a twenty-year vision. Plans should provide for significant public input and must be amended a minimum of every 5 years. La Crosse County adopted our current plan in 2008 and amended it in 2014. Actions and procedures that must be consistent with comprehensive plans include local subdivision regulations, county zoning ordinances, and zoning of shorelands or wetlands. Other plans/documents related to the comprehensive plan include the Coulee Vision 2040, Coulee Vision 2050, Sustainability Plan, Farmland Preservation Plan, city and village plan updates, town plan updates, and land and water resource management plans. Potential policy questions were reviewed along with priorities and where do they conflict or overlap. At the County Board Advance, the board will seek direction on priority policy initiatives to address sustainability, extreme weather and climate change.
- COVID 19 Update – Associate Administrator Jane Klekamp
 - Many updates and data are available on the County website under the COVID-19 section. So far there have been 509 cases with 421 of those coming in June. Over 7,000 tests were done in June and more testing events are planned for July. Currently there is a Check the Spread campaign starting for business who pledge to stop the spread of COVID-19. Corporation Counsel Megan DeVore noted that the authority is still unclear for the Health Directors across the State of Wisconsin. Various municipalities have attempted to issue order that are now being challenged in the courts. Any action taken that is deemed necessary needs to be based on data. Orders and ordinances put in place can only be enforced with civil action.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

- Supervisor Hundt asked for an update on landfill area.

ADJOURN

Motion by A. Richmond/R. Erickson to adjourn at 7:53 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 27 ayes, 1 absent - J. Pogreba, 1 excused – V. Burke.

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, July 6, 2020 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 9 OF JULY 2020.