

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING  
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 2021**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, August 9, 2021 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 25 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:

<b>District Name</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
1 Richmond, Andrea	Excused
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
10 Cable, Kim	Excused
11 Scheller, Patrick	Present
12 Erickson, Randy	Present
13 Tryggestad, Tina	Excused
14 Larson, Margaret	Present
15 Kruse, Monica	Present
16 Ferries, Dan	Present
17 Pogreba, Jack	Present
18 Weber Strauss, Noelle	Excused
19 Cornforth, Rick	Present
20 Doyle, Steve	Present
21 Burke, Vicki	Present
22 Viner, Pamela	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**

- Mask Advisories and Vaccine Mandates
  - The US DOJ has ruled that mandatory vaccines in the workplace are allowed. If a person refuses to be vaccinated, they can be terminated. Currently, La Crosse residents with at least one dose of vaccination is at 58.3%. La Crosse County is not mandating vaccinations at this point. Wanda Plachecki, Director of Long-Term Care at Hillview and Lakeview reported that they are working on vaccinations of their staff and residents and are at a good compliance. All staff

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were required to get education and information on the vaccines, and they achieved an 86% staff compliance at Lakeview and 81% compliance at Hillview for vaccinations. Unvaccinated staff are required to get additional training and education on vaccinations quarterly and again declare not getting vaccinated. Nursing homes are still being tested on a regular basis based on the County's positivity rate and wearing masks and PPE based on the County's transmission rate. Human Resources Director Stephen Conrad updated on the County policy on flu and covid which suggests vaccinations but does not require it. This policy can be changed down the road if the vaccinations become required. The County is following the CDC guidelines and currently requiring masks.

- Supervisor Conference Reports
  - Supervisor Burke announced the Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District will be giving boat tours of Lake Onalaska regarding the sediment in the lake on August 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at Mosey Landing.
  - Supervisor Keil invited everyone to Medary Fun Days on Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup> from noon – 5 p.m. at the Medary Town Hall.

#### **Administrator Report - Steve O'Malley**

#### **PROCLAMATION AUGUST 2021 - AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCES MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the Aging and Disability Resources Center of La Crosse County (ADRC) provides information and assistance to seniors, people with disabilities, caregivers, and family members in order to maintain the highest quality of life possible; and **WHEREAS**, the ADRC provides congregate and home-delivered meal programs that allow residents to remain living independently in their own homes; and **WHEREAS**, the ADRC works collaboratively to offer transportation services, caregiver support, organized activities, and educational options to assist persons in remaining as independent in the community as possible, **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the month of August as Aging and Disability Resources Month and urges all residents to join in recognizing the valuable contribution of persons dedicated to ensuring that all residents of La Crosse County live a healthy and productive life.

Motion by R. Plesha/G. Mathu to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 25 ayes, 4 excused - K. Cable, A. Richmond, T. Tryggestad and N. Weber Strauss.

#### **PROCLAMATION AUGUST 2021 - CHILD SUPPORT AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, La Crosse County recognizes children as our greatest resource; and **WHEREAS**, children living in La Crosse County should always have the financial and emotional support they need in order to be successful; and **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's Child Support Program ensures that parents take responsibility for the care and well-being of their children, supports the involvement of parents in their children's lives, and provides important services to both custodial and noncustodial parents; and **WHEREAS**, the La Crosse County Child Support agency collected more than \$45 million in child support in 2020; and **WHEREAS**, upholding the Child Support Program is an effective investment in Wisconsin's future as the program increases self-sufficiency, reduces child poverty, and has a positive effect on children's well-being; and **WHEREAS**, increased public awareness of the importance of providing children with the support they need and the services offered by the Child Support Program, through its county and tribal-child support agencies, benefits Wisconsin's children and families: **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the month of August as Child Support Enforcement Awareness Month and urges all residents to join in recognizing the valuable contribution of persons dedicated to ensuring children receive the financial and emotional support they need to be successful.

Motion by R. Cornforth/P. Isola to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 25 ayes, 4 excused - K. Cable, A. Richmond, T. Tryggestad and N. Weber Strauss.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

Motion by G. Padesky/R. Erickson to appoint Joseph Langeberg as the Highway Commissioner. Discussion ensued. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 25 ayes, 4 excused - K. Cable, A. Richmond, T. Tryggestad and N. Weber Strauss.

Motion by R. Geary/T. Jacobs to appoint David Steinberg as the Emergency Services Administrator. Discussion ensued. Administrator O'Malley explained the appointment process. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 25 ayes, 4 excused - K. Cable, A. Richmond, T. Tryggestad and N. Weber Strauss.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 14-8/21 RE: DISASTER DECLARATION RELATED TO FLOODING EVENTS OF AUGUST 2021**

**WHEREAS**, on August 7, 2021 a disaster, namely torrential rain and flooding, struck La Crosse Wisconsin; and **WHEREAS**, these conditions continued after August 7 and, pursuant to National Weather Service Advisories, are predicted to continue through August 12, 2021 at 1:00 a.m.; and **WHEREAS**, the disaster has caused and continues to cause the County to expend, commit and exhaust its pertinent available resources; and **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Wis. Stat. §323.11, the County Board has the power to declare a condition of disaster when it is necessary and expedient for the health, safety, welfare and good order of the county to proclaim that emergency conditions exist; and **WHEREAS**, the declaration of an emergency pursuant to State Statute Ch. 323, Emergency Management, and the La Crosse County Code, will allow the potential authorization of the following activities during the period of emergency conditions: Evacuation and traffic re-routing as needed; purchase or rental of needed equipment; requesting assistance of Wisconsin National Guard as needed for flood protection & mitigation; requesting state resources as needed including WEM Regional Director, DNR, State Patrol; suspending special exception permits as needed; establishing price controls for debris management; authorizing the emergency purchases of goods and material; authorizing the emergency hiring of EM/EOC, LTE or others as needed; authorizing public works contracting in excess of \$20,000 without advertising or bid for the Highway Department and Facilities/Parks; and **WHEREAS**, the county requests state assistance and advises the State of Wisconsin of our emergency conditions; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors hereby declare a condition of disaster and further declare that the period of emergency shall be limited to the time during which the emergency conditions exist or are likely to exist.

Motion by V. Burke/P. Viner to approve. Discussion ensued. Highway Commissioner Joe Langeberg reviewed the roadways where damage occurred from the storms and potential repair costs. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 25 ayes, 4 excused - K. Cable, A. Richmond, T. Tryggestad and N. Weber Strauss.

- La Crosse County Sustainability Indicators 2020 Report – presented by Anders Olson.
  - La Crosse Sustainability Indicators look at the government operations of electricity usage, natural gas usage, vehicle fuel usage, CO2 emissions and paper usage. It also looks at Community-Wide waste and recycling, transportation, land use, and socio-economic conditions. The annual electricity usage has gone down 24% since 2007, natural gas usage is down 41%, vehicle fuel usage is down 5%, total CO2 emissions are down 48% and annual paper usage was down 67%. Cumulative savings from 2008 – 2020 has been \$975,000 – electricity, \$484,000 – natural gas, \$145,000 – vehicle fuels and \$1,146,000 - paper for a total of \$2.75 million in savings. County Government has achieved significant progress in resource conservation since 2007 with smaller energy consumption and reduced paper consumption. Conservation has yielded significant benefits with energy cost savings and reduced carbon footprint.
- Xcel Energy Annual 2020 French Island Report – presented by Mike Hero, Tina Ball, Jared Graham, Brey Mauer, and Todd Baus.

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- o A video was shown to describe and show the operations at the French Island Plant. Tours will be available in the future. A full report was distributed to Supervisors.
- 2020 Annual Financial Report
  - o Finance Director Sharon Davidson noted three reports are done each year; Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR), and the Single Audit. The ACFR includes the introduction, financial section which contains the management’s decision and analysis and financial statements, and the statistical section which contains the principal property taxpayers and principal employers. The Finance Department has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 15 consecutive years and the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for 6 consecutive years. The Single Audit showed 2020 Federal Grant expenditures at \$25,750,007 and 2020 State Grant expenditures at \$12,015,950. The three types of funds are the Governmental Funds, Enterprise Funds, and Internal Service Funds. Governmental Funds are used to account for activities funded primarily through property taxes and intergovernmental revenues, Enterprise Funds are used to account for activities funded primarily by fees charged to external parties, and Internal Service Funds are used to account for goods or services provided by one department to other departments or governmental units.
- Presentation on 2020 Annual Audit by Baker Tilly – presented by Andrea Jansen
  - o The financial audit of the County’s financial statements for 2020 were done in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards and issued an unmodified opinion. The Single Audit completed the testing and reported a low-risk auditee with no findings. No material weaknesses or significant deficiencies were identified during the audit.

**APPOINTMENT**

Motion by G. Padesky/P. Isola to appoint Nikki Elsen to the La Crosse County Redistricting Committee passed on a unanimous voice vote with 25 ayes, 4 excused - K. Cable, A. Richmond, T. Tryggestad and N. Weber Strauss.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS**

- Supervisor Larson requested a discussion on the size of County Board for redistricting.
- Supervisor Hundt inquired about the Health Department doing inspections.

**ADJOURN**

Motion by G. Mathu/K. Keil to adjourn at 7:58 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 25 ayes, 4 excused - K. Cable, A. Richmond, T. Tryggestad and N. Weber Strauss.

**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 9, 2021 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 AUGUST 2021.**