

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING  
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2024**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, June 10, 2024 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 27 supervisors were present when Chair Tina Tryggestad 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	Leibold, Kelly	Present
2	Geary, Ralph	Present
3	Pierce, David	Present
4	Freedland, Maureen	Present
5	Anderson, Emily	Present
6	Mathu, Grant	Present
7	Padesky, Gary	Present
8	Isola, Peg	Present
9	Wacek, Dawn	Excused
10	Cable, Kim	Present
11	Scheller, Patrick	Present
12	Erickson, Randy	Present
13	Tryggestad, Tina	Present
14	Larson, Margaret	Excused
15	Kruse, Monica	Present
16	Ferries, Dan	Present
17	Pogreba, Jack	Present
18	Baroni, Mike	Present
19	Cornforth, Rick	Present
20	Doyle, Steve	Present
21	Balduzzi, Dave	Present
22	Kovacevich, Joe	Present
23	Elam, Travis	Present
24	Hoyer, Kevin	Excused
25	Jacobsen, Dennis	Present
26	Hundt, David	Present
27	Wuensch, Paul	Present
28	Rothering, Ron	Present
29	Schlimgen, Ken	Present
30	Mader, Dillon	Present

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:  
County Board Chair Report - Tina Tryggestad**

**PROCLAMATION JUNE 2024 - DAIRY MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin dairy industry generates an estimated \$45.6 billion economic impact, \$1.26 billion in state and local taxes, and 154,000 jobs for the state annually; and, **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin dairy

(16-24/25)

farmers work with cheesemakers to craft over 600 varieties, types and styles of Wisconsin cheese, creating half of the nation's specialty cheese; and, **WHEREAS**, because of Wisconsin dairy farmers' commitment to sustainable practices, the carbon footprint of a glass of milk is two-thirds less than it was 70 years ago, yet it still has the same nutritional benefits and great taste; and, **WHEREAS**, there are nearly 6,000 dairy farms in Wisconsin, 95% of which are family owned, and they produce dairy products enjoyed by more than 300 million consumers around the world; and, **WHEREAS**, dairy farmers in La Crosse County produce \$33.5 million worth of milk annually, according to recent statistics, and dairy processing plants in La Crosse, Mindoro, Onalaska and Holmen support jobs that benefit all county residents. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim June 2024 as Dairy Month in La Crosse County and urges all residents to join us in celebrating the contributions of dairy farmers to our economy and community.

Motion by G. Padesky/P. Wuensch to approve. Discussion ensued. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 27 ayes, 3 excused - K. Hoyer, M. Larson and D. Wacek.

- Chair Tryggestad announced the grand opening of the Bike/Pedestrian Bridge at Vet's Park in West Salem will be on June 20<sup>th</sup> at noon; there was a feedback session on the Strategic Plan today and another session planned for tomorrow at 9:30am; any Supervisor interested in attending WCA Conference in September should let Clerk Dankmeyer know to get signed up; a board photo will be taken before the meeting next Thursday.
- Supervisor Conference Reports
  - Supervisor Hundt announced the June Dairy Breakfast will be this Saturday at the Fairgrounds in West Salem from 6am – 11am.
  - Supervisor Geary attended the WCHA Summer Road School and noted three highlights he took away are; the State hasn't resolved how to replace the lost gas tax revenue from electric vehicles, the cost of roads and bridges have exceeded the cost of living/inflation rate every year for the last 25 years, and they are looking at ways to make roads and bridges last longer.
  - Supervisor Cable attended the PRIDE event at Cameron Park on Saturday and the next PRIDE event will be on September 7<sup>th</sup> at Riverside Park.
  - Supervisor Freedland noted the Solid Waste Policy Board Annual Meeting will be on Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at Stoney Creek.
  - Supervisor Isola reported that the PRD Committee had a workshop on May 30<sup>th</sup> to review the Chapter 17 Ordinance.
  - Supervisor Geary noted that Dynamic Recycling will be holding a free E- Waste Recycling event this Saturday from 8am – 2pm.

#### **Administrator Report - Jane Klekamp**

#### **PROCLAMATION JUNE 2024 - PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the county parks system and our natural resources are an integral part of the La Crosse County community; and, **WHEREAS**, our parks and natural resources are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in our communities, ensuring the health of all residents, and contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of a community and region; and, **WHEREAS**, parks and natural resources are fundamental to the environmental well-being of our community; and, **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County employees from the Facilities Department and the Department of Land Conservation serve to educate, protect, maintain, and enhance the quality of our parks and natural resources. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the Month of June 2024 as La Crosse County Parks and Natural Resources Month and urges all residents to join in recognizing the valuable contribution made by County employees to the preservation of our Parks and Natural Resources for the benefit of all.

Motion by K. Cable/D. Mader to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 27 ayes, 3 excused - K. Hoyer, M. Larson and D. Wacek.

- The Role of Counties

**(17-24/25)**

- WCA Director of Outreach and Member Engagement Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf presented on the roles of counties. In 1901, 71 counties were created. Counties were created to perform administrative services for the territorial government. The U.S. Constitution is silent about local government, but it does speak about the responsibilities of state governments and assumes that state governments will control local units. County Boards serve in a legislative capacity that adopt policy, hold staff accountable for implementing policy, visionary, think long-term strategy, and are proactive. County Administrative Staff carry out policy direction of the board, make recommendations, give professional advice, think shorter term, and manage day to day operations. Counties can only undertake a function that is expressly allowed for or mandated by state statute or constitution. In 1985, counties received “administrative home rule” authority to exercise any organizational or administrative power subject only to the constitution and any enactment of the legislature which is of statewide concern, and which uniformly affects each county. Wis. Stat. Chapter 59 pertains to county government and describes a wide variety of duties and permissive authority the legislature has assigned to counties and their officers. Funding sources come from state funding, federal funding, and property taxes. Funding sources do not cover all costs associated with program administration and the provision of services. Counties may only increase their levies by the growth in net new construction. The state provides mandates and designates responsibility to counties to provide services. The state says only need to provide services to the extent state, federal and matching funds are available. To what end does providing only “mandated” services serve the common good? Deep-end services oftentimes cost more than prevention and early intervention.
- Overview of Finance and Budget Process
  - Finance Director Lanae Nickelotti provided an overview of the finance and budget process. Functions in the Finance Department include payroll, purchasing, budget, accounts payable, general accounting, annual audits, grant reporting and compliance, insurance, and debt management. The County accounts for all department revenues and expenses using funds. The general fund accounts for the County’s primary operating activities and for all activities not accounted for in a different fund. Spending categories in the 2024 budget include debt, salary and benefits, operating, capital, and ARPA with total expenses of \$204,367,597. Revenues come from property tax, federal and state funding, public charges, ARPA, sales tax, fund balance and miscellaneous. The total County debt has gone down 34% since 2020. Strategies to balance the budget include cutting expenses, prioritize budget requests, create/add revenues, use fund balance, and borrow money to cover capital costs. Complexities for the annual budget include all employee raises of 3%, increase in cost of goods/services, department needs, and capital needs and replacement. Department budget requests will be reviewed in July/August with the Administrator’s Budget presented in September/October. The Public Hearing and Annual Budget meeting will be held on November 12<sup>th</sup>.
- General Update
  - Administrator Klekamp gave updates on the internal wage study that will be presented in July, listening sessions throughout the county continue to focus on wages and incentives, last Friday the Mental Health Coalition received the Shining Star Award, an Elder Abuse Walk will be on Saturday and will start at the Riverside Bandshell, the Bangor Library wrote their own grant to get solar on the Bangor Library, the last listening session for the Sustainability Plan is on Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at the West Salem Library at 4pm, the Health Department received accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board, and the new administrative professional started today, Myranda Schumacher.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS** – none offered.

(18-24/25)

**ADJOURN**

Motion by J. Pogreba/G. Mathu to adjourn at 7:46 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 27 ayes, 3 excused - K. Hoyer, M. Larson, and D. Wacek.

**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, June 10, 2024 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 17 OF JUNE 2024.**