

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MONTHLY MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting was held on Thursday, September 19, 2024 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 26 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:

District Name	Attendance
1 Leibold, Kelly	Present
2 Geary, Ralph	Present
3 Pierce, David	Present
4 Freedland, Maureen	Present
5 Anderson, Emily	Excused
6 Mathu, Grant	Present
7 Padesky, Gary	Present
8 Isola, Peg	Present
9 Wacek, Dawn	Present
10 Cable, Kim	Present
11 Scheller, Patrick	Absent
12 Erickson, Randy	Present
13 Tryggestad, Tina	Present
14 Larson, Margaret	Present
15 Kruse, Monica	Present
16 Ferries, Dan	Present
17 Pogreba, Jack	Present
18 Baroni, Mike	Present
19 Cornforth, Rick	Present
20 Doyle, Steve	Excused
21 Balduzzi, Dave	Excused
22 Kovacevich, Joe	Present
23 Elam, Travis	Present
24 Hoyer, Kevin	Present
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

- WCA Conference – a sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers to work the booth.
- If any Supervisors have outside funding requests, they should connect with Miranda to get the application and the deadline is September 30th.
- Supervisor Conference Reports
 - Supervisor Hundt attended the La Crosse County Agricultural Society meeting and noted the fair was a huge success with 25,000 – 30,000 people attending.

(55-24/25)

- Supervisor Pogreba commended the HR and Finance Department for the conversion to Dayforce.
- Supervisor Jacobsen attended meetings for the Town of Burns, Farmington, Mindoro Lions Club and the Towns Association and talked about the collapsed culvert on County Highway Q that was quickly repaired by the Highway Department. He also noted Spanferkel was held last weekend in Mindoro.
- Supervisor Ferries noted the Onalaska Food Pantry has completed a huge remodel project and is located behind the Onalaska American Legion.
- Supervisor Cornforth, Baroni and Kruse attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Onalaska Community Center.

Administrator Report - Jane Klekamp

PROCLAMATION NO. 213-9/24 SEPTEMBER 2024 - LIBRARIES & UW EXTENSION MONTH

WHEREAS, research-based educational programs for agricultural producers, businesses, local governments, communities, families and youth are brought to the residents of La Crosse County; and, **WHEREAS**, library programs identify and respond to specific community needs for education and knowledge to improve the quality of life in local communities; and, **WHEREAS**, libraries provide recreational and educational resources for residents in pursuit of life-long learning and provide community gathering places for all; 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 and staff and area library staff are committed to educating the residents of La Crosse County to promote life-long learning to develop 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.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Motion by J. Pogreba/D. Ferries to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 1 absent - P. Scheller, 3 excused - E. Anderson, D. Balduzzi and S. Doyle.

- General Update
 - Administrator Klekamp noted the libraries started using a new catalog app that is available to all the libraries in the County; Dayforce started this week; a new property tax software went into effect last week; the Health Department is giving vaccines to adults who don't have insurance on October 3rd at St. Clair's Health Mission; the groundbreaking for Hillview will be on October 2nd; the City of La Crosse has approved everything that is needed for the Hillview remodel to start; Private Robert L Skaar, who lived in La Crosse, will be buried with gravesite services on October 1st, 2024 at 9am at Woodlawn Cemetery in the Veterans Cemetery. He enlisted when he was 18 years old and was killed in action on March 8, 1945. His remains were identified on June 7th, 2024.
- Background on Mental Health Resolution
 - Human Services Director Jason Witt gave some background information on the resolution coming before the board later tonight on mental health funding. Counties are mandated to cover certain mental health costs but funding for Human Services has been challenging. This resolution calls on the State to increase funding in nonfederal share of crisis services and the nonfederal share of community support programs.
- Overview of 2025 Budget Process and Initial Recommendations
 - The budget is a balancing act between providing strong county services while working within constraints of levy limits and outside funding sources. Highlights include a \$206 million balanced budget, maintains and strengthens county services, 3% raise for staff and no increase in health premiums, total levy for 2025 is decreasing .03%, no borrowing for ongoing capital needs, and the County debt continues to fall. Consideration on the budget include sales tax growth that is slowing, out of home care costs are running \$1.1 million over budget, increase in shared revenue of \$109,000, workforce turnover generated \$5 million in savings, and investment income trending \$1 million over budget. The 2025

budget has a total revenue of \$205,950,342 which comes from fund balance, long term borrowing, sales tax, public charges, federal and state, property tax and miscellaneous. Expenditures include debt service, health, library, highway, solid waste, human services, long term care, and general government. The 2025 recommended budget has total levy of \$37,909,714. The average mill rate per \$1,000 is \$2.55. Total County debt continues to decline. There will be record highway funding of \$14.1 million which will support 11 miles of construction work and 20 to 25 miles of chip sealing. A second budget presentation will happen at the October 17th Monthly meeting with a public hearing and vote on the budget at the November 12th Annual meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

Motion by D. Mader/K. Cable to appoint Catherin Kolkmeier to the Aging and Disability Resource Center Advisory Committee for the remainder of a three year term to expire July 31, 2027; appoint Allan Beatty, AJ Claus, Amanda Goodenough, Bradley Weber, Cullen Bosworth and Mike Durnin to the Civilian Review Board for a two year term to expire September 18, 2026; appoint Tyler Stapleton to the La Crosse County Housing Authority for the remainder of a five year term to expire December 31, 2026. Motion by K. Hoyer/J. Pogreba to split the appointments by voting on AJ Claus and Amana Goodenough separately failed on a roll call vote with 18 nays, 8 ayes - T. Elam, D. Ferries, K. Hoyer, D. Jacobsen, M. Kruse, J. Pogreba, R. Rothering and K. Schlimgen, 1 absent - P. Scheller, 3 excused - E. Anderson, D. Balduzzi and S. Doyle. The motion to approve the appointments passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 1 absent - P. Scheller, 3 excused - E. Anderson, D. Balduzzi and S. Doyle.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by D. Wacek/P. Wuensch to approve the minutes of the Planning Meeting held August 5, 2024 and the Monthly Meeting held August 15, 2024 passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 1 absent - P. Scheller, 3 excused - E. Anderson, D. Balduzzi and S. Doyle.

RESOLUTION NO. 13-9/24 RE: ACKNOWLEDGE "THE BEST OF PUBLIC SERVICE"

WHEREAS, the following employees have been a faithful part in providing "The Best of Public Service" to La Crosse County:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>YEARS</u>
Linda Hackman	Aging & Disability Resource Center	33+
Laura Willer	Juvenile Detention Center	33+
Tammy Bond	Family and Children's Section	31+
Laure Newcomb	Sheriff's Office	27+
Jay Lyngaas	Sheriff's Office	26+
Maria Vasquez-Johnson	Clerk of Courts	25+
Suzanne Weibel	Library	24+
Cynthia Stellpflug	Child Support	18+
Timothy Candahl	Medical Examiner's Office	17+
Jeffrey Flick	Facilities Department	16+
Rosemary Domnie	Hillview Health Care Center	16+
Margaret Ham	Justice Support Services	12+
Linda Bettin	Solid Waste	9+
Mercedita Harpstreith	Hillview Health Care Center	9+

WHEREAS, it is the wish of the County Board of Supervisors to acknowledge long and faithful service on behalf of the citizens of La Crosse County; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that a resolution extending our congratulations be recorded in La Crosse County Board Proceedings and a certificate of our actions be presented as an expression of our gratitude.

TINA TRYGGESTAD, COUNTY BOARD CHAIR
GINNY DANKEMYER, COUNTY CLERK

(57-24/25)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Motion by K. Cable/J. Pogreba to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 1 absent - P. Scheller, 3 excused - E. Anderson, D. Balduzzi and S. Doyle.

RESOLUTION NO. 14-9/24 RE: SUPPORT OF STATE INVESTMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING

WHEREAS, La Crosse County is concerned that the public mental health system in Wisconsin is in need of additional resources to respond appropriately to the needs of individuals with persistent mental illness and those experiencing a mental health crisis; and **WHEREAS**, state law designates counties with the responsibility for the well-being, treatment, and care of individuals with mental illness, and serving those without private insurance coverage; and **WHEREAS**, the Medical Assistance program (MA) covers an array of mental health services, ranging from office-based therapy to inpatient hospitalization, and many of these services are delivered by counties; and **WHEREAS**, Community Support Programs (CSP) offer intensive community-based care for adults whose mental illness and functional limitations might otherwise require them to need institutionalized care. Counties use CSP services to keep people out of extended hospitalizations and support people in the community following emergency detentions; and **WHEREAS**, counties are required to provide Crisis intervention services including an emergency mental health services program to serve persons in crisis situations; at a minimum, 24-hour crisis telephone service and 24-hour in-person response on an on-call basis; and **WHEREAS**, while the state pays the full cost of most MA services, when it comes to county-based CSP and Crisis mental health services, the county finances the cost of the services up front, and receives MA reimbursement for only the federal share for that service, and **WHEREAS**, Community Aids funding has not kept pace over the years with increased county costs for services, resulting in counties bearing a disproportionate share of CSP and Crisis service costs from county tax levy; and **WHEREAS**, counties are limited in their capacity to use tax levy revenue due to state levy limits, so the lack of Community Aids increases combined with strict property tax controls makes it difficult for counties to maintain Crisis and CSP services; and **WHEREAS**, in addition to the costs to county human service departments, counties and municipalities also incur law enforcement costs to transport and provide security for persons in a crisis; and **WHEREAS**, the awareness of the 988 National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline has made mental health assessment and referral more readily available, resulting in more demand on the mental health crisis systems; and **WHEREAS**, stagnant state funding results in variations in the extent of services available across counties, wait lists for services, and eligible people receiving limited services; and **WHEREAS**, the limited state funding for Crisis services makes it difficult for counties to implement new evidence-based services, such as mobile crisis workers that could meet law enforcement officers in the field for crisis calls, that would reduce the need for law enforcement involvement and provide a more trauma-informed response to crisis situations, and; **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's counties continue to cover the costs of mental health services for individuals who are not Medicaid eligible, and; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors does hereby request that the state of Wisconsin, in its 2025-27 state biennial budget, provide state GPR funding to cover the full non-federal share of MA CSP and Crisis services, and; **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, Wisconsin State Legislators with a constituency within La Crosse County, and the Wisconsin Counties Association. **FISCAL NOTE:** La Crosse County Human Services' Crisis program is tracked in the 210.445.1000 division and the Community Support Program is tracked in the 210.455.4750 division within the County financial system.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Motion by D. Mader/R. Cornforth to approve. Discussion ensued. Human Services Director Jason Witt responded to questions from the Board. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 1 absent - P. Scheller, 3 excused - E. Anderson, D. Balduzzi and S. Doyle.

RESOLUTION NO. 15-9/24 RE: AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE PROJECT PLAN AND PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (PLAN-PEIS) PREPARED BY THE NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE WHICH RECOMMENDS DECOMMISSIONING ALL FOURTEEN PL-566 WATERSHED DAMS IN THE COON CREEK WATERSHED

WHEREAS, on the night of August 27, 2018, seven Watershed dams overtopped. Three dams failed in Monroe County. Rainfall amounts up to eleven inches were reported in the evening of August 27 and early morning hours of August 28, 2018, which led to the failure of the dams; and **WHEREAS**, the

contributing watershed areas for these dams reside in La Crosse, Monroe, and Vernon Counties; and **WHEREAS**, two dams reside in La Crosse County, seven dams reside in Monroe County, and five dams reside in Vernon County, and they function as a system to provide flood prevention and flood damage reduction benefits in the Coon Creek valley; and **WHEREAS**, the Project Sponsors, La Crosse, Monroe, and Vernon Counties, requested a PLAN-PEIS from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to evaluate the stability, effectiveness, and socio- economic and environmental effects associated with the Watershed dams; and **WHEREAS**, the NRCS has completed the PLAN-PEIS; and **WHEREAS**, the preferred alternative in the PLAN-PEIS recommends the decommissioning of all fourteen Watershed dams; and **WHEREAS**, the preferred alternative in the PLAN-PEIS has a satisfactory benefit to cost ratio and reduces risk to people and property from future dam failures; and **WHEREAS**, the Project Sponsors acknowledge and accept the public participation (scoping) process in the preparation of the PLAN-PEIS; and **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors accepts the PLAN-PEIS in collaboration with Monroe County and Vernon County and agrees to enter into a Watershed Agreement with the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture through the NRCS for dam decommissioning in the Coon Creek Watershed in accordance with the terms, conditions, and stipulations provided in the PLAN-PEIS. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors does hereby also agree to provide the necessary staff to work with affected landowners on the final disposition of properties affected by dam decommissioning and assist the NRCS with incorporating landowner concerns into the final engineering plans. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors does hereby authorize the Natural Resource Conservation Service to secure a grant to hire a private engineer to complete the designs to facilitate this decommissioning of the above referenced dams. **FISCAL NOTE:** Staff time is budgeted in Land Conservation division 100.205.1000 within the County financial system. There is no other direct fiscal impact to La Crosse County at this time.

PLANNING, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Motion by K. Hoyer/P. Isola to approve. Discussion ensued. Land Conservation Director Matt Hanewall responded to questions from the Board. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 1 absent - P. Scheller, 3 excused - E. Anderson, D. Balduzzi and S. Doyle.

ZONING ORDINANCE NO. Z457-9/24 RE: PETITION NO. 2079 FILED BY SHANE POTARACKE O/B/O KELLY AND DAVID POTARACKE TO REZONE FROM THE EXCLUSIVE AGRICULTURE DISTRICT TO THE RURAL DISTRICT FOR FUTURE RESIDENTIAL USE IN THE TOWN OF HOLLAND

The La Crosse County Planning, Resources and Development Committee, having considered Petition No. 2079 to amend the La Crosse County Zoning Ordinance filed by: Shane Potaracke o/b/o Kelly and David Potaracke, N8397 Amundson Coulee Rd, Holmen, WI 54636 and having held a public hearing on Monday, August 26, 2024 for a ZONING PETITION to rezone from the Exclusive Agriculture District to the Rural District for future residential use in the Town of Holland and described as follows: Prt E1/2-NE, Sec. 21, T.18N, R.7W. Tax parcel 8-268-2. Property address: N8397 Amundson Coulee Rd, Town of Holland. And pursuant to s. 59.69(5)(e)2. Wis. Stats. and s. 17.10 Zoning Code: the Committee did publish and receive proof of a Class II notice of the hearing; did receive receipts of mailing of the notices to the affected Town Clerk(s); did hold a public hearing to hear testimony or correspondence from the people; and, did receive and consider action from the affected Town Board(s). The Committee, under s. 59.69(5)(e)4., Wis. Stats., along with the affected Town Board(s), under s.59.69(5)(e)3., Wis. Stats., have the authority to approve or to disapprove of the application. Having considered the entire record, the Committee's recommendation is to: By a vote of SEVEN (7) in favor (Isola, Hoyer, Pierce, Scheller, Rothering, Schlimgen, Jacobsen), ZERO (0) no, and ZERO (0) abstentions, the committee recommended Approval of ZONING PETITION No. 2079 subject to no conditions. THE COUNTY BOARD took the following action this 19th day of 2024. Approved subject to conditions as outlined.

PLANNING, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Motion by K. Hoyer/D. Jacobsen to approve as recommended by the Committee passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 1 absent - P. Scheller, 3 excused - E. Anderson, D. Balduzzi and S. Doyle.

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 1246 FILED BY STAG MOOSE SOLAR LLC O/B/O JERRY H KRAMER REVOCABLE TRUST FOR AGRICULTURE ACCESSORY USES THAT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF 91.01(1)(D) WISCONSIN STATUTES FOR A GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR ARRAY IN THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD

(59-24/25)

The La Crosse County Planning, Resources and Development Committee, having considered an application filed by: Stag Moose Solar LLC o/b/o Jerry H Kramer Revocable Trust, 10 N Livingston St, Ste 201, Madison, WI 53703 and having held a public hearing on Monday, August 26, 2024 for a CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT for 17.05(5)(d)2.g. Agriculture accessory uses that meet the requirements of §91.01(1)(d), Wis. Stats. for a ground mounted solar array. in the Town of Greenfield and described as follows:

PRT NE-SE LYG SWLY HWY & SE1/4 OF SE1/4, Sec. 33, T.15N, R.6W. Tax parcel 6-754-0 & 6-761-0. Property address: W5004 US Hwy 14/61, Town of Greenfield. And pursuant to s. 59.69 Wis. Stats. and s. 17.10 Zoning Code: the Committee did publish and receive proof of a Class II notice of the hearing; did receive receipts of mailing of the notices to the affected Town Clerk(s); did hold a public hearing to hear testimony or correspondence from the people; and, did receive and consider action from the affected Town Board(s). The Committee, under s., Wis. Stats., along with the affected Town Board(s), under s. 17.10(8), have the authority to approve the application with integral conditions or to disapprove of the application. Having considered the entire record, the Committee's recommendation is to: By a vote of SIX (6) in favor (Hoyer, Pierce, Rothering, Scheller, Isola, Jacobsen), ZERO (0) no, and ONE (1) (Schlimgen) abstentions, the committee recommended Approval of CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT No. 1246 subject to the following THREE (3) conditions:

1. The owner(s) of the property to which this Conditiona Use Permit is issued will abide by all representations and commitments made during the permitting process as well as before the Committee, in accordance with all conditions to the conditional use permit, taken as a whole, as approved by the Planning Resource and Development Committee and the County Board.
2. This approval does not preempt permittees' obligation to comply with all other applicable federal, state, and local regulations.
3. Prior to the issuance of a Zoning Permit, the applicant shall file a financial assurance with the Zoning, Planning, and Land Information Department based upon a written estimate of the cost to remove said structures from a qualified remover of, or an engineer with experience estimating costs of removing said types of structures, less the estimated salvage value, or twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), whichever is less, to guarantee that solar energy system structures will be removed following two consecutive years of discontinued use. Financial assurance may include but are not limited to certificates of deposits, irrevocable letters of credit, irrevocable trusts, established escrow accounts, government securities, or demonstration of financial responsibility by meeting net worth requirements and shall be payable exclusively to La Crosse County. The County may require an increase in the financial assurance amount after five (5) year intervals to reflect increases in the Consumer Price Index, but at no time shall the financial assurance amount exceed twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000). The provider shall supply any increased financial assurance within a reasonable time, not to exceed sixty (60) days after the County's request. A permittee may submit a letter of credit in the amount set forth above, or as an alternative, a permittee with several sites within La Crosse County may submit a master bond to cover all of said sites. A master bond or letter of credit may, at the Planning, Resources and Development Committee's discretion, be in an amount sufficient to secure removal from the site if the master bond or letter of credit provides for replenishing any amount used as the master bond or letter of credit covers any other site in the County.

THE COUNTY BOARD took the following action this 19th day of 2024. Approved subject to conditions as outlined.

PLANNING, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Motion by K. Hoyer/M. Freedland to approve. Discussion ensued. Zoning Administrator Kathleen Stewart responded to questions from the Board. The motion to approve as recommended by the Committee passed on a voice vote with 24 ayes, 2 abstentions - D. Mader and K. Schlimgen, 1 absent - P. Scheller, 3 excused - E. Anderson, D. Balduzzi and S. Doyle.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

- Supervisor Geary asked for HR to update the parameters used for the wage study.
- Supervisor Leibel asked for a report on what services Human Services provide.

(60-24/25)

- Supervisor Hoyer asked for an update on Pathways Home and the unintended consequences that came from the City of La Crosse's recent decision to ban camping.
- Supervisor Schlimgen asked for an update on mandated versus unmandated services that are funded or unfunded.
- Supervisor Hundt asked to not cancel future meetings and get people in to give reports.
- Supervisor Jacobsen asked for a report on the four Mass Casualty Units that La Crosse County has.

ADJOURN

Motion by J. Pogreba/D. Pierce to adjourn at 7:27 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 1 absent - P. Scheller, 3 excused - E. Anderson, D. Balduzzi and S. Doyle.

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 Monthly Meeting held Thursday, September 19, 2024 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 2024.