

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2025**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, August 11, 2025 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 29 supervisors were present when Chair Kim Cable 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	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	Present
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 Tweed, Kristie	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 – Kim Cable

- Supervisor Conference Reports
 - Supervisor Hundt thanked the Board for the money to update the bathrooms at the La Crosse County Fairgrounds.
 - Supervisor Jacobsen attended the National Night Out held in Mindoro and was represented by several County departments. He also noted the Highway Department put up weather stations to focus on the surface of the road.

(28-25/26)

- Supervisor Tryggestad reminded Supervisors of the Blood Drive on August 14th and 15th, Supervisors were asked to check their email regarding the Great Rivers United Way Poverty Simulation on August 18th from 3-5:30pm, and asked if there were any questions or clarification needed on the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Annual Report

Administrator Report – Jane Klekamp

PROCLAMATION AUGUST 2025 – AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCES MONTH

WHEREAS, the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of La Crosse County plays a vital role in supporting older adults, individuals with disabilities, caregivers, and families by providing accessible information, guidance, and support to help maintain independence and quality of life; and **WHEREAS**, the ADRC's programs—including congregate and home-delivered meals—allow residents to age with dignity in the comfort of their own homes and communities; and **WHEREAS**, the ADRC collaborates with local partners to provide essential services such as transportation, caregiver support, social engagement opportunities, and education—helping individuals remain active, connected, and independent for as long as possible. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board hereby proclaims the month of August 2025 as Aging and Disability Resources Month and encourages all residents to recognize and celebrate the dedication of those who serve, support, and empower the older adults and people with disabilities in our community.

Motion by P. Isola/K. Leibold to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 29 ayes, 1 excused – D. Wacek.

PROCLAMATION AUGUST 2025 – 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 nearly **\$16 million** in child support in 2024; 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 J. Pogreba/R. Cornforth to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 29 ayes, 1 excused – D. Wacek.

- Operationalizing Equity into Action – Presented by Chanin Kelly-Rae
 - The session goals are to move from values to daily operations while staying within Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights compliance; use neutral, job and purpose related standard, no quotas; and apply the County's equity definition to real agenda items. La Crosse County's definition of equity is making county services work for everyone – find and fix barriers, make services usable, and decide fairly. When following federal and Wisconsin civil-rights law, that means fair treatment and no discrimination. Tool #1 is Equity Impact Framework (EIF). This is a short pre-vote checklist to stress test proposals – who's affected, options/downsides, fixes, and success metrics with a follow-up date. This doesn't change eligibility or use quotas; it helps avoid unintended harm and stay compliant. Tool #2 is Board Dashboard: what you see and when to act. Quarterly view of access and reach, wait time and backlog, results and quality, resident feedback, and workforce and purchasing. Tool #3 is Hiring Oversight: County Board Role (Policy and Reporting). This is setting policy (not hires) and getting quarterly reports.

(29-25/26)

- 2024 Financial Report – Presented by Financial Director Lanae Nickelotti
 - Functions of the Finance Department include payroll, purchasing, budget, accounts payable, general accounting, internal controls, grant reporting and compliance, insurance, debt management, financial planning, and annual audits. Highlights of the 2024 ACFR include positive financial results from the Enterprise funds, incurred losses from Hillview Nursing Home, positive financial results for government fund balances, \$8 million of debt was issued in 2024 for Hillview remodel and \$8.2 million of debt was paid off, and the General Fund unassigned/available fund balance was at 54.8 % at the end of 2024. The General Fund Balance increased by \$5 million which is better than expected. Highlights from the PAFR include La Crosse County's equalized value has increased 82.5% over the last 10 years, the La Crosse area has maintained a lower unemployment rate than the State and Federal rates for the last 10 years, the County's largest type of revenue is charges for services, and the County's largest type of expenses supports the Health and Human Services function: Health, Human Services, Child Support and Veterans. La Crosse County's latest credit rating was Aa1 which is the second highest debt rating. The rating is reviewed annually and at the time new debt is issued. There was \$61.7 million outstanding debt as of December 31, 2024, with \$8.4 million to be paid off in 2025. A Single Audit showed \$40.7 million in 2024 for Federal Grant expenditures and \$11.7 million in 2024 for State Grant expenditures. For 2025, most departments are on budget, sales tax is estimated to be \$500,000 above budget, interest income is estimated to be \$500,000 above budget as well, and there will be some federal and state impacts with more expected in future years. Considerations for 2026 Budget include \$8 million of unfunded requests, limited ability to increase revenue, increase in health insurance, implementation of compensation market study for employee wages, and Federal and State impacts.
- Presentation of 2024 Annual Audit – Presented by Andrea Jansen of Bakertilly
 - The financial audit of the County's financial statements for the year ended 12/31/2024 in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. An unmodified opinion was issued and emphasis of matter related to the implementation of GASB No. 100, Accounting Changes and Error Corrections and GASB No. 101, Compensated Absences. The single audit had compliance and controls related to Federal and State grant expenditures and a low-risk auditee status. The report issued no findings. No deficiencies identified were considered to be material weaknesses. Areas of focus were key transaction cycles, significant estimates, areas of complexity, and implementation of new accounting standards. No uncorrected misstatements or material audit adjustments were identified.
- Child Support Overview – Presented by Child Support Director, Jill Sherry
 - The Child Support Department has 1 director, 1 supervisor, 8 child support specialists, and 2 administrative associates. They serve over 6,500 families by establishing paternity and setting and enforcing child support orders. 66% of their funding is reimbursed which reduces the levy impact. Full federal funding requires 80% on 3 performance measures and 90% on paternity establishment. 2025 measures include court orders – 91.12%, paternity establishment – 102.16%, current collections – 77.36%, and arrears – 74.45%. The department is on track to meet 2 of the 4 federal funding targets. The KIDS system which is complex and training heavy will be replaced with the THRIVE system. This new system was funded in Governor Evers' latest budget and has an estimated launch date of 2027. Child Support is one of the most effective anti-poverty programs. It collected \$841 million in Wisconsin in 2023 with 74% collected through income withholding. 98% of collections went to families and served 341,000 children. \$5.63 is collected for \$1 spent.
- Overview of Recommended Chapter 11 Ordinance Change – Presented by Environmental Health Manager Carol Engle-Drury
 - Proposed amendments to Chapter 11.31 – animal regulations were reviewed. The biggest change will be the addition of the TNVR Program (Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate & Release). Additional changes include adding definitions for the TNVR Program and other definitions

(30-25/26)

were added/amended to provide clarity to other sections of the chapter. In addition, obsolete sections were removed, facility types within the commercial animal establishment permit were amended, regulated cats and requirements for rabies vaccination was added, the quarantine process was amended, language updates, and requirement for a Community Cat Management Program was created. The first reading of this ordinance will be at the August Board meeting with the 2nd reading in September.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS – none offered.

ADJOURN

Motion by J. Pogreba/G. Mathu to adjourn at 8:17 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 2 excused - 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, August 11, 2025 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 12 OF AUGUST 2025.