

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2025**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, February 10, 2025 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:

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	Present
10 Cable, Kim	Excused
11 Scheller, Patrick	Present
12 Erickson, Randy	Present
13 Tryggestad, Tina	Present
14 Larson, Margaret	Present
15 Kruse, Monica	Present
16 Ferries, Dan	Present – remote
17 Pogreba, Jack	Present
18 Baroni, Mike	Present
19 Cornforth, Rick	Present - remote
20 Doyle, Steve	Present
21 Balduzzi, Dave	Present
22 Kovacevich, Joe	Present
23 Elam, Travis	Present
24 Tweed, Kristie	Sworn in at 6:05 PM
25 Jacobsen, Dennis	Present
26 Hundt, David	Present
27 Wuensch, Paul	Present
28 Rothering, Ron	Excused
29 Schlimgen, Ken	Present
30 Mader, Dillon	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPOINTMENT

Motion by R. Erickson/S. Doyle to appoint Kristie Tweed as County Board Supervisor for District 24 for a term to begin immediately and to expire April 20, 2026 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Kevin Hoyer passed on a unanimous voice vote with 27 ayes, 2 excused - K. Cable and R. Rothering, 1 vacant – District 24.

Kristie Tweed was sworn in by the Honorable Scott Horne.

PROCLAMATION FEBRUARY 21, 2025 - LA CROSSE COUNTY CAREGIVERS DAY

WHEREAS, National Caregivers Day, observed annually on the third Friday of February, honors the dedicated individuals who provide compassionate, long-term, in-home, and hospice care—whether as professional caregivers or unpaid family members; and, **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin’s unpaid family caregivers provide billions of dollars’ worth of essential care each year, often balancing personal, professional, and caregiving responsibilities while facing emotional and financial strain; and, **WHEREAS**, like many sectors across the state and country, the paid direct care workforce in Wisconsin is facing hiring and retention challenges, which negatively impacts services for people with disabilities, aging adults, and families in need; and, **WHEREAS**, the La Crosse County Board recognizes the unwavering dedication and sacrifices of both paid and unpaid caregivers and reaffirms its commitment to improving support systems, and ensuring access to affordable, high-quality care for all who rely on caregivers. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board hereby proclaims February 21, 2025, as La Crosse County Caregivers Day in recognition of the immeasurable contributions of caregivers and encourages all residents to honor, support, and advocate for those who dedicate their lives to the well-being of others.

Motion by J. Pogreba/P. Wuensch to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 2 excused - K. Cable, and R. Rothering.

PROCLAMATION FEBRUARY 2025 - BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, Black History Month is observed across the United States each February to honor the rich history, achievements, and contributions of Black Americans; and, **WHEREAS**, recognition began in 1926 as a program to encourage the study of Black history to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, and was officially expanded to the entire month of February in 1976 by President Gerald Ford; and, **WHEREAS**, this year’s theme, "African Americans and Labor," highlights the connections between Black communities and the labor movement, recognizing the vital roles Black workers—both free and enslaved, skilled and unskilled, vocational and voluntary—have played in shaping our society; and, **WHEREAS**, Black History Month is a time to honor the resilience, leadership, and lasting contributions of Black individuals to our community, nation, and world, despite enduring systemic barriers and injustice; and, **WHEREAS**, today and every day, we recognize the importance of Black health, wellness, and equity, reaffirming our commitment to a community where all people can thrive. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims February 2025 as Black History Month and encourages all residents to reflect on Black history, celebrate Black excellence, and work toward a future that is more just, equitable, and inclusive for all.

Motion by M. Kruse/G. Padesky to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 2 excused - K. Cable, and R. Rothering.

- A moment of silence was held for former County Board Supervisor Lila Seager who recently passed away. She served from 1988-2000.
- Supervisors were reminded that the Administrator’s evaluation was emailed out.
- Supervisor Conference Reports
 - Supervisor Hundt attended the Wildlife Abatement Damage Committee and noted La Crosse County hunters donated 110 deer for the food pantry.
 - Supervisor Schlimgen attended the Nutrient Management Workshop provided by the Land Conservation office. The program is designed to educate farmers on the proper use of fertilizer.
 - Supervisor Geary attended the airport tour.

Administrator Report - Jane Klekamp

PROCLAMATION FEBRUARY 2025 - PUBLIC HEALTH MONTH

WHEREAS, the La Crosse County Health Department is dedicated to collaboratively promoting a healthy community for all; and, **WHEREAS**, the department’s 53 dedicated professionals provide essential services and resources to help residents live longer, healthier lives; and, **WHEREAS**, the La Crosse County Health Department continually strives for excellence by meeting the rigorous standards

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of national public health accreditation; and, **WHEREAS**, the State of Wisconsin recognizes the department's outstanding performance with its highest rating; and, **WHEREAS**, the department plays a vital role in educating, protecting, and supporting the community through programs in Access to Care, Communicable Disease Prevention, Family Health, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention, and Environmental Health/Laboratory Services. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board hereby proclaims February 2025 as Public Health Month and encourages all residents to join in celebrating and recognizing the invaluable contributions of the La Crosse County Health Department staff.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Motion by M. Larson/P. Isola to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 27 ayes, 3 excused - K. Cable, R. Cornforth and R. Rothering.

- Overview of Chapter 4 Revision Request
 - Purchasing Manger Bryan Jostad presented on the proposed increase to the approval levels for budgeted purchases. Currently, a department head can approve purchases up to \$5,000, the Finance Director can approve purchases up to \$25,000 and all purchases over \$25,000 must be approved by the County Administrator and Standing Committee. The current purchasing approval levels were put in place in 2002 and the cost of goods and services has increased since the last change and the RFP process has changed. The proposed changes would allow a department head to approve up to \$25,000, the Finance Director to approve up to \$100,000 and anything over \$100,000 would need County Administrator and Standing Committee approval. Public Work projects, as defined by state statute 59.52(29)(a), and estimated to exceed \$25,000 would require an RFP process and be presented to the Standing Committee for approval.
- Hillview Remodel Update – Project Manager Brent Alfredson of Hoffman presented the Hillview update. Renderings of the different areas of the new CBRF in progress were shown. The Day Center and Administration Wing will be started this summer. The project is about 30-35% done and schedule to be completed in February 2026.
- Impact of ARPA funds on Childcare – Community Development Educator Charlotte Peters provided and update on the ARPA funds for Childcare. \$500,000 was set aside for grants to be used for capital improvement projects. Forty-six different caregivers applied for grants and 37 were awarded grants and of those 35 were accepted. Some of the projects are still being completed. Pictures of the updates were shown. Approximately 8 new childcare slots were created with this grant but the improvement of quality of care helped providers with keeping their licenses.
- Update on Ordinance revision and creation of 2.195 “Annual Budget Process – Outside Funding Requests” – Associate Administrator Sara Koopman discussed the creation of the ordinance for outside funding requests. The need for the ordinance is from the recent spike of outside funding requests and Supervisors wanting a better process to handle those requests. An ordinance change would be the most effective process to put in place. Lengthy discussion was held on possible verbiage changes to the ordinance that will go to the Executive Committee and then County Board.
- General Update
 - Administrator Klekamp reported that Maomoua Vue was on the cover of the Coulee Region Women magazine and has been a great employee for over 25 years; the Boys and Girls Club has set a ground breaking for the Skilled Trades Center on March 7th at 10am; so far the Federal Funding freeze has not affected La Crosse County: the Veteran’s Service Office has put on a photo shoot for women veterans and has added monthly outreach to the Vets Center and West Salem Legion; Pathways Home was launched in May of 2024 and recently the 100th household has been housed.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

- Supervisor Hundt requested an update from the Lake District

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ADJOURN

Motion by G. Mathu/R. Geary to adjourn at 8:01: PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 2 excused - K. Cable and R. Rothering.

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, February 10, 2025 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 18 OF FEBRUARY 2025.