

(20-25/26)

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MONTHLY MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2025**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting was held on Thursday, July 17, 2025 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 25 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 - Remote
5	Anderson, Emily	Present
6	Mathu, Grant	Present
7	Padesky, Gary	Present
8	Isola, Peg	Present
9	Wacek, Dawn	Present
10	Cable, Kim	Present
11	Scheller, Patrick	Excused
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	Excused
20	Doyle, Steve	Present
21	Balduzzi, Dave	Present
22	Kovacevich, Joe	Present
23	Elam, Travis	Excused
24	Tweed, Kristie	Excused
25	Jacobsen, Dennis	Present
26	Hundt, David	Excused
27	Wuensch, Paul	Excused
28	Rothering, Ron	Present
29	Schlimgen, Ken	Present
30	Mader, Dillon	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

County Board Chair Report - Tina Tryggestad

- Chair Tryggestad reminder Supervisors to leave their laptops tonight so IT can do updates; Supervisors were thanked for checking their mailboxes and picking up the new directories; the recording of the Planning Meeting from Monday, July 7, 2025, will be emailed out to Supervisors and is posted online.
- Supervisor Conference Reports

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- Supervisor Schlimgen attended a Graziers workshop with Vernon and Crawford Counties on pasturing and rotational grazing.
- Supervisor Cable noted the summer homeless count in La Crosse will be next week and followed up with the Homeless Connect at English Lutheran with services being provided.

Administrator Report - Jane Klekamp

- General Update
 - Administrator Klekamp noted the number of people entering and leaving homelessness are remaining the same; there will be a resolution tonight to accept a grant to support Pathways Home; Economic Support Customer Service received outstanding feedback from Wisconsin Department Health Services that surveyed customers and the FoodShare payment error rate was at 1.2% which is well below the state average; the emergency dispatch center received a grant to have their department remodeled and updated; consultants have been here for the last few days evaluating the jail and how to best use the space in the jail and a plan has been developed; Village of West Salem made an offer to purchase the 7.85 acres left in the Business Park in West Salem and the Executive Committee made a counteroffer, the appraised value is \$125,000 per acre; Administrator Klekamp and Associate Administrator Sarah Koopman met with the chairs of the Lake Districts to talk about future funding options; HHS Committee postponed the Hemp Derived THC ordinance for 90 days to gather more information; and the first step of the compensation study has been completed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by R. Erickson/D. Ferries to approve the minutes of the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting held May 5, 2025, Monthly Meeting held May 15, 2025 and the Planning Meeting held June 9, 2025 passed on a unanimous voice vote with 25 ayes, 5 excused - R. Cornforth, D. Hundt, P. Scheller, K. Tweed and P. Wuensch.

APPOINTMENTS

Motion by G. Padesky/P. Isola to reappoint Margaret Wood and Cindy Jensen to the Aging & Disability Resource Center Advisory Committee for a three year term to expire July 31, 2028 passed on a unanimous voice vote with 25 ayes, 5 excused - R. Cornforth, D. Hundt, P. Scheller, K. Tweed and P. Wuensch.

ZONING ORDINANCE NO. Z460-7/25 RE: PETITION NO. 2083 FILED BY JOLYN AND DAVE OELFKE 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. 2083 to amend the La Crosse County Zoning Ordinance filed by: Jolyn & Dave Oelfke, N8545 O Thompson Rd, Holmen, WI 54636 and having held a public hearing on Monday, June 30, 2025 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: SE1/4 OF SE1/4, Sec. 17, T.18N, R.7W. Tax parcel 8-195-0. Property address: N8545 O Thompson 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 FIVE (5) in favor (Schlimgen, Scheller, Tweed, Rothering, Jacobson), ZERO (0) no, TWO (2) excused (Isola, Pierce), the committee recommended Approval of ZONING PETITION No. 2083 subject to two conditions.

1. Any new dwelling, residential accessory structure, and residential driveway must be located entirely within 200' of the road right of way, an existing field edge, or existing field road to ensure the standards for approval of a 3% rezoning in La Crosse County Ordinance s. 17.05(5)(c)1.b.1. and s. 17.05(5)(c)1.b.2. are satisfied and impacts to farmland are limited.

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2. Deed restrictions shall be placed on the remainder of the base farm tract, prohibiting future non-agricultural development and further subdivision.

THE COUNTY BOARD took the following action this 17th day of July 2025. Approved subject to conditions as outlined.

PLANNING, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Motion by K. Schlimgen/D. Pierce to approve as recommended by the Committee passed on a unanimous voice vote with 25 ayes, 5 excused - R. Cornforth, D. Hundt, P. Scheller, K. Tweed and P. Wuensch.

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 1262 FILED BY MATHY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY O/B/O LEONARD J AND SANDRA J BERANEK TRUST, LEONARD J BERANEK LIVING TRUST, AND SANDRA J BERANEK LIVING TRUST FOR THE PLACEMENT OF A TEMPORARY ASPHALT PLANT IN THE TOWN OF HOLLAND

The La Crosse County Planning, Resources and Development Committee, having considered an application filed by: Mathy Construction Company o/b/o Leonard J & Sandra J Beranek Trust, Leonard J Beranek Living Trust, & Sandra J Beranek Living Trust 920 10th Ave N, Onalaska, WI 54650 and having held a public hearing on the 30th day of June 2025 for a Conditional Use Permit on Industrial District in accordance with La Crosse County Ordinance section 17.05(10)(b)15. Asphalt or concrete plants, for the placement of a temporary asphalt plant. in the Town of Holland and described as follows: PRT of the NW/SE, Sec.25, T.18N, R.8W. Tax parcel 8-1100-0, 8-1101-0, 8-1094-0, 8-1107-0. Property address N7814 Bluffview Court. Town of Holland. And pursuant to s. 59.69 Wis. Stats. and s. 17.36 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. 91.48(1), Wis. Stats., along with the affected Town Board(s), under s. 17.36(4), 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 FIVE (5) in favor (Schlimgen, Scheller, Tweed, Rothering, Jacobson), Zero (0) opposed, and TWO (2) excused (Isola, Pierce) the committee recommended approval of Conditional Use Permit No. 1262 subject to the following FOUR (4) conditions:

1. The owner(s) of the property to which this Conditional 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. This permit is nontransferable except that it may be transferred to entities in which Leonard Beranek and Sandra Beranek are a principal owner.
4. This permit shall expire on 7/31/2026.

THE COUNTY BOARD took the following action this 17th day of July 2025. Approved subject to conditions as outlined.

PLANNING, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Motion by K. Schlimgen/G. Padesky to approve. Discussion ensued. County Planner Dillon Constant responded to questions from the Board. The motion to approve as recommended by the Committee passed on a unanimous voice vote with 25 ayes, 5 excused - R. Cornforth, D. Hundt, P. Scheller, K. Tweed and P. Wuensch.

FIRST CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NO. 219 TO AMEND CHAPTER 17, "ZONING CODE" OF THE GENERAL CODE OF LA CROSSE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

PLANNING, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Motion by K. Schlimgen/M. Kruse to move the first reading. The ordinance will be held over for 30 days and is on file and open for public inspection in the office of the County Clerk and on the La Crosse County web site at: www.co.la-crosse.wi.us. Upon adoption and publication, it will be incorporated into the La Crosse County General Code of Ordinances.

RESOLUTION NO. 7-7/25 RE: SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRAIL WITHIN THE LIMITS OF LA CROSSE COUNTY

WHEREAS, bicycle tourism is a growing industry in North America, contributing \$47 billion a year to the economies of communities that provide facilities for such tourists; and **WHEREAS**, the Mississippi River Trail is a national bicycle route, along the length of the Mississippi River, through ten states, from the headwaters at Lake Itasca to the Gulf of Mexico; and **WHEREAS**, the Mississippi River Trail was designated as one of only 16 National Millennium Trails which honor the past and imagine the future by preserving and commemorating major events and aspects of America's history and culture; and **WHEREAS**, the Mississippi River Trail provides access to and promotes the scenic, historic, archaeological, cultural, recreational and natural qualities of the Mississippi River and its amenities; and **WHEREAS**, the Mississippi River Trail is located primarily on the Wisconsin All-American Great River Road National Scenic Byway (WIS 35) between Prescott and Illinois State Line, but also routed on other state and county highways, local roads or alternative routes for bicycling; and **WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission and La Crosse County, with the cooperation of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and other stakeholders, have proposed a specific route to be designated as Mississippi River Trail; and **WHEREAS**, the Mississippi River Trail implements Wisconsin Statutes Chapters 1.11, 84.01(35), 84.60, and 85.02, 349.23 and Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter Trans 400 which required that "due consideration to establishing bikeways and pedestrian ways in all new highway construction and reconstruction projects"; and **WHEREAS**, the Mississippi River Trail adds value to existing roads and trails; and **WHEREAS**, the Mississippi River Trail is largely ready to sign and market, and many suggested improvements are already planned; and **WHEREAS**, the Mississippi River Trail will contribute to sustainable economic development in 33 Wisconsin Mississippi River communities; and **WHEREAS**, the proposed route for the Mississippi River Trail comes through La Crosse County and can therefore provide a benefit to our residents and businesses; and **WHEREAS**, the Mississippi River Trail will provide increased recreational and transportation choices for individuals to enjoy the outdoors as well as provide health, economic, and quality of life benefits; and **WHEREAS**, the Mississippi River Trail continues Wisconsin's tradition of honoring and enhancing the Mississippi River by offering multiple bicycling experiences, each in a unique river landscape; and **WHEREAS**, we have investigated the proposed route and found it to be a suitable route, and desire that the route be designated so that it can be mapped and signed, thereby promoting bicycle tourism in our area; and **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that La Crosse County in order to receive full benefit of the Mississippi River Trail, hereby expresses its approval and support for the development of the Mississippi River Trail, and requests that the appropriate officials see to it that the route is officially designated along the following segments within the limits of La Crosse County. **FISCAL NOTE:** No fiscal impact.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Motion by K. Cable/D. Pierce to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 25 ayes, 5 excused - R. Cornforth, D. Hundt, P. Scheller, K. Tweed and P. Wuensch.

RESOLUTION NO. 8-7/25 RE: DELEGATING THE AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS WITH OPIOID DEFENDANTS TO THE DESIGNATED LA CROSSE COUNTY OFFICER OR OFFICERS

WHEREAS, the County Board of Supervisors previously authorized the County to enter into an engagement agreement with von Briesen & Roper, s.c., Crueger Dickinson LLC and Simmons Hanly Conroy LLP (the "Law Firms") to pursue litigation against certain manufacturers, distributors, and retailers of opioid pharmaceuticals (the "Opioid Defendants") in an effort to hold the Opioid Defendants financially responsible for the County's vast expenditure of money and resources to combat the opioid epidemic; **WHEREAS**, on behalf of the County, the Law Firms filed a lawsuit against the Opioid Defendants; **WHEREAS**, the Law Firms filed similar lawsuits on behalf of 66 other Wisconsin counties and all Wisconsin cases were coordinated with thousands of other lawsuits filed against the same or substantially similar parties as the Opioid Defendants in the Northern District of Ohio, captioned *In re: Opioid Litigation*, MDL 2804 (the "Litigation"); **WHEREAS**, four (4) additional Wisconsin counties (Milwaukee, Dane, Waukesha, and Walworth) hired separate counsel and joined the Litigation; **WHEREAS**, since the inception of the Litigation, the Law Firms have coordinated with counsel from around the country (including counsel for Milwaukee, Dane, Waukesha, and Walworth Counties) to prepare the County's case for trial and engage in extensive settlement discussions with the Opioid Defendants; **WHEREAS**, 2021 Wisconsin Act 57

created Section 165.12 of the Wisconsin Statutes relating to the settlement of all or part of the Litigation; **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 165.12(2), the Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance is required to approve settlement agreement between the County and Opioid Defendants; **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 165.12(2), the proceeds from any settlement of all or part of the Litigation are distributed 70% to local governments in Wisconsin that are parties to the Litigation and 30% to the State; **WHEREAS**, Wis. Stat. § 165.12(7) bars claims from any Wisconsin local government against the Opioid Defendants filed after June 1, 2021; **WHEREAS**, several of the Opioid Defendants previously agreed to settlement terms with the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee ("PEC"), which is comprised of attorneys representative of all litigating local governments around the country, subject to individual approval of the litigating local governments including La Crosse County; **WHEREAS**, representatives of the Law Firms serve on the PEC and, therefore, are intimately familiar with the terms of the previous settlements and will be familiar with the terms of any settlement with any other Opioid Defendant recommended for approval by the PEC; **WHEREAS**, it is anticipated that several additional settlements will be proposed by various Opioid Defendants and recommended for approval by the PEC; **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County's process for approving settlement with an Opioid Defendant is typically a process requiring weeks for committee review and approval as well as approval by the full La Crosse County Board; **WHEREAS**, given concerns surrounding timing for participation in future settlements combined with the number of anticipated settlements, it would be prudent to provide an opportunity for La Crosse County to create a process whereby the authority to enter into settlement agreements is delegated to a responsible County officer or officers provided that any such settlement agreement is recommended by the PEC and the Law Firms; and **WHEREAS**, the intent of this Resolution is to delegate to the specified County officer or officers the authority to enter into settlement agreements with any Opioid Defendant from the date of this Resolution forward provided (a) the settlement is recommended for approval by the PEC and the Law Firms; and (b) the La Crosse County share of proceeds from any such settlement is consistent with the shares established in Addendum Two, a copy of which is attached to this Resolution and which is consistent with the allocations established in previous settlements with Opioid Defendants. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** the County Board of Supervisors hereby makes the following resolutions:

1. The County Board hereby delegates authority to the La Crosse County Corporation Counsel and the County Board Chair to enter into a settlement agreement, including without limitation the execution of any and all ancillary documents and agreements necessary to effectuate a settlement, with any Opioid Defendant provided (a) the PEC and the Law Firms shall have recommended the settlement; and (b) the La Crosse County share of proceeds from any such settlement is consistent with the shares established in Addendum Two, a copy of which is attached to this Resolution and which is consistent with the allocations established in previous settlements with Opioid Defendants.
2. Prior to executing any settlement agreement, or any document related thereto, the Corporation Counsel shall provide notice to the County Board Chair of the proposed settlement and the terms related thereto.
3. The La Crosse County Corporation Counsel and the County Board Chair are authorized and directed to take any and all such other and further action necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: all proceeds from any settlement agreement not otherwise directed to the Attorney Fees Account shall be deposited in the County's Opioid Abatement Account. The Opioid Abatement Account shall be administered consistent with the terms of this Resolution, Wis. Stat. § 165.12(4), and the applicable settlement agreement. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the County hereby authorizes the establishment of an account separate and distinct from any account containing funds allocated or allocable to the County which shall be referred to by the County as the "Attorney Fees Account." An escrow agent shall deposit a sum equal to up to, but in no event exceeding, an amount equal to 20% of the County's proceeds from a settlement agreement into the Attorney Fees Account unless such other amount is established by the applicable settlement agreement. If the payments to the County are not enough to fully fund the Attorney Fees Account as provided herein because such payments are made over time, the Attorney Fees Account shall be funded by placing up to, but in no event exceeding, an amount equal to 20% of the proceeds from a settlement agreement attributable to Local Governments (as that term is defined in the MOU) into the Attorney Fees Account for each payment. Funds in the Attorney Fees Account shall be utilized to pay the fees, costs, and disbursements owed to the Law Firms pursuant to the engagement agreement between the County and the Law Firms provided,

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however, the Law Firms shall receive no more than that to which they are entitled under their fee contract when considering the amounts paid the Law Firms from any fee fund established in a settlement agreement and allocable to the County. The Law Firms may make application for payment from the Attorney Fees Account at any time and the County shall cooperate with the Law Firms in executing any documents necessary for the escrow agent to make payments out of the Attorney Fees Account. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that all actions heretofore taken by the Board of Supervisors and other appropriate public officers and agents of the County with respect to the matters contemplated under this Resolution are hereby ratified, confirmed and approved. **FISCAL NOTE:** Dollars received from the Opioid Litigation are tracked under division 296.220.1000 within the County financial system.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Motion by K. Cable/D. Ferries to approve. Discussion ensued. Corporation Counsel Megan DeVore responded to questions from the Board. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 25 ayes, 5 excused - R. Cornforth, D. Hundt, P. Scheller, K. Tweed and P. Wuensch.

RESOLUTION NO. 9-7/25 RE: ACCEPTING \$350,000 IN COMPREHENSIVE OPIOID ABUSE SITE-BASED PROGRAM (COSSUP) WISCONSIN DEFLECTION INITIATIVE FUNDING & CREATING A RELATED POSITION

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Department of Justice is awarding grants to ten eligible entities (including city, township, county or tribal governments) to support comprehensive programs that address substance use challenges in their communities, including opioids, stimulants, and other substances, with the aim of deflecting individuals from the justice system by leveraging collaboration with law enforcement or first responders; and **WHEREAS,** La Crosse County has been awarded \$350,000 in funding, which may be utilized from July 1, 2025, through August 31, 2027, to support a newly created social worker position, housing supports, and other wraparound supports to expand its deflection efforts through the Pathways Home initiative, targeting individuals at the intersection of substance use, mental health crises, homelessness and justice system involvement; and **WHEREAS,** Local data from the Pathways Home Specialized Unit underscore the intersection between homelessness and substance use, as of the 89 unsheltered individuals engaged in 2024:

- 55% presented with both substance use and mental health needs,
- 20% reported active opioid use (including heroin, fentanyl, or prescription opioids),
- 5.5% had substance use needs without concurrent mental illness

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that La Crosse County Board hereby accepts COSSUP Wisconsin Deflection Initiative Funding in the amount of \$350,000, and the County Administrator is authorized to execute any documents to effectuate this Resolution after approval of Corporation Counsel; and, **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the County Board of Supervisors authorizes the creation and hiring of a 1.0 FTE Human Services Social Worker position, effective immediately, to fulfill the authorized outreach and case management activities under this grant; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the additional staff authorized under this resolution will be retained only so long as they can be supported with dollars related to this grant; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Finance Department is authorized to make any necessary and appropriate account transfers related to accepting this additional funding. **FISCAL NOTE:** The total grant award is \$350,000, with no County match required, and the award period ending August 31, 2027. The operating costs will be tracked under the 210.470.4945 division within the County financial system under the Integrated Support and Recovery Services section.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Motion by D. Mader/M. Kruse to approve. Discussion ensued. Human Services Section Manager Tonya Van Tol responded to questions from the Board. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 25 ayes, 5 excused - R. Cornforth, D. Hundt, P. Scheller, K. Tweed and P. Wuensch.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

- Supervisor Balduzzi asked for an update on the airport.
- Supervisor Isola asked for a tour of the emergency dispatch center.
- Supervisor Baroni asked for an update on the Thriving Families Program with the housing.

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ADJOURN

Motion by G. Mathu/E. Anderson to adjourn at 6:33 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 25 ayes, 5 excused - R. Cornforth, D. Hundt, P. Scheller, K. Tweed and P. Wuensch.

**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, July 17, 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 JULY 2025.