

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING  
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, June 9, 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:

<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	Excused
7	Padesky, Gary	Present
8	Isola, Peg	Present
9	Wacek, Dawn	Present
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	Excused
20	Doyle, Steve	Present
21	Balduzzi, Dave	Present
22	Kovacevich, Joe	Present
23	Elam, Travis	Present
24	Tweed, Kristie	Present
25	Jacobsen, Dennis	Excused
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 2025 - DAIRY MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin dairy industry generates an estimated \$52.8 billion in economic impact, \$1.26 billion in state and local taxes, and supports approximately 128,000 jobs across the state annually; and **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin dairy farmers work in partnership with cheesemakers to craft over 600 varieties, types, and styles of Wisconsin cheese—nearly double that of any other state; and **WHEREAS**, thanks to

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dairy farmers' commitment to sustainable practices, the carbon footprint of a glass of milk is two-thirds less than it was 70 years ago, while maintaining the same nutritional benefits and great taste; and **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin is home to approximately 5,300 dairy farms, the vast majority of which are family-owned, supporting a wide range of industries including feed mills, dairy equipment manufacturers and technicians, veterinarians, construction companies, genetics firms, milk haulers and dairy processors—creating a ripple effect of economic benefit statewide; and **WHEREAS**, dairy farmers in La Crosse County produce approximately \$33.5 million worth of milk annually, and local dairy processing plants in La Crosse, Mindoro, Onalaska, and Holmen provide jobs that benefit the entire county. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board hereby proclaims June 2025 as Dairy Month in La Crosse County and encourages all residents to join in celebrating the vital contributions of our dairy farmers to the local economy, environment, and community.

Motion by J. Pogreba/K. Schlimgen to approve. Supervisor Schlimgen noted the La Crosse County Dairy Breakfast will be on June 14<sup>th</sup> from 6am-11am at the Fairgrounds in West Salem. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 27 ayes, 3 excused - R. Cornforth, D. Jacobsen and G. Mathu.

- Chair Tryggestad reminded Supervisors of the Elder Abuse Awareness Day at the Dash Center in Onalaska on Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 3pm; there will be a blood drive on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>; and a reminder of the email from WCA to encourage funding for Circuit Courts.
- Supervisor Conference Reports
  - Supervisor Geary attended the WCHA Summer Road School. A main concern is the lowering populations in future years which will affect the tax levy.
  - Supervisor Mader attended a webinar from the Institutes for Research for Poverty provided by UW Madison regarding work requirements for Medicaid which is currently being considered by the Federal Government.
  - Supervisor Scheller attended the LADCO Board meeting and noted there are 3-4 organizations all looking for executive directors.

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

#### **PROCLAMATION JUNE 2025 - 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**, La Crosse County manages four parks and two forests, including Goose Island and Veterans Memorial Park, providing residents and visitors with opportunities for outdoor recreation, environmental education, and connection to nature; and **WHEREAS**, in 2024, La Crosse County's Department of Land Conservation completed 30 conservation projects in partnership with local landowners and farmers to protect soil health and improve water quality. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the month of June 2025 as La Crosse County Parks and Natural Resources Month and urges all residents to join in recognizing the valuable contributions made by County employees to the preservation of our parks and natural resources for the benefit of all.

Motion by P. Isola/D. Hundt to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 27 ayes, 3 excused - R. Cornforth, D. Jacobsen and G. Mathu.

- Presentation of Level III Health Department Certificate
  - Division of Public Health Western Regional Director of Office of Policy and Practice Alignment, Christa Cupp, presented the Health Department with a Level III Designation. There are three levels of health departments in the state with level III being the highest. A few highlights include their work promoting land use planning and collaboration with Zoning and Land Conservation Departments and providing resources regarding water quality with new developments.
- Presentation of Funds for the Veterans Service Commission from the La Crosse American Legion Council

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- American Legion County Commander Brad Heller, Mike Schaller and Garrett Paulson presented a check for \$9,062.26 to the Veterans Service Department. The funds were raised during an event to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War and to welcome home those veterans who did not receive the treatment they deserved back then.
- County Parks Overview – presented by Facilities Director Ryan Westpfahl.
  - Parks and Forests manage over 2,000 acres of public land that includes 4 county parks and 2 forests. This land provides year-round recreation. Goose Island is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers but is managed by La Crosse County. Goose Island has 308 acres with 5 shelters, hiking trails, canoeing, fishing, disc golf, mini golf and woods/wetlands. Veterans Memorial has 120 campsites with 4 shelters, fishing, picnicking, disc golf, wooded trails, and dog park. Other parks include Neshonoc Swarthout Park, Neshonoc South, Bice Forest and Hoeth Forest. There is currently 5 full time permanent staff and 15 -25 seasonal staff. Recent improvements include accessibility with ADA bathrooms, boat ramps, and shore access; habitat restoration with planting hundreds of trees; and capital repairs and upgrades which includes road repairs, bathhouse updates, solar at Goose Island, new playground equipment, and shelter roof replacements. Major unfunded projects (\$5.1 million) include Goosey Golf, playground and shelter upgrades, vault toilets, kayak rentals, and paving gravel roads. Total revenue for 2024 was \$854,000 and total expenses at \$1.33 million. Flooding is an annual risk at Goose Island and Veterans Memorial. Lost revenue from flooding in 2024 was \$100,000. Rates for the campgrounds are on the higher end for public parks in Wisconsin but still significantly lower than private campgrounds that offer more amenities.
- History of Blufflands – presented by Administrator Klekamp
  - In 2014, resolution 29-8/14 approved participation in the Regional Bluffland Protection Plan which was coordinated by the LAPC (La Crosse Area Planning Committee). Economic Development funds paid for La Crosse County's portion of the plan (\$6,700). The total cost of the plan was \$65,000. In 2016, "The Blufflands: A plan for Conservation and Recreation Throughout the La Crosse – La Crescent Region" was developed with six big ideas; cooperations, protection, trails, restoration, one brand, and dedicated funding. A recommendation was made to hire a part-time staff person by the County or LAPC and the County was recommended to serve as the fiscal agent. Total annual investment commitment by the 11 entities involved was \$156,500 and another \$63,600 commitment to fund staffing and initiatives. In 2017, resolution 38-10/17 assigned the recommendations regarding implementation and staffing. This approved a temporary half-time Bluffland coordinator with \$28,000 budgeted for the position (funded by other municipalities and county). In 2018, resolution 10-6/18 approved the MOU between members of the Bluffland Coalition with 20 potential charter members in addition to La Crosse County using the same funding chart from 2016. (Cities of La Crosse, Onalaska, and La Crescent, Villages of Holmen and West Salem, Towns of Campbell, Shelby, Barre, Holland, Medary, Onalaska, Greenfield, Hamilton, La Crescent, and Dresbach, and the Outdoor Recreation Alliance, Mississippi Valley Conservancy, Friends of Blufflands, LAPC, and La Crosse County Convention and Visitors Bureau) In 2021, resolution 26-9/21 approved an MOU between members of the Bluffland Coalition regarding initiatives and guidelines for requesting funding.
  - From 2017-2025, Blufflands has received \$560,293, had \$366,693 in expenses and remains with \$193,600 in funds. Since 2017, \$401,462 of county funds have been allocated for bluffland funding with \$300,000 in 2024/2025.

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS**

- Supervisor Schlingens asked for an update for the La Crosse Airport.

**(19-25/26)**

**ADJOURN**

Motion by M. Kruse/E. Anderson to adjourn at 7:31 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 27 ayes, 3 excused - R. Cornforth, D. Jacobsen and G. Mathu.

**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 9, 2025 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 10 OF JUNE 2025.**