

(6-25/26)

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING  
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, MAY 5, 2025**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, May 5, 2025 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 30 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	Present
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 - Remote
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 - Tina Tryggestad**

**PROCLAMATION MAY 14 - HMONG AMERICAN DAY**

**WHEREAS**, 2025 marks 50 years since the beginning of Hmong migration to the United States, following the Secret War in Laos; and **WHEREAS**, thousands of Hmong families sought refuge in the United States,

fleeing persecution and violence after aiding U.S. forces during the Vietnam War; and **WHEREAS**, upon arrival, Hmong refugees faced profound challenges—including racism and cultural displacement—yet continued to persevere with strength, dignity, and hope; and **WHEREAS**, in the face of adversity, the Hmong community in Wisconsin—including La Crosse County—preserved their language and cultural identity while building thriving families, businesses, and institutions; and **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin is home to the third-largest Hmong population in the United States, and La Crosse County is among the counties with the highest Hmong populations in the state; and **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County proudly celebrates the vital contributions of Hmong Americans, including the leadership of three local Hmong-led nonprofit organizations—Vang Council of La Crosse, the Hmong Cultural and Community Center, and Cia Siab, Inc.—alongside many Hmong-owned small businesses that enrich our community; and **WHEREAS**, Hmong Americans continue to shape the economic, cultural, civic, and political fabric of La Crosse County and the nation, strengthening our communities with their enduring spirit and commitment to a better future for all. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board hereby proclaims May 14, 2025, as Hmong American Day, and invites all residents to honor and celebrate 50 years of Hmong resilience, heritage, and contributions to our shared society. Join us in recognition and celebration at the Hmong American Day gathering on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at 10 a.m. at the Onalaska Omni Center

Motion by D. Mader/G. Mathu to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 30 ayes.

#### **PROCLAMATION MAY 2025 - MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, mental health is essential to overall health and well-being, and strong communities are built on the foundation of emotional wellness, support, and access to care; and **WHEREAS**, raising awareness, increasing understanding, and reducing stigma around mental health are critical steps in ensuring that individuals and families can seek the help they need without fear or shame; and **WHEREAS**, prevention, early intervention, and community-based support systems play a vital role in helping individuals maintain mental wellness and recover from mental health challenges; and **WHEREAS**, we express our gratitude to La Crosse County's dedicated mental health professionals, peer support workers, advocates, and community partners who offer compassionate care and vital resources to those in need; and **WHEREAS**, we stand in solidarity with all individuals and families affected by mental health conditions and reaffirm our collective commitment to fostering a culture of openness, understanding, and access to services for everyone in our community. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the La Crosse County Board hereby proclaims May 2025 as Mental Health Awareness Month and invites all county residents to join us on the Mental Health Awareness Walk at 12 p.m. on Thursday, May 29, starting from the La Crosse County Health & Human Services Building.

Motion by R. Cornforth/K. Tweed to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 30 ayes.

- Chair Tryggstad noted the Family and Children's Section department will be doing a fundraiser at the Brat Barn at Festival Foods on Copeland Avenue on May 16<sup>th</sup>; Elder Abuse Awareness event at the Dash Center in Onalaska on June 11; a reminder for the Memorial Day Parade that starts at 9am on May 26 and assembles at the corner of King and 6<sup>th</sup>.
- WCA Conference – Wisconsin Dells, September 21-23, 2025 - Supervisors should contact Clerk Dankmeyer if they are interested in attending.
- Supervisor Conference Reports
  - Supervisor Hundt announced the Lake Neshonoc District is holding a fundraiser on May 24 at Lake Neshonoc.
  - Supervisor Freedland, Leibold and other Supervisors attended the Housing Week sessions

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

#### **PROCLAMATION MAY 2025 - LAW ENFORCEMENT / PUBLIC SAFETY & COURTS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, in a free and democratic society, law enforcement and public safety professionals are entrusted with the vital responsibility of protecting the civil rights, safety, and well-being of all residents and visitors in our community; and **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County is served by dedicated professionals across multiple departments—including the Courts, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management, Medical Examiner, and Public Safety Communications—who work together to uphold justice

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and enhance public safety; and **WHEREAS**, thousands of individuals in La Crosse County receive essential assistance each year from these professionals, who respond to emergencies, support victims, and ensure access to fair and effective justice; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board hereby proclaims the month of May 2025 as Law Enforcement, Public Safety & Courts Month, and encourages all residents to recognize and express gratitude for the invaluable contributions of the individuals who serve to protect and strengthen our community.

Motion by P. Isola/K. Tweed to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 30 ayes.

- Presentation of Level III Health Department Certificate – this presentation was postponed to a later meeting.
- Climate Action Plan Report – presented by County Planner Dillon Constant
  - A Climate Action Plan was made following a resolution that set a carbon neutrality goal by 2050, a comp plan goal, and board strategic plan priorities of environmental stewardship and carbon reduction. The plan was staff led and data driven. Planning steps were carried out from May 2023 – October 2024 that included researching best practices, having a staff advisory team, community advisory team, data collection, public engagement, summarizing conditions and findings, setting goals and recommending actions, and refinement with department head review. There are two parts to the plan; part 1 is Government Operations (internal) and part 2 is Community Sustainability (external). Key findings and goals with recommended actions were reviewed from the plan. The plan is a guide to a carbon neutral government with lowered emissions and supporting community climate resilience, builds on existing sustainability work, being proactive to lower expenses and increase efficiency, and achieving carbon neutrality.
- Strategic Plan Update – presented by Administrator Klekamp.
  - The Strategic Plan was approved in August 2024 and was a five-year plan that included seven vision statements and outcome measures and four strategic directions. The following list will show the progress made so far as implementation begins. Economic Growth and Vitality – a new economic development plan was presented to the board in March with implementation planned for 2026 and the board approved up to \$250,000 in airport funding. Engaged and Empowered Employees – a comprehensive wage review is underway, and the Leadership and Cultural Competencies are being embedded across the organization. Environmental Stewardship – a Climate Action Plan was presented to the board, Bostwick Creek Phase II is underway with \$600,000 in state funding for conservation, and a plan to add solar to Hillview was approved. Healthy Infrastructure – Broadband Specialists was hired to support major BEAD applications and a record \$14.1 million highway construction program launched. Inclusive Community – 21,300 individuals were connected to Medicaid and/or FoodShare, and Economic Support, Veterans Services, ADRC, and Library staff regularly attend outreach events to meet community members where they are. Robust Support Network – Pathways Home specialized unit at Human Services has been established and staffed with 133 households from the Pathways to Housing list being housed, and the Hillview project is on track and on budget for early 2026 launch and will expand our support network. Sustainable and Affordable Housing – countywide housing study has started, Thriving Families program has 12 units of housing available that are all occupied with at-risk families, and the County Farm appraisal is underway to inform next steps for possible housing development. Four strategic directions are identified in the plan to focus work, resources and decision making. They are continuous improvement, data driven decision making, exceptional communication, and invest in staff and grow future leaders. The Strategic Plan is becoming part of how the County works and is helping to keep us focused, aligned and accountable to the long-term goals.

#### **SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS**

- Supervisor Scheller asked for an update on the income/expenses for Vets and Goose Island Campgrounds.

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**ADJOURN**

Motion by G. Mathu/E. Anderson to adjourn at 7:08 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 30 ayes.

**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, May 5, 2025 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 9 OF MAY 2025.**