

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING  
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, October 6, 2025 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 26 supervisors were present when Chair Tina Tryggstad 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        | Excused           |
| 10              | Cable, Kim         | Present           |
| 11              | Scheller, Patrick  | Present           |
| 12              | Erickson, Randy    | Present           |
| 13              | Tryggstad, Tina    | Present           |
| 14              | Larson, Margaret   | Present           |
| 15              | Kruse, Monica      | Excused           |
| 16              | Ferries, Dan       | Present           |
| 17              | Pogreba, Jack      | Present           |
| 18              | Baroni, Mike       | Present           |
| 19              | Cornforth, Rick    | Present           |
| 20              | Doyle, Steve       | Present           |
| 21              | Balduzzi, Dave     | Excused           |
| 22              | Kovacevich, Joe    | Present           |
| 23              | Elam, Travis       | Excused           |
| 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 Tryggstad**

- Chair Tryggstad reminder Supervisors of the blood drive on Thursday and Friday; Supervisors who have not done the mandatory harassment training are reminded to do so; WCA Conference had a good attendance from La Crosse County and the sessions were educational.
- Supervisor Conference Reports

- Supervisor Hundt visited Vets Park after the Hmong Festival and noted minimal damage from parking in the grass and the park was very clean.
- Supervisor Schlimgen attended a session on Airbnb, PFAS, and large renewable projects at the WCA Conference
- Supervisor Leibold attended the Under the Bridge documentary at the library and the next series, Beyond the Bridge will be next Wednesday.
- Supervisor Geary attended the WCA Conference and joined sessions on AI and IT training.
- Supervisor Freedland rode the SMRT bus to visit the Coon Creek Conservation and also participated in a Week without Driving by riding the city bus.
- Supervisor Isola noted the WI Historical Society gave information about our own Wisconsin history at the WCA Conference.

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

#### **PROCLAMATION OCTOBER 2025 - SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, La Crosse County works to minimize the environmental impact of waste disposal in our region through award-winning programs, including waste-to-energy, landfill operations, gas-to-energy recovery, and household hazardous materials collection; and **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County has supported the successful implementation of single-stream recycling in the cities of La Crosse and Onalaska, resulting in a significant increase in recycling rates; and **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County strengthens regional solid waste and recycling efforts by promoting sustainability practices, fostering collaboration, and encouraging the beneficial reuse of by-products. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board hereby proclaims October 2025 as La Crosse County Solid Waste and Recycling Month and urges all residents to recognize and support the dedication of those who operate one of the nation's most environmentally sustainable solid waste systems.

Motion by J. Kovacevich/R. Cornforth to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 4 excused - D. Balduzzi, T. Elam, M. Kruse and D. Wacek.

- Solid Waste Overview – presented by Jadd Stilwell
  - The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) was established in 1976 that adopted the management requirements for both solid and hazardous waste and also eliminated small municipal land dump sites. This act required all municipalities to determine a new approach to waste management. La Crosse County, working with many local municipalities, moved towards a regional, County managed system. La Crosse County manages waste to ensure waste management decisions reflect community values allowing for growth of management techniques: waste-to-energy, household hazardous waste and gas-to-energy. These programs, along with strict adherence to regulatory requirements, help reduce long-term landfill liability by reducing the quantity of toxicity of what we landfill, support local recycling programs and subsidize additional diversion programs that are typically not available within private programs. Counties served are La Crosse, Buffalo, Trempealeau, Houston and Wabasha. The landfill expansion project has received approval for both vertical and horizontal expansion with approximately 25 years remaining as of January 1, 2025.
- Xcel Energy Report – presented by Jared Graham – Plant Director, Alex Lueck – Community Service Manager, Austin Lesmeister – Environmental Analyst, and Todd Baus – Sr Operations Manager
  - Xcel Energy and the County have been in partnership for about 38 years. They process over 2.7 million tons of municipal solid waste and turn that into 1.9 million tons of refuse derived fuel. About 3-4% of what they take in does get recycled as ferrous material like steel and about .4% is aluminum nonferrous materials. An Annual Depreciation Filing was submitted with the Public Service Commission in WI and received authorization to approve the operation of French Island Units 1 and 2 that combust refuse derived fuel through 2040. They are looking to continue the partnership with the County for another 10 years to have the fuel for these units. Some projects planned include fish friendly traveling water screens will be installed next year to prevent fish from going through the pumps and the

plant. The Unit 2 stack was rebuilt and painted in 2025 and next year in 2026 will be Unit 1. The Unit 2 boiler water walls and boiler tubes will also be replaced. This will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> year projected to break the record for either processed waste or refuse derived fuel. One big change is the end of combusting railroad ties to serve the local community better with wood waste.

- 2024 Sustainability Indicators Report – presented by Anders Olson
  - The sustainability indicators look at usage of vehicle fuel, natural gas, electricity, paper and water usage. Cumulative savings from efficiencies and conservation include \$.49 million from vehicle fuels, \$1.10 million from natural gas, \$2.18 million from electricity, and \$1.35 million from paper for a total savings of \$5.12 million. Solar arrays will grow from 4% to 11% in 2025 and are currently installed at Goose Island, Lakeview, Administrative Center, Highway Shops at West Salem and St. Joes, and the Law Enforcement Center. The annual CO2 emissions from electricity has gone down 66%, 50% from natural gas, and 6% from vehicle fuels since 2014. In summary, significant reductions in resource usage with record low electricity, natural gas consumed and on-site solar electricity generation. Significant benefits include smaller carbon footprint and cost savings. Significant progress is still needed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.
- 2026 Budget Overview- presented by Administrator Klekamp
  - The total revenue/expenses for the 2026 budget are \$208,809,400. Overall expenses went up .9%, tax levy went up 2.1%, expected 2026 sales tax revenue is up slightly from the \$17 million budgeted for this year, and the first employee healthcare premium increased for the first time in seven years. The diverse revenue base maximizes the use of levy to fund county services. The total levy for 2026 is \$38.7 million with a \$2.41 mill rate per \$1,000. The budgeted general fund balance is 48% with \$3,107,140 being used for projects. The 2026 budget supports 1200 employees, 100 social workers, 200 nurses and CNAs, 60 highway staff, 23 telecommunicators, 45 library staff, and 20 park workers.

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

- Supervisor Hundt asked for an update from the Land Conservation Department on projects for next year.
- Supervisor Ferries asked for an updated on the funds contributed to the Airport.
- Supervisor Schlinggen asked for an ARPA fund recap.

#### **ADJOURN**

Motion by G. Mathu/E. Anderson to adjourn at 7:50 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 4 excused - D. Balduzzi, T. Elam, M. Kruse, 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, October 6, 2025 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 7 OF OCTOBER 2025.**