

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING  
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, April 13, 2026 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 23 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	Excused
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	Absent
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	Present
20	Doyle, Steve	Absent
21	Balduzzi, Dave	Present
22	Kovacevich, Joe	Present
23	Elam, Travis	Present
24	Tweed, Kristie	Present
25	Jacobsen, Dennis	Present
26	Hundt, David	Excused
27	Wuensch, Paul	Present
28	Rothering, Ron	Excused
29	Schlimgen, Ken	Present
30	Mader, Dillon	Excused

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**County Board Chair Report - Tina Tryggestad**

- Supervisors who are not returning need to make sure they turn in their laptops and badgers after their last committee meeting. The Orientation Meeting next week will be on Tuesday at 4:30pm and is mandatory for all new supervisors and the Organizational Meeting will begin at 6pm for all supervisors.
- Supervisor Conference Reports

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- Supervisor Isola attended the Economic Indicators Update for the Seven Rivers Region and the topic was the Driftless Region and AI. She also noted that April is Fair Housing month.
- Supervisor Leibold announced the local Habitat for Humanity is holding a La Crosse Housing Week series of events May 3<sup>rd</sup> – May 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Supervisor Kruse attended the CouleeCap 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.
- Supervisor Cornforth noted the Boys and Girls Club Workforce Center is set to open this summer and teens are already actively participating.
- Recognition of outgoing supervisors. Chair Tryggstad recognized the supervisors who will not be returning for their years of service on the County Board and supervisors who have hit a milestone for serving on the County Board.
  - 2 years of service: Travis Elam and David Balduzzi
  - 4 years of service: Mike Baroni
  - 6 years of service: Gary Padesky, Dawn Wacek, Jack Pogreba and David Hundt
  - 10 years of service: Rick Cornforth and Margaret Larson
  - 50 years of service: Supervisor Geary was recognized for having served 50 years on the County Board.
  - 21 years of service: Maureen Freedland
- Discussion of Board Orientation
  - Supervisors gave their feedback on what they felt was helpful during previous orientations and what could be improved on. Suggestions, comments and advice were also shared for the new supervisors starting next week.

**Associate Administrator Report – Sara Koopman**

**PROCLAMATION APRIL 2026 - NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the nation’s 3,069 counties, serving more than 330 million Americans, provide essential services that create healthy, safe, and vibrant communities; and **WHEREAS**, counties fulfill a wide range of responsibilities and deliver services that touch nearly every aspect of our residents’ lives; and **WHEREAS**, counties, as intergovernmental partners, implement local, state, and federal programs to meet the needs of all residents; and **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County, like counties across the nation, takes pride in its responsibility to protect and enhance the health, well-being, and safety of our residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and **WHEREAS**, the nation is celebrating 250 years of independence this year, and counties have played a long and rich role in serving their communities; and **WHEREAS**, since 1991, the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties across the country to elevate awareness of county responsibilities, programs, and services; and **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County is celebrating its 175th anniversary in 2026 and in recent years has undertaken ambitious initiatives, including reimagining the Hillview long-term care campus, developing the County’s first-ever Strategic Plan, and launching Pathways Home, the County’s new homelessness response initiative, all while continuing to invest in employees and maintaining one of the lowest per-capita tax rates in Wisconsin. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the La Crosse County Board hereby proclaims April 2026 as National County Government Month and encourages all residents to recognize the invaluable contributions of county government in enhancing quality of life for all.

Motion by P. Wuensch/K. Tweed to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 23 ayes, 2 absent - S. Doyle and P. Scheller, 5 excused - K. Cable, M. Freedland, D. Hundt, D. Mader and R. Rothering.

- Two Year Review
  - Associate Administrator Sare Koopman reviewed the County’s accomplishments over the last two years. Those included creating the first ever Strategic Plan that is already producing results, new \$19.6 million Hillview Campus that includes housing and a daycare, Pathways Home launched in 2024 with over 300 people housed already, consistent investment in fixing the roads, new Economic Development Plan launched, SMRT Bus continued for one more year, housing needs assessment completed, sustainability with

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solar panels being added to multiple County properties, compensation study completed and implemented with market-based pay ranges, and fiscal responsibility with debt being reduced by 26% and tax rate lowered by 11%.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS**

- Supervisor Jacobsen asked for an update on the Opioid Settlement and the \$3 million grant for CouleeCap and Catholic Charities.

**ADJOURN**

Motion by E. Anderson/G. Mathu to adjourn at 6:59 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 23 ayes, 2 absent - S. Doyle and P. Scheller, 5 excused - K. Cable, M. Freedland, D. Hundt, D. Mader 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, April 13, 2026 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 14 OF APRIL 2026.**