

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING  
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, January 5, 2026 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 28 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 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  | 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**

- Supervisor Conference Reports
  - Supervisor Leibold acknowledged Jamie and Jason from the Parks department for helping reserve campsites for a Habitat for Humanity volunteer group coming this summer.
  - Supervisor Wuensch and Jacobsen noted the January WCA magazine with an article about rural health.

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- Supervisor Larson reported the Town of Campbell will receive almost \$40 million from the USDA World Development Loan Fund for help with their contaminated wells.

**Administrator Report - Jane Klekamp**

**PROCLAMATION JANUARY 2026 - HIGHWAY SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the dedicated staff of the La Crosse County Highway Department work tirelessly around the clock, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to construct, maintain, and improve safe and reliable roads for residents, businesses, and visitors; and, **WHEREAS**, in 2025, the Highway Department replaced 29 failing culverts, paved 10 miles of roadway, completed 1.6 miles of safety upgrades, and chip-sealed 22 miles of road, all while overseeing the management of 280 miles of county highways, 157 miles of state trunk highways, and 72 county bridges; and, **WHEREAS**, the ongoing efforts of the Highway Department ensure the safety and mobility of all who travel through La Crosse County, reinforcing the County's dedication to the well-being of its residents and visitors alike. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board hereby proclaims the month of January 2026 as La Crosse County Highway Safety and Transportation Month and recognizes the valuable contribution of all work to maintain and improve the safety and reliability of our roadways.

Motion by K. Schlimgen/P. Isola to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 2 excused  
- R. Cornforth and G. Mathu.

- Pathways Home Update – Presented by Homelessness Response System Manager for La Crosse County Jim Drees and City of La Crosse Homeless Services Coordinator Brian Sampson
  - The five-year plan to end homelessness launched in January 2024 with the initiative led by the City of La Crosse and La Crosse County. Concrete goals include functional zero homelessness with zero individuals living on the street. Phase #1 (2024-2025) is aligning the system with community resources working together to support individuals to obtain and keep housing. Phase #2 (2025-2028) is building the capacity to create shelter and housing capacity to end outdoor living by assuring everyone has an option for either shelter or housing. Phase #3 (2029+) is sustaining the gains by sustaining the shift to serve people indoors by continuing to increase housing capacity while strengthening prevention and enforcing community norms. Housing First Plus is the only proven way to end homelessness. Housing First Plus is housing without prerequisites or preconditions plus skilled support services. Pathways home has a 90% housing retention rate. Challenges for Pathways Home include not enough housing available for the population, barriers to temporarily expanding shelter capacity, funding for rent support and eviction prevention, and more supportive services are needed. The City of La Crosse received \$1,097,432 in HOME-ARP Funding which will be used to increase the amount of affordable and attainable housing options and supportive services. A Pathways community fund has been established and hosted by the La Crosse Area Community Foundation that will support temporarily expanding the shelter capacity and for investment in specialized housing that are aligned with the Pathways Home plan. Strengthening prevention services will help to reduce the number of individuals who fall into homelessness. So far, 260+ households housed, 50+ units added, better aligned existing supportive services, and more people housed than entering homelessness in 2025. Negative inflow has been achieved.
- Highway Department Review – Presented by Highway Commissioner Joe Langeberg
  - The Highway budget for 2026 is \$26 million with 60 FTEs and 33 plow trucks, a grader, two excavators, 4 roller/compactors, an asphalt paver, and 11 loaders. The Highway Department manages 280 miles of County roads, 72 County and 53 local bridges, and 160 miles of State Trunk Highway. In 2025, 11 miles completed with reconstruction and safety upgrades and 22.5 miles of chip sealing on County roads and 34 miles on local roads. 10.74 miles are schedule for reconstruction in 2026. The County can deploy up to 26 snowplows during a storm, makes brine for County Highways, State Highways and for municipalities. The 2026 cost is \$900,000 in County funding and \$750,000 from the State. 2026-2030 has 58 (\$47 million) miles scheduled with an average of 11.62 per year. Since

**(148-25/26)**

2021, County Highway miles rated as "poor" have been cut from 53 to 17 miles. In 2026, 7 miles rates as "poor" will be reconditioned.

- Strategic Plan Review – Presented by Administrator Jane Klekamp
  - The five-year Strategic Plan adopted by the Board in August 2024 includes seven vision statements with outcome measures and four strategic directions. The seven vision statements are Economic Growth and Vitality, Engaged and Empowered Employees, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Infrastructure, Inclusive Community, Robust Support Network, and Sustainable and Affordable Housing. Each of the vision statements planned integration and progress to date were reviewed along with supporting initiatives. The four strategic directions; continuous improvement, data driven decision making, exceptional communication, and invest in staff and grow future leaders guides the County work, resource allocation and decision making. The Strategic Plan is a core part of how we work, helps us stay focused, aligned and accountable.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS**

- Supervisor Schlimgen asked for an update on the Thriving Family Initiative.

**ADJOURN**

Motion by E. Anderson/K. Tweed to adjourn at 7:20 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 2 excused - R. Cornforth 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, January 5, 2026 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 12 OF JANUARY 2026.**