

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING  
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, March 9, 2026 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 26 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      | Excused             |
| 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         | Excused             |
| 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    | Present             |
| 20              | Doyle, Steve       | Present             |
| 21              | Balduzzi, Dave     | Present             |
| 22              | Kovacevich, Joe    | Present             |
| 23              | Elam, Travis       | Excused             |
| 24              | Tweed, Kristie     | Present             |
| 25              | Jacobsen, Dennis   | Present at          |
| 26              | Hundt, David       | Excused at 08:32 PM |
| 27              | Wuensch, Paul      | Present             |
| 28              | Rothering, Ron     | Excused             |
| 29              | Schlimgen, Ken     | Present             |
| 30              | Mader, Dillon      | Present             |

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:  
County Board Chair Report - Tina Tryggestad**

**PROCLAMATION MARCH 2026 - WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, Women's History Month honors the remarkable achievements and enduring contributions of women throughout history, as well as the challenges they have overcome in the pursuit of equality; and **WHEREAS**, women have played an essential role in shaping our nation, advancing education, science, business, government, the arts, and countless other fields; and **WHEREAS**, through resilience and

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determination, women have championed fundamental rights, securing milestones such as the right to vote, equal access to education and employment, and protections against discrimination; and **WHEREAS**, despite these significant advancements, women continue to face systemic barriers, including disparities in pay, underrepresentation in leadership, and ongoing issues related to discrimination, harassment, and violence; and **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County is committed to supporting the health, well-being, and empowerment of women through initiatives such as the Wisconsin Well Woman Program and the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program; and **WHEREAS**, Women's History Month serves as a meaningful opportunity to reflect on past progress, celebrate present achievements, and renew our collective efforts toward true gender equity. **NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims March 2026 as Women's History Month and encourages all residents to recognize, honor, and celebrate the invaluable contributions of women in our community and beyond.

Motion by K. Tweed/E. Anderson to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 4 excused - K. Cable, T. Elam, D. Pierce and R. Rothering.

- Chair Tryggestad announced that a study committee will be created after the new Board is seated in April to research Data Centers; "I Am Not Invisible" campaign will be at the Lunda Center on March 11<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm; there will be a meeting after the April Planning meeting.
- Supervisor Conference Reports
  - Supervisor Mathu attended the Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting where La Crosse County received the Legacy Award for 175 years of service.
  - Supervisor Balduzzi noted the fundraiser for the Brice Prairie Rehabilitation Project for Lake Onalaska at Red Pines next Tuesday.

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

#### **PROCLAMATION MARCH 2026 - HUMAN SERVICES AND FAMILY COURT MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the dedicated professionals of La Crosse County's Human Services Department and Family Court provide essential support to many individuals and families each day, offering both temporary and long-term assistance that helps meet basic needs and guide residents through life's transitions; and **WHEREAS**, the individuals served by these programs span the entire lifespan—from before birth to over 100 years of age—demonstrating the broad and vital impact these services have throughout our community; and **WHEREAS**, county human services programs are designed to protect and empower our most vulnerable residents, including children, individuals with disabilities, older adults, and those experiencing mental health or substance use challenges; and **WHEREAS**, human services professionals routinely enter homes and community settings, often encountering volatile situations and personal safety risks, to ensure that individuals and families receive compassionate, timely, and effective support; and **WHEREAS**, Family Court, together with Mediation and Family Court Services, plays a critical role in upholding the dignity, safety, and stability of families navigating significant and often difficult transitions; and **WHEREAS**, the commitment, expertise, and compassion of human services and family court professionals not only transform individual lives but also strengthen the well-being, safety, and resilience of the entire community. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the La Crosse County Board hereby proclaims March 2026 as Human Services and Family Court Month in La Crosse County and encourages all residents to recognize and appreciate the invaluable contributions of these professionals in building a stronger, more supportive community.

Motion by D. Mader/M. Freedland to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 4 excused - K. Cable, T. Elam, D. Pierce and R. Rothering.

- Compensation Study Overview and Next Steps
  - The Compensation Study was done to create consistency across the county in compensation best practices and to design a sound system that is scalable, sustainable, defensible, and equitable that complies with all state and federal legal requirements. The plan aligns with the 2029 County Board Strategic Plan Outcome Measure to have all wages at or above market for all positions by 2029. Objectives of the study was to update classification structure to reflect job families and career levels, conduct a market study of base pay compensation to reflect full labor market, and to provide recommended salary

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structure and implementation costs. Segal obtained sufficient market data for 124 of the 126 benchmark jobs, meeting the goal of representing 50% of county job titles. The proposed salary structure is effective as of January 1, 2026. Across all benchmark job titles, the county's base pay ranges are competitive with the market at the range minimum and below market at midpoint and maximum. There will be no reduction in the current salary of employees and the number of salary structures and grades will be streamlined. The next steps will be to approve the salary structure to inform the budget process and for county leadership to finalize all pay grade assignments.

- Housing Study Summary Report
  - Key takeaways from this report are that household growth, not population growth, is the primary driver of housing demand and La Crosse is an economic anchor with a mature, diversified economy. More people are employed in the county and living outside, but in general people work and live in the county. Growth is suburbanizing and becoming more spatially uneven. Affordability is a countywide issue and must include transportation. Entry level housing is no longer attainable. Development is highly localized, with a very few market-rate rentals in towns/villages outside the communities of La Crosse, Onalaska and Holmen. This reinforces the pattern that rental choice and density are clustered in a few urban/suburban centers, while most of the county remains predominantly single-family. Housing latent demand takes into consideration the ways that local policy actions can reveal demand through overcoming constraints. Housing production targets are goals that tie together the amount of production that is possible, and the types of housing that are most responsive to local needs. La Crosse County can play a critical role in fostering production of housing that meets local needs but faces market barriers. With the primary regional need centered on increasing housing production – and particularly of market-rate starter homes and workforce apartments–bending the trajectory of housing production requires consideration of a menu of impactful strategies. These strategies include kickstarting the flow of “starter homes” through infrastructure support, public land acquisition can set the stage for accelerated housing production, a multi-sector regional fund leverages partner capacity to meet regional workforce housing needs, La Crosse County has a deep need for more modest and non-luxury “workforce” apartments, local regulations and regulatory processes can be significant impediments to needed housing production, pre-approving a set of home designs could attract more entry level home building, and communication about housing need can soften public resistance to the housing that meets local needs.
- Outline of County Farm Report
  - From the beginning plans for the site envisioned a complete neighborhood, not just a subdivision. It established a traditional neighborhood development framework that combined housing, jobs, services, parks, and industry. The market context for the county owned land is famed by the regional market, as well as with the distinctive characteristics of the site. Developer interviews provided information relevant to understanding market demand and limitations. Housing latent demand takes into consideration the ways that local policy and actions can reveal demand through overcoming constraints. Housing production targets are goals that tie together the amount of production that is possible, and the types of housing that are most responsive to local needs. The 2023 engineering study estimates that the County Farm site could support up to approximately 1,145 housing units under a full buildout scenario. The County Farm site can both attract a share of the regional demand for housing types that are being developed and surmount the barriers to housing that is much needed but is not being sufficiently produced.
- Review of Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board Agreement
  - The federal Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act was adopted in 2014. Federal funds are provided to states to provide job skills education and training and to help individuals find employment. Wisconsin receives funds through 11 Workforce Development Areas, and La Crosse County is in Workforce Development Area (WDA) 9 with seven other counties. The federal WIOA requires that each region create a consortium formed by the

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counties contained within each region and that each consortium establish certain operating procedures, duties and responsibilities. The consortium is required to appoint and oversee a Workforce Development Board and be responsible for program planning and oversight, including financial oversight. The State of Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development is requiring a review/update of all governance documents in Workforce Development Area 9. The agreement forms the Western Wisconsin Counties Consortium (WWCC) and contains the operating procedures, duties and responsibilities of the WWCC. The State allowed FY2022 books to be reopened to review the \$89,500 of disallowed costs to decrease or rectify the liabilities coming down to the counties. The final cost for Program Year 22 was lowered to \$33,821.84. Program Year 2023 disallowed costs was \$352,778.16 and about \$150,000 was deducted. Based on initial conversations, the remaining disallowed costs are timecard related. In 2024, the timecard issue was resolved, and the disallowed costs should not be that high. Part of the agreement says how the disallowed costs will be allocated between the eight counties of WDA 9 based on population. A new person is now serving as the Executive Director of the Workforce Development Board and has completely new board leadership. An outside accountant has also been hired to manage the accounts of the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board until such time that a new fiscal agent is appointed and put in place. Western Technical College has been appointed as the fiscal agent. The resolution approving the new consortium agreement will go to the full board next week.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS**

- Supervisor Jacobsen asked for a report on Flock cameras.

**ADJOURN**

Motion by E. Anderson/G. Mathu to adjourn at 9:046 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 25 ayes, 5 excused - K. Cable, T. Elam, D. Hundt, D. Pierce 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, March 9, 2026 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 19 OF MARCH 2026.**