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**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING  
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, May 11, 2026 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 27 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	Allen, Kathy	Present
5	Anderson, Emily	Present
6	Mathu, Grant	Present
7	Piggush, Beth	Present
8	Isola, Peg	Present
9	Manke, Angie	Excused, Present at 06:20 PM
10	Cable, Kim	Present
11	Scheller, Patrick	Present
12	Erickson, Randy	Present
13	Tryggestad, Tina	Present
14	Duffrin, Steven	Present
15	Kruse, Monica	Excused
16	Ferries, Dan	Present
17	Manock, Lia	Present
18	Drazkowski, Joanna	Present
19	McBride, Anna	Present
20	Doyle, Steve	Present
21	Fimreite, Jeff	Present
22	Kovacevich, Joe	Present
23	Carty, Joseph	Present
24	Tweed, Kristie	Present
25	Jacobsen, Dennis	Present
26	Clements, Beth	Present
27	Wuensch, Paul	Excused
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**, Hmong Americans arrived in the United States as refugees following the Secret War in Laos, after aiding U.S. forces during the Vietnam War; and **WHEREAS**, thousands of Hmong families sought refuge in the United States, fleeing persecution and violence and beginning new lives in unfamiliar communities; and **WHEREAS**, upon arrival, Hmong refugees faced profound challenges—including racism

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and cultural displacement—yet continued to persevere with strength, dignity, and hope; and **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin is home to one of the largest Hmong populations 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 local Hmong-led nonprofit organizations alongside many Hmong-owned small businesses that enrich our community; and **WHEREAS**, the 2026 theme, “Home is Here,” reflects the enduring presence, belonging, and contributions of Hmong Americans in La Crosse County and across the nation. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board hereby proclaims May 14, 2026, as Hmong American Day. Join us in recognition and celebration at the Hmong American Day celebration on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 10 a.m. at the Onalaska Omni Center.

Motion by G. Mathu/K. Cable to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 27 ayes, 3 excused – M. Kruse, A. Manke and P. Wuensch.

#### **PROCLAMATION MAY 2026 - MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, mental health is essential to overall well-being, and strong communities are built on emotional wellness, connection, and support; and **WHEREAS**, raising awareness and reducing stigma around mental health helps ensure that individuals and families can seek care without fear or shame; and **WHEREAS**, prevention, early intervention, and community-based support systems are vital in helping people maintain mental wellness and recover from challenges; and **WHEREAS**, this year’s “Be Here” theme encourages our community to put down screens, build healthy habits, and be present with one another as an important part of mental well-being; and **WHEREAS**, we express gratitude to La Crosse County’s mental health professionals, peer support workers, advocates, and partners who provide compassionate care and essential resources; and **WHEREAS**, we stand with all individuals and families affected by mental health conditions and reaffirm our commitment to fostering openness, understanding, and access to support. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the La Crosse County Board proclaims May 2026 as Mental Health Awareness Month and invites all residents to join the Mental Health Awareness Walk at 12 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, starting from the La Crosse County Health & Human Services Building.

Motion by P. Isola/E. Anderson to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 27 ayes, 3 excused - M. Kruse, A. Manke and P. Wuensch.

- Chair Tryggstad mentioned the Mental Health Walk at noon from the HHS Building on May 21<sup>st</sup>; supervisors need to complete their online bio forms; let the clerk know if you are interested in business cards; an email was sent out by the chair with a couple links containing additional information; the board photo will be taken at the June 8 Planning Meeting; the data center resolution is coming next week and is strictly a committee to gather information.
- Supervisor Conference Reports
  - Supervisor Leibold noted results from the County Housing Needs Assessment permeate into the community and the Rivoli showed a documentary about the housing affordability issues.
  - Supervisor Duffrin noted the Campbell Fire Department pancake breakfast at the town hall on Saturday.

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

#### **PROCLAMATION MAY 2026 - 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, Medical Examiner, and Public Safety Communications—who work together to uphold justice 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

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and effective justice; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board hereby proclaims the month of May 2026 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 J. Kovacevich/J. Fimreite to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 27 ayes, 3 excused - M. Kruse, A. Manke and P. Wuensch.

- Community Survey Report by UW-La Crosse
  - The survey was used to identify barriers to county services to achieve La Crosse County's Strategic Plan goal of 100% satisfaction with access to county services by 2029. Objectives were to evaluate baseline awareness of county services, identify primary barriers to service access and to analyze whether specific respondent characteristics are associated with an increased likelihood of experiencing barriers. The survey overview examined awareness, confidence, access, and barriers to 10 prominent county services. There was a total of 1095 participants. Results of the survey were reviewed and recommendations include investing in targeted outreach for low awareness services, prioritize accessibility for vulnerable populations, modernize digital infrastructure, address trust as a structural issue, and continue to expand this research.
- Sheriff and District Attorney Office Overview
  - Sheriff Siegel reviewed his department noting the different divisions within his department and the responsibilities they have. There are 44 patrol deputies, 63 jailers, 4 investigators, plus office staff and emergency management is under the Sheriff's Department.
  - District Attorney Gruenke reviewed his department. The attorneys are state employees and office staff are county employees. There are 10 attorneys including the DA, a deputy district attorney and 8 assistant attorneys, 15 office staff and a part time investigator. There is also a victim witness program with a coordinator, assistant, and receptionist. Four attorneys focus on special/sensitive crimes, one attorney for traffic, two that focus on drug cases, one for financial crimes and attorneys that go to all the treatment courts. About 80% of the cases come from the City of La Crosse. Cases also come from the municipal police departments, state patrol, DNR, DCI, Federal cases, and others. They get about 4,000 cases a year with most of them being traffic tickets, 1,000 felony cases and misdemeanors per year.
  - Sheriff Siegle and DA Gruenke spoke about Flock Cameras, what they are and what they are and aren't used for. Some examples were shared when Flock Cameras were used.
- Overview of Data Center Evaluation Process
  - Administrator Klekamp noted that the data center evaluation process will come to the board via a resolution next week and will create a committee that will report back their recommendations to the board.
- Housing Study and County Farm Report and Next Steps – Zoning Administrator Kathleen Stewart reviewed the history of the County Farm.
  - The Housing Needs Assessment was completed in March 2026. It analyzed county population and economic conditions, housing inventory and supply "gaps", connections between jobs, housing and transportation, local trends in housing developments, and strategies to meet current and future demand. Key takeaways from the study show demand is driven by increase in small households of existing residents and not population growth; job growth is limited; housing affordability is a workforce challenge, suburban growth in Holmen, Onalaska, and West Salem; rental demand remains extremely high; and entry level ownership is disappearing. There is a lack of housing for middle-income families and affordability is a county-wide issue. The demand is strongest for workforce and moderate-income households and strategies must be implemented to address the supply "gaps". To meet the 10-year demand projections, 4,900 total units will be needed, 1,000 entry level, and 2,100 workforce apartment units.

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- The County Farm has been under County ownership since 1887 and leased for ag uses. Several plans for mixed use residential developments since 2000. 45% of the original farm has been developed into Lakeview Health Center, West Salem School District campus, housing, Lakeview Industrial Park, and water tower. Approximately 115 acres remain. Development of County land is a production strategy and location to address housing needs. The next steps for the County Farm will be to post requests for interest, gauge developer interest in the land, and to consider approaches to increase supply of in demand housing types. Responses will be provided to the County Board for consideration and coordination with West Salem to follow.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS**

- Supervisor Isola asked for an update on the SMRT Bus.

**ADJOURN**

Motion by G. Mathu/E. Anderson to adjourn at 8:23 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 27 ayes, 3 excused - K. Cable, M. Kruse and P. Wuensch.

**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 11, 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 MAY 2026.**