

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

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, October 5, 2026 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 23 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:

District	Name	Attendance
1	Leibold, Kelly	Excused
2	Geary, Ralph	Present
3	Pierce, David	Present
4	Allen, Kathy	Present
5	Anderson, Emily	Excused
6	Mathu, Grant	Present
7	Piggush, Beth	Excused
8	Isola, Peg	Present
9	Manke, Angie	Present
10	Cable, Kim	Excused
11	Scheller, Patrick	Excused
12	Erickson, Randy	Present
13	Tryggstad, Tina	Present
14	Duffrin, Steven	Present
15	Kruse, Monica	Present
16	Ferries, Dan	Present
17	Manock, Lia	Present at 06:06 PM
18	Drazkowski, Joanna	Present
19	McBride, Anna	Present
20	Doyle, Steve	Present
21	Fimreite, Jeff	Absent
22	Kovacevich, Joe	Present
23	Carty, Joseph	Present
24	Tweed, Kristie	Present
25	Jacobsen, Dennis	Present
26	Clements, Beth	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 reminded Supervisors of the ribbon cutting for the Goose Island Connector Trail on Thursday, October 15 at 11am.
- Supervisor Conference Reports

- Supervisor Schlimgen attended the WCA Conference and a PFAS breakout session and noted a well compensation program that will be available; all counites are recommended to get an ordinance on starting a Data Center and be aware of state legislation; also recommends an ordinance on battery storage.
- Supervisor Allen attended the Ride with Local Leaders as part of the week without driving.
- Supervisor Mathu noted the Haven on Main ribbon cutting on Thursday at 10am.

Administrator Report - Jane Klekamp

PROCLAMATION OCTOBER 2026 - 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 2026 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 P. Isola/P. Wuensch to approve. Discussion ensued. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 23 ayes, 2 absent - J. Fimreite and L. Manock, 5 excused - E. Anderson, K. Cable, K. Leibold, B. Piggush and P. Scheller.

- Solid Waste Overview – Solid Waste Director Jadd Stilwell
 - Key items from 2026 included the first time a new cell was constructed in over 9 years. This was the first of 4 cells and will have the capacity to manage 700,000 cubic yards of additional waste and will bring the overall site constructed footprint to 57 acres. Just under 5 acres of cell closure was completed this year. Amendment 11 with Xcel Energy was finalized that will reduce overall operating cost, improve efficiencies, and reduce unacceptable waste being sent to the landfill. They are working with Emplify's micro-grid project that will make the Onalaska Campus completely energy independent. The HHM paint care program has the HHM facility working with a private firm to divert latex paint that is not suitable for the reuse room and will now be diverted from being landfilled. Key 2027 operational/budget items include continuing to monitor site growth/usage patterns – 57% usage increase vs 9% waste change. Continued use and growth of the site will require additional staff and scale. In addition, in 2027, continued negotiations with Xcel for operation past 2030, clay borrow source or site purchase, construction and demolition lift station replacement, and HHM waste storage updates for E-waste and nonhazardous materials.
- Excel Energy Report – French Island Plant Manager Todd Baus and Community Relations Manager Alex Lueck
 - Currently in progress is the #2 boiler waterwall tube and header replacement and asbestos abatement and refractory replacement. The boiler tubes are original from the 1940s. Both traveling water screens are being replaced with the new screens being compliant with WDNR requirements. The #1 boiler stack repairs and rebuild, both internal and external are being done. The #2 stack repairs were completed in 2025. In addition, there are 15 plus other capital projects, 19 approved OH O&M projects, 18 approved O&M projects and operations staff are also currently working on other activities for operations improvement and plant appearance improvement. Xcel is working on a joint venture with La Crosse County to purchase a shredder. The purchase would create a short- and long-term win-win outcome for both La Crosse County and Xcel Energy. A 5-month trial test with a similar shredder in 2024 proved out a 99.9% reduction in reject material going back to landfill, 1000-1200 tons per year historically. The goal is to have the new unit installed and

operational by November 2nd. Wisconsin PSC approved an extension to operate the French Island plant until 2040 and the goal is to extend future operations with La Crosse County until 2040. The plant has a strong 5-year capital plant in place to ensure reliability and environmental/regulatory compliance.

- 2025 Sustainability Indicators Report – Anders Olson
 - In 2025, a total of 200,000 gallons of vehicle fuel was used, 277,000 therms of natural gas, 7.0 million kWh of electricity, and solar arrays produced 877,000 kWh in 2025 (11% of total electricity used). CO2 emission from energy used from 2014 – 2025 was down 66% from electricity, down 45% from natural gas, and down 7% from vehicle fuels. Paper usage from 2009-2025 was down 66%. The total cumulative savings from efficiency and conservation included \$.5 million from vehicle fuels, \$1.3 million from natural gas, \$2.6 million from electricity, and \$1.5 million from paper for a total of \$5.9 million. In summary there was a significant reduction in resource usage with a record low grid electricity consumed in 2025. This resulted in a smaller carbon footprint and cost savings. Significant progress is still needed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.
- 2027 Budget Overview
 - Total revenue comes from property taxes, federal and state, public charges, sales tax and fund balance. \$69 million is used as discretionary funding allocation. A diverse revenue base maximizes the use of levy to fund county services. The 2026 adopted levy was \$38.713 with a mill rate of \$2.41/\$1,000 and 2027 has a recommended tax levy of \$39.405 and a mill rate of \$2.21/\$1,000. Use of the General Fund Balance in 2027 will go towards election equipment, facilities capital, 911 radio upgrade, microfiche project with the Register of Deeds, priority-based budgeting, IT capital, Sheriff Capital, La Crosse Center, Lake Neshonoc, and Economic Development for a total of \$4,257,921. Shifting from long-term borrowing to short term keeps interest costs low and frees up funds for projects. There is a \$1.3 million reduction in budgeted out of home care expenses for children in 2027. Nonprofits will receive funding through contractual agreements as part of the normal budgeting/planning process. Outsourcing Mediation will generate around \$400,000 in annual savings and provide quality service. 2027 budget concerns include rising healthcare and compensation costs and Medicaid work requirements. 2027 budget strengths are a balanced budget that maintains a healthy reserve and a Aa1 bond rating, \$1.1 million increase in 2027 from sales tax, data led decision making and coordination, and maintains public services, improves roads, advances strategic plans on opioids and homelessness.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS – none offered.

ADJOURN

Motion by G. Mathu/S. Duffrin to adjourn at 7:11 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 24 ayes, 1 absent - J. Fimreite, 5 excused - E. Anderson, K. Cable, K. Leibold, B. Piggush and P. Scheller.

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 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 13 OF OCTOBER 2026.