CALL TO ORDER
Chair Mike Giese called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 21, 2018
MOTION by Giese/Lenard to approve the minutes of June 21, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

REPORTS/INFORMATIONAL UPDATES:
- Cathy Van Maren is continuing to work on the Sustainable La Crosse website and updates should be completed by the end of the year.

RECYCLING WORK GROUPS
- MATTRESS RECYCLING/BRIAN TIPPETS: Brian Tippets is one of the owners of Seven Rivers Recycling, a mattress recycling company. The company started because of La Crosse County not wanting mattresses in their landfill. Seven Rivers started mattress recycling in 2014 and are still doing it today. Tippets shared the rationale of why mattress recycling should be done, how it is done, and some facts and figures regarding it.
- WASTE UTILITY: Supervisor Mike Giese discussed waste utility as a long term organizational structure with the cooperation of all government entities in La Crosse County. Ultimately it would require enabling legislation in Madison, WI.

TRANSPORTATION WORK GROUPS
Cathy Van Maren summarized what the transportation work group has previously discussed. They talked about trying to increase ridership and ideas that might make it more desirable to use. Specific ideas were:
- Looking at GPS systems so people will know where their bus is.
- Expanding and improving the routes and schedules so more people can be served in a timelier manner.
- The MTU that goes into Onalaska only goes into certain parts of Onalaska and only certain times of the day. This needs to be expanded.
- Integrating the different kinds of public transportation, i.e., MTU, SMRT, Amtrak, Airport.
- Met with Jim Krueger who is the Interim Director of MTU to hear his thoughts on what might be helpful.
- MTU is looking at purchasing some electric buses which would reduce the carbon footprint of the fleet.
Discussion ensued. Suggestions were made to set goals based on what information has already been collected or what community members are asking the committee to do and identify “what else”, i.e., energy needs, waste utility, water sustainability, etc. Nick Nichols, Sustainability Coordinator for La Crosse County, was part of an effort to reduce the single use of plastics, i.e., straws, plastic bags, bottled water, plastic utensils, etc.

MADISON SOLAR CONSULTING/LEWIS KUHLMAN
Niels Wolter from Madison, WI has a contract to do an evaluation for solar energy at four facilities for La Crosse County and eight facilities for the City of La Crosse. The outcomes of the studies will address feasibility, technical requirements, qualifications, opportunities and funding sources. The idea is that hopefully some actual planning/construction will be underway in 2019.

SIERRA CLUB UPCOMING EVENTS/CATHY VAN MAREN
- Cathy Van Maren indicated that there will be a presentation on October 16, 2018 at the Ho Chunk 3 River’s House, 6:30 p.m., from a solar installer out of Pewaukee, WI. Anyone can sign up for a free site assessment of their home or business and learn how much it would cost to put solar panels in and what would be the payback.
- Sierra Club’s regular meeting is on September 24, 2018 and Anders Olson will be presenting the Sustainability Indicators Report.
- Renew Wisconsin has a program called ‘Solar for Good’ where they give grants and assistance for small businesses and non-profits/churches who would like to install solar. A Buddhist Meditation Retreat Center near Norwalk, WI received a grant and they will be holding an Open House on September 29, 2018 to display their finished and installed solar system.
- September 2, 2018 is the Open Streets Event from Burns Park to Cameron Park, Noon to 5:00 p.m. Businesses/organizations will have tables there.

2019 BUDGETS
The Department budgets have been submitted to the County Administrator. Completed budgets go through the committee structure to County Board for final approval in October.

MEETING SCHEDULE/NEXT MEETING DATE:   September 20, 2018, 4:30 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
- Website Update/Cathy Van Maren
- Hold Public/Community Information Sessions

ADJOURNMENT
MOTION by Van Maren/Giese to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Approved September 20, 2018, Alice Sorenson, Recorder