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

APPROVE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 2018
MOTION by Giese/Jenkins to approve the minutes of October 18, 2018. Motion carried with 1 excused - Smith; 1 absent - Weaver.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

REPORTS/INFORMATIONAL UPDATES:
Nick Nichols:
- Nick attended the budget brainstorming session with Governor-Elect Tony Evers and Lieutenant Governor-Elect Mandela Barnes on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 and attended the energy/environment breakout session. Nick shared some energy statistics.
- Wisconsin has approved a $255M wind farm for Alliant Energy that will be built in Northern Iowa.
- The MPower Showcase, which is part of the Western Sustainability Institute, will be held at Western Technical College Lunda Center on January 8, 2019 from 8:00-9:30 a.m.

Lewis Kuhlman: The La Crosse Common Council approved Johnson Controls to do an Energy Audit for City Hall, Municipal Service Center, the La Crosse Center and the Main Public Library. The audit will be about a three month process. The report with recommendations will be complete in February 2019.

ACTION TO POTENTIALLY MAKE APPOINTMENTS TO AUXILLARY MEMBERS
Mike Giese updated on the enabling ordinances at the County, City of La Crosse and City of Onalaska establishing the Sustainable La Crosse Commission. By those ordinances, the City of La Crosse Mayor appoints two individuals, the County Board appoints two members, and there are four citizen members. Currently the Commission has ten people listed as members. There is also a Sustainable La Crosse Commission Rules of Procedures which were adopted by the Commission in 2016. Under “Terms of Appointment” it states: If a member’s term expires and no one is appointed to or selected for their seat, the member may continue to serve until such time as a replacement is made.” This procedure is applicable to Dorothy Lenard’s appointment. Mike recommends that Dorothy be considered and appointed as an auxiliary member of this Commission. The auxiliary member will have full participation but is not part of the quorum and does not vote on motions.
**MOTION** by Van Maren/Jenkins to recommend Dorothy Lenard as an auxiliary member of the Sustainable La Crosse Commission. **Motion carried with 1 excused - Smith; 1 absent - Weaver.**

**REVIEW AND APPROVE DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR THE READY FOR 100 SIERRA CLUB PROJECT**
A resolution has been drafted using the verbiage from a resolution that was approved in Eau Claire. The draft will be emailed to all committee members for review and will be brought before the committee in January again.

**SOLAR UPDATE – NICK NICHOLS**
Nick Nichols updated on the Third Party Participant (TPP) Financing in Wisconsin that was provided by Niels Wolter, Madison Solar Consulting. TPP would come into a non-profit organization or the City or County of La Crosse and finance a solar energy project. A contract would be entered into where the City or County would buy the energy produced by that system. The TPP would have the opportunity to receive the tax breaks, renewable energy credits, depreciation, etc. off the system. Over time, the municipality will buy down that system and reap the benefits of that tax break that was initially taken. WE Energies guides the Focus on Energy Program and has fought against this third party ownership program. La Crosse County was looking into the TPP model for financing their solar operation.

Niels Wolter also provided his Phase II proposal which includes a timeline for doing different tasks for the County and City from now through the fall of 2019 which includes 56 hours of time for a total of $5,600. Nick Nichols recommended that the County move forward with the Phase II proposal and to look into getting monies allocated for this solar project. The total proposed project with Neils through the fall of 2020 would be:
- Hours: 176 @ $100/hr
- Labor: $17,600
- Trips: 4 @ $250/trip
- Travel cost: $1,000

**MOTION** by Diermeier/Hauser to approve the Phase II proposal and have the County and City investigate options for funding of the project. **Motion carried with 1 excused - Smith; 1 absent - Weaver.**

**ENERGY COMMITTEE REPORT**
Doug Hauser updated on what the Energy Committee has done, where they are and where they want to go. Primary committee focus is:
- Plan 2025
- Check with Anders Olson to get progress reports to date
- Look at Focus on Energy efficiencies
- Ready for 100 – 2050 is the target date
- Public Presentations (Electric cars; charging stations; etc.)
- Energy standards (requirements for LEED design at County buildings)
WATER COMMITTEE REPORT
Cindy Shireman updated on the Water Committee’s first meeting:

- Brainstormed current state experts that have a knowledge of water issues in the community.
- Karl Green from the Extension Office joined the committee and talked about phosphorous in the surface water and how mitigation is going to be required.
- Looked into water quality trading and the complexity of that process.
- Spoke with a representative from Clean Wisconsin, an advocacy group for clean water.
- Spoke with the DNR on nutrient trading and how it impacts communities with limited resources.
- Waste water treatment facilities.
- Will reach out to USGS geological survey to get some information about agricultural non-source point pollution.
- Meeting with Brennen Company about the Mississippi and other rivers on ecosystems.
- Discussed pharmaceutical disposal and how that is regulated.
- Habitat restoration groups.
- Looking at La Crosse River watershed.
- Looking into the Town of Holland and Onalaska water issue.

Chair Cornforth suggested the months of January, February and March are good months to coordinate and hold public information meetings/discussions like were done last year with different experts. Speaker suggestions, topics and recommended dates will be discussed at the January meeting.

WEBSITE UPDATE – CATHY VAN MAREN
Cathy Van Maren updated on the changes she has been working on to the website http://suslax.blogspot.com. Discussion ensued about the content and how it should be presented on the website.

RECOMMENDATION TO AUTHORIZE 2018 INDICATORS REPORT UPDATE – NICK NICHOLS
Anders Olson provided his scope of work for the 2019 project and it will be similar to last year. He is proposing a flat fee of $7,500 to do the Indicator’s Report which is an increase from 2018. There is $3,000 in the Solid Waste sustainability budget for the project. Nick Nichols indicated that he thought he could get additional funding to cover the additional cost. MOTION by Diermeier/Hauser to approve the request to fund the County’s share of the Indicators Report for 2019. Motion carried with 2 excused - Smith/Giese; 1 absent - Weaver.

MEETING SCHEDULE/NEXT MEETING DATE: Tentatively January 17, 2019, 4:30 p.m., Conf Room 1107

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None

ADJOURNMENT
MOTION by Diermeier/Shireman to adjourn. Motion carried with 1 excused - Smith; 1 absent - Weaver.
The meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Approved January 17, 2019, Alice Sorenson, Recorder