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

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2019 SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION:
MOTION by Shireman/Van Maren to approve the minutes of September 19, 2019. Motion carried with one excused – Sleznikow; one absent - Diermeier.

REPORTS/INFORMATIONAL UPDATES:
- Nick Nichols updated on the following:
  - The Solid Waste Department/Solid Waste Policy Board recently put together a letter that will be sent out to all municipalities in La Crosse County to encourage them to participate in special event recycling. Special events that happen around the area include fairs, festivals, concerts, sporting competitions, conventions, reunions, weddings and other gatherings outside of the home. Each municipality that has a special event is required by State Statute to provide recycling services.
  - Superior Fresh was recently recognized by the Western Sustainability Institute as a sustainability leader in the area. They raise salmon and grow greens in an aquaculture system.
  - Nick is part of a Per working group. Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have been identified as an issue in waste water and ground water in Solid Waste Landfills.
  - There is a new working group, Living Zero Waste, at UWL. Their first meeting was Wednesday, October 16, 2019. The next meeting will be held November 20, 2019 if there is interest in attending.
- Carolyn Jenkins had an opportunity to talk with Governor Tony Evers last evening and she asked him if he had a Comprehensive Water Quality Plan. He indicated that the Plan was released yesterday and Representative Jill Billings will be releasing a copy.
- Charlie Handy indicated that Gregg Stangl, Land Conservation Director, submitted the La Crosse County Land and Water Resource Management Plan to the Land and Water Board in Madison. That Plan was approved by the Land and Water Board. This item is on the agenda tonight for County Board approval. The Plan covers new issues that La Crosse County is bringing
forward to include in future budgets and increase the conservation ethic in the county.

READY FOR 100 RESOLUTION
Mike Giese and Rick Cornforth met with Steve O’Malley, County Administrator, to discuss the resolution and its content. Suggested changes to the resolution will be made to have it more county-focused and less community-focused. Kathy Van Maren suggested a revision in the first *NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* clause to read: *NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* by the La Crosse County Board that it adopts the following sustainability goals of achieving County carbon neutrality by 100% by 2050 and 100% clean renewable community-wide energy by 2050. The suggested wording revision will be forwarded to Steve O’Malley who will create the final document that will be presented to the full County Board for approval. Chair Cornforth will email the revised resolution with this amended wording to all committee members.

STRATEGIC PLAN RE-WRITE
Charlie Handy distributed a La Crosse County Sustainability Plan Visioning Exercise to all committee members and asked them to work on it over the next month. Charlie indicated that the purpose of this exercise is to gather the personality of the Sustainable La Crosse Commission, what each of the members are passionate about and what they feel they can work on in the next planning period (10 year period). This is La Crosse County’s portion of the plan. The City will likely hire a consulting firm to do their portion of the plan. The City and County will work together to draft the full plan. At the November meeting, there will be a voting exercise whereby 5 to 10 of these actions will be prioritized as the most important to each committee member.

THE SOLSMART BRONZE DESIGNATION FOR LA CROSSE COUNTY – NICK NICHOLS
Charlie Handy and Nick Nichols worked with Midwest Renewable Energy Association who received a grant to help several communities around the state improve their policies, education and information so that people who want to put solar on their residences or businesses would be able to find resources to do so. La Crosse County received Bronze Designation for their program work. Nick Nichols read the following letter from Solsmart:

On behalf of the entire Solsmart Team, I want to thank you for La Crosse County’s engagement in the Solsmart Program and your commitment to making it faster, cheaper and easier to go solar. Based on our review, we are pleased to share La Crosse County has received 55 points which qualifies for Bronze Designation. Congratulations! This designation is in recognition of all the hard work and leadership your community has shown to reduce soft costs and barriers to going solar.

UPDATE ON THE COUNTY 2020 BUDGET
Mike Giese highlighted the discussion at the La Crosse Area Planning Commission (LAPC) level for doing an analysis of past practices and what is needed in the future. That organization has committed itself to expanding its role in 2020 both within the county and also going beyond the transportation portfolio that it’s been centered on in the past. Also there is an initiative at the county for something that is going to be part of the 2020 budget relative to evaluating emergency services, fire services and medical transport in the county. Another example is the commitment of personnel to execute the phosphate trading in 2020.
NEXT MEETING DATE:   November 21, 2019, 4:30 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:
  • Commission Vacancy
  • Rocky Mountain Institute Report by Dorothy Lenard
  • Public Forum on Solar

ADJOURNMENT
MOTION by Giese/Smith to adjourn.  Motion carried with one excused – Sleznikow; one absent - Diermeier.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Approved December 19, 2019, Alice Sorenson, Recorder