CHAPTER 1

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

The purpose of this chapter is to describe the general government structure of the County organization to include the duties and responsibilities of elected and appointed officials and the functions of the various committees.

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GENERAL PROVISIONS AS TO OFFICIALS

1.01 ELECTED OFFICIALS. Elected officials of the County shall be Clerk of Courts, County Clerk, County Treasurer, Register of Deeds, District Attorney, Sheriff, and 30 Supervisors.

(a) Nomination Papers. Pursuant to s. 8.10(3m), Wis. Stats., the number of required signatures on nomination papers for the office of Supervisor in La Crosse County shall be not less than 50 nor more than 200 electors.

1.02 APPOINTED OFFICIALS. The following shall be appointed officials:

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<tr>
<th>Official</th>
<th>Appointing Authority</th>
<th>Removal*</th>
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<tr>
<td>Auditor/Finance Director</td>
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<td>Pursuant to 59.18(2)(b)</td>
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<td>Corporation Counsel</td>
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<td>Circuit Court Judges</td>
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<td>Highway Commissioner</td>
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<td>Land Conservation Director</td>
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<td>Per terms of library board</td>
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<td>Long Term Care, Executive Director</td>
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<td>Mediation and Family Court Services Director</td>
<td>Circuit Court Judges</td>
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<td>Medical Examiner</td>
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<td>Solid Waste Director</td>
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<td>Veteran’s Services Officer</td>
<td>County Administrator</td>
<td>Pursuant to 59.18(2)(b)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zoning, Planning &amp; Land Information Director</td>
<td>County Administrator</td>
<td>Pursuant to 59.18(2)(b)</td>
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*Unless otherwise noted, references are to Wisconsin Statutes.

STANDING COMMITTEES

1.03 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(1) Membership. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the County Board Chair, the 2 Vice Chairs, and the Chair of each Standing Committee. The County Board Chair shall be the chair of the Executive Committee. The County Board Chair shall be the chair of the Executive Committee. The County Board Chair shall be the chair of the Executive Committee. The County Board Chair shall be the chair of the Executive Committee. The County
Board Chair may appoint additional Supervisors to the Executive Committee to maintain the membership at 9 Supervisors. In addition, the immediate past County Board Chair may serve as a member of the Executive Committee for 1 year from the last date that they held office as County Board Chair provided that they continue to be a Supervisor.

(2) The Executive Committee shall act as the policy oversight committee for the following departments:
   (a) County Administrator;
   (b) Corporation Counsel;
   (c) County Clerk;
   (d) Finance;
   (e) Information Technology;
   (f) Human Resources; and
   (g) Treasurer.

(3) Duties and Powers of the Executive Committee:
   (a) Assists the County Board as well as the County Board Chair in the operation of county government.
   (b) Reviews and recommends action on the annual budget prepared by the County Administrator for submission to the County Board.
   (c) Provides supervision and liaison with the County Administrator. The Committee shall recommend to the County Board all matters pertaining to the employment of the County Administrator.
   (d) Meets periodically with comparable representatives from other municipalities of La Crosse County to act as a liaison between governmental units and to work out problems of mutual concern.
   (e) Handles all other matters not specifically delegated to any other committee.
   (f) Sets parameters and goals and gives directions to the County Administrator and Human Resources Director on County personnel policies and procedures.
   (g) Approves any proposed union contracts and contract changes where applicable for submission to the County Board for approval. The total percentage resulting from the proposed union contract shall be listed in the fiscal note.
   (h) Provides oversight for all routine County financial matters, approves County audit reports, oversees County investments, monitors County insurance policies, monitors County bonding, manages the annual contingency funds, approves, and recommends all budget amendments to the County Board.
   (i) Examines claims against the County brought to the Committee by Corporation Counsel.
   (j) Monitors, approves, and recommends all expenditures in excess of the County Administrator’s authority.
   (k) Exercises jurisdiction over all County personnel matters, including the following:
       1. Review and recommend actions to the full Board as are deemed necessary to implement, amend or add to the employee classification and compensation plan.
2. Review and approve positions as set forth in Ch. 3 of this Code [Position Administration].

3. Review any changes to the County Employment Handbook that would result in a fiscal impact and recommend action to the full board.

(4) Special Committees, Boards and Commissions. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for interaction and recommendations to the County Board with respect to following: Library Board, Board of Harbor Commissioners, La Crosse County Economic Development Fund, Inc., La Crosse County Housing Authority, Aviation Board, La Crosse Area Development Corp. (LADCO), La Crosse County Agricultural Society, Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission (MRRPC), Winding Rivers Library System, and Wisconsin Counties Utility Tax Association.

1.04 HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD.

(1) Membership.
   (a) The Health & Human Services Board shall be composed of 9 members appointed by the County Administrator and subject to the confirmation by the County Board including 6 Supervisors and 3 citizen members who are not Supervisors or employees of the County.
   (b) The citizen members shall have a demonstrated interest or competence in human services, public health or community health and at least 1 of the 3 citizen members shall be an individual who receives or has received human services or shall be a family member of such an individual.
   (c) A good faith effort shall be made to appoint a registered nurse and a physician and the Health & Human Services Board shall reflect the diversity of the community.
   (d) No public or private provider of services may be appointed to the Health & Human Services Board.
   (e) The above membership provisions are required by ss. 46.23(4)(a) and 251.03(1), Wis. Stats.

(2) Terms.
   (a) Members of the Health & Human Services Board shall serve for 3 year staggered terms.
   (b) Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.
   (c) A Health & Human Services Board member may be removed from office for the following reasons:
       1. For cause, by a 2/3 vote of the County Board, on due notice in writing and hearing of the charges against the member.
       2. If the member when appointed was a member of the County Board and was not reelected to that office, on due notice in writing.

(3) The Committee shall act as the policy oversight committee for the following departments:
   (a) Human Services; and
Health.

Duties and Powers of the Health & Human Services Board

(a) Functions as the county human services board and is responsible for providing program oversight of the Human Services Department pursuant to ss. 46.23(3)(b)2.c. and 46.23(5), Wis. Stats., and s. 11.01(4) of this Code.

(b) Responsible for developing policies and authorizing direction and planning for the delivery of all human services and 51.42/51/437 services that meet the physical and mental health, social and economic needs of individuals and families within the County; reviews the coordinated plan and budget; sets priorities on program operations within the funding mechanisms provided by federal, state, and county governments.

(c) Functions as the county board of health and is responsible for the program oversight of the Health Department pursuant to s. 11.19 of this Code. The Board also assesses the health status of the people of La Crosse County and recommends policies that will improve the health status and assure that needed health services are provided in the County.

Special Committees, Boards and Commissions. The Health & Human Services Board acts as a liaison to the County Board for the following: Family Policy Board Executive Committee, Aging and Disability Resource Center Advisory Committee and Couleecap, Inc.

1.05 PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE.

(1) Membership. The Public Works and Infrastructure Committee shall be composed of 7 Supervisors appointed by the County Board Chair.

(2) The Committee shall act as the policy oversight committee for the following departments:
   (a) Facilities
   (b) Highway; and,
   (c) Solid Waste

(3) Duties and Powers of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee:
   (a) Functions as the county highway committee and has general supervision over the Highway Department in representing the county in the expenditure of county funds in constructing or maintaining, or aiding in constructing or maintaining highways pursuant to s. 83.015, Wis. Stats.
   (b) Submits to the County Board an annual report, which shall include a report on the receipts and expenditures of the Highway Department.
   (c) Exercises policy making and legislative authority over the Facilities Department and all County facilities and properties management, including: capital improvement projects, facilities maintenance, preventive maintenance, construction, personal property and real
estate, including parks and parking lots, whether owned or leased, and operations, repairs and upkeep of such real estate; and shall negotiate and execute concession arrangements on an annual basis.

(d) Exercises oversight over operational matters of the Solid Waste Department.

1.06 JUDICIARY AND LAW COMMITTEE.

(1) Membership. The Judiciary & Law Committee shall be composed of 5 Supervisors appointed by the County Board Chair.

(2) The Committee shall act as the policy oversight committee for the following departments:
   (a) Clerk of Courts;
   (b) Family Court Commissioner;
   (c) District Attorney;
   (d) Emergency Services;
   (e) Medical Examiner;
   (f) Sheriff; and
   (g) Mediation and Family Court Services.

(3) Special Committees, Boards & Commissions. The Judiciary & Law Committee acts as liaison to the County Board for the following: Public-Safety Communications Committee, Criminal Justice Management Council, and Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

1.07 VETERANS, AGING & LONG-TERM CARE COMMITTEE

(1) Membership. The Veterans, Aging and Long-Term Care Committee shall be composed of 5 Supervisors appointed by the County Board Chair.

(2) The Committee shall act as the policy oversight committee for the following departments:
   (a) Hillview Health Care Center;
   (b) Hillview Terrace;
   (c) Carroll Heights;
   (d) Lakeview Health Center; and
   (e) Veterans’ Services.

(3) Duties and Powers of the Veterans, Aging and Long Term Care Committee.
   (a) Functions as the board of trustees in managing the county institutions including Hillview Health Care Center, Hillview Terrace, Carroll Heights Apartments, and Lakeview Health Center pursuant to s. 46.18, Wis. Stats.
   (b) Responsible for developing policies and procedures adequate to the mission of the institutions.
   (c) Responsible for developing and implementing health programs and budgets within the funding sources available to the institutions.
(d) Audits all claims against the County incurred on behalf of the institutions at least once a month.
(e) Exercises policy making and legislative authority over the county institutions.

4 Special Committees, Boards, and Commissions. The Veterans, Aging and Long Term Care Committee acts as a liaison for the Veterans’ Services Commission.

1.08 PLANNING, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

(1) Membership. The Planning, Resources and Development Committee shall be composed of 7 Supervisors appointed by the County Board Chair and 1 citizen member. The citizen member shall be a person who is a Chairperson of the Farm Service Agency or other county agriculture stabilization and conservation committee member designated by the Chairperson of the county agriculture stabilization and conservation committee. This person shall be a voting member of the Committee only for land conservation matters.

(2) The Committee shall act as the policy oversight committee for the following departments:
(a) Land Conservation;
(b) Zoning, Planning and Land Information;
(c) Register of Deeds;
(d) County Surveyor; and,
(e) University Extension.

(3) Powers and Duties of the Planning, Resources and Development Committee:
(a) Functions as a Planning, Resources and Development Committee pursuant s. 92.06, Wis. Stats., and has all powers and duties pursuant to Chapter 92, Wis. Stats.
(b) Promotes the development of comprehensive county wide resource conservation programs, more specifically, to halt and reverse the depletion of La Crosse County’s soils, resources, and pollutions of its waters.
(c) Designated as the county zoning agency, authorized to act in all matters pertaining to County planning and zoning pursuant to s. 59.69(2), Wis. Stats.
(d) Responsible for updating and revising the zoning ordinance and responsible for long range development plans.
(e) Considers, examines, and reports to the County Board its findings in all matters of the legal assessments, tax titles, and delinquent taxes that may come before the County Board for action.
(f) Makes recommendations to the County Board concerning the Farmland Preservation Program to assure that each application meets all eligibility requirements to the law pursuant to s. 71.59 and Chapter 91, Wis. Stats., and County Land Use Policies.
(g) Functions as a committee on agriculture and extension education and supervises the educational program in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin, referred to as the “University Extension Program” pursuant to s. 59.56(3) Wis. Stats.

(h) Makes a determination of basic problems and periodic evaluation of extension services.

(i) Maintains a qualified and competent University Extension staff in cooperation with the University Extension and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to meet the needs of the people of the County and, on behalf of the County, examines and approves expenses relative to the operation of the Extension office and staff.

(4) Special Committees, Boards & Commissions. The Planning, Resources & Development Committee acts as a liaison to the County Board for the following: Board of Adjustment, Condemnation Commission Wildlife Abatement/Damage Committee, Historic Sites Preservation Commission, Lake Neshonoc Protection and Rehabilitation District, and Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS

Chairs of Special Committees, Boards and Commissions. The County Board Chair shall have the power to select the chair of the various special committees, boards and commissions, with the exception of the Board of Harbor Commissioners, Condemnation Commission, Highway Safety Commission, Historic Sites Preservation Commission, La Crosse County Housing Authority, Veterans’ Service Commission, and Wildlife Abatement/Damage Committee.

1.09 AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

The Aging and Disability Resource Center Advisory Committee constitutes the Commission on Aging as required under s. 46.82(4), Wis Stats., the Resource Center Governing Board as required by s. 46.283(6), Wis. Stats. and the Transportation Coordination Committee as required by s. 85.21, Wis. Stats. The committee shall be an advisory committee to the Health and Human Services Board.

(1) Membership. Pursuant to s. 46.82(4) and s. 46.283(6), Wis. Stats., the Aging and Disability Resource Center Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the County Administrator subject to the confirmation of the County Board. The Committee shall be composed of 8 members, 4 of whom must be over 60 years of age, 1-2 of whom will represent people with developmental disabilities, 1 of whom will represent people with physical disabilities and 1-2 of whom shall be County Board Supervisors, whom are also members of the Health and Human Services Board. County Board Supervisor shall not serve as one of the members of the Committee representing target groups. The committee members representing one of the target groups must either by an individual belonging to that ADRC client group or be the family member, guardian or other advocate for an individual belonging to that ADRC client group. Members shall serve for 3 year staggered terms. No member may serve more than 2 consecutive 3 year terms.
(2) **Duties and Responsibilities:**

(a) Compiles and distributes information regarding older people, people having developmental disabilities and people having physical disabilities.

(b) Serves as a point of contact for information, assistance, and referral.

(c) Provides leadership in the development of a comprehensive, coordinated community system of care and support services.

(d) Monitors the nutrition program and other programs provided by the department.

(e) Pursuant to applicable statutes, provides operational, advocacy and outreach duties and identifies unmet needs.

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1.10 **PUBLIC-SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE.**

(1) **Membership.**

(a) City of La Crosse Police Chief
(b) City of La Crosse Fire Chief
(c) County Sheriff
(d) Chair of the County Judiciary & Law Committee
(e) City of Onalaska Police Chief
(f) City of Onalaska Fire Chief or Assistant Chief
(g) Police Chief from County at-large (Appointed by City/County Law Enforcement Chiefs)
(h) Fire Chief from County at-large (Appointed by Fire Officers' Association)
(i) Medical Services Representative (Appointed by the County Board Chair)

(2) **Duties and Powers.** The Public-Safety Communications Committee:

(a) Provides input to the Emergency Services Department and the Emergency Management Administration regarding operations of the Department. The Committee shall convene as needed upon request of a member or the Emergency Services Director.

(b) Serves to resolve impasses in functional operations and may assist in developing policies relative to functional operations.

(c) Coordinates to the extent feasible elements necessary in implementing the Emergency Medical Services Program in La Crosse County including but not limited to the La Crosse Emergency Dispatch System (911), law enforcement agencies, first responder agencies, fire departments, ambulance services, and other groups interested and involved in emergency medical services.

(d) Serves in an advisory capacity to the Judiciary and Law Committee.

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1.11 **FAMILY POLICY BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**

(1) **Membership.** The Family Policy Board Executive Committee shall be composed of not more than 13 members who are La Crosse County residents as follows:

(a) La Crosse County Human Services Director or their designee;
(b) The Chair of the Health & Human Services Board or their designee;
(c) The Chair of the Judiciary & Law Committee or their designee;
(d) The Executive Director of the La Crosse United Way or their designee;
(e) The Executive Director of the La Crosse Community Foundation or his/her designee;
(f) The Family Policy Board Chair;
(g) One representative from a non-profit family & children oriented agency appointed by the Health & Human Services Board;
(h) One School District representative (School Board Member or Superintendent) appointed by the Health & Human Services Board;
(i) One CESA representative appointed by Health & Human Services Board;
(j) Two citizen members with a demonstrated interest in family & children’s issues and appointed by the Health & Human Services Board;
(k) One representative of a law enforcement agency in La Crosse County appointed by the Health & Human Services Board; and,
(l) One La Crosse County Circuit Court Judge appointed by the presiding Judge of La Crosse County Circuit Court.

(2) **Term.**

(a) The representatives from the non-profit family and children agency, the School District, CESA, the law enforcement agency and citizen members shall serve 2 year terms with no term limits.

(b) If a member of the Family Policy Board Executive Committee shall cease to a representative of the office or agency that he/she was designated or appointed to represent, then he/she shall also cease to be a member of the Family Policy Board Executive Committee and their position on the Committee shall become vacant.

(c) Vacancies on the Family Policy Board Executive Committee shall be filled by the successor to the office/position where applicable or by a new representative appointed by the Health & Human Services Board to fill the unexpired portion of the term to which the person was appointed.

(3) **Officers.** The chair of the Health & Human Services Board shall be the chair and the chair of the Family Policy Board shall be the vice-chair of the Family Policy Board Executive Committee.

(4) **Duties and Powers.** The Family Policy Board Executive Committee shall:

(a) Act in an advisory capacity to the Health & Human Services Board on matters of policy related to family & children’s issues;

(b) Recommend program priorities and policies, identify unmet service needs, and propose short-term and long-term plans relating to family & children’s issues;

(c) Evaluate and bring forth recommendations from the Family Policy Board;

(d) Serve on the Family Policy Board; and

(e) Perform other general functions that may from time to time be directed by the Health & Human Services Board and/or the County Board.
1.12 INTEGRATED SUPPORT AND RECOVERY SERVICES (ISRS) ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(1) **Membership.** The Integrated Support and Recovery Services Advisory Council Coordinated Services Team Coordinating Committee shall be composed of 17 members appointed by the Human Services Director or his/her designee:

   (a) Nine parents of children with disabilities.
   (b) Representative of the La Crosse County Health Department.
   (c) Representative of the La Crosse County Human Services Family & Children’s section that is responsible for child welfare and protection services.
   (d) Representative of the La Crosse County Human Services Integrated Support & Recovery Services section that is responsible for mental health and alcohol and drug abuse services for children and families.
   (e) Representative of the La Crosse County Human Services Integrated Support & Recovery Services section that is responsible for providing services for children who are developmentally disabled and for Children’s Community Options Program services.
   (f) Representative of the La Crosse County Human Services Justice Support Services section that is responsible for providing Juvenile Justice Services.
   (g) Representative of the La Crosse School District.
   (h) Representative of the La Crosse County Juvenile Court Administrator.
   (i) Representative in the service area who provides social or educational services to children who have disabilities other than the providers already represented in other categories.

(2) **Term.** The members shall serve 2 year terms with no term limits.

(3) **Duties.** The ISRS Advisory Council shall:

   (a) Perform the role of the Children’s Community Options Program (CCOP) Advisory Committee as established pursuant to section 46.272(4)(a)1. to 3., Wis. Stats. This function includes developing and approving the initial and annual CCOP Plans.
   (b) Perform the role of the Coordinated Services Teams (CST) Coordinating Committee required by Wis. Adm. Code HFS 46 program standards. This function includes preparing required interagency agreements, assessing how CST collaborates with other services offered in the community, assisting with annual program applications, and reviewing determinations of eligibility, assessment, appropriate services, or funding of services as requested.
   (c) Provide oversight and feedback to operation of La Crosse County Birth to 3 program.
   (d) Provide input, as requested, to the Crisis program during annual update of the Crisis Community Plan.
   (e) Perform other general functions that may from time to time be directed by the Health & Human Services Board and/or County Board.
   (f) Report to the Health & Human Services Board.
1.13 CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL.
The Criminal Justice Management Council (CJMC) shall be an advisory committee to the Judiciary & Law Committee and Health and Human Services Board.

1. Membership. The Criminal Justice Management Council shall be composed of not more than 21 members who live or work in La Crosse County. Members are as follows:
   (a) the County Board Chair or their designee,
   (b) 3 other Supervisors appointed by the County Board Chair including at least 1 Supervisor from the Judiciary & Law Committee and 1 Supervisor from the Health & Human Services Board,
   (c) the Presiding Judge of La Crosse County Circuit Court or his/her designee,
   (d) the La Crosse County Sheriff,
   (e) the La Crosse County District Attorney,
   (f) the La Crosse County Human Services Director,
   (g) a representative of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections,
   (h) a representative of the State of Wisconsin Public Defender’s office,
   (i) A representative of the School District of La Crosse,
   (j) the chief of the City of La Crosse Police Department or a designee,
   (k) and a representative from the Coulee Region Chief's Association or a similar law enforcement organization as selected by the CJMC,
   (l) and not more than 8 citizen members including 1 citizen member who is a victim advocate and 1 citizen member who is a representative of a mental health organization. The County Board Chair shall appoint the citizen members after public solicitation.

2. Term of Citizen Members. The term of the 8 citizen members shall commence on the 3rd Tuesday of April. Citizen members shall serve a term of 3 years with a limit of 2 consecutive terms. If a citizen member is initially appointed to complete an unexpired term that shall not be considered one of their two terms. The terms of the citizen members shall be staggered. The County Board Chair shall appoint the citizen members at the April organizational meeting of the County Board or as soon thereafter as practicable with the terms to expire on April 30th of the 3rd year following the appointment.

3. Vacancies. If a vacancy occurs on the Council, the County Board Chair shall as soon as practicable appoint a person to fill the unexpired portion of the term to which the person is appointed. If the term is for a citizen member, such appointment may be made after public solicitation.

   (a) The Criminal Justice Management Council is created to act in an advisory capacity to the Judiciary & Law Committee, Health & Human Services Board, and County Board on all aspects of the La Crosse County Criminal Justice System subject to the Constitution and to any enactment of the legislature which is of statewide concern and which uniformly affects every county. The Council shall recommend to the appropriate standing committees and County Board changes, including the creation, elimination or modification of programs, policies and procedures that reflect the La Crosse County correctional philosophy.

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(b) To assure coordinated leadership, all proposed policy changes relating to criminal justice may be brought to the Council for review and for recommendations to the appropriate La Crosse County Committees.

(c) Under the direction of the County Board, the Council shall be responsible for the evaluation of the La Crosse County Criminal Justice System in accordance with the La Crosse County correctional philosophy, mission and vision.

(d) The Council may assist County departments in setting priorities for the La Crosse County Criminal Justice System.

(e) The Council may perform such other general functions necessary to implement its responsibilities as directed by the Judiciary & Law Committee, Health and Human Services Board and/or County Board.

1.14 LIBRARY BOARD.

(1) Membership. The Library Board shall be composed of 7 members appointed by the County Board Chair subject to the confirmation of the County Board. The Board shall include at least 1 School District Administrator of a school district located in whole or in part in that county, or that School District Administrator’s designee, and 1 or 2 Supervisors.

(2) Terms. The terms shall be for 3 years. Vacancies shall be filled for unexpired terms in the same manner as regular appointments are made.

(3) Duties and Powers of the Library Board.

(a) Supervise the administration of the County Library System pursuant to s. 43.58, Wis. Stats.

(b) Appoint a Library Director to administer the day to day operations of the Library System.

1.15 BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT.

(1) Membership. The Board of Adjustment shall be composed of 3 members for a 3 year term beginning July 1. There shall be 1 or more alternate members on the Board of Adjustment at all times for a 2 year term. Alternate members may be appointed at any time upon recommendation of the County Board. They shall have the same powers and duties as regular members. Appointments are made by the County Administrator subject to the confirmation of the County Board. See ss. 17.07 and 17.08 of this Code.

1.16 BOARD OF HARBOR COMMISSIONERS.

(1) Creation. The La Crosse County Board, pursuant to s. 30.37, Wis. Stats., does hereby create a Board of Harbor Commissioners. Said board to exercise the powers and perform the duties conferred upon such board by law. The board shall be composed of 7 members and shall serve 3 years staggered terms.
(2) **Membership.** The County Administrator shall appoint the members of the board and designate the length of the term of each member. The Mayor of the City of La Crosse may recommend 3 members. Thereafter, at the expiration of the term of any member, the County Board Chair shall appoint a successor for a 3 year term. All appointments shall be subject to the confirmation of the County Board. All persons appointed shall be qualified electors of the County and must have been a resident of the County for at least 3 years. Only 1 Supervisor may be appointed to the board. A person appointed to the board shall serve until a successor has been appointed and qualifies. Members of the board shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be reimbursed for expenses actually and necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties.

(3) **Organization; Officers.** As soon as possible after the appointment and confirmation of the members of the board, they shall meet and organize by electing from among their members a president, vice-president, and such other officers as they deem necessary. The board shall hold meetings at such times and places as it determines and may adopt such bylaws consistent with law as seem practicable for its government.

(4) **Duties and Powers.** The intention of establishment of said board is to provide for the development and operation of harbors and preservation of navigable waterways within said County. Said powers granted pursuant to s. 30.30, Wis. Stats., including without limitation, harbor improvement; repairs and alterations of harbor; the construction, maintenance and repair of suitable dock walls of shore protection walls along the shore of any waterway other than privately owned slips and to make recommendations regarding economic development within La Crosse County.

(5) **Relationship.** The Board of Harbor Commissioners may exercise its power and perform its duties without first obtaining the approval of the County Board, but in no event is the board empowered to financially obligate in any manner the County or the State without the express consent of the County Board. Said powers and duties pursuant to s. 30.38, Wis. Stats., and are hereby incorporated by reference.

(6) **Records.** The office of record for Harbor Commission documents shall be the County Clerk.

1.17  **SOLID WASTE POLICY BOARD.**

(1) **Membership.** Membership of the Solid Waste Policy Board shall be appointed by the County Board Chair, subject to confirmation of the County Board. It shall consist of 9 members and be composed as follows:

(a) There shall be at least 3 members who are La Crosse County Board Supervisors.

(b) There shall be 6 members of recognized ability and demonstrated interest in the problems of solid waste management who are representatives of the users of the La Crosse County Solid Waste System. At least 2 of the 6 members shall be from La Crosse County. These members may
delegate an alternate to attend meetings in their absence.

(c) If a member of the Solid Waste Policy Board shall cease to be a member of the La Crosse County Board or a representative of a user of the system, then they shall also cease to be a member of the Solid Waste Policy Board.

(2) **Appointments.** Appointments shall be for 3 year staggered terms. Vacancies shall be filled for the residue of the unexpired term in the manner that original appointments are made.

(3) **Organization.**

(a) The Solid Waste Policy Board shall annually elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. Meetings shall be held at such times and at such places as the Solid Waste Policy Board may determine.

(b) The Solid Waste Policy Board shall have the power to adopt, amend, and repeal rules and regulations governing its procedure and operations that are not inconsistent with this section.

(c) No compensation shall be paid to members of the Solid Waste Policy Board, but they shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses in accordance with La Crosse County travel policies.

(4) **Responsibilities.** It shall be the responsibility of the Solid Waste Policy Board to act as the policy making body relative to program policies affecting the activities of the Solid Waste Department and report directly to the County Board. The Solid Waste Policy Board shall keep abreast of the latest techniques, procedures, and methods that may be developed in solid waste management.

(5) **Powers.** The Solid Waste Policy Board shall have the following powers subject to the restrictions on powers set forth in subsection (6):

(a) Develop plans for the County solid waste management programs to collect, transport, reduce, reuse, recycle, compost, process, incinerate, destroy, convert or landfill solid waste including, without restriction because of enumeration, garbage, ashes, incinerator residue, municipal, commercial, industrial, pathological, infectious, and hazardous waste in accordance with the rules and regulations established by law.

(b) Establish operations and methods of waste management that are considered appropriate.

(c) Engage in, sponsor or co-sponsor research and demonstration projects that are intended to improve the techniques of solid waste management or to increase the extent of reuse or recycling of materials and resources including within the waste.

(d) Through the budget process, recommend the establishment of reasonable fees, approximately commensurate with the costs of services rendered to users of the services of the County solid waste management system. Fees may include a reasonable charge to create interest-earning reserves for future capital outlays for waste disposal facilities or equipment, research activities, post-closure care costs, and potential remedial action.

(e) Create service districts which provide different types of solid waste collection or disposal services.

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(f) Provide education to users of the services of the County solid waste management system and the public that it serves.

(g) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be necessary to properly advise the La Crosse County Board on policy issues relating to the operation of the solid waste management system, and which are not inconsistent with subsection (6), the laws of the State of Wisconsin, the regulations of the Department of Natural Resources, or the ordinances and resolutions adopted by the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors.

(6) **Limitations on Solid Waste Policy Board Powers.** The Solid Waste Policy Board shall not exercise the following powers:

(a) Acquire lands within the County by purchase, lease, donation or eminent domain.

(b) Authorize employees or agents to enter into lands to conduct reasonable and necessary investigations and tests to determine the suitability of sites for solid waste management activities.

(c) Acquire by purchase, lease, donation or eminent domain easements or other limited interest in land.

(d) Acquire equipment to be used in the solid waste management system.

(e) Enact and enforce ordinances necessary for the conduct of the solid waste management system.

(f) Contract with private collectors, transporters or municipalities to receive and dispose of waste.

(g) Accept funds that are derived from state or federal grants or assistance programs.

(7) The Solid Waste Policy Board shall have no authority, on any basis, to levy taxes or borrow money for the solid waste management system from sources other than the La Crosse County Board.

(8) The restrictions on the Solid Waste Policy Board powers set forth above in paragraph (6)(a) through (g) shall not prohibit the La Crosse County Board from either paying directly or reimbursing the Solid Waste Department for any costs for the establishment, development, and operation of the solid waste management system, or any part thereof, without requiring the repayment of said costs or expenses by a fee from the users of the solid waste management system and without the necessity of amending this section.

1.18 CONDEMNATION COMMISSION

(1) Pursuant to s. 32.08, Wis. Stats., a county shall have a condemnation commission. Each commissioner shall be a resident of La Crosse County and be appointed pursuant to s. 32.08, Wis. Stats.

(2) Such commissioners shall be appointed by the circuit judges and may be removed by said judges at their pleasure, and they shall be appointed for 3 year staggered terms.

(3) The commissioners shall annually elect 1 of their members as chair.
(4) The commissioners shall receive an hourly rate for actual service. Said rate to be established by resolution of the La Crosse County Board. Said commissioners are entitled to receive mileage at the going County Board rate and such compensation and expenses shall be paid by the condemnor on order approved by the circuit judges.

1.19 FARMLAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE.

(1) **Membership.** Members of the Farmland Preservation Committee shall be appointed by the County Board Chair, subject to confirmation by the County Board. A Committee member shall be an elector of La Crosse County. The Committee shall consist of 9 members to be composed as follows: 3 County Board Supervisors; 1 representative from town government; 1 representative from the city/village government; 1 representative from real estate or development interests; 1 representative with agricultural interests; 1 representative with forestry interests; and 1 representative with local conservation interests, at least 3 to be farmers in La Crosse County if possible.

(2) **Term.** The members shall serve 3 year staggered terms.

(3) **Vacancy.** If any member ceases to be an elected official of the governmental entity that he/she represents, then that person’s position on the Committee shall become vacant. Vacancies may also result from the removal or resignation of a member. Vacancies shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner that original appointments are made.

(4) **Responsibilities.** The Committee shall be responsible for general oversight of the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) Program, including the following:
   (a) Review and recommend any needed changes to the ordinance establishing the PACE Program.
   (b) Develop an application form and procedure for the PACE Program.
   (c) Review and provide oversight in assessing all applications according to the general purposes, objectives and provisions of the PACE Program set forth in Chapter 32, including but not limited to the minimum eligibility criteria.
   (d) Make recommendations regarding individual conservation easement instruments, including but not limited to the defined restrictions and reserved rights under the conservation easement.
   (e) Make recommendations regarding acceptance of easements.
   (f) Establish monitoring procedures and oversee subsequent monitoring to insure easement compliance in coordination with the La Crosse County Zoning, Planning and Land Information Department and La Crosse County Corporation Counsel.

(5) **Reporting.** The Farmland Preservation Committee shall report to the Planning, Resources, and Development (PR&D) Committee, which shall approve, deny or amend the recommendations prior to consideration by the County Board. The final decision making authority is with the County Board.

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1.20 ETHICS BOARD.

(1) **Membership.**

(a) The Ethics Board shall be composed of 3 members and 2 alternates. The alternates shall substitute for members of the Ethics Board that are absent or unable to attend a meeting or are not eligible for any reason to sit on a case because of conflict of interest. The members and alternates shall be citizens chosen from the private sector who shall not have an affiliation with county government in any capacity. The members and alternates shall be appointed by the Executive Committee with the approval of the County Board.

(b) The membership of the Ethics Board shall be composed of 3 members serving 3 year staggered terms. The first alternate shall be appointed for a 3 year term and the second alternate shall initially be appointed for a 2 year term. Thereafter, both alternates shall be appointed for 3 year terms.

(c) Duties and Powers. Pursuant to s. 2.23 of this Code.

1.21 HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION.

(1) **Membership.** The Highway Safety Commission shall be appointed by the County Board Chair and shall be composed of:

(a) County Highway Safety Coordinator, Chair
(b) District 5 Engineer Wis. DOT Representative
(c) County Highway Department Representative
(d) District 5 State Highway Patrol Representative
(e) Sheriff's Patrol Deputy Representative
(f) Educational Profession Representative
(g) Medical Profession Representative
(h) Legal Profession Representative
(i) Woman Highway Safety Leader Representative
(j) Population Center Representative
(k) Citizen Representative
(l) City of La Crosse Board of Public Works Representative
(m) Wisconsin DOT Office of Highway Safety Representative
(n) City of La Crosse Police Representative

(2) **Meetings.**

(a) The commission shall develop a meeting schedule that includes a minimum of 4 full meetings per year.

(b) The County Highway Safety Coordinator shall appoint a secretary to keep a record of attendance, minutes and all official proceedings.

(3) **Duties and Powers.** The Highway Safety Commission shall act as an advisory board to the County Highway Safety Coordinator to enable them to:

(a) Secure voluntary coordination and reinforcement of highway safety activities conducted by the political subdivisions of the County in the functional areas of:
   1. Driver education.
2. Codes and laws.
3. Traffic courts.
4. Alcohol in relation to highway safety.
5. Identification and surveillance of accident locations
6. Traffic records.
7. Emergency medical services.
8. Highway design, construction and maintenance.
11. Police traffic services.
12. Debris hazard control and clean up.
13. School bus safety.

(b) Advise the Judiciary and Law Committee on highway safety manners.

(c) Maintain liaison with highway safety programs carried on by the Cities of La Crosse and Onalaska; Villages of Holmen, West Salem and Bangor, and the Town of Shelby and related State functions conducted in the County.

(d) Develop local actions necessary to implement projects under the Federal Highway Safety Act of 1966.

(e) Cooperate with unofficial organizations and groups in developing and conducting public information programs directed to highway safety improvements.

(4) **Subcommittees and Study Groups.** The County Highway Safety Coordinator may establish special study groups or subcommittees necessary to meet the commission's responsibilities as outlined in this section. Meetings of such groups or subcommittees may be scheduled as often as necessary and when convenient.

### 1.22 HISTORIC SITES PRESERVATION COMMISSION.

(1) **Membership.** The Historic Sites Preservation Commission shall be composed of 7 members. The membership shall be composed of: 1 registered architect or architectural historian; 1 historian qualified in the field of historic preservation; 1 licensed real estate broker; 1 Supervisor; 1 qualified archaeologist; or make a reasonable effort to find members with these qualifications, and 2 citizen members. Each member shall have, to the highest extent practicable, a known interest in historic preservation. The County Board Chair shall appoint the commissioners subject to the confirmation of the County Board. See Chapter 22 of this Code.

### 1.23 LA CROSSE COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY.

(1) **Membership.** The La Crosse County Housing Authority shall be composed of 5 members appointed by the County Board Chair for 5 year terms and at least 1 of the 5 shall be a Supervisor.

(2) **Duties and Powers.** The Authority shall investigate the need for low-cost housing and plan for its development on a county-wide basis pursuant to ss. 59.53(22) and 66.1201 through 66.1211, Wis. Stats.
1.24 LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC).

(1) **Membership.** The Local Emergency Planning Committee shall be composed of representatives of elected state and local officials, police, fire, civil defense, public health professionals, environmental, hospital, and transportation officials, as well as representatives of facilities subject to the emergency planning requirements, community groups, and the media appointed by the County Board Chair.

(2) **Duties and Powers.** The LEPC’s primary responsibility is to develop and review annually an emergency response plan for hazardous and toxic chemical accidents. The LEPC plan must evaluate available resources for preparing for and responding to a potential chemical accident in accordance to the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (S.A.R.A., Title III). The Committee shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Judiciary and Law Committee.

1.25 LA CROSSE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND, INC.

(1) **Membership.** The Board of Directors of the La Crosse County Economic Development Fund, Inc. shall be composed of 15 members, which shall include the Chair, First Vice Chair, and Second Vice Chair of the County Board, County Administrator, County Auditor/Finance Director, and Corporation Counsel, or their designees, and 6 citizen representatives with financial, accounting and/or relevant business backgrounds and 3 Supervisors of the County Board appointed by the County Board Chair subject to confirmation by the County Board.

(2) **Duties and Powers.**

(a) The La Crosse County Economic Development Fund, Inc. is a non-stock corporation created by the County Board to serve as the county industrial development agency and is responsible for the management of a revolving loan fund and the continued improvement of the industrial climate of the county pursuant to s. 59.57, Wis. Stats. The Board of Directors of the Economic Development Fund shall develop criteria for evaluating business loan applications and make loans that will promote economic development, jobs creation, and retention.

(b) Economic Development Fund shall analyze economic development trends, develop and recommend economic development policies and programs, and facilitate activities to improve the economic climate of La Crosse County.

(c) The Economic Development Fund shall maintain regular contact with economic development agencies and provide educational opportunities related to economic development.

(d) The Economic Development Fund may provide “start up” funds for one time support of economic development initiatives such as festivals and other not for profit events.
1.26 VETERANS’ SERVICE COMMISSION

(1) **Membership.** The Veterans’ Service Commission shall be composed of 3 residents of the County who are veterans appointed for staggered 3 year terms by the County Board Chair subject to the confirmation of the County Board. An additional 1 member shall be appointed to the commission as an alternate for each term year.

(2) **Duties and Powers.** To provide aid to needy veterans, or to spouses, surviving spouses, minor and dependent children of such veterans, and the needy parents of such veterans pursuant to s. 45.81, Wis. Stats. The Commission shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Veterans, Aging and Long Term Care Committee.

1.27 WILDLIFE ABATEMENT/DAMAGE COMMITTEE.

(1) **Membership.** The Wildlife Abatement/Damage Committee shall be composed of 4 members appointed by the County Board Chair including 1 member who is a Supervisor.

(2) **Duties.** The committee shall be responsible for overall supervision of the Wildlife Damage Program, including: establishment of County damage policy and procedures; approval of annual budget requests, expenditures, abatement contracts and damage claims. All actions of the committee will be informally reviewed by the Planning, Resources and Development Committee.

1.28 COMMISSION ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN HOUSING.

(1) **Membership.** The County Commission on Equal Opportunities in Housing shall be composed of 5 members appointed by the County Board Chair with approval of the County Board to serve 5-year staggered terms.

(2) **Duties and powers.** The Commission shall have those powers and duties as outlined in s. 9.06(3)(c) of this Code.

1.29 JOINT CITY/COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION.

(1) **Membership.** The Joint City/County Emergency Medical Services Commission (hereinafter the “EMS Commission”) shall be composed of the following members:

   (a) La Crosse County Board Chair or their designee, who shall be a County Board Supervisor;
   
   (b) La Crosse County Board First Vice Chair or their designee, who shall be a County Board Supervisor;
   
   (c) Mayor of the City of La Crosse or their designee, who shall be a City of La Crosse Common Council Member;
   
   (d) City of La Crosse Common Council Member, who is appointed by the Mayor subject to Common Council approval;
   
   (e) Citizen member from the City of La Crosse, who is appointed by the Mayor subject to Common Council approval;
(f) Mayor of the City of Onalaska or their designee, who shall be a City of Onalaska Common Council Member;

(g) The La Crosse County Unit Chair of the Wisconsin Towns Association;

(h) Member who shall be a village president or their designee as determined by the villages located in La Crosse County and shall be an elected official;

(i) Representative from and appointed by Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center;

(j) Representative from and appointed by Franciscan Skemp Medical Center;

(k) Physician from and appointed by Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center; and

(l) Physician from and appointed by Franciscan Skemp Medical Center.

Citizen members of the Commission shall not be employees or previous employees of La Crosse County, the City of La Crosse, the City of Onalaska, Franciscan Skemp, Gundersen Lutheran, or Tri-State Ambulance.

(2) **Vacancies.** A vacancy on the EMS Commission is created by the death, removal, retirement, or resignation of a member or when a member ceases to be an elected official or representative of the entity that they were elected or designated to represent. The vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original election, designation or appointment.

(3) **Officers.** At the first meeting of the EMS Commission and every other year thereafter, members shall elect from their number a chairperson, a vice chairperson and other officers as necessary. Vacancies in these offices shall be filled for the unexpired terms in the same manner. The chairperson shall preside at all meetings when present. In case of the absence of the chairperson for any meeting, the vice chairperson shall act as the temporary chairperson.

(4) **Duties and Powers**

(a) The EMS Commission shall be responsible for establishing standards and contracting for emergency medical services in La Crosse County, reviewing provider performance, and reporting on performance to the county and other municipal governmental entities. Decisions which may impact budgets of county or municipal governmental entities, or current EMS system providers, must have advance approval by the appropriate agency governing board(s). At a minimum, the standards established by the EMS Commission shall be in compliance with the current performance standards achieved by the EMS system and enjoyed by the County of La Crosse, for example:

1. Physician EMS Medical Director(s) that are Board Certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine;

2. A single set of Pre-Hospital Medical Care Protocols for 911 Response;
3. Wisconsin Administrative Code HFS 112 for Emergency Medical Service operations;
4. Closest ambulance response regardless of jurisdictional boundaries. Jurisdictional boundaries shall not limit the response of the transport providers;
5. Electronic patient care reporting for all individual patient care reports; and,
6. A medical quality assurance program which shall be external to EMS system providers.

(b) The duties and powers of the EMS Commission shall include the exercise of powers in the following areas:
1. **Personnel Standards.** Develop personnel standards in the following areas:
   a. State licensed EMT paramedic or National Registry in compliance with Wisconsin Administrative Code HFS 112;
   b. Turnover Rate Standards.

2. **Scope of Services.** Develop scope of services in the following areas:
   a. Response time standards for defined response zones for advanced life support services everywhere in La Crosse County consistent with industry and national standards. Response time standards for services provided in the City of La Crosse shall not exceed eight (8) minutes and zero (0) seconds for 90 percent (90%) of emergency medical responses which require a red lights and siren response as determined by the use of an Emergency Medical Dispatch program approved by the EMS Commission.
   b. Plan for 24 hour, 365 day per year coverage as per Wisconsin Administrative Code HFS 112 for La Crosse County;
   c. Mutual Aid Agreements, including the number of mutual aid agreements, response time requirements and activations requiring La Crosse County resources; and,
   d. Response times for individuals requiring transfer to a more appropriate inpatient behavioral health unit due to inability to meet specific patient care requirements such as age, forensic care, and medpsych diagnoses.

3. **Ambulance Operators.** Any ambulance service provider wishing to operate an ambulance within the La Crosse County EMS System shall first be authorized by the EMS Commission before entering an ambulance into service.

4. **Vehicle and Equipment Requirements.** Develop vehicle and equipment requirements which include, at a minimum, standards regarding the age and status of ambulance vehicles, equipment and supplies inventory, and repair and
maintenance requirements and reporting in compliance with Wisconsin Administrative Code HFS 112 and DOT Trans 309.

5. EMS System Communications and Standards in compliance with Wisconsin Administrative Code HFS 112.

6. Medical Director/Medical Control to be in accordance with Wisconsin Administrative HFS 112. The EMS Commission shall have the authority to approve, remove and replace the Medical Director to be utilized by the credentialed paramedics in accordance with standards promulgated by the EMS Commission.

7. Quality Assurance Program. Develop standards for quality assurance in such areas as: quality indicators, run report review process, protocol review and approval process, patient satisfaction monitoring process, patient rights and safety program.

8. Insurance Requirements. Requirements for commercial/general liability/professional liability coverage for ambulance providers.

   a. Develop standards regarding content and frequency of routine reports in such areas as: calls, response times, clinical quality, skills proficiency, patient satisfaction, and vehicles and equipment.
   b. To ensure complete transparency, ambulance providers will make all financial and operational information available to the Commission and the public. Financial and operational information includes but is not limited to personnel, vehicle, capital, equipment, operational expenses, charges for services, revenues, reimbursement rates, technology information such as GPS and computer-aided dispatch data, and response times to various communities, districts, or zones.

1.30 LAND INFORMATION COUNCIL.

(1) Membership. The Land Information Council shall be composed of not less than 8 members, which shall include the County Register of Deeds, the County Treasurer, and the Real Property Lister or their designees and the following members appointed by the County Board Chair and confirmed by the County Board:
   (a) A member of the County Board;
   (b) A representative of the land information office;
   (c) A realtor or a member of the Realtors Association employed within the County;
   (d) A public safety or emergency communications representative employed within the County;
(e) The County Surveyor or a registered professional land surveyor employed within the County;

(f) A representative of the La Crosse County Information Technology Department; and,

(g) Any other members of the Board or public that the Board designates.

(2) Notwithstanding par. (1), if no person is willing to serve under par. (1) (c), (d), or (e), the Board may create or maintain the Council without the member designated under par. (1) (c), (d), or (e).

(3) **Terms.** Council members who hold elective office or are employed by La Crosse County shall serve on the Council as long as they hold the office or County position designated for membership. Other Council members appointed by the County Board shall serve 3 year terms.

(4) **Duties and Powers.**

(a) The Council shall review the priorities, needs, policies, and expenditures of the land information office and advise the County on matters affecting the land information office.

(b) The Council shall meet on an as-needed basis.

(c) The Council shall report to the Planning, Resources and Development Committee.

**OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

1.31 LA CROSSE AREA DEVELOPMENT CORP. (LADCO).
Membership includes 1 Supervisor appointed by the County Board Chair.

1.32 LA CROSSE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.
Membership includes 1 Supervisor appointed by the County Board Chair for a 1 year term.

1.33 LAKE NESHONOC PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT.
Pursuant to s. 33.28, Wis. Stats., membership shall include 1 person appointed by the County Board Chair with the approval of the County Board who is a member of the Planning, Resources and Development Committee or is nominated by that committee.

1.34 LAKE ONALASKA PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT.
Same as 1.34 above

1.35 MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION.
Pursuant to s. 66.0309(3)(a) Wis. Stats., the membership composition of the Commission from La Crosse County shall be as follows: The County Board Chair shall appoint 1 member subject to the confirmation of the County Board and the Governor shall appoint 2 members from each participating county. Terms are for 6 years.

1.36 WINDING RIVERS LIBRARY SYSTEM.
Membership shall be composed of 7 representatives, including 1 and not more than 2 County Board representatives of the County's Library Board, appointed by the County Board Chair with the approval of the County Board for a 3 year term.

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1.37 COULEECAP, INC.
Membership includes 2 County Board representatives appointed by the County Board Chair with the approval of the County Board.

1.38 WISCONSIN COUNTIES UTILITY TAX ASSOCIATION.
Membership includes 1 County Board representative appointed by the County Board Chair with the approval of the County Board.