

Thank you for participating as a member of the Observer Corps for the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area. Our goal is to educate LWVLA members on local government activities with the potential to refer topics for further study and advocacy.

**Your Name:** Jan Gallagher and Jean Hammons

**Name of Governmental Body (City/County/Town) Board or Committee:** La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee

**Time and Date of Meeting:** September 23, 2021 at Administrative Center, La Crosse

**Members of the Governmental Body (If available, note attendance.):** Present: Monica Kruse (Chair), Peg Isola (Co-Chair), Maureen Freedland, Kathy Allen, Mike Hesse, Pamela Viner, Tom Jacobs, Matt Nickolay, Marilyn Pedretti, Larry Slezniak. Absent: Kevin Hennessy, Kim Cable, Jose Rubio-Zepeda, Dave Hansen, Will Kratt.

**Link to the public posting of meeting information:**

**[https://apps.lacrossecounty.org/CountyMeetingDocuments/MeetingDocuments/3Other%20Committees/Comprehensive%20Plan%20Advisory%20Committee%20\(CPAC\)/2021/09%20-%20September%2023%20Agenda.pdf](https://apps.lacrossecounty.org/CountyMeetingDocuments/MeetingDocuments/3Other%20Committees/Comprehensive%20Plan%20Advisory%20Committee%20(CPAC)/2021/09%20-%20September%2023%20Agenda.pdf)**

### **Meeting Purpose and Content**

Please provide a brief statement of the meeting's purpose and a concise overview of its content in the form of a bulleted list:

- The focus was on refining La Crosse County farmland preservation policies, taking previous discussions from this committee and others. The goals are to preserve prime agricultural land into the future and at the same time provide adequate opportunity for dwelling in rural areas. The goal is to create equitable systems for all landowners.
- The secondary purpose was to discuss the essential ingredient of sustainability as the committee moves forward with policy discussions.

1. Committee Chair, Monica Kruse, read the Land Acknowledgment statement that she reads at First Nations and respectfully recognizes their resilience and stewardship of the land.

2. Monica Kruse solicited public comment. Three people from Town of Shelby attended. Shelby Town Administrator read a prepared statement with concerns that proposed land use policies and farmland preservation policies will negatively impact the potential for development in Shelby,

especially if criteria for preservation do not accurately or fairly reflect the true situation of the town. Their appeal is seeking collaborative planning.

3. Heather Quackenboss, UW-Extension, facilitated an automated question-and-response exercise (via Mertiometer) to elicit priorities regarding 17 sustainability topics identified by the UN's "Sustainability through Equitable Lens." She challenged each member to pick their top three priorities for La Crosse County. The results were immediately summarized in a bar graph and intended to be further reviewed by the staff.

4. Karl Green, UW-Extension, led the discussion of potential policies regarding development of dwelling units in agricultural districts and farmland preservation. A list of 16 potential policies were distributed based on previous discussions and input. The members were asked to break into discussion groups and reflect on the list, accepting as is or making recommendations for refinement or deletion. The recommendations were discussed, and the staff will return with a modified list.

Karl continued the discussion to focus on incentive programs for sanitary districts. Break-out groups seemed to support incentive programs and to encourage development of existing sanitary districts.

Karl introduced the goal of identifying a maximum number of development lots that would require their own well and septic (by township). He presented a grid quantifying 5 years of actual development and showing what a 25% decrease would mean. The grid also reflected areas with nitrate contamination potential. The break-out discussions seemed to support such an action step but had various ideas on how it would be calculated and enforced.

Karl asked for break-out groups to respond to a need for funding conservation and conservation education. The groups seemed unanimous in their support.

5. Monica solicited items for future agendas. One item emerged to continue to focus on sustainability.

6. The next meeting will be October 28, 2021 at 5:15 most likely online due to Covid 19 conditions.

**Identify issues that the League may want to follow for further study or advocacy:**

**Note any additional comments or feedback regarding this meeting:** The meeting was carefully planned and adhered to the agenda. Committee members were highly engaged. The atmosphere was pleasant and collegial.

Items in this section of the form are provided for the observers' benefit. They do not need to be a part of the report, but they provide a checklist of WI Open Meetings Law requirements and good practice for public meeting accessibility. Notable observations about these practices could be included in your feedback comments.

### **WI Open Meetings Law Checklist**

- Public notice (time/date/location/content) was readily available no later than 2 hours prior to the meeting.  The meeting was held in a location that was open to the public and readily accessible to members of the public who wished to attend.
- The agenda provided enough specific detail to inform interested members of the public about the content of the meeting.
- A quorum was present to conduct business.
- Meeting content was limited to only noticed agenda items, including business discussed in closed session.
- A record of motions, seconds, and roll-call votes from the meeting will be (was?) created and preserved.

### **Good Practice for Public Accessibility Checklist**

- X The meeting was available to view or listen to on-line.
- Copies of the agenda and handouts were available to the public. Important information was available for viewing via handouts, web links, or projector.
- \_\_\_ Roll call was conducted, and the public could identify members who were present or absent
- \_\_\_ Speakers were identified and could be easily heard.
- The public was given an opportunity to speak at the meeting.
- X Minutes and/or a recording of the meeting will be made available to the public.

Thank you for participating in the LWVLA Observer Corps. Your responses will help us ensure transparency in local government and assess the need for future LWVLA actions!