

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: October 28, 2021 at 5:15. The meeting was virtual.

Members of the Governmental Body (If available, note attendance.): Present: Monica Kruse (Chair), Peg Isola (Co-Chair), Kim Cable, Maureen Freedland, Jose Rubio-Zepeda, Kathy Allen, Larry Sleznikow, Marilyn Pedretti, Will Kratt, Pamela Viner, Tom Jacobs. Absent: Dave Hansen, Kevin Hennessy, Mike Hesse, Matt Nikolay; 11 /15 members were in attendance.

Link to the public posting of meeting information:

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 primary focus was on the issue of sustainability. A secondary purpose was to announce completion of the Farmland Preservation Public Hearing Draft

1. Committee Chair, Monica Kruse, read the Land Acknowledgment statement, respectfully recognizing First Nations' resilience and their stewardship of the land.
2. Monica Kruse solicited public comment. None was offered.
3. Charlie Handy, La Crosse County Planner, announced completion of the Public Hearing Draft of the Farmland Preservation document. Members received printed copies. He encouraged them to read the documents carefully and raise concerns via messaging or phone calls. Public hearings on the document will be scheduled for January and February, 2022.
4. Charlotte Peters, Administrative Assistant, shared results from the Sustainability Survey. One-hundred-forty people returned surveys. City of La Crosse residents provided the most responses (98). Overall, respondents are positive about quality of life in La Crosse County. By a slight margin, these respondents favor protecting natural resources over promoting economic growth. Lack of affordable house was one notable threat identified by respondents.
5. Jason Gilman, former Director of Planning and Development for La Crosse, gave a presentation on sustainability. He elaborated four ways to measure sustainability a.) economic, b.) environmental, c.) social and d.) cultural. Jason called these aspects, "Quadruple Bottom-Line Metrics." He pointed out that La Crosse County cannot achieve sustainability on its own and needs cooperation from private, non-profit, corporate and philanthropic entities.
6. Heather Quackenboss facilitated a virtual discussion about sustainability during which members suggested goals and objectives for possible inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan. Program goals and objectives were suggested for: Environmental Development, Future Land Use, Cultural and Natural Resources, Housing, Inter-Governmental Co-operation, Transportation and Utilities.

7. Monica solicited items for future agendas. None were offered.
8. The next meeting will be on December 2, 2021 at 5:15 in the County Administrative Center. This will be a 3-hour, in-person meeting.

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

Community response to the Sustainability Survey was limited. Perhaps the League can find ways, in addition to notices on our website, that will attract more respondents to future surveys.

Note any additional comments or feedback regarding this meeting: The meeting was carefully planned and adhered to the agenda, but the exercise in which members brainstormed sustainability program goals and objectives seemed very rushed. The tight schedule required to complete the Comprehensive Plan apparently did not allow for this process to be spread over multiple meetings.

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 meeting was virtual.*
- 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

- 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. *Most, but not all, speakers identified themselves before making contributions. Technical glitches degraded audio quality several times, but just for brief periods.*

The public was given an opportunity to speak at the meeting. *Guests were invited to contribute virtually.*

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!