

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:** December 2, 2021 at 5:15 - 8:00. The meeting was made available virtually, but most attended in-person at the County Administrative Center.

**Members of the Governmental Body (If available, note attendance.):** Present: Monica Kruse (Chair), Peg Isola (Co-Chair), Maureen Freedland (attended virtually), Jose Rubio-Zepeda, Kathy Allen, Marilyn Pedretti, Will Kratt, Pamela Viner, Tom Jacobs. Dave Hansen, Kevin Hennessy, Mike Hesse, Matt Nikolay; Absent: Kim Cable, Larry Slezniow; 13 /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 the issue of Future Land Use.

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. Shelby Town Chairman, Tim Candahl, said Shelby needs development to maintain its tax base; therefore, possibilities for property development should remain open. He said some areas of Shelby currently have adequate infrastructure for additional development but that in other areas the City of La Crosse is holding Shelby hostage with a boundary agreement. Mike Kendhammer, Shelby Plan Commission member, said that curtailing residents' ability to transfer farmland to residential is a negative and that the County should let people do what they want with their land.
3. Charlie Handy, La Crosse County Planner, shared results of the Sustainability Survey. There were 225 respondents, 50% of whom live in La Crosse. By a slight margin people favored protecting quality of natural resources over economic development.
4. Charlie gave an overview of what is included in the Comprehensive Plan's Sustainability chapter which the committee has received. He asked them to review the policy recommendations and offer feedback ASAP. The CPAC committee will be given a month to provide feedback and then the chapter will be finalized for public input.
5. Charlie outlined schedules for completing chapters of the Comprehensive Plan: Farmland Preservation is done. Sustainability is drafted. Nine other chapters are drafted. The meat of what remains is the chapter on Future Land Use. The relevant municipalities are just the 12 rural ones falling within the jurisdiction of the county. The heart of most chapters is the policy recommendations. A public-hearing draft of the entire plan will be read in February or March. The Plan must be adopted by an Ordinance that will be read 30 days later.

6. Charlie introduced the topic of Future Land Use. He indicated policy recommendations will be considered for “very rural,” “more suburban” and “more urban” municipalities in the County.
7. Heather Quackenboss facilitated individual and small group brainstorming followed by a large group discussion aimed at deciding where the County should encourage growth and where it should restrict development.
8. Monica asked for future agenda items. None were offered.
9. The next meeting will be on January 27, 2022 at 5:15 in the County Administrative Center.

**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, but the time allotted to workshop Future Land Use was limited. 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 available virtually, but most attended in person.
- ☒ 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.
- ☒ The public was given an opportunity to speak at the meeting.
- ☐ 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!