

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 (CPAC)

**Time and Date of Meeting:** January 27, 202 at 5:15 - 7:00. The meeting was attended virtually.

**Members of the Governmental Body (If available, note attendance.):** Present: Monica Kruse (Chair), Peg Isola (Co-Chair), Maureen Freedland, Jose Rubio-Zepeda, Marilyn Pedretti, Will Kratt, Pamela Viner, Tom Jacob, Dave Hansen, Kevin Hennessy, Mike Hesse, Matt Nikolay, Kathy Allen. Absent: Dave Hansen 14/15 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 to present the staff's summary of the "Future Land Use" chapter of Envision 2050 as informed by previous committee discussions and public input. Additionally, the schedule for the Comprehensive Plan rollout was confirmed.

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. While there were several guests in attendance, there were no public comments.
3. Charlie Handy, La Crosse County Planner, reported the final status of the "Future Land Use" chapter, the last chapter to be written.

Policy recommendations were summarized for "more urban," "more suburban," and "very rural," municipalities in La Crosse County where the County Board has land use jurisdiction. He was able to hold a stakeholders' meeting of all municipalities on January 13, sharing a scoring system

to meet core values and sustainability guidelines. Policies, he said, are the heart of each chapter. For example:

- Development in more urban towns like Shelby: Create financial incentives for municipalities and developers to encourage further development.
- Development in more suburban towns like Holland or Barre: Require developers to add design features to this style, e.g., trails, parks, community facilities.
- Development in rural lots, farthest from the metro: Provide broadband. Work with large employers to promote alternative shifts and work from home.

4. The schedule leading to adoption of “Envision 2050” La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan was agreed as follows:

February 2 The final version of the plan will be published online for the committee to review in its entirety (although not yet professionally edited for grammar and maps, etc.) Committee members will confirm their support for the content or register objections/corrections to staff.

February 11, 5:15 P.M. Next committee meeting (Virtual) CPAC adopts the plan

March 17, 5:00 P.M. Public Hearing, County Administrative Center

March 17, 6:00 P.M. County Board’s first reading of the plan, County Adm Center

April 11, 6:00 PM. County Board policy discussion, second reading and adoption of Ordinance.

**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 an opportunity for committee feedback and critique of the strategic planning process. The committee expressed gratitude to staff for managing such an inclusive, participatory process both for the committee members themselves (many citizens and not elected officials) but also stakeholders and municipalities. The process helped to find common ground. They believe that the document will be a guiding document for future decisions. They appreciate the foundation of core values and the fact that sustainability is embedded in the plan, protecting resources.

Items in the following 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 this time 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 created and preserved by staff (but available only on request.)

### **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 (but only on request.)