

CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
April 15th, 2025

The Crawford County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at the Crawford County Administration Building in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin on Tuesday, April 15th, 2025.

The Board was called to order by Chairman Tom Cornford. Roll was called with all members present.

The Chairman led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting was verified as being properly posted.

Motion by Munson, second by Kuhn to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Cornford has appointed Owen DuCharme to serve on the Personnel Committee, following Supervisor Gerry Krachey's request to be removed.

Motion by Orr, second by Koch to approve the appointment of Owen DuCharme to the Personnel Committee. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.

Carol Roth provided an update to the County Board members on the upcoming **"Alice in Dairyland"** event, which will be hosted in Crawford County this year.

Festivities will begin on Thursday, May 15th with *"Brisket with Ben"* at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's Catholic Church in Prairie du Chien. This kickoff event is free and open to the public.

On Friday, May 16th, the Gays Mills Commerce Center will host a showcase celebrating *"everything dairy"*. A social hour begins at 5 p.m., followed by a program at 7 p.m.

The event concludes on Saturday, May 17th, with the finale night at the Dousman House. A social hour will take place from 4-5 p.m., dinner from 5-6:30 p.m., and then the program will continue at the Performing Arts Center from 7-9 p.m., where the 78th **"Alice in Dairyland"** will be announced. The evening will conclude with dessert at 9 p.m.

Greg Callin of Kraemer Brothers provided the County Board with an update on the new jail remodel and construction project. He also meets quarterly with the Finance Committee to report on the project's financial status.

Monthly on-site OAC (Owner, Architect, and Contractor) meetings are held to review overall project coordination. Additionally, bi-weekly progress meetings take place, where the field operations

team meets with subcontractors and their foremen to conduct a two-week lookback and lookahead to monitor progress and plan upcoming work.

The building structure has made significant progress over the past month and continues to remain on schedule and within budget. The structural phase of the new facility is nearing completion, with CMU (concrete masonry unit) bearing walls expected to be finished within the next two weeks and the final precast roof plans scheduled for installation by the end of the month. Interior MEP (mechanical, electrical, and plumbing) rough ins are currently underway, while roofing, slab work, and structural steel installation for the connector have also begun. In early May, the exterior of the building will start to take shape with the commencement of stone veneer installation.

Callin expressed his gratitude to the County for their endorsement, which played a key role in securing the bid for the new jail project in Green County.

A scheduled walkthrough of the new facility will take place during the August County Board meeting.

PROCLAMATION

“Home is Where the Habitat Is”

WHEREAS healthy, fertile soil and clean water is the lifeblood of nutrition and sustenance throughout the world, and soil conservation is a benefit to everyone; and,

WHEREAS effective conservation practices ensure soil, water, animals, plants, and air can provide a rich standard of living; and,

WHEREAS our survival and continued production and access to quality food and water depends upon the robust management of diverse natural resources nationwide; and,

WHEREAS stewardship calls upon every individual to help conserve these precious resources to ensure their prosperity for generations to come; and,

WHEREAS a focus on restoring and protecting **native habitats** plays a vital role in maintaining biodiversity, supporting pollinators, and enhancing ecosystem health, thereby strengthening the foundation for long-term soil and water conservation efforts; and,

WHEREAS the theme for the 2025 Stewardship Week is “*Home is Where the Habitat Is*”, emphasizing the essential role of both natural and managed habitats in sustaining healthy ecosystems. This theme highlights that our homes — whether urban, rural, or wild — depend on the health of the

habitats around us, and that protecting these habitats ensures a thriving environment for all living things;

THEREFORE, I do hereby proclaim the week of **April 27 – May 4, 2025**, as **Stewardship Week**, with an emphasis on the importance of preserving and restoring **native habitats** as part of our collective conservation efforts and celebrating the theme “*Home is Where the Habitat Is*”.

Dated April 15th, 2025.

Tom Cornford, County Board Chairman

Motion by DuCharme, second by Munson to adopt the Soil & Water Stewardship Week Proclamation. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 7-2025

RESOLUTION APPROVING ACCOUNTS TO BE CARRIED FORWARD INTO 2025

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has recommended that the following 2024 Revenue and Expense accounts be carried forward into 2025:

State Aid Veteran’s Services Grant – 100.00.42781
GPS/GIS Expenses 911 Coordinator – 100.13.51340.335

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Crawford County Board of Supervisors approve the carryover of the aforementioned accounts.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Gary Koch, Chairman	Gerry Krachey
Bruce Strnad	Wayne Jerrett
Greg Russell	

Motion by Koch, second by Gilberts to adopt the Resolution Approving Accounts to be Carried Forward into 2025. The motion carried unanimously.

Dave Troester, Land Conservationist, explained the next resolution to the County Board members. This resolution urges the Wisconsin State Legislature to meet the statutory requirement of

funding staff positions in every Land and Water Conservation Department at 100% of the first, 70% of the second, and 50% of each additional position. It also urges them to consider increasing the base funding for the program to \$20.2 Million.

Motion by Munson, second by Heilman to allow the Clerk to read the following resolution in Title Only. The motion carried unanimously, and the Clerk read the resolution in Title Only.

RESOLUTION NO. 8-2025

RESOLUTION URGING SUPPORT FOR AN INCREASE IN BASE FUNDING FOR COUNTY CONSERVATION STAFFING TO \$20.2 MILLION

WHEREAS, County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) staff are relied upon to carry out a range of Wisconsin's state agricultural and resource management programs that reduce non-point pollution, preserve farmland, protect waterfront property, reclaim non-metallic mines, limit aquatic invasive species control, manage forests, and reduce floods; **and**,

WHEREAS, LWCDs assist Wisconsin's farmers in many ways, including supporting producer-led watershed groups, developing nutrient management plans, engineering manure storage and transfer systems, and applying conservation practices that promote soil health and build profitability; **and**,

WHEREAS, the shared conservation work of LWCD professionals and landowners has major water quality benefits, including preventing soil erosion, protecting drinking water supply, increasing rainwater infiltration into groundwater aquifers, and restoring native habitat; **and**,

WHEREAS, LWCD experts are trusted, technical advisors that consult with landowners to understand their land management goals and then propose customized solutions that includes project planning and contracting, engineering, quality control, and securing of cost-share funding to reduce project expenses to; **and**,

WHEREAS, building a partnership based on trust and understanding with farmer and landowner clients cannot happen instantly, but rather, requires a sustained commitment over time from LWCD professionals; **and**,

WHEREAS, LWCDs leverage cost-share funding from federal and private sources, providing a 2:1 return on the state investment, and spurring local economic growth in industries including agriculture, construction, tourism, forestry, and recreation; **and**,

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin codifies LWCDs' role in carrying out state conservation standards via Wis. Stats Chap. 92, defining a goal that the State fund staff positions in every LWCD at 100% of the first, 70% of the second, and 50% of each additional staff position; **and**,

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has not ensured baseline support of LWCDs by meeting this funding goal since its inception, and in the 18-year period from 2006 to 2024, base funding

relative to LWCD staffing needs decreased by 24%; **and**,

WHEREAS, supporting county LWCDs is a widely supported priority supported by conservation, environmental and local government groups alike.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Crawford County does hereby urge the Wisconsin State Legislature to strengthen the viability of the State's County Land and Water Conservation Staffing program by increasing base funding for the program by \$11,035,900 on an annual basis to a total of \$20.2 million annually.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the resolution be sent to WI Land & Water Conservation Association, all State Legislators, the Governor, DATCP Secretary, DNR Secretary, DOA Secretary, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and the Wisconsin Towns Association.

Submitted this 11th day of March, 2025.

Gary Koch, Chairman
Mary Kuhn
Owen DuCharme

Kate Krachey
Chad Sime

Passed and approved this 15th day of April, 2025.

Tom Cornford
County Board Chairman

ATTEST:
Roberta A. Fisher
County Clerk

Motion by Anderson, second by Strnad to adopt the Resolution Urging Support for an Increase in Base Funding for County Conservation Staffing to \$20.2 Million. Motion carried with no negative votes cast.

Under committee reports, Dan McWilliams, HHSD Director, informed the County Board today that our letter outlining the county's concerns about potential federal cuts to Medicaid and Social Security block grants was heard. McWilliams also gave an update on the "Wisconsin reconciliation bill", which could significantly impact Medicaid and other social programs.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is restructuring by creating a new Administration for a Healthy America, which will combine several existing agencies. This restructuring also involves reducing the department's workforce by 20,000 employees and consolidating divisions and regional offices.

The Highway Department is looking into consolidating a couple of its satellite facilities. Highway Commissioner Kyle Kozelka and Highway committee member Gerry Krachey are leading this effort. As part of the consolidation, the Gays Mills facility will be relocated. The department is working to cover the associated costs using its existing fund balance.

Shawn Lenzendorf has officially started his new position as Emergency Management Director.

In June, the Fair Committee will begin recruiting volunteers to help with the Fair.

The Community Development agent is working on an initiative to promote Agri-Tourism in Crawford County.

The Veterans Department continues to serve the veterans in the county, and last year there were 1800 walk-ins above and beyond any scheduled appointments.

**County Veterans Service Commission
Crawford County, Wisconsin**

Chair:	Charlie Coleman
Member:	Lewis Knutson, Sr.
Member:	Dean LaPointe

Report of the Crawford County Veterans Service Commission for the calendar year 2024.

TO: The Honorable Board of Supervisors
Crawford County, Wisconsin

Pursuant to the requirements of the Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter 45.14, we submit herewith the annual report of amounts expended on behalf of need veterans and the Veterans Services Commission for the calendar year 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Charlie Coleman, Chairman
Lewis Knutson, Sr., Member
Dean LaPointe, Member**

The CASA report was presented for review. The Balance on hand as of January 1, 2025, is \$1,507.71.

The Crawford County Annual Department Reports are now available and can be checked out at the County Clerk's office. The reports can also be found on the All County (Z:) drive.

There being no further business to come before the Board, there was a motion by Anderson, second by Krachey to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
(ss)
COUNTY OF CRAWFORD

I, Roberta A. Fisher, Clerk of County of Crawford, State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Journal of Proceedings of the Crawford County Board of Supervisors at the Regular Session on April 15th, 2025.

Roberta A. Fisher, Crawford County Clerk