

CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
June 17th, 2025

The Crawford County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at the Crawford County Administration Building in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin on Tuesday, June 17th, 2025.

The Board was called to order by Chairman Tom Cornford. Roll was called with all members present, except Carl Orr, Supervisor District #6, who was excused by the Chair.

The Chairman led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Under Opening Remarks, the Chairman informed all members that there will be an “Appreciation Taco Bar” honoring all Crawford County employees immediately following the County Board session today.

The meeting was verified as being properly posted.

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

Hettie Brown, Couleecap Executive Director, appeared before the board today to present Couleecap’s 2024 Annual Impact Report.

Couleecap provides services to about 23,000 residents in Crawford, Monroe, LaCrosse, and Vernon counties. County Board Supervisor Owen DuCharme and Larry Quamme serve on the Board of Directors. Roger Slama, Mark Forsythe, and Renee Salmon also represent the county at large on the BOD.

The mission of Couleecap is to fight poverty and create opportunities for economic and social mobility so that all people succeed in thriving communities. 40% of Crawford County households struggle to make ends meet.

Couleecap operates a food pantry in Prairie du Chien, providing essential food assistances to community members. In addition to serving individuals who visit the pantry, they also deliver food to households that are unable to travel. Couleecap supports local food access through initiatives like distributing Farmer’s Market Coupons and offering special holiday basket programs to ensure families have enough food during the holiday season. In total, 3,045,050 pounds of food were distributed, and 25,506 customers were able to purchase affordable items through the pantry.

Couleecap provides weatherization services to help improve energy efficiency and safety, including emergency furnace and water heater replacements. In 2024, the program briefly included emergency air conditioner replacements, though this service has since been paused. They also assist residents in accessing Focus on Energy HOME and HEAR rebates to further reduce energy costs. It’s important to note that the proposed federal budget does not include funding for the LIHEAP and Weatherization programs, which may impact future service availability.

Federal support and emergency housing proposed funding cuts could increase evictions and place more burden on local resources.

Couleecap's core funding through Community Service Block Grant has been eliminated in the proposed federal budget.

Sherry Quamme of the Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission announced that Crawford County generated \$73 million last year—marking the third consecutive year of record-breaking economic impact. Statewide, Wisconsin welcomed a record 114.4 million visits in the past year.

The Wisconsin Great River Road and Crawford County, in collaboration with regional partners, have played a key role in driving continued and growing interest in travel to the area. The *Great River Road Wisconsin All-American Road Travel & Visitors Guide* features a full page dedicated to Crawford County, highlighting its attractions, annual festivals, and community events.

Francis Schelfhout of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation was unable to attend today's meeting. In his absence, Sherry Quamme provided an update to the committee on the Mississippi River Trail Route Resolution that is presented today.

The resolution includes new language clarifying the connection between Wisconsin and neighboring Iowa. The added language specifically outlines the current route that links the two states. Quamme read the updated route details aloud to the committee members.

Motion by Munson, second by Heilman to allow the Clerk to read the following Resolution in title only. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 9-2025

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE DESIGNATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRAIL WITHIN THE LIMITS OF CRAWFORD COUNTY

WHEREAS bicycle tourism is a growing industry in North America, contributing \$47 billion a year to the economies of communities that provide facilities for such tourists; and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail is a national bicycle route, along the length of the Mississippi River, through ten states, from the headwaters at Lake Itasca to the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail was designated as one of only 16 National Millennium Trails which honor the past and imagine the future by preserving and commemorating major events and aspects of America's history and culture; and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail provides access to and promotes the scenic, historic, archaeological, cultural, recreational and natural qualities of the Mississippi River and its amenities; and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail is located primarily on the Wisconsin All-American Great River Road National Scenic Byway (WIS 35) between Prescott and Illinois State Line, but also routed on other state and county highways, local roads or alternative routes for bicycling; and

WHEREAS the Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission and Crawford County, with the cooperation of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and other stakeholders, have proposed a specific route to be designated as Mississippi River Trail; and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail implements Wisconsin Statutes Chapters 1.11, 84.01(35), 84.60, and 85.02, 349.23 and Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter Trans 400 which required that “due consideration to establishing bikeways and pedestrian ways in all new highway construction and reconstruction projects”; and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail adds value to existing roads and trails; and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail is largely ready to sign and market, and many suggested improvements are already planned; and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail will contribute to sustainable economic development in 33 Wisconsin Mississippi River communities; and

WHEREAS the proposed route for the Mississippi River Trail comes through Crawford County and can therefore provide a benefit to our residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail will provide increased recreational and transportation choices for individuals to enjoy the outdoors as well as provide health, economic, and quality of life benefits; and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail continues Wisconsin’s tradition of honoring and enhancing the Mississippi River by offering multiple bicycling experiences, each in a unique river landscape; and

WHEREAS we have investigated the proposed route and found it to be a suitable route, and desire that the route be designated so that it can be mapped and signed, thereby promoting bicycle tourism in our area; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Crawford County in order to receive full benefit of the Mississippi River Trail, hereby expresses its approval and support for the development of the Mississippi River Trail, and requests that the appropriate officials see to it that the route is officially designated along the following segments within the limits of Crawford County:

SOUTHBOUND: WIS 35 from north county line south to the intersection with County Trunk Highway (CTH) K, turn right and continue west and south on CTH K/Main Street to the intersection

with Washington Street, turn left and proceed east on Washington Street to the intersection with Beaumont Road, turn right and proceed south on Beaumont Road to the intersection with United States Highway (USH) 18, turn left onto multi-use path along north side of USH 18 and proceed east along path to the intersection with WIS 35, turn right onto multi-use path along west side of WIS 35 and proceed south along path until path ends at intersection with Sugarloaf Trail, proceed south on WIS 35 to south county line.

NORTHBOUND: WIS 35 from south county line north to the intersection with Southtown Lane, cross WIS 35 and turn right onto multi-use path along west side of WIS 35 and proceed north along path to the intersection with USH 18, cross USH 18 and turn left onto multi-use path along north side of USH 18 and proceed west along path to the intersection with Beaumont Road, turn right and proceed north on Beaumont Road to the intersection with Washington Street, turn left and proceed west on Washington Street to the intersection with CTH K/Main Street, turn right and proceed north on CTH K/Main Street to the intersection with WIS 35, turn left and continue north on WIS 35 to north county line.

CONNECTION TO IA-MRT (connections #1-2 are in Pierce County, connections #3-4 are in Buffalo County, connection #5 is in La Crosse County):

#6 Crawford County/Town of Freeman (near Lansing, IA):

From the intersection with WIS 82, proceed west on WIS 82 to Iowa state line.

#7 Crawford County/Town of Prairie du Chien/City of Prairie du Chien/Town of Bridgeport (near Marquette, IA):

From the intersection with WIS 27, proceed west on WIS 27 to the intersection with WIS 60/United States Highway (USH) 18, proceed straight and west on WIS 60/USH 18 to Iowa state line.

(See attached map)

Dated 17th day of June 2025.

Tom Cornford
Crawford County Board Chairman

Motion by DuCharme, second by Anderson to adopt the Resolution to Support the Designation of the Mississippi River Trail Within the Limits of Crawford County. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.

RESOLUTION 10-2025

WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK RESOLUTION

TO: THE HONORABLE COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE CRAWFORD COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMITTEE:

RE: RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF APRIL 21ST THROUGH APRIL 25TH, 2025
AS “WORKZONE SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK” IN CRAWFORD COUNTY

WHEREAS, in 1999 the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) partnered with the American Association of State and Highway officials (AASHTO) and more recently with the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) to create the National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week campaign, held annually in April prior to the construction season for much of the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin County Highway Association is asking all seventy-two (72) counties in the state to unite and kick-off “Work Zone Safety Awareness Week” with a resolution and campaign to raise awareness for its workers and those of various highway contractors performing work for the counties; and,

WHEREAS, construction and maintenance activities on our streets and highways periodically require that work zones be established; and,

WHEREAS, according to data from UW Madison’s Traffic Operations and Safety Laboratory’s Community Maps, in the past five years, work zones saw 56 deaths, and 3,680 injuries from a total of 10,357 crashes; and,

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has averaged 2,164 work zone crashes per year; and,

WHEREAS, speeding, tailgating, and distracted driving are the leading causes of work zone crashes in Wisconsin; and,

WHEREAS, through their enforcement activities and other participation, the Crawford County Sheriff’s Office, Wisconsin State Patrol, and the Crawford County Highway Department will work to make “Work Zone Safety Awareness Week” a success; and,

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration has designated April 21st through April 25th, 2025 as National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week with this year’s theme “Respect the Zone, So We All Get Home”, which focuses on awareness to all drivers in work zones of their speed and proximity to workers,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Crawford County Highway Committee that the week of April 21st through April 25th, 2025 be designated as “Work Zone Safety Awareness Week” in Crawford County.

Dated this 24th day of April 2025.

CRAWFORD COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMITTEE:

Carl Orr	Gerald Krachey
Derek Flansburgh	Bruce Strnad
Mark Gilberts	Kyle Kozelka, Hwy Commissioner

Adopted this 17th day of June 2024

Tom Cornford, County Board Chairman

ATTEST:

Roberta A. Fisher, County Clerk

Motion by Koch, second by Heilman to adopt the Resolution Designating the Week of April 21st through April 25th, 2025, as “Work Zone Safety Awareness Week” in Crawford County. The motion carried unanimously.

Mark Peterson, Corporation Counsel, provided a brief explanation of the Resolution Confirming and Ratifying the Authority of Counsel for Crawford County to Add Additional Defendants to Opioid Litigation, Including MDL 2804. The resolution grants the County’s legal counsel the authority to include additional parties as defendants in the ongoing opioid litigation.

Motion by Krachey, second by Munson 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. 11-2025

Confirming and Ratifying the Authority of Counsel for Crawford County to Add Additional Defendants to Opioid Litigation, Including in MDL 2804

WHEREAS, the County Board of Supervisors previously authorized the County to enter into an engagement agreement with von Briesen & Roper, s.c., Crueger Dickinson LLC and Simmons Hanly Conroy LLC (the “Law Firms”) to pursue litigation against manufacturers, distributors, and retailers, among others, of opioid pharmaceuticals (the “Opioid Defendants”) in an effort to hold the Opioid Defendants responsible for the opioid epidemic in the County’s community;

WHEREAS, on behalf of the County, the Law Firms filed a lawsuit against the Opioid Defendants;

WHEREAS, the Law Firms filed similar lawsuits on behalf of 66 other Wisconsin counties and all Wisconsin cases were coordinated with thousands of other lawsuits filed against the same or substantially similar parties as the Opioid Defendants in the Northern District of Ohio, captioned *In re: Opioid Litigation*, MDL 2804 (the “Litigation”);

WHEREAS, four (4) additional Wisconsin counties (Milwaukee, Dane, Waukesha, and Walworth) hired separate counsel and joined the Litigation;

WHEREAS, since the inception of the Litigation, the Law Firms have coordinated with counsel from around the country (including counsel for Milwaukee, Dane, Waukesha, and Walworth

Counties) to prepare the County's case for trial and engage in settlement discussions with the Opioid Defendants;

WHEREAS, to date, through nationwide settlements, the Law Firms have achieved considerable success on behalf of the County in holding the Opioid Defendants responsible for their role in creating or maintaining the opioid epidemic;

WHEREAS, through the course of ongoing discovery and investigation concerning the opioid epidemic and parties potentially responsible therefore, it was determined that meritorious opioid-related claims exist against additional parties, including but not limited to the entities listed on Exhibit A hereto, and that they should be added as defendants in the Litigation;

WHEREAS, the engagement agreement with the Law Firms provides "depending upon the results of initial investigations of the facts and circumstances surrounding the potential claim(s), there may be additional parties sought to be made responsible;"

WHEREAS, while the County believes the engagement agreement with the Law Firms provided the Law Firms with adequate authority to add additional parties to be held responsible, the County understands that recently those parties questioned that authority, and therefore, for the avoidance of doubt, the County is adopting this Resolution confirming and ratifying the Law Firms' authority to add additional parties, including but not limited to the entities listed on Exhibit A, as defendants in the Litigation;

WHEREAS, to avoid any confusion surrounding the County's authorization to the Law Firms to amend the pleadings in the Litigation to include additional parties, including but not limited to the entities listed on Exhibit A as named defendants in MDL 2804, this Resolution is intended to serve as confirmation and ratification of such authorization; and

WHEREAS, the County, by this Resolution, intends to confirm and ratify the authority of the Law Firms to amend the pleadings in the Litigation to add additional parties, including but not limited to the entities listed on Exhibit A as defendants in MDL 2804, or to commence appropriate federal or state court proceedings against such entities, and further intends to authorize Corporation Counsel to execute and deliver any and all other and further documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: the County Board of Supervisors hereby confirms and ratifies the authority of:

1. The Law Firms to file appropriate pleadings in MDL 2804 or appropriate federal or state court proceedings to add additional parties, including but not limited to the entities listed on Exhibit A as defendants.
2. The Corporation Counsel, Board Chair or other authorized official to execute and deliver any and all other and further documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all actions heretofore taken by the Board of Supervisors and other appropriate public officers and agents of the County with respect to the matters contemplated under this Resolution are hereby ratified, confirmed, and approved.

Adopted by the Crawford County Board of Supervisors this 17th day of June 2025.

Roberta A. Fisher
County Clerk

Motion by Anderson, second by Kuhn to adopt the Resolution Confirming and Ratifying the Authority of Counsel for Crawford County to Add Additional Defendants to Opioid Litigation, Including MDL 2804. The motion carried unanimously.

The Clerk explained to the County Board the Resolution to Amend the Fixed Asst Policy. The auditors, who were here in early May, recommended updating the policy to match the new federal threshold of \$10,000. Corporation Counsel has drafted the Resolution to make this change.

RESOLUTION NO. 12-2025

RESOLUTION TO AMEND FIXED ASSET POLICY

WHEREAS, County's Auditor has recommended that the County's "Fixed Asset Policy" (as Amended in 2022) be amended to conform with current Code of Federal Regulations Federal Grant Guidelines; **and**,

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has determined that it is in the best interest of the County to update and modify in some respects the "Capitalization & Depreciation" amounts and Definition of "Custodial Property" as enumerated in that "Policy" pursuant to that recommendation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Crawford County Board does hereby authorize the Finance Committee to establish the "Fixed Asset Policy" as set forth on the attached Exhibit "A."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the "Fixed Asset Policy" shall incorporate by reference and reflect any future amendments, revisions or modifications to Section 200.439 of the Code of Federal Regulations regarding Capital Expenditure Amount Thresholds.

Submitted this 4th day of June 2025.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

**Gary Koch, Chairman
Gerald Krachey
Bruce Strnad**

**Greg Russell
Wayne Jerrett**

Passed and approved this 17th day of June 2025.

Tom Cornford
County Board Chairman

ATTEST:

Roberta A. Fisher
County Clerk

Motion by Koch, second by Strnad to adopt the Resolution to Amend Fixed Asset Policy.
The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports Summary

Personnel: Brad Steiner, Personnel Chair, reported there are current openings in both the Sheriff's Department and Health & Human Services. He also announced that the Clerk of Court, Nancy Dowling, has submitted her retirement letter. The judge will appoint someone to serve the remainder of her term.

Finance: Gary Koch, Finance Chair, said the 2026 budget process will begin soon. They are waiting on final audit figures. The 2024 Financial Audit will be presented at the July Finance Committee meeting.

Highway: Kyle Kozelka, Highway Commissioner, reported the department is in the peak of construction season. The Highway Committee is reviewing proposals for site development of the new shop off County X. Proposals are due tomorrow and will be reviewed Thursday.

Land Conservation: The department is updating the 10-year Land and Water Plan. A draft is expected this fall. It's a major project that will take considerable time and resources.

Public Safety: Nate Bremmer has been appointed to the transition team for the move from the old jail to the new facility. He'll be helping with policy development, construction oversight, contractor meetings, and providing weekly updates.

Fair: Mary Kuhn reminded everyone that the fair is just two months away and encouraged volunteers. A sign-up schedule will be sent out soon.

Veterans Committee: The committee met this morning. The County Commission Chair outlined his roles and responsibilities in supporting county veterans.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee: The board was informed that there has been significant improvement in the Justice Program since hiring Susan Hilger. She's outsourcing key services, leading to cost savings for the county.

Gionne Collins, Property Lister, reminded the Board that in June of last year, a resolution was approved to move forward with an Assessor's Plat in the Town of Clayton. The project is now complete, and all required notices under s. 70.27 Wis. Stats. have been sent and were on file in the County Clerk's office for the required 30-day period. Collins is now requesting County Board approval of the Assessor's Plat and authorization for the County Board Chair and County Clerk to sign.

Motion by Heilman, second by Kuhn to approve the Assessor's Plat in the Town of Clayton and authorize the County Board Chairman and County Clerk to sign. The motion carried unanimously with no negative votes cast.

Marc Myhre, Emergency Management, presented the Crawford County Emergency Management Operations Plan for the upcoming County Line Country Fest, scheduled for July 31st – August 2nd in the Town of Bridgeport. This plan is required as part of the large assembly license for the event.

Motion by Krachey, second by Koch for the County Board members to move into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(e) to discuss Gays Mills property. The motion carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

Motion by Koch, second by Kuhn to move into open session pursuant to Section 19.85 (2). The motion carried unanimously.

No action was taken during or after closed session.

There being no further business to come before the Board, there was a motion by Steiner, second by Strnad 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 June 17th, 2025.

Roberta A. Fisher, Crawford County Clerk