

**CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
April 21, 2026**

The Crawford County Board of Supervisors met for their organizational meeting at the Crawford County Administration Building in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin on Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

The Board was called to order by Chairman Tom Cornford. Roll was called with all members present, except Supervisor Russell 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 they are invited to participate in a walkthrough of the new Justice Center immediately following today's meeting. Chairman Cornford also congratulated all supervisors on their newly elected positions. Two new County Board Supervisors were welcomed: Brian Reynolds, representing District #12, and Al Thompson, representing District # 7.

Brian Reynolds stood and introduced himself to the County Board. He shared that he graduated from high school in 1976 and went on to serve the city of Milwaukee for 26 years as a police officer, firefighter, and EMS provider. After retiring, he relocated to Crawford County. His wife, Crisse Reynolds, is the county's animal control officer and serves as the Clerk for the Village of Ferryville.

Brian is actively involved with the Seneca Fire and EMS services, and he continues to travel to Milwaukee once a month to teach Pediatric Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support at the Children's Hospital. He expressed his enthusiasm for joining the Board and said it was a pleasure to meet everyone.

Al Thompson stood and introduced himself to the County Board. He shared that he graduated from De Soto High School, is married, and has three sons and three grandchildren. He enjoys tractor pulling and has served on the Town of Freeman Board since 2018, including the past four years as Town Board Chairman. He noted that he finds his work on the town board very fulfilling.

Al and his wife, Peggy, live on a 112-year-old, 500-acre family farm and own an excavating business. His wife Peggy serves as the Clerk for the Town of Freeman.

The Chairman verified the meeting as being properly posted.

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

The Crawford County Clerk, Roberta A. Fisher issued the Oath of Office to the County Board of Supervisors. The Supervisors then signed the Oath to be filed in the County Clerk's Office.

**DISTRICT 1**

Prairie du Chien, 1 <sup>st</sup> Ward.....	Bruce Strnad
<b>DISTRICT 2</b>	
Prairie du Chien, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ward.....	Linda Munson
<b>DISTRICT 3</b>	
Prairie du Chien, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ward.....	Gary Koch
<b>DISTRICT 4</b>	
Prairie du Chien, 4 <sup>th</sup> Ward.....	Brad Steiner
<b>DISTRICT 5</b>	
Prairie du Chien, 5 <sup>th</sup> Ward.....	Mark Gilberts
<b>DISTRICT 6</b>	
Prairie du Chien, 6 <sup>th</sup> Ward.....	Carl Orr
<b>DISTRICT 7</b>	
Town of Freeman, Villages of DeSoto (Ward 2) and Ferryville.....	Al Thompson
<b>DISTRICT 8</b>	
Town of Clayton (Ward 3) and Utica, Village of Mt. Sterling.....	Mary Kuhn
<b>DISTRICT 9</b>	
Town of Clayton (Ward 1) and Village of Soldiers Grove.....	Harrison Heilman
<b>DISTRICT 10</b>	
Town of Clayton (Ward 2) and Village of Gays Mills.....	Craig Anderson
<b>DISTRICT 11</b>	
Towns of Haney and Scott, and Village of Bell Center.....	Wayne Jerrett, Jr.
<b>DISTRICT 12</b>	
Town of Seneca (Ward 1) and Village of Lynxville.....	Brian Reynolds
<b>DISTRICT 13</b>	
Town of Seneca (Ward 2), Town of Eastman (Ward 1) and Town of PdC (Ward 2) and Village of Eastman.....	Greg Russell
<b>DISTRICT 14</b>	
Towns of Eastman (Ward 2), Marietta and Wauzeka (Ward 2) and Village of Steuben.....	Gari Lorenz
<b>DISTRICT 15</b>	
Town of Wauzeka (Ward 1) and Village of Wauzeka.....	Gerald Krachey
<b>DISTRICT 16</b>	
Town of Bridgeport.....	Derek Flansburgh
<b>DISTRICT 17</b>	
Town of PdC (Ward 1).....	Tom Cornford

Chairman Cornford stepped down from the Chair, and Vice-Chairman Steiner conducted the election for the office of the County Board Chairman.

**Motion by Orr, second by Krachey to nominate Tom Cornford for the position of County Board Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Munson, second by Koch that the nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast for Tom Cornford as County Board Chairman. Motion carried with no negative votes cast.**

Cornford resumed the Chair and called for the election of Vice-Chairman.

**Motion by Jerrett, second by Krachey to nominate Brad Steiner for the position of County Board Vice-Chairman. Motion carried with no negative votes cast.**

**Motion by Gilberts, second by Kuhn that nominations be closed and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Brad Steiner as County Board Vice-Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.**

The next order of business was the election of the Highway Committee.

The following nominations were made: Wayne Jerrett, Carl Orr, Gerry Krachey, Bruce Strnad, Mark Gilberts, and Derek Flansburgh.

**Motion by Kuhn, second by Koch to close nominations. Motion carried with no negative votes cast.**

The Chairman appointed Supervisors Craig Anderson and Mary Kuhn to tally the votes for the Highway Committee.

Supervisor Craig Anderson asked the Board Chairman if the nominees could provide a brief explanation of why they believe they would be well suited to serve on the Highway Committee, and the nominees spoke on their own behalf.

After all the votes were tabulated, the following Supervisors were elected to serve on the Highway Committee: Carl Orr, Gerry Krachey, Derek Flansburgh, Wayne Jerrett, and Mark Gilberts.

Chairman Cornford asked for a motion to appoint Russ Gillitzer as a citizen member of the Land Conservation Committee.

**Motion by Koch, second by Kuhn to approve the appointment of Russ Gillitzer as a citizen member of the Land Conservation Committee. Motion carried unanimously.**

Chairman Cornford announced the appointment recommendations to the Board of Adjustment. Ron Schneider for a 3-year term; Phil Mueller as a 1<sup>st</sup> alternate for a 2-year term; and Steven Querin-Schultz as a 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate for a 3-year term. Cornford asked for a motion to approve.

**Motion by Kuhn, second by Koch to approve the appointments to the Board of Adjustment as stated above. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.**

Chairman Cornford called for a motion to approve the reappointment of Larry Quamme to the Couleecap Board, as well as the appointment of newly elected Supervisor Brian Reynolds.

**Motion by Krachey, second by Heilman to approve the appointments of Larry Quamme and Brian Reynolds to the Couleecap Board. The motion carried unanimously.**

Chairman Cornford called for a motion to submit the names of Lara Czajkowski Higgins and Kate Krachey to Governor Evers for appointment to the Lower Wisconsin Riverway Board as the representatives from Crawford County.

**Motion by Kuhn, second by Anderson to approve submitting the names of Lara Czajkowski Higgins and Kate Krachey to Governor Evers for appointment to the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board as representatives from Crawford County. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.**

Branden Yates, Government Relations Specialist for External Affairs with Dairyland Power Cooperative, appeared before the County Board to provide an overview of a proposed transmission line currently under development that would span portions of Minnesota and Wisconsin. Yates explained that Dairyland Power Cooperative is a not-for-profit generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in La Crosse, Wisconsin, serving approximately 750,000 people.

The Board then heard from Laurie Dunham, Director of Development for GridLiance Heartland, LLC, a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Transmission. Dunham reported that GridLiance develops, finances, constructs, operates, and maintains transmission assets across North America, with approximately 3,200 circuit miles of high-voltage transmission assets in operation or development across 19 states and Canada.

Dunham provided an overview of how electricity is delivered to consumers and described the role of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), a regional transmission organization responsible for operating the electric grid and conducting regional transmission planning across 15 states and the Canadian province of Manitoba. She noted that MISO is a not-for-profit entity regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and is responsible for identifying needed transmission projects.

Dunham reported that congestion within the MISO system is projected to increase over the next 20 years as electrical demand grows by an estimated 1.14% annually, adding approximately 5,000 MW of additional demand. Congestion occurs when the amount of power flowing through a transmission line exceeds its capacity.

Following more than two years of study, MISO developed a plan to address anticipated congestion issues. The resulting initiative, known as MISO Tranche 2.1, consists of an approximately 1,800-mile, 765 kV transmission backbone designed to support long-term system reliability. It includes 24 projects across the MISO Midwest subregion. Dairyland Power has been assigned responsibility for a portion of one of these projects, known as the MariBell segment, which extends from Marion, Minnesota, to Bell Center, Wisconsin. This segment includes approximately 140 miles of 765/161 kV double-circuit transmission line.

The project is currently in its early stages. Public outreach is underway, with permitting activities expected to begin later this year. The proposed design includes steel lattice structures between 150 and 200 feet in height, with a right-of-way width of up to 250 feet. The project intends to utilize existing transmission corridors where possible. Environmental studies are ongoing to minimize impacts to federal, state, and Tribal lands, as well as natural, cultural, and historic resources.

Rob Maly, Staff Attorney for Dairyland Power, continued the presentation by outlining the permitting process. He noted that two potential route options were presented during public open houses held in March. Dairyland Power will submit a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) application to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) later this year. The permitting process includes the following steps: public information meetings; filing of the CPCN application; issuance of a Notice of Proceeding by the PSCW, which informs the public of opportunities to participate; an environmental review; Administrative Law Judge hearings; and, ultimately, an open meeting and final decision by the PSCW.

The floor was opened to questions, comments, and concerns from the County Board.

Greg Callin of Kraemer Brothers provided the County Board with his quarterly update on the new jail remodel and construction project.

The new jail has been completed, and all state inspection issues have been resolved. The basement and first-floor LEC remodel are finished, and the Sheriff's Office has moved into this space to allow second-floor remodeling to begin. Demolition on the second floor started this week. Dispatch is expected to transition into the new space by the end of April, after which remodeling will begin in the current dispatch area. The overall project remains on schedule for completion on July 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **PROCLAMATION**

**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;

**Therefore,** I do hereby proclaim

**April 26<sup>th</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026  
Soil and Water Stewardship Week.**

Signed this: April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Gary Koch, Land Conservation Committee Chairman

**Motion by Koch; second by Kuhn to adopt the Soil and Water Stewardship Week Proclamation. Motion carried unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION 10-2026**

**RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE  
THE SCENIC MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRANSIT (SMRT BUS) PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the “SMRT Bus” commuter program serving Southwest Wisconsin has historically been funded through a mix of Federal and State Grants supplemented by local matching contributions from La Crosse, Vernon, Monroe and Crawford Counties; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, Crawford County has received Notice that Vernon County has resolved to discontinue their support for the SMRT Bus Program effective January 1, 2027; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, the resulting rising program costs are projected to increase Crawford County’s required contribution from \$6,000 per year to over \$73,500 per year; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, the substantial increase in costs and the minimal and decreasing ridership on the SMRT Bus make the continued commitment of funds by Crawford County impractical.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Crawford County Board of Supervisors hereby discontinues support for the SMRT Bus Program, effective January 1, 2027; **and**,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copy of this Resolution be sent to La Crosse County.

Dated this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2026.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

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

**Greg Russell**  
**Wayne Jerrett**

Passed and approved this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2026.

Tom Cornford, County Board Chairman

ATTEST:  
Roberta A. Fisher  
County Clerk

**Motion by Munson; second by Krachey to approve the Resolution to Discontinue the Scenic Mississippi River Transit (SMRT BUS) Program. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE STATE OF WISCONSIN ESTABLISHING  
A MEMBERSHIP WITH THE MULTI-STATE INFORMATION SHARING  
AND ANALYSIS CENTER (MS-ISAC)**

**WHEREAS**, the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) provides vital cybersecurity services, including 24/7 threat monitoring and incident response, to more than 18,000 state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) government organizations supporting our nation's critical infrastructure including public hospitals, public utilities, K-12 school, and law enforcement; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, local governments, especially in rural and under-resourced areas, have relied heavily on MS-ISAC's services; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, without MS-ISAC services, government organizations are increasingly vulnerable to cyber-attacks by foreign adversaries; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, recent federal funding cuts to MS-ISAC, have significantly weakened the nation's defense against cyber threats; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, Crawford County has joined MS-ISAC under the Single Organization Membership option in order to continue the services Crawford County needed to protect its infrastructure and data; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, MS-ISAC has said the fees paid by Crawford County will be refunded or applied to other add-on services should Wisconsin obtain membership with MS-ISAC in the future.

**NOW, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Crawford County Board of Supervisors hereby requests that the State of Wisconsin enter into a statewide membership, covering all agencies and municipalities, allowing all to benefit from this service.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Crawford County Clerk is hereby authorized to send a copy of this Resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, all Wisconsin counties, and the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration.

Dated this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY COMMITTEE:**

**Derek Flansburgh, Chairman      Linda Munson  
Greg Russell**

Passed and approved this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 2026.

**Tom Cornford**  
County Board Chairman

ATTEST:  
**Roberta A. Fisher**  
County Clerk

**Motion by Munson, second by Steiner to adopt the Resolution Supporting the State of Wisconsin Establishing a Membership with the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC). The motion carried unanimously.**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 12-2026**

#### **RESOLUTION COMMENDING COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISOR OWEN Du CHARME FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTY SUPERVISORY DISTRICT #12**

**WHEREAS**, Owen DuCharme was elected to serve as Crawford County Board Supervisor for District #12 in April 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, Supervisor DuCharme faithfully represented the residents of District #12 with dignity, integrity, and a steadfast commitment to public service throughout his tenure; and

**WHEREAS**, during his time on the County Board, Supervisor DuCharme served on numerous committees, including the Agricultural and Fair Committee, the Public Safety Committee, and most recently the Personnel Committee, contributing thoughtful insight and steady leadership to each; and

**WHEREAS**, Supervisor DuCharme was also appointed to the Couleecap Board of Representatives, where he continued his dedication to community well-being and regional collaboration; and

**WHEREAS**, Supervisor DuCharme's deep-rooted passion for farming and agriculture made him an invaluable asset to the County Board, bringing firsthand knowledge, practical experience, and a grounded perspective to issues affecting rural communities; and

**WHEREAS**, known as a likeable and quiet gentleman, Supervisor DuCharme consistently demonstrated respect, humility, and professionalism in all aspects of his service; and

**WHEREAS**, the Crawford County Board of Supervisors wishes to recognize and commend Supervisor DuCharme for his meaningful contributions, his commitment to public service, and his dedication to the people of District #12 and Crawford County as a whole.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Crawford County Board of Supervisors hereby extends its sincere appreciation to Owen DuCharme for his years of service as County Board Supervisor for District #12 and expresses its gratitude for his leadership, integrity, and devotion to the betterment of Crawford County.





This resolution passed at the Organizational Session of the Crawford County Board of Supervisors held the 21<sup>ST</sup> day of April 2026.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, this 21st day of April 2026.

Roberta A. Fisher, Crawford County Clerk

**Motion by Anderson, second by Krachey to adopt the Resolution Commending Sarah Nelson for her service to County Board Supervisory District #7. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.**

Dave Troester, County Conservationist, reported to the County Board today on the Ordinance Amending, Repealing, and Recreating Section 2.02(7)(a) of the Crawford County Ordinances Relating to Land Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Committee Membership. The amended ordinance aligns with the updated state statute removing the requirement that one of the members shall be the chairperson of the County Farm Services Agency (U.S.D.A.) or a committee member of said agency designated by such chairperson.

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 265-2026**

#### **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING, REPEALING, AND RECREATING SECTION 2.02(7)(a) OF THE CRAWFORD COUNTY ORDINANCES RELATING TO LAND CONSERVATION, PLANNING, AND ZONING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

The Crawford County Board of Supervisors do ordain as follows:

**Section 1:** That Crawford County Ordinance Section 2.02(7)(a) is hereby repealed and recreated to read as follows:

“(7) LAND CONSERVATION, PLANNING AND ZONING (5 MEMBERS).

(a) Committee Membership. The organization and membership of the Committee, pursuant to §92.06 (Land Conservation) and §59.69(2) (Planning and Zoning), Wis. Stats., shall consist of 5 members. One of the members shall be a County resident who is engaged in an agricultural use, as defined under s.91.01(2)(a) 1 to 7. Three members shall be members of the County Board, at least 2 of whom are also members of the County Agricultural Extension Education and Fair Committee. The remaining member shall be non-County Board citizen member. All appointments to this committee shall be made by the County Board chairperson subject to the approval of the County Board by resolution.”

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2026.

RULES AND PROCEDURE COMMITTEE:

Gerry Krachey, Chairman  
Bruce Strnad  
Gari Lorenz

**Published this**        **day of June 2026.**  
**Effective this**        **day of June 2026.**

**Motion by Kuhn, second by Anderson to adopt the Ordinance Amending, Repealing, and Recreating Section 2.02(7)(a) Relating to LCPZD Committee Membership. Motion carried unanimously upon call of the roll.**

Under committee reports, Nicole Baumeister, ADRC Director, provided updates for her department. The ADRC is now fully staffed in the office and with all programs. She highlighted their evidence-based health promotion efforts, noting strong participation this year with all exercise and strength-training classes filled. They plan to offer additional classes in the fall.

Baumeister also reported on the newer “pop-up” meal sites in the underserved areas of Crawford County—two per month in Seneca, two in Wauzeka, and one in Ferryville—which have been very well attended. In addition, the ADRC received federal transportation funding and approval for another new vehicle.

Mary Kuhn, Fair Committee Chairperson, reported things are starting to get busy in the Fair world. August will be here before you know it. Always looking for volunteers to help out at the fair.

Brad Steiner, CJCC Committee, reported that he and Tom are attending a presentation tomorrow where the Justice and treatment court programs are receiving statewide commendations.

Derek Flansburgh, Public Property Chairman, reported things have been quiet. He noted that John Poots and Connie McCullick have been attending new training at the jail.

Mark Gilberts, Veterans Chairman, reported that Laura Moore will be presenting at an upcoming Personnel Committee meeting to request reclassing the Clerk III position. The reclass would allow access to the VA computer system and enable her to cover for the VSO during conference absences.

The CASA report was presented for review. The Balance on hand as of January 1, 2026, is \$1,327.79.

Supervisor Brian Reynolds presented some information from the Animal Control Officer. The officer has been taking stray animals to the Rivers and Bluffs Animal Shelter in Prairie du Chien. CASA has not taken in a stray dog in several years, and they don't even have space to take in cats. Although CASA has been an invaluable asset to the county for decades, they are no longer able to take in animals. They do provide financial assistance to a few residents for spaying and neutering of cats which is helpful, but not necessarily the best use of the excess dog licensing funds.

Reynolds reports that the Rivers and Bluffs Animal Shelter in PdC should be able to use the excess dog licensing monies since they are the organization taking in the stray animals.

The Crawford County Annual Department Reports are now available and can be checked out at the County Clerk's office for review. 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 Steiner, second by Flansburgh 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 Annual Organization Session on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

**Roberta A. Fisher, Crawford County Clerk**