



RESOLUTION # 42-9/10

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ITEM # 9-17

BOARD ACTION

Adopted:
For: 33
Against: -
Abstain: -
Abs/Excd: 2
Vote Req: -
Other Action: -

FARMLAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE ACTION

Adopted: Yes
For: 10
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Abs/Excd: 3

PLANNING, RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ACTION

Adopted:
For: 6
Against: -
Abstain: -
Abs/Excd: 1

RE: A PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR THE PREPARATION, REVIEW, AND ADOPTION OF A FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN FOR LA CROSSE COUNTY

WHEREAS, La Crosse County is involved in developing a countywide farmland preservation plan pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 91 of Wisconsin State Statutes; and,

WHEREAS, such plan shall be consistent with the in La Crosse County's comprehensive plan, which was adopted in March, 2008; and,

WHEREAS, the procedures under Section 66.1001(4), Wis. Stats., must be followed in the adoption of a Farmland Preservation Plan; and

WHEREAS, a provision in Section 66.1001(4), Wis. Stats., requires the governing body of a local governmental unit (town, city, village, county) to adopt written procedures ("public participation plan") that are designed to foster public participation, including open discussion, communication programs, information services, and public meetings for which advance notice has been provided, in every stage of the preparation of a comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors adopted a public participation plan that was used in the preparation of the countywide comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, the La Crosse County Farmland Preservation Committee and the Planning, Resources and Development Committee have recommended the adoption of a similar public participation plan that specifically relates to the preparation, review, and adoption of a Farmland Preservation Plan for La Crosse County; and

WHEREAS, such plan is entitled "Public Participation Plan for the Preparation, Review, and Adoption of a Farmland Preservation Plan for La Crosse County" and is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the La Crosse County Board, in accordance with Section 66.1001(4), Wis. Stats. and Subchapter IV of Chapter 91, Wis. Stats., hereby approves the "Public Participation Plan for the Preparation, Review, and Adoption of a Farmland Preservation Plan for La Crosse County" attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

FISCAL NOTE: Funding for staff work on this public participation plan was included in the 2010 budget.

Date: 8.17.10
Lina Wehler
FARMLAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE CHAIR
Annette Kuchnoff
RECORDING CLERK

Date: 8-31-10
Don Meyer
PLANNING, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR
Margaret Jordan
RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended	
Co. Admin.	<u>SO</u>	_____	_____	Requested By: County Planner Date Requested: July 23, 2010 Drafted By: Corporation Counsel
Fin. Director	<u>AS</u>	_____	_____	
Corp. Counsel	<u>WAS</u>	_____	_____	
Board Chair	<u>SB/ma</u>	_____	_____	

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 16th Day of SEPTEMBER, 2010

Created by La Crosse County. Last printed 7/28/2010 4:49:00 PM.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE
I, Linda A. Stone, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 16th day of September, 2010.

Linda A. Stone
Linda A. Stone, La Crosse County Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR THE LA CROSSE COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN AMENDMENT

I. Introduction.

La Crosse County has received a grant from the Department of Ag Trade and Consumer Protection to complete an amendment to our Farmland Preservation Plan. Section 66.1001(4)(a) of Wisconsin Statutes requires the governing body of the local government unit to adopt written procedures designed to foster public participation in every stage in the preparation of the Farmland Preservation Plan. These written procedures contained within this Public Participation satisfy this requirement. This Plan will guide public participation throughout the amendment process.

This Public Participation Program offers all citizens, businesses, interest groups, housing authorities, affected units of government, and other parties a range of opportunities to participate through the planning process in a meaningful way to shape the future of La Crosse County and region. Effective public input is critical for the success of this planning process because it is our citizens, businesses, and groups that will experience the Plan's costs and benefits on a daily basis for many years. This Plan will, in part, determine where and how our residents live, work and play, and how they travel from one place to another.

Our participation program is creative, inclusive, and persistent. It employs the use of innovative, unique, and thoughtful ways to encourage people to participate in the process and to maximize the effectiveness of their contributions. The opportunities are open to everyone with a stake in the outcome of the comprehensive plan. And, several participation opportunities are available to a wide range of citizens—people with different incomes, races, ages, and occupations—in all stages of the planning process.

Our public participation process will:

- Ensure all planning decisions are open to public comment;
- Produce better planning decisions;
- Support and add credibility to all County decision-making processes;
- Provide opportunities to disseminate information about the Plan and process to all segments of the County;
- Strengthen the relationship between our decision makers and citizens; and,
- Develop a shared vision for the future of La Crosse County.

II. Public Participation Opportunities. The County has established a list of public participation opportunities because these techniques are designed to maximize public participation in every stage of our planning process. This collection of opportunities will meet both the letter and spirit of Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning Legislation and will include the following:

1. **Newsletter.** Staff will provide information in an on-line newsletter.

2. **Visioning Meeting** The visioning meeting will create public awareness of and provide education about the planning process and answer questions. It will also facilitate a goal setting exercise. Steering Committee members and La Crosse County Planning will lead an exercise that will engage community participants in a discussion about issues and opportunities that should be addressed in the planning process. Participants will also set their top priorities for the process by ranking issues and opportunities. The results of this exercise will provide the foundation for the development of project goals and objectives.

3. **Stakeholder Interviews.** County Staff will conduct interviews to gain additional input and support for the planning process.

4. **Website.** The County will post on its website the Plan and planning process information. This information may include the project schedule, agendas, draft plan elements and reports, maps, photographs, and survey results.

5. **Press Releases.** Staff will, as appropriate, produce press releases and other public information pieces at key points to facilitate widespread awareness and education of events and overall plan creation progress.

6. **Past Planning Efforts.** The County will prepare a public document that highlights previous planning efforts and the outcomes of such plans. This report will contribute to the public awareness and successes of past plans and post it to the website.

7. **Public Comments.** The County will always welcome written comments regarding issues presented. Direct written responses will be made where a response is appropriate.

8. **Meeting Notices.** The County will post meeting notices for each meeting and event in a timely manner at accessible locations, and the notices will meet the requirements for proper notification regarding date, time, location, etc.

9. **Farmland Preservation Committee Meetings.** The elements of the Farmland Preservation Plan will be developed at a series of meetings. The meetings, unless otherwise noted, will be open to the public and allow opportunities for public comments. The meetings will focus on the development of plans, policies, and programs to implement the community defined vision.

10. **Open House to Review Draft Plan.** The Comprehensive Planning Law requires municipalities to hold at least one (1) formal public hearing with a Class 1 public notice prior to adoption of the "Final Comprehensive Plan." Prior to adoption of the Final Plan, the County will conduct an open. The intent of the community open house is to provide an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the complete "Draft Farmland Preservation Plan."

11. **Public Hearing on Final Plan Adoption.** The final step in the Plan adoption process is to hold a public hearing on the proposed Plan adoption ordinance and the document. The County is required to consider any comments received prior to adopting a Final Plan. After adoption of the ordinance for the Final Plan, the Plan and adoption ordinance shall be distributed by the County to recipients listed in Section 66.1001(4)(b) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

12. **Other.** Planning is a continuous process that does not end with the adoption of the Plan. If unforeseen issues arise, the County may organize additional public participation activities to consider specific planning issues and amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. The topics of these activities will depend on these issues and will be designed to feature opportunities for public education, input, and interaction.

Adoption. This Plan was adopted by the La Crosse County Board on this _____ day of _____, 2010.