



Crawford County Housing Meeting

April 8, 2026

9:00 AM

Notes

Attendance: Sonya Lenzendorf, Nikki Dudley, Nicole Baumeister, Nate Gilberts, Mark Buetow, Miranda Klosterboer, Marc Myhre, Amanda Griswold, Becky Koske, Kim Cable, Terry Tippery, Brandy Thompson, Ken Harwood,

Driftless Development Updates

Nikki Dudley with Driftless Development, Inc., presented updates on several housing and economic development initiatives in Crawford County.

- **LOIS (Location One Information System):** Wisconsin's new site selection platform, which helps make available properties visible to potential employers, and encouraged municipalities to list suitable commercial or industrial properties. You can work with Driftless Development to get potential sites listed on this site or do it yourself. If you would like to discuss more, reach out to Nikki.
<https://app.locationone.com/areas/counties/59ed7fdc994c2e62b62c3949?organization=6973af47930083649fd14e3f>
- **Technical Assistance Training Grant:** Driftless Development applied for this grant that focused on housing and will need volunteers interested in forming a committee to tackle housing initiatives. Let Nikki know if you would like to be part of this group. Even if the grant is not awarded, she is still interested in starting this committee.
- **New tax incentives for workforce housing and childcare investments.** Proposed exploring a modest-sized affordable housing project to address the impact of Airbnb properties in the area.
- **Renaissance Block Challenge Grant program.** This is a program that exists someplace else but there is a community member interested in funding this type of project. The project would fund facade improvements in neighborhoods and multiple homes would have to agree to be part of the program. Nikki is seeking feedback from the group on its potential in the community. The group felt it may be something certain parts of Prairie du Chien would be interested in.

City of Prairie du Chien Updates

Nate provided updates on upcoming city construction projects,

- **Roundabouts:** this project will start soon and go through November. It will include two roundabouts on Iowa and WI Street before the bridges.
- **Illinois Street** is getting new water/sewer, and this project will go in phases through October.
- **Housing Developments:**
 - subdividing land to 4-5 parcels for duplexes by the Alliant substation,
 - redevelop authority is looking to purchase farmland,
 - partnering with Design Homes on potential project.

- Shared that developers are looking for land to build duplexes to rent in the area.

Couleecap Program Updates

- Becky noted a reduction in available funding since COVID-related assistance programs ended, though Crawford County had set aside additional funding for housing assistance.
- Encourage individuals to use the website and complete form for housing assistance, <https://couleecap.org/need-help/shelter-and-housing/#>
- Working to connect people to local resources and making sure staff are aware of local resources. Also working on strategies to stretch the money we do have and making sure it is being used the most effective way it can be.
- Kim mentioned applying for another round of home ARP funding starting in July
- Discussed the status of the Barger Boutique project, which had been canceled due to negotiation issues but remained under consideration for a new location.
- Medicaid Assessment and Housing Navigation Specialist position, who will help provide housing support services through Medicaid reimbursement programs. This role is only available to LaCrosse County right now as a pilot and if it goes well, it may be expanded to other counties.
- Bargain Boutique: a question was asked if the revenue made from the BB stayed here in Crawford County? Kim explained that the revenue and profit are two different things and that it does cost a significant amount to run the BB, in the end the profit is not nearly as much as the revenue and that profit goes into Couleecap to support programming.

Other Topics

- Miranda asked about support and funding for those individuals that are unhoused. With less funding and support it is difficult to know where to refer to people or how to help them. Is there a local way to help support these individuals? A Platteville example was shared where a church collaboration takes turn housing individuals each week. Becky also shared an example from LaCrosse that Catholic Charities organizes a warming center. Both may be partners to bring in for a future meeting to discuss their programs.
- Airbnb/Short-term rental regulations and room tax collection discussion
 - The group discussed challenges with short-term rental regulations, particularly around collecting room taxes from unlisted properties, with suggestions made for a county-wide approach to enforcement and collection rather than leaving it to individual municipalities.
 - There were many questions about the legality of collecting room tax and where that money goes.
 - The city is working on an ordinance for Airbnb's, but we do not believe the rest of the county has an ordinance.
 - The tourism council is part of this, and we may want to reach out to Bob at the Chamber to discuss more.
 - Unclear if the county is part of the tourism council or not.
- Next Meeting: July 8, 2025 @ 9:00

