

CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
August 18th, 2026

The Crawford County Board of Supervisors met for their regular meeting at the Crawford County Administration Building in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin on Tuesday, August 18th, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

The Board was called to order by Chairman Tom Cornford. Roll was called with all members present, except Supervisors Anderson, Flansburgh, Orr, and Strnad who were excused by the Chair.

The Chairman led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Under Opening Remarks, the Chairman asked for volunteers to work at the Fair. The Crawford County Fair is August 27th – 30th.

The Chairman verified the meeting as being properly posted.

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

Dan McWilliams, HHSD Director, informed the county board today that Amanda Schultz recently resigned her position on the HHSD Board.

Motion by Steiner; second by Heilman to approve the appointment of Stephanie Koenig, to the Health & Human Services Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Hettie Brown, Executive Director of Couleecap, appeared before the board today to present the organization's 2025 Annual Impact Report.

This year marks Couleecap's 60th year partnering with the county to support individuals facing hardship. County Board Supervisor Brian Reynolds serves on the Couleecap Board of Directors, along with representatives Larry Quamme, Roger Slama, Mark Forsythe, and Renee Salmon.

Since its founding in 1966, Couleecap has implemented more than 252 programs aimed at reducing poverty across the region, serving over one million people through initiatives focused on housing and homelessness, energy assistance, and food security.

In 2025, 529 individuals at risk of eviction or in need of housing support received assistance through the Tenant-Landlord Resource Office. Additional housing services, including case management, emergency aid, and homeless prevention—were also provided. Eighty-one families secured housing in Couleecap's affordable rental units. Sixty-one people received job training grants, with 15 completing their degrees to date. Several households also obtained support with Social Security applications and case management services.

Dan McWilliams, HHSD Director, shared with the county board today that there are many state mandates that the Public Health Department has. This resolution is asking the state to look at a more sustainable form of funding and to reduce the reliance on local property tax levy to fund foundational public health services.

Motion by Kuhn, second by Munson to allow the Clerk to read the following resolution in title only. The motion carried and the Clerk read in title only.

RESOLUTION NO. 18-2026

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

WHEREAS, in Wisconsin, local health departments (LHDs) are legally required to provide a core set of public health services under Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 251, Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter DRS 140, and other applicable statutes; **and**,

WHEREAS, responsibilities of LHDs have expanded significantly in recent years due to emerging public health threats, workforce shortages, and increasing community health needs; **and**,

WHEREAS, local health departments rely heavily on a combination of limited state aids, categorical grants, and local property tax levy to fund these mandated services; **and**,

WHEREAS, current state funding mechanisms for public health are largely outdated, not indexed to inflation, and do not reflect the true cost of delivering foundational public health services; **and**,

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin currently ranks 49th lowest in state dollars dedicated to public health per person (https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/PH_funding); **and**,

WHEREAS, Public health initiatives consistently deliver high returns on investment (ROI), with recent data showing a median ROI of 14.3 to 1, often saving \$14 in medical and societal costs for every \$1 spent (<https://www.pew.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2025/07/08/public-health-initiatives-deliver-big-returns-on-investment>); **and**,

WHEREAS, reliance on short-term, restricted, or competitive grant funding creates instability and limits long-term planning for LHDs; **and**,

WHEREAS, counties bear a disproportionate share of the financial burden for providing foundational public health services to Wisconsin residents, placing additional pressure on local property taxpayers; **and**,

WHEREAS, a strong and adequately funded public health system is essential to protect the health, safety, and economic stability of Wisconsin residents and communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Crawford County Board of Supervisors supports continuing to build and retain public health infrastructure in Wisconsin through increased and flexible funding dedicated to local county health departments; **and,**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such a funding model should:

- Provide increased General Purpose Revenue (GPR) support for local health departments
- Include automatic inflationary adjustments
- Allow for flexible use of funds to meet local needs
- Reduce reliance on short-term, restricted, and/or competitive grants; **and,**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Crawford County Board of Supervisors recognizes public health as a core governmental function and supports sustained investment in public health services to ensure consistent service delivery across all jurisdictions throughout Wisconsin; **and,**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Crawford County Board of Supervisors supports the Wisconsin Counties Association in advocating for policies that reduce the reliance on local property tax levy to fund foundational local public health services; **and,**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Governor of Wisconsin, members of the Wisconsin State Legislature, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and all Wisconsin counties.

Dated this 10th day of August, 2026.

Linda Munson, Chairman
Joyce Roth
Harrison Heilman
Gary Lorenz
Ellen Brooks

Mary Kuhn, Vice Chairman
Brad Steiner
Tucker Trefz
Amanda Schultz, RN

Passed and approved this 18th day of August, 2026.

Chairman

Tom Cornford, County Board

ATTEST:
Roberta A. Fisher
County Clerk

Motion by Munson, second by Steiner to approve the Resolution Supporting Sustainable Funding for Local Public Health Departments. The motion carried unanimously.

Dave Troester, Land Conservationist, explained that the next resolution is to lobby the legislature to allow the counties to have more control to regulate large scale solar and wind projects.

Motion by Krachey, second by Kuhn to allow the Clerk to read the following resolution in title only. The motion carried and the Clerk read in title.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-2026

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THEWCA TO LOBBY THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR FOR GREATER LOCAL CONTROL FOR WISCONSIN COUNTIES RELATED TO LARGE SCALE SOLAR AND WIND PROJECTS

WHEREAS, local governments in Wisconsin are closest to the people they serve and are best positioned to understand and address the unique needs, priorities, and challenges of their communities; **and**,

WHEREAS, public meetings and hearings held by local units of government allow for significantly more opportunity for public input than meetings and hearings held by the Public Service Commission in Madison; **and**,

WHEREAS, preserving control is essential to maintaining accountability, transparency, and public trust in government as well as ensuring that decisions reflect local values and conditions; **and**,

WHEREAS, statewide, one size fits all regulations do not always appropriately address the issues and needs of every Wisconsin community; **and**,

WHEREAS, a series of mandates and other agency actions have continuously shifted powers from the local to the state level; **and**,

WHEREAS, the geographic, environmental, and demographic diversity across Wisconsin counties necessitates localized approaches to governance that reflect each county's unique characteristics; **and**,

WHEREAS, state legislators have been making attempts to return local control to cities, villages and towns over large-scale wind and solar projects in several bills; **and**,

WHEREAS, such attempts should also be applied to counties and county boards who are demographically elected bodies that directly represent the interests of and values of their constituents; **and**,

WHEREAS, significant negative impacts on environmental habitats, public health, road infrastructure, and property values and taxes due to large-scale wind and solar projects in those areas where they exist are well established and documented; **and**,

WHEREAS, agriculture in our country and across the state is a significant and leading industry so much so that Farmland Preservation is an actively pursued item within Crawford County and across the state, and agricultural land must be protected for current and future needs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Crawford County Board of Supervisors hereby requests the Wisconsin Counties Association consider this issue and/or adopt this resolution and lobby the Wisconsin State Legislature and Governor to support any and all efforts and legislation that would give local elected bodies greater control in regulating large scale wind and solar projects to the best interest of their communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Crawford County Board of Supervisors hereby requests that the Wisconsin State Legislature amend Wisconsin Statute 66.0401 and allow counties to regulate large scale solar and wind energy systems by specifically striking section 66.0401 (1m), (a), (b), and (c) from the Wisconsin Statutes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Wisconsin Towns Association, all local and state legislators who represent citizens across Crawford County, the Governor, and all county boards in Wisconsin for consideration, support, and action.

Dated this 14th day of July, 2026.

Gary Koch, Chairman
Mary Kuhn
Al Thompson

Kate Krachey
Russ Gillitzer

Passed and approved this 18th day of August, 2026.

Tom Cornford, County Board Chairman

ATTEST:
Roberta A. Fisher
County Clerk

Motion by Koch, second by Heilman to approve the Resolution Requesting the WCA to Lobby the Legislature and Governor for Greater Local Control for Wisconsin Counties Related to Large Scale Solar and Wind Projects. The motion carried unanimously.

Troester informed the county board that the Land Conservation Department is working with the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission on updating the Crawford County Comprehensive Plan. One of the requirements in the statutes is that the government unit adopt written procedures designed to foster public participation, including open discussions, communication programs, information services, and public meetings for which advance notice is provided, in every stage in the

preparation of this plan. The following resolution addresses this plan.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-2026

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR COMPREHENSIVE
PLANNING**

WHEREAS, the Crawford County Land Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Committee has been charged with overseeing the development of a comprehensive plan for Crawford County; **and**,

WHEREAS, Section 66.1001(4)(a) of Wisconsin Statutes requires the governing body of the local government to adopt written procedures designed to foster public participation in every stage in the preparation of a comprehensive plan; **and**,

WHEREAS, this public participation plan offers all citizens, businesses, other units of government, and all other parties a range of opportunities to participate in the planning process in a meaningful way to shape the future of Crawford County; **and**,

WHEREAS, the attached plan has been recommended for board approval by the Land Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Crawford County Board of Supervisors hereby adopts this public participation plan on this 18th day of August, 2026.

Submitted this 11th day of August, 2026.

Gary Koch, Chairman
Mary Kuhn
Al Thompson

Kate Krachey
Russ Gillitzer

Passed and approved this 18th day of August, 2026.

Tom Cornford, County Board Chairman

ATTEST:
Roberta A. Fisher
County Clerk

Motion by Reynolds, second by Munson to approve the Resolution to Adopt Public Participation Plan for Crawford County Comprehensive Plan. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.

Under committee reports, Mary Kuhn noted that the regional Livestock Specialist with UW-Extension has resigned, and the search for a replacement is underway.

Supervisor Steiner reported on the CJCC committee, sharing that two participants recently graduated from the Treatment Court program.

Supervisor Koch informed the board that the Finance Committee has begun the budgeting process. The primary concern at this stage is health insurance rates, and alternative options are being reviewed. Koch also reported that the jail project is nearing completion with no financial issues identified. Kraemer Brothers will present their final report at the October County Board meeting.

Dan McWilliams, HHSD Director, reported that the Public Health department is working on its strategic plan, which is required every three years. He also provided an update on several job openings within the Human Services Department.

Highway Commissioner, Kyle Kozelka, reported an encroachment issue and a non-compliant driveway that the department is working to resolve. Initial site work at the new shop location began within the last couple of weeks.

Supervisor Steiner also noted some minor communication issues at the Courthouse and a few vacancies with the Health & Human Services Department.

Supervisor Lorenz reported that one new traffic officer has been added.

Supervisor Gilberts, reporting for the Veterans Committee, noted that the committee met this morning and reviewed requirements related to an upcoming vacancy in the department.

Nate Bremmer reported that Kraemer Brothers, Klein McCarthy, and members of the jail project committee held their closeout meeting last week. It was agreed that warranties for all new construction items will begin on August 10th and will run for one year. Hard-copy owner manuals will be distributed to the Maintenance Department, and electronic versions –including HVAC, plumbing, and building plans—will be provided to the County Clerk on a USB drive for safekeeping.

Substantial completion of the project is anticipated for mid-September. A state inspector has been on-site and continues to conduct daily inspections.

Under new business, Ryan Fradette from the Crawford County Sheriff's Office provided an overview of the County Line Country Festival held during the first weekend of August. A few citations were issued for underage drinking and fighting, but there were no serious injuries. The Highway Department provided effective signage to alert drivers of the event and increased traffic. Southwest Bus Service offered transportation to the festival grounds from multiple pickup and drop-off locations through the city.

Marc Myhre, Emergency Management, reported on the weather conditions during the event. Leading up to the festival, he stayed in direct contact with the National Weather Service for updates on potential severe weather. On Thursday night, storms were expected but passed north of the area, while some severe weather arrived on Friday. As a precaution, Friday's shows were shortened and scheduled to end around 9 p.m., the time NWS indicated storms would arrive. Lighting strikes occurred around 11 p.m., prompting the decision to shut down the festival grounds and clear the beer

tents. NWS reported no weather concerns for Saturday.

There being no further business to come before the Board, there was a motion by Krachey, second by Kuhn 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 August 18th, 2026.

Roberta A. Fisher, Crawford County Clerk