



# City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Meeting Minutes

### Floodplain Advisory Committee

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Thursday, May 2, 2019

4:30 PM

3rd Floor Conference Room

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#### Call to Order

Richmond called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

#### Roll Call

**Present:** 6 - Richard Becker, Andrea Richmond, Barb Janssen, Gary Padesky, Bill Bosshard, Sara Strassman

**Excused:** 1 - Scott Neumeister

#### Approval of Minutes

Becker made a motion to approve the minutes; Janssen seconde. The motion carried by a voice vote.

#### Notices and Discussions

#### Agenda Items:

- 1     [19-0170](#)     SEH Professional Services for Ebner Coulee Floodplain Mapping  
  
         Attachments:     [Oct '18 LOMR Proposal](#)  
  
         *No agreement has been reached. Becker requested that staff invite City Attorney to attend next month's meeting. Padesky recommended Richmond and Becker meet with Mayor and City Attorney before next meeting.*
  
- 2     [19-0649](#)     Discussion on permitting changes and funding to help with getting water out of basements  
  
         *Padesky reported that Board of Public Works gave permission for sump pumping into public right-of-way for 60 days without a permit. Janssen expressed need for long-term solution, as pumping will likely continue beyond 60 days, and was concerned about restrictions. Padesky asked about issues with reallocating floodplain relief program funds to help people with water in their basements. Janssen is working with Jason Gilman to reallocate funding and legislation to eliminate annual fee and including City on liability insurance; recommendations to go to BPW and Common Council. Strassman suggested funding could be leveraged better with a holistic approach; she was concerned reassessment could affect qualifying for funding and make it harder to borrow. Strassman requested report from Community Development Committee on homes their working on in the floodplain.*

*Doug Kerns said pumping is not ideal and recommended filling basements and lifting property; suggested considering using Floodplain Relief Program to bring homes into compliance and not require LOMR-F. Onalaska has a different approach and he suggested looking at other communities. Richmond interjected that some homes can't be lifted.*

*Mark Weis, 1822 Caledonia St - installing beaver system for \$700.*

*Stacy Master, 314 Liberty St - ; knew the home was in the floodplain and installed 2nd sump pump; hydrostatic pressure is pushing foundation in; needs to let water in to equalize pressure. Neighbors are having problems, too.*

*Terry Schlitz, Monitor St - can't afford to get rid of basement; received \$20,000 estimate to fix wall and install system to remove water; pumped in spring and two downpours in fall; being forced to sell because of cost of insurance, pumping, and damage.*

*Adam Schroeder, 312 Liberty St - has high water pressure under house; spent \$12,000 on home waterproofing; foundation wall was cracked and bowing in when he bought house; lost value in reassessment and unsure what to do; pumping nonstop since last July; suggested installing concrete bank along Monitor St.*

*Joe Fahy, 307 Liberty St - After turning off pump, had 10" of water within 2 hours; 3' sinkholes outside; got a quote for \$51,000 to lift house.*

*Jerry Swim, 723 Powell St - recommends survey to identify who's willing to sell for buying up blocks.*

*Weis suggested installing pumping station in low areas; Kerns mentioned that pumping doesn't address groundwater, just storm sewer. Richmond requested Gilman be invited to next meeting. Janssen suggested revisiting this item next month, along with legislation. Strassman added that the water system has been high for last 10 years.*

### 3      [19-0337](#)

#### Floodplain Relief Program Alternatives - Strassman

**Attachments:**      [Mar 16, 2019 Memo](#)  
                                 [FEMA Technical Bulletin 10-01](#)  
                                 [County Neighborhood Revitalization Grant Review](#)

*Strassman suggested developing a budget for planning; need to address affordable housing.*

### Next Meeting / Agenda Items

*Next meeting will be June 6th at 4:30 pm.*

### Adjournment

*Notice is further given that members of other governmental bodies may be present at the above scheduled meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility.*

***NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY***

*Requests from persons with a disability who need assistance to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk's office at (608) 789-7510 or send an email to [ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org), with as much advance notice as possible.*