



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Climate Action Plan Steering Committee

Monday, July 14, 2025

4:00 PM

Eagle Room

This meeting will also be conducted through video conferencing.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://cityoflacrosse-org.zoom.us/j/89556262687?pwd=TmZYMQRWEj7sOuWitzv04sLbpMOYp5.1>

Meeting ID: 895 5626 2687 Passcode: 102161

Join by Phone: +1-507-473-4847

Call to Order

Mindel called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

Roll Call

Present: 4 - Andrew Ericson, Casey Meehan, Mackenzie Mindel, Stephanie Hanna

Excused: 3 - Adam Jacobson, Dorothy Lenard, Natalie Heneghan

Approval of Minutes

Ericson motioned to approve the minutes, Meehan seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

Notices and Discussion

Staff has two Grow Solar La Crosse yard signs available. Power Hours will be 5:30 PM on 7/15 at Onalaska City Hall and 5:30 PM on 8/7 at The Nature Place. There are enough sign ups to reach the second tier of pricing. Regarding the Energy Innovation Grant, Focus on Energy has begun offering home energy audits for low-income households, so staff requested to include moderate-income households to ensure that the program reaches 350 households. Parks has a successful Soak It Up event where they gave away eight rain barrels and two downspout diverters.

Ericson shared that WisDOT is hosting an open house on planning for Highway 53 at 4:30 PM on 7/16 at the Black River Beach Neighborhood Center. There is a bike ride with the mayor at 9 AM on 7/31 beginning at City Hall.

Agenda Items:

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 | <u>25-0800</u> | Presentation on Wastewater Treatment Plant Energy Upgrades - Jared |
|---|--------------------------------|--|

Greeno

Greeno provided a timeline of wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) improvements to be more energy efficient. Ericson asked for more information on burning bio solids for energy in regard to UWL. Gundersen has used bio solids in their furnace. Meehan asked what ways the committee could help the WWTP, and if there has been any talk about purifying wastewater to drinkable standards. Committee could help by being aware of utility approval processes and ensure that customers like the WWTP know what is expected, so there aren't any surprises. WWTP is exceeding standards. While there is a lot of sources of water around, there may not be good quality water. WWTP projects do qualify for direct pay incentives and may need help with that paperwork. Committee members can get a tour by emailing Greeno. Mindel suggested promoting WWTP in blog and social media.

2 [25-0801](#)

Proposal to host a Fleet Electrification Workshop - Paul Nicholas

Attachments: [Event Outline](#)
 [Fleet Procurement Analysis Tool](#)

Staff provided brief introduction. A top action in the Climate Action Plan is to help commercial fleets take advantage of incentives. Nicholas shared a concept and outline for a workshop in September. Mindel thought invitation was a good idea. Trane would be invited to share their progress. Hospitals would be invited as well. Mindel suggested inviting Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), Renew Wisconsin, USPS, and other organizations with subject matter expertise, especially regarding incentives. She also wondered whether it is possible to get vehicle miles traveled data and emissions for fleet vehicles over time. Ericson mentioned a Fleet Procurement Analysis Tool to share with participants.

A motion was made by Meehan, seconded by Ericson, that this Proposal be APPROVED . The motion carried by voice vote.

3 [25-0802](#)

Pave the Way Fundraiser - Kaitlyn Wiehe

Attachments: [Hyperlink](#)
 [Event Flyer](#)
 [Paver Donation Flyer](#)

Wiehe gave an overview of the fundraiser that will be running through next Spring. There will be a kickoff event on August 6th from 5-8 PM at Logan Middle School, with music, food trucks, and tours of the projects. Staff shared that there is about \$50,000 remaining in the budget.

4 [25-0803](#)

Follow-up on Suggested Revision to the Stormwater Credits - Tina Erickson

Attachments: [Memo Sent July 2024](#)

Mindel reviewed that attached memo. Credits for trees would be difficult to quantify and the City does not have enough staff for outreach. La Crosse Waters is weighing the possibility of offering to managing the stormwater credit process.

5 [25-0427](#)

Youth Climate Action Fund Micro-Grant Application Review and Selection

Staff provided an update on the breakdown of how the funds were distributed. Four grantees did not get their full requested amount. A previous awardee ran into some challenges and declined to pursue the project. Staff was forced to choose a "shovel-ready" project to distribute funds on time. The MTU is able to fund both transit-related projects. Meehan will start to plan for the celebration event.

6 [25-0735](#)

Graduate Capstone Project: City of La Crosse Green Space Expansion - UW La Follette School of Public Affairs

Attachments: [Policy Brief](#)
 [Report](#)

This project was from two years ago and staff wanted to ensure that it was in the books. The project demonstrates the type of low or no cost technical assistance available on sustainability projects. Mindel recommended sharing with Parks.

A motion was made by Ericson, seconded by Hanna, that this Report be RECEIVED AND FILED. The motion carried by voice vote.

Next Meeting / Agenda Items

The next meeting will be 8/11.

Adjournment

Mindel adjourned the meeting at 5:17 PM.

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, with as much advance notice as possible.