Economic Development Commission
Wednesday, September 16, 2026 - 1:00 PM

Regular Meeting
Keep Company Shared Work Space
La Crescent Chamber of Commerce and Tourism
111 S Walnut St. Ste B

AGENDA

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

1. Approval of the Agenda

2. Approval of July 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes

2.a Approval of July 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes

3. Discussion Items

3.a Walnut Street Updates

3.b Root River Trail Updates - Grants, JPA, Work Plan

3.c FRA Rail Crossing Elimination Grant Status

3.d Scenic Byway Plans (Apple Blossom, Historic Bluff Country

3.e County-wide Main Street Program Idea - Status

3.f Regional Development Commission Initiatives (Housing, Transportation Management Organization, EDA Economic District)

3.g EDA Focus Areas - Background of EDA/EDC

4. Reports

4.a USA Gravel National Championships Event Recap

4.b Updated Project List/Workplan

4.c Member Reports

4.d Other Items

5. Next Meeting - October 14, 2026

6. Adjournment

cc: Honorable Mayor, City Council Members, City Attorney, City Administrator

La Crescent Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes
La Crescent Chamber of Commerce and Tourism/Keep Company Co-Working Space
111 S Walnut Street, Suite B
July 8, 2026

1. Call to Order: Chair Sarah DeLacy called meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Roll Call: Members Present: Sarah DeLacy Chair, Brett Kemmer, Colin Luz, Lori Kadlec and ex-officio City Council Member Cherryl Jostad

   Members Absent –, Allen Voss, Troy Nolop, Honor DiDonato (excused)

   Staff Present - Larry Kirch, Community Development Director, Michelle Hoskins, La Crescent Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Executive Director
4. Approval of Agenda: Brett Kemmer made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Colin Luz, the motion caried unanimously.
5. Approval of June 10, 2026 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Colin Luz to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2026 meeting as presented, seconded by Lori Kadlec, the motion carried unanimously.
6. Discussion Items
   a. Code of Conduct – Communications Policy – Larry stated that he had emailed the information to the Commission members and that they were to read that information and adhere to these two city policies.
   b. Walnut Street Update – Phase 1 Archaeology Study - Larry stated that he had heard from the State Archaeologist that they did approve the license and that it was then sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council for final approval. The license was then approved and Larry contacted the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center (MVAC) and that the field work was expected to begin in the next two weeks. As noted previously, the construction project cannot proceed until the Environmental Assessment (EA) is finalized which cannot be finalized until the Phase 1 is conducted.
   c. Root River Trail Grant and Funding Requests – Larry reported that the Federal BUILD Grant was not approved. The DNR LCCMR Grant was also not funded. The last opportunity still in play is the Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) requests. The funding requests were slightly different depending on the funding source. The CDS request is intended to be able to design and construct the multi-use path to Hokah.
   d. Railroad Crossing Safety Grant – The city received two proposals and interviewed the firms and selected SRF/WHKS and the city council will consider the proposal and contract on July 13th.
   e. Scenic Byways Plan(s) Updated – MnDOT has hired two Regional Development Organizations to update the Apple Blossom State Scenic Byway and the Historic Bluff Country National Scenic Byway (Mn Hwy 16) master plans. This area of Minnesota

(Region 10) does not have a regional planning agency as it was disbanded in the 1980s so MnDOT contracted with the RDOs from Mora Mn and Mankato MN. The plans will have a steering committee and there will be future public meetings. The plans will be completed by the end of 2026. These plans are important and can open up federal funding for projects related to the byway including marketing.

f. County-wide Main Street Program idea – no new updates. Larry has been talking with Allison Wagner, the County EDA Director about applying for the Arlyn Falck Foundation Grant.

g. Regional Development Commissions – Economic Development Districts – Larry again noted that this area (Region 10) does not have an RDO/RPC as it was disbanded in the 1980s. Larry has worked at two Regional Planning Commissions in Florida. There has been a group meeting to discuss creating an RDO again and is doing research. One aspect is the creation of a Federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) Economic Development District. In Larry's opinion (and others) the region is held back by not having an EDD or an RDO. It takes about a year to create an EDD. This makes the communities available for federal funding of economic development projects. Larry will update the Commission as things progress.

h. EDC focus items – Larry had sent out the Economic Development Element of the city Comprehensive Plan. In the interest of time, Larry indicated that we would spend more time on this at our September meeting.

7. Reports

a Updated Project List/Workplan - Larry stated that he would skip most of the Workplan items since many of the items were already presented that are listed on the workplan.

- Phase 4 Wagon Wheel – No change - The city is still waiting for the City of La Crosse to approve the maintenance agreement between the two cities. The construction is expected to begin in 2027.
- Overlook Plaza – The Blandin Foundation is asking that we re-issue the Call to Artists. Larry will be working on re-issuing that. They would like us to continue to move forward on this project and has granted us an extension until May of 2027.

b Member Reports – Cherryl mentioned that the city is receiving an award from Explore La Crosse for the USA Cycling Gravel National Championship at their awards banquet in July as the "Event of the Year for 2025." The city had a great audit result this year and was given a "clean" letter. City elections are coming up with both Cherryl and Teresa O'Donnel Ebner up for re-election and anyone can sign up between July 14th and the 28th to get on the ballot. Brett asked about the partially developed lot on North Walnut Place, it was relayed that the city purchased that lot for the Walnut Street Project and then will offer the overall site for redevelopment in the future. Colin mentioned that he has become a Houston County Sheriff's office volunteer search and rescue team member (aka Posse) and that they are looking for younger people to volunteer. Sarah noted that the Early Learning center is on schedule and there will be a ribbon cutting on September 9th at 5:30 p.m.

c. Other items -

8. Next Meeting – September 9th, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

9. Adjourn: Lori Kadlec made a to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Colin, the motion carried unanimously. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:56 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Larry Kirch