

LWV Observer Corps Report May 2025

This will be our last report until September. We will need a new reporter for the Two Rivers City Council Meetings. Sue will be leaving the LWV and we will need someone to step up and take her place. I want to thank Sue very much for her hard work reporting on Two Rivers Council meetings and everything she has contributed to the League. We will miss her insights, dedication, hard work, and wonderful sense of humor.

Two Rivers City Council Meeting Observer Summary- Sue Matczynski

5-5-2025

Highlights:

- Representatives of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 165 proclaimed May as Poppy Month and May 23, 2025 as Poppy Day in the City of Two Rivers.
- The City Council:
 - Tabled a motion regarding awarding a bid to a Sheboygan company for the 2025 Lateral Replacement Program as a response had not been received from a municipality which reportedly had some concerns regarding their involvement with the company.
 - Awarded the bid for the 2025 Sanitary Sewer Lining Project to the low qualified bidder, Visu-Sewer of Pewaukee.
 - Adopted ordinances related to licensing short-term rentals, the removal of trees and shrubs on private property determined to be public nuisances, and the abatement of noxious weeds and tall grasses.
 - Finalized Council Member appointments to boards, commissions, and committees.
 - Adopted the following proclamations: the week of May 11-17 as Police Week and May 15th as Peace Officer's Memorial Day; the week of May 4-10 as National Travel and Tourism Week; and the week of May 4-10 as Drinking Water Week.

Meeting time: 1 hour, 34 minutes

Two Rivers City Council Meeting

5-19-2025

Highlights:

- School Commissioner Wendy Brandt and Two Rivers High School Youth Apprentice Program/Employability Skills Co-op Collaborator Lisa Klein provided an update on youth apprenticeships.
- The Fire Chief reported that 17 agencies assisted the Two Rivers Fire Department in putting out a brush fire in the wetlands between 31st and 37th Streets on May 17th.

- The City Manager reported 21 applications were received for the City Manager position (which he is vacating in August) and the field was narrowed to eight candidates. The City Council and the public will have opportunities to interact with these candidates and provide feedback. The Tuesday/Saturday Farmer's and Crafter's Market is back, as are Concerts in the Park. The City is still looking for donations for concerts and fireworks. The Memorial Drive detour will end May 23rd although roadwork will continue. A new climbing wall has been installed at Neshotah Park, and work continues on a new pathway through the old ball diamond to improve access to the beach. The SwimSmart Beach Alert signs may be impacted by federal cuts to the National Weather Service. An Open Book with Accurate Appraisal for housing assessments will be held on June 5th from 4-6 PM.
- The City Council:
 - Awarded the bid for 2025 Lateral Replacements to Essential Sewer and Water Services, LLC of Sheboygan. At the Council's request, the City Engineer had done additional research regarding work done for other municipalities and determined there were no significant concerns.
 - Adopted proclamations naming the week of May 18-24 National Public Works Week and Emergency Medical Services Week.
 - Approved appointments recommended by the City Manager to City Boards, Commissions and Committees.
 - Approved a resolution to provide \$25,000 in funding for replacing and upgrading the control unit for the audio/visual equipment serving the City Hall Council Chambers.

Meeting time: 1 hour, 32 minutes

Two Rivers School District Meeting Observer Summary – Mary Wallace

5-12-2025

Highlights:

A mother spoke about one particular teacher/ coach who had a significant impact on her son.

Four more teacher resignations were approved and 9 new teacher contracts were approved. All were beginning teachers, two of whom won't graduate until August.

Regarding Act 20, the District Early Literacy Remediation Plan was presented which will be scheduled to be approved at the next board meeting. The steps are screen, diagnose and plan from a menu of interventions which are then tracked weekly.

Two Rivers School District Meeting

5-28-2025 No Report

Highlights:

Manitowoc Public School District Meeting Observer Summary- Linda Gratz

5-13-2025

Highlights:

The new Board President, Biff Hansen started his new term in office by setting new ground rules for public input. He stated that residents of the district would be allowed to speak first, no personal attacks on staff or board will be allowed, people who speak and are obscene or voice irrelevant information will be asked to stop, and information that is false or considered misinformation will be corrected.

Superintendent's Report

Teacher Appreciation Week was May 5-9. We are so incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated, talented, and compassionate team of educators who make a lasting impact on our students every day.

LHS Graduation is Friday June 13th.

The district currently has several key administrative positions open, including Director of Business Services, Director of Human Resources, Principal of Washington Middle School, and Principal of Madison Elementary School.

In the upcoming school year 100 MPSD students will participate in the UWGB Rising Phoenix program.

The MPSD Public Relations Team met on April 30th to continue their focused efforts on improving open enrollment trends.

Beginning with the Class of 2025, the district is implementing a new measure of student success called the Senior Survey. It is designed to gather valuable feedback from the seniors regarding their experiences, perceptions, and opinions about their educational experience.

The Board voted to pass additional youth apprentice positions for the 2025-26 program year, restructured the central office administrative team to save money, approved hiring 3 new social

workers at no additional cost due to staff restructuring, and approved a new social emotional curriculum for K-8.

The Board President announced that Heart A Rama had donated money to pay for heart screenings for students who couldn't pay the cost of those screens.

Manitowoc Public School District Meeting

5-27-2025

Highlights:

This was a visioning and planning session. No Report.

Manitowoc Common Council Observer Summary-Julie Grinde

5-2025 No Report This Month

Highlights:

Manitowoc County Board Meeting Observer Summary- JoEllen Gramling

5-20-2025

Highlights:

PROCLAMATIONS: May 20, 2025, 6:00 p.m. Regular meeting Cty Exec Ziegelbauer and Chairperson Martell proclaimed June as June Dairy Month; the importance of farming to the economy of Manitowoc County was emphasized, providing 7,000 jobs and \$467 million in cash receipts.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Jim Theyerl reported that he has complained many times about the dip on Cty B that causes intolerable noise from trucks but repairs have not been done.

CONSENT AGENDA (Any routine or non-controversial items)

>Appointment of Tina Prigge to the Aging and Disability Board to complete a vacancy with the term ending December 31, 2025.

>Appointment of Brenda Georgenson to the Aging and Disability Board to complete a vacancy with the term ending December 31, 2026.

>Appointment of Amber Schneider and Joan Girard to the Local Emergency Planning Committee for a two-year term expiring June 2027.

- >Appointment of Alternate) John Musial to the Traffic Safety Commission.
- >Added Additional Defendants to Opioid Litigation
- >Approving a tentative settlement with Sheriff's Department employees represented by the Wisconsin Professional Police Association for a 2024 - 2026 collective bargaining agreement, including wage increases and addition of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act
- >Approving Town of Newton Zoning Ordinance (Kenneth and Gayle Knauf).

COMMITTEE REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES

- >Board of Health: Supervisor Metzger: Influenza, RSV and Covid activity continue to be low. Staff is promoting measles vaccination. WIC report for April is 1,169 participants.
- >Criminal Justice Coordinating Council: Supv Falkowski reported that a Ms Wellner asked how persons get onto the committee. Drug Court – 14 participants, one termination. An update on juvenile policy is underway.
- >Executive Committee: Chairman Martell gave a brief report.
- >Expo Ice Center Board: Unexpected expenses have cropped up for repairs. Additional expenses are on safety related items.
- >Finance Committee: Supervisor Hansen reported sale of a property in Two Rivers. He explained that the County keeps funds from the sale to cover their costs while the balance is returned to the previous owner. Discussions continue regarding purchase of body cams for the police; they will be costly but helpful. The Board approved the sale of \$2,570,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, at an interest rate much lower than expected.
- >Highway Committee: Broadwind sublease, for storage of windmill parts on County property was approved; very lucrative for the County at \$1,500/month. A bid was accepted for \$1,290,539 from Bayland Buildings for the brine building. Repair of curb/gutter/sewer in the intersection at Louis Corners will be very complicated.
- >Human Services Board: Supervisor Brey reported that the apartment program for adults with chronic mental illness saves the County \$779,000 in group home casts. Adult protective services referrals have shot up in 2025. Eight youth justice referrals are likely to result in very costly placements. A Narcan vending machine was placed outside the Northeast Wisc Health Educ Center.
- >Personnel Committee: The Board approved a resolution Approving Settlement of 2024-2026 Collective Bargaining Agreement with Sheriff's Office Employees Represented by Wisconsin Professional Police Association.
- >Planning & Park Commission: The Board approved a Resolution Denying Zoning Amendment Petition (Paul Liermann). The Planning and Park Commission recommended denial of the rezoning of 5 Acres in the Town of Manitowoc Rapids from General Ag to Large Estate Residential. Upon discussion and vote, the motion denying rezoning passed with 15 ayes and 9

noes. Supervisors Martell, Schiesl, R. Phipps, Hammel, Naidl, Muench, M. Phipps, Grambow, and Klein voted no.

>Public Safety Committee: Supervisor Falkowski reported that the next committee meeting, June 11 at 5 p.m., will include the annual tour of the correction facility. Interested supervisors may join.

>Public Works Committee: Supervisor Sitkiewitz Neuser reported on the rescheduling of the Clean Sweep events from May 15 & 16 to October 10 & 11 out of an abundance of caution for the event participants and the general public due to the current high volume of traffic on HWY 310, as it is the detour route during the reconstruction of Memorial Drive. HVAC project at courthouse is on schedule and on budget.

>Transportation Coordinating Committee: Supervisor Hacker reported that the 2025 grant bus was received in April and put into service. Ridership in 1st quarter 2025 was up by 5% over 4th quarter 2024 and up by 20% over 1st quarter 2024. Two new volunteer drivers were added. New ADRC business services manager is Adam Miller.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm This County Board meeting (5/20/25) is available for viewing at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vAsp5UzL_iw

The Board meeting was followed by a meeting of the Committee of the Whole. County Executive Ziegelbauer reported on the financial activities of the Human Services Department. He also provided the audit showing the HSD deficit was less than the original estimate. Then Lori Fure, Director of Human Services, presented information about the Children's Long-Term Support, Coordinated Services Team, and Birth to Three programs which is under her department. Discussion followed.

Manitowoc County Human Services Board Monthly Meeting Observer Summary- Suzanne Zipperer

No Report This Month

Highlights: