



# Sierra

Newsletter of the Coulee Region Group  
MARCH 2016

*"The Arctic is unraveling, warming twice as fast as the rest of the planet." - Rafe Pomerance*

**TUESDAY, MARCH 29 at 7 p.m.**  
**Member Meeting & Board Elections**

**"The City of La Crosse Transportation Vision:  
A Plan of Action" with Chuck Lee**

**Ho-Chunk Three Rivers House**  
(8th & Main, La Crosse)

As the Wisconsin Department of Transportation moves forward with strategies for improving the Coulee Region's transportation infrastructure, we now know that all six remaining plans involve building new roads. **La Crosse Mayor Tim Kabat** will present his thoughts on the process and project followed by a brief question time. Then, **Chuck Lee**, a founding board member of Friends of the La Crosse Marsh, will present **"The City of La Crosse Transportation Vision:**

**A Plan of Action."** This transportation vision would improve regional transportation capability without building new roads through the marsh or through La Crosse neighborhoods. The Coulee Region group transportation sub-committee hopes to produce an official position paper on the WisDOT's final strategies. Your input is important! Please join us.



The Wisconsin DOT has completed its year-long Planning and Environmental Linkages Study, concluding that the only solution to La Crosse's north-south transportation problem is roadway expansion. Of the six possible projects, five involve new road construction through the La Crosse River marsh and the sixth would see an expansion of Highway 16 and La Crosse Street.

Expanding roadways encourages urban sprawl and, ultimately, increases congestion. Additional vehicles use more fossil fuel and emit more greenhouse gases, and they harm neighborhoods and natural areas.

The Sierra Club believes a new road is not the answer.

The DOT will ask members of the La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC) to approve environmental assessments of the six DOT-approved options at the LAPC Policy Board meeting on Wednesday, March 16 at 4:30 p.m. in room 3220 of the La Crosse County Administrative Center.

We encourage you to contact members of the LAPC or, if you are available, to attend the March 16 LAPC meeting to support a NO BUILD solution which includes expanding mass transit, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities, encouraging car pools, ride share and park & ride, staggering work start times, fostering compact mixed-use development, improving traffic control systems, and making targeted improvements to existing roads.

COULEE REGION GROUP SIERRA CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS BALLOT

*There are seven open board seats. Please vote for up to seven candidates. Feel free to write in candidate(s) if you wish. Mail the ballot by March 25 to Barb Frank, 1965 Valley Road, La Crosse 54601 OR you may vote at the March 29 meeting.*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Danny Foote    | <input type="checkbox"/> Avery Van Gaard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Katra     | <input type="checkbox"/> Cathy Van Maren |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maureen Kinney | <input type="checkbox"/> Pat Wilson      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> George Nygaard | <input type="checkbox"/> _____           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____          | <input type="checkbox"/> _____           |



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#### DATES TO REMEMBER!

**Wednesday, March 16** - LAPC planning meeting, 4:30 p.m., 3220 La Crosse County Administrative Center

**Tuesday, March 29** - Sierra Club Meeting, 7 p.m., Ho-Chunk Three Rivers House, 8th & Main, La Crosse

**Tuesday, April 5** - VOTE TODAY (myvote.wi.gov) - VERY IMPORTANT STATE and NATIONAL ELECTIONS!

**Saturday, April 23** - River Valley Drive clean up. Meet at 10 a.m. Free lunch at Myrick Park after clean up

**Sunday, April 24** - Earth Fair at Myrick Park, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Tuesday, July 5** - River Valley Drive clean up. Meet at 6 p.m. Rudy's Drive in after.(Gile

**Tuesday, September 27** - Sierra Club Meeting, 7 p.m. Program/Location TBA

## Highway Clean Up

The Coulee Group has adopted **River Valley Drive** in the La Crosse River marsh. We do three highway cleanups here every year. Meet at the city water well building at the intersection of Highway B (Gillette Street) and River Valley Drive. Wear old clothes and bring work gloves. Safety vests and bags provided.

The cleanup on **Saturday, April 23 at 10 a.m.** will be part of the Earth Day marsh clean up and will include free lunch at Myrick Park.

Our summer clean up will be on **Tuesday, July 5 at 6 p.m.** followed by a trip to Rudy's Drive In.

For more information contact Pat or Bobbie Wilson, 608 788 8831 or pbwilson@centurytel.net.

We will mail two more paper newsletters this year -- one in August and one in November. If we have your email address, you'll get a monthly update via email.

We also have a new blog where we'll post news, events, actions, updates, and other information. You may subscribe to the blog and get any new posts automatically emailed to you.

Please send **Andrea (alp@haleskemp.com)** your email address if you want monthly updates. Please view and subscribe to the blog at **cr-sierra.blogspot.com**. If you have questions about the newsletter or the blog, please email cathyvanmaren@yahoo.com.

### DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS?

**Sierra #1603**  
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