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From the Manager

Three Ways for Council to be Involved: Here are three ways we'd love for you to join in on City activities...








- **Swearing-In Ceremony:** Council Members are cordially invited to the Eau Claire Police Department's Swearing-In Ceremony for Officers Matthew Pahl, Adam Robotka, James Tarbell, Alexis Wold, and Shawn Curtis on **Thursday, January 5th, 2023, at 9:00AM**, in the County Board Room. Please let me know if you can make it.
- **Lunch on MLK Day:** On MLK Day, Monday, January 16th, City buildings are closed and staff participate in an all-day training. If you would like to join us for lunch that day, please let me know.
- **City of Eau Claire Ware:** If you'd like to have a shirt, jacket, or other item with the City of Eau Claire logo, in order to show off your City of Eau Claire pride, let me know. I will pass along the instructions for ordering.



Regional Housing Study: Working through the Purchasing Division and in concert with our friends at Eau Claire County and the City of Altoona, the ARPA-funded contract for the Regional Housing Study was finalized this week! Also called the "Housing Needs Assessment," the Regional Housing Study will kick-off in earnest towards the end of January with the first visit by the consultant: czb LLC. czb was chosen from among eight proposals received and reviewed over the past six-to-eight weeks. Although headquartered in Maine, the lead staff from czb for our study come from the Denver area. Some of czb's relevant work includes a regional workforce housing strategy for the Des Moines area in 2019 and a comprehensive plan for Ashland in 2017. Below is a graphic that provides a brief summary of the

projected timeline for the study, which seeks to wrap up by June. Please contact Community Development Director Scott Allen with any questions.

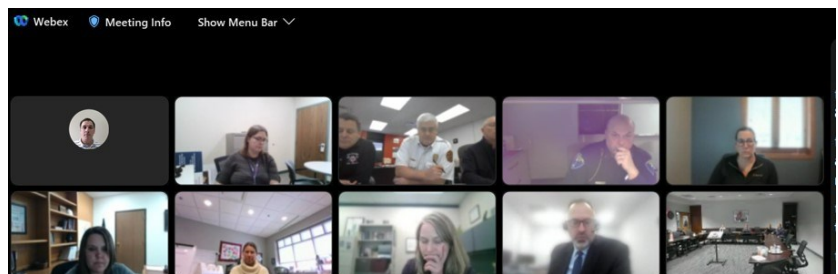
Schedule

PHASE	MONTH 1	MONTH 2	MONTH 3	MONTH 4	MONTH 5	MONTH 6
PHASE 1: ANALYSIS						
PHASE 2: ENGAGEMENT						
PHASE 3: FINAL HOUSING STRATEGY						
Project Management Calls with Staff	X	X X	X X	X X	X X	X X
Steering Committee Meetings		X	X	X	X	X
Public Engagement Activities			 Stakeholder Interviews		 Public Presentation of Regional Housing Strategy	
Deliverables			Preliminary Analysis Slide Deck 		Housing Strategy Preview DRAFT  Engagement Report 	Finalized Regional Housing Strategy Document and Implementation Workshop FINAL  
Projected Site Visits		X		X		X

Storm Update: We had a busy week, due to the storm and its aftermath. Many thanks to our City staff who very quickly mobilized to work with partners to create a shelter space on Thursday night, after we learned that about 1,600 households would not have power returned until the following day or longer. A special thanks to our Fire Department leaders (Chris Bell, Matt Jagger, Al Bertrang, and Jon Shultz) who set up and staffed the shelter, to Tess Morgan who served as the City's CIO, and to the Lieske Geise who helped coordinate with partners.



Furthermore, Police, Fire, and EMS have been extremely burdened by a very high level of calls this week, with many related to traffic accidents, and our Community Services Divisions have been treating streets and



sidewalks around the clock. Forestry has been out removing fallen trees and limbs. Partners in the School District, County Administration, City of Altoona, Red Cross, 211, ADRC, DHS, the YMCA, and neighboring communities also stepped up to play key roles on short notice. (The webex screenshot is pictured here...) The Power Companies mobilized an incredible response, with hundreds of crews coming to this area to address the outage. Excel said that 400 hotel rooms were booked this past week with repair staff coming to town.

As of Saturday, this was the storm update from our Community Services Streets Division, with regard to snow clearing operations... "This ongoing snow is very challenging.... We are planning a full plow for midnight on Monday. With the ongoing snow, there is about five inches of snow on the side streets. All streets are passable and driving lanes have about three inches of snow. Our goal is to get through ice routes and secondaries by this evening so we can get our crew off tonight and get everyone a full day off tomorrow so they can reset for another potential busy week. Now, the new forecast shows an inch or more of snow Monday with another potential winter storm Wednesday/Thursday."

Here are a few of the notes of appreciation we were happy to pass along to the crews:

- Council Member Werthmann passed along this shout out: "I would like to share a huge thanks and recognize Joe and Lucas who are going around clearing up trees on a Saturday around the city. I had a few calls from neighbors on the East Hill and one in particular was someone who

could not get out of their driveway. With leadership of Lane Berg and the entire department, as well as the Comms team, within a few short hours Joe and Lucas came around to clear two trees and get the resident access to the street. I know they are doing it all day long across our city and just want to recognize their commitment and hard work in response to this storm. Folks appreciate it greatly.”

- Another City partner wrote in to say this: “As I see the city street crews out working and doing crazy things like trying to snow blow and shovel out intersections, I am in awe of their hard work and persistence! Please pass along my gratitude. I can’t imagine what a heavy lift the storm has created for everyone! Thank you all for your great work.”

Thank you, everyone, and we hope that the worst of it is over. We are grateful for the partnerships as well as our internal leadership and staffing capacity that will allow us to be ready to tackle the next emergency that arises.

Council Calendar (With Tentative Work Session Dates)

- Monday, January 9th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
- January 10 Council Meeting
 - Brief overview of current configuration of Boards, Commissions, and Committees
 - CIP Streets Projects Work Session
 - Fiscal Stability Work Session #1:
 - Presentation of projected structural deficit, review of unfunded service mods, and guiding principles for process, overview of borrowing capacity
 - Overview of Fiscal Stability ideas
- Monday, January 23rd: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
- Tuesday, January 24 Council Meeting
 - Fiscal Stability Work Session #2: Values clarification works session
- Monday, February 13th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
- Tuesday, February 14th: Council Meeting
 - Fiscal Stability Work Session #3
 - Review of ideas
 - Presentation of proposed community engagement process
 - Boards, Committees, and Commissions Work Session

Additional Dates:

- Thursday, January 5th: Police Officer Swearing-In Ceremony

- Monday, January 16th: City MLK Day Training – Council Members are invited to join in on lunch
- Wednesday, January 25th: Eau What a Night
- Wednesday, February 22nd: 29th Annual Chippewa Valley Rally

Employee Spotlight:

Here’s our next spotlight. (Give a shout-out to a City employee using this form: [Spotlight Form](#)).

Today we highlight **Engineer-Paramedic Pete Spencer!**

- **Hire date:** “I was hired March 9th, 2015.”
- **Hometown:** “I was born and raised in Minnesota and moved to Wisconsin in high school. Then I enlisted in the Army and bounced around for a while. My family moved to the Eau Claire area after spending time in Madison and realizing that we wanted to live in the country.”
- **Training:** “I received my initial training from Madison Area Technical College and Lake Delton Fire Department.”
- **Best Parts of Job:** “I enjoy a lot about this job. I like that we get to work outside and don’t have to sit behind a desk most days. I enjoy our schedule as it gives me plenty of time with my family. I also really appreciate all the brothers and sisters I get to spend a third of my time with.”
- **Favorite Activities Off Duty:** “Anything outside... camping, hiking, hunting. I also love building things... woodworking, metalworking, fabricating, and machining. I also love spending time with my rock-star wife and our four great kids.”



Health Department Updates

SAFE Student Day Training: On October 20th, the Health Department and the Alliance for Substance Misuse Prevention hosted a SAFE (Students Advocating for Excellence) Student Advocacy Training. Over 50 students from Eau Claire County high school and middle schools attended this training. The SAFE training was an opportunity for students to connect with students from other high schools and learn about issues facing teens in Eau Claire County. Students learned about mental health, healthy relationships, substance misuse prevention, and how to be an advocate. Health Department staff and local students were featured [by WQOW in their report about the event](#).

Overdose Data to Action Community Prevention: Twice a year, in the Spring and the Fall, National Prescription Drug Take-Back events are hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and are coordinated locally by the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office, Altoona Police Department, Marshfield Clinic Health System, Eau Claire City-County Health Department, and the Alliance for Substance Misuse Prevention Coalition. On Saturday, October 29th, two locations in Eau Claire and Altoona participated in the biannual event to encourage community



members to safely dispose of medications. Between the permanent locations* and the Drug Take-Back event, over 660 pounds of medication was collected.

*Permanent locations include: Altoona Police Department, Augusta City Hall, Fall Creek Village Hall, and Eau Claire County Government Center.

Tobacco Retailer Training and Wisconsin WINS: On November 9th, 16 retailers attended an alcohol and tobacco retailer ID check training led by staff from the Community Health Promotion Division and the Eau Claire Police Department. The two agencies have been working together to improve the training, providing more hands-on learning around identifying fake IDs, and have been able to provide blue light flashlights to participants to help with accurate ID checks. Participants in the training learn about the impacts of underage drinking and tobacco use, how to correctly read an ID, how to spot fake IDs, and how to deny sales to minors. The next training will be in April 2023.

On November 17th, two Eau Claire County youth along with Eau Claire City-County Health Department employees completed 16 tobacco compliance checks at businesses in the City of Eau Claire. All 16 retailers passed their compliance checks. More compliance checks are expected to happen in the next couple of months. WI Wins is a statewide effort involving teams of adults and youth (16 – 17 years old) working to prevent sales of tobacco products to anyone younger than 18 years old. WI Wins teams visit anywhere tobacco products are sold. This could be a corner store, bar or tavern, gas station, or discount department store. Attempts are made to purchase tobacco products, and information is collected regarding the investigation. Compliance checks are conducted to ensure the businesses in our community do not sell tobacco to minors.

WDNR Well Compensation Grant Opportunity through ARPA: In October, the WI DNR announced that \$10 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds had been allocated to provide financial assistance to private well owners. These funds are used to expand eligibility for the previous Well Compensation Grant Program. This means additional individuals are now eligible to apply for funding to replace wells with contamination above safe levels for nitrate, arsenic, specific bacteria, and PFAS. Funds are also available to help owners who have a well that is no longer used and is required to be properly filled and sealed. Since our lab analyzes private well samples for nitrate, arsenic, and bacteria, we utilized our lab database to find owners with an unsafe drinking water sample in the last two years. Those owners were then contacted by letter informing them of the opportunity, requirements for a successful application, and a contact to have further questions answered. This effort was performed to ensure that local residents/businesses with eligible well issues are aware of this limited funding opportunity, which will be available until all funds are expended.

Ebola Preparedness: Due to the Ebola (*Sudan ebolavirus*) outbreak in Uganda, individuals returning or traveling to the U.S. from Uganda are being funneled through one of five U.S. airports. Upon arrival their temperatures are taken, and they are assessed for Ebola symptoms. Public Health in the State to which they are traveling are informed so that the travelers can be monitored for 21 days. This process is similar to the process instituted during the 2014-2015 Ebola (*Zaire ebolavirus*) outbreak in Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia when Eau Claire County monitored the third highest number of travelers in the State. At this point in the Uganda outbreak, Wisconsin has had more than 50 travelers from Uganda under monitoring. The Health Department has begun to meet and work on response plans with WI DHS, HERC, and community partners to reestablish processes and protocols should someone under monitoring in Eau Claire County begin to have symptoms and need to be tested. We had detailed, exercised plans in place during the 2014-15 outbreak so we have a solid framework with which to start. Much has changed in the past seven years including key point people, so we are reevaluating all response plans to determine what actions we need to take to ensure our Ebola plans are fully functional.

Communicable Disease: As of November 28th, 2022, CDC adopted the name mpox to refer to monkeypox. As of December 1st, 2022, 87 cases of mpox (monkeypox) have been confirmed in Wisconsin. There have been no confirmed cases in Eau Claire County. The growth curve of this outbreak has significantly declined statewide and nationwide. Given the low number of cases, the federal Health and Human Services Department does not expect that it needs to renew the mpox Public Health Emergency declaration when it ends on January 31, 2023. The ECCCHD Mpox Response Team will continue to vaccinate, test, and conduct case follow-up of suspect cases as needed. The number of individuals seeking vaccination has decreased as well as the number of suspect cases needing case follow-up. Since starting response efforts, ECCCHD nurses have given 83 vaccinations to 53 high-risk individuals. (Jynneos vaccine is a 2-dose series.) Thirty-three of those 53 individuals have been EC County residents and 20 have been non-residents. We have tested one individual in our Reproductive Health Clinic and have followed up on 25 suspect cases. See more information here: [WI DHS Monkeypox](#) and [CDC 2022 U.S. Monkeypox Outbreak](#)