



*Office of County Administrator
County of La Crosse, Wisconsin*

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Memo To: La Crosse County Board of Supervisors
From: Steve O'Malley, County Administrator
Date: April 2, 2010

Re: April Monthly Report to the County Board

Attached is the April Monthly Report to the County Board, providing monitoring information about department activities to the full County Board instead of reporting only to governing committees.

REMINDER Monthly Reporting by roughly half the organization every other month. While you will receive this report each month, the reports do not cover every department each time.

February, April, June, August, Oct. & Dec.

Planning, Resources & Development
Public Works & Infrastructure
Judiciary & Law Enforcement
Corp Counsel & Child Support

January, March, May, July, September, November

Health & Human Services
Aging & Long Term Care
County Clerk, Finance, IT,
Printing, Personnel, Treasurer

“OF INTEREST”

April National County Month, announcing Energy Efficiency Grant Award

Chairman Doyle and members of the County Executive Committee Sharon Hampson and Joe Veenstra will hold a News Conference Friday morning in honor of National County Month, and to make a major announcement that La Crosse County will receive grant funding toward three local energy projects.

The Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Independence has approved a \$219,400 grant written by Nick Nichols & Brian Fukuda to provide significant funding toward three energy efficiency projects: Two Solar Hot Water systems, one for the LEC & Lakeview (\$100,000 each) and some funding to improve community lighting efficiency by converting Rotary Lights to LED (\$19,400). These grant dollars come from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, authorized in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus plan.

These dollars will need to be matched by local funding and Focus on Energy rewards. The full cost of the Two Solar Water projects will be supported by \$74,000 Focus on Energy reward and \$74,000 from the County, the specific decisions will be brought through the appropriate committees and on to the full County Board for a vote.

A one time match of the grant amount for the conversion of Rotary Lights to LED will be requested from both the County and City (\$19,400 each). When combined with annual lighting replacement expense, this would provide half of the amount needed to convert to LED. The remaining will need to be raised through community fundraising. The County match has been budgeted in the Sustainability Budget and will be brought to the County Board for consideration when the grant contract is considered.

*If you have any questions, feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail.
County Administrator direct line: 785-9789, cell phone 608-385-3316
or e-mail steve.omalley@co.la-crosse.wi.us*

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Planning, Resources & Development Committee April 2010

Register of Deeds

We are now able to accept credit cards at our counter in the Register of Deeds Office! PayGov installed the credit card readers on Tue. March 9th & we did our first transaction the same day. I am working with PayGov to develop a user friendly online site for our customers to order vital records and real estate documents with a credit card as well. We hope to have that up & running soon.

On March 1-3, I attended the WCCO Conference in Madison. We met with legislators & talked about different legislation that is being worked on that would have an impact on this office. During the 3 days we listened to many speakers regarding items of interest to the office, including Dept of Revenue, State Vitals, Legal Counsel for the DOA, and an online fraud investigator for the State of Wisconsin.

We recently lost an employee to the County Clerks' office so we are going through the hiring process. She was an excellent employee and will be missed, but we have many good candidates to try and fill her position. We hope to have a new employee in place by April 1st.

Have been working on our wish list for the 5 year land records modernization program. The good news is that we really are not that far off from having everything in this office digitized.

2010 statistics

	Birth Certificates	Real Estate Documents	Total Revenue
Jan.	449	1682	\$37,311.03
Feb.	479	1429	\$34,971.79
TOTALS:			

Metropolitan Planning Organization

We are nearing completion of our 2010 regional bicycle plan. As I have mentioned in previous reports, this is the first regional bicycle plan completed for the La Crosse Area since 1994.

The emphasis of our bike plan is on how to make it easier and safer for our citizens to choose to use their bicycle rather than their car for commuter, social, shopping or recreational trips around town. Notice that I said "choose." This is not a socialist plot that forces people to change their ways, it's a recognition that more and more people are looking for alternatives to driving for health, environmental or sustainability reasons. Not to

mention that there are huge economic benefits of promoting the La Crosse Area as a living and tourism destination for commuter and recreational bicyclists.

This bike plan is coming at a very exciting time for transportation planning. As you may recall, I recently hosted a visit by US Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. He spoke of changes in federal transportation policy, making sustainability and equal treatment of all modes of travel part of the upcoming transportation authorization bill "CLEAN-TEA."

Secretary LaHood is a powerful advocate of all modes of transportation and I recommend you check out his blog at fastlane.dot.gov where he says:

"In the Department of Transportation, bicyclists have a full partner in working toward livable communities. We're excited that the Federal Highway Administration is looking at best practices in Europe to improve safety and mobility for walkers and cyclists. I welcome the vigor of the bicycling community in advocating for bike-friendly measures in the upcoming authorization bill, CLEAN-TEA. Bicycles are a critical part of a cleaner, greener future in American transportation, so keep those wheels spinning."

Our new bicycle plan will provide a road map of activities to help make the La Crosse Area a safer, more sustainable and dynamic community. In particular, we discuss and map out a system of regional and local bike routes to connect major destinations. Some of these connections include the trail systems in Minnesota and Wisconsin, a separated bike trail between Onalaska and West Salem, and better ways to travel between north and south La Crosse. In addition, we include goals and objectives to support and improve bicycling in the area.

Please take a look at [our new bike plan](#) on the LAPC website (www.LAPC.org) and let me know if you have any questions or suggestions for your community. Thank you!

Tom Faella

Economic Development Update

Collaboration Projects – We continue to work with the School District of La Crosse and City of La Crosse, to study the potential for using a universal, place-based scholarship program as an economic development tool. The study that the W.E. Upjohn Institute completed indicated that the program would be most successful if it included three components – a scholarship program, increased efforts to guide students through the admission and financial aid application process, and integrated community development efforts that will prepare the community to best take advantage of this new benefit. Representatives from area businesses and community organizations are taking the lead on setting up the scholarship program. The School District is taking the lead on enhancing the college guidance resources. We are working with the City of La Crosse Planning staff to look at opportunities to develop public private partnerships that will boost our community development programs.

Revolving Loan Funds – The Economic Development Fund continues to review loan applications for use of our three revolving loan funds. At the end of 2009, they were able to leverage some of the fund balance to access additional funds from the State Department of Commerce through a loan to Skipperliner Industries. Community development staff also

worked with the MRRPC to revise the loan application to ensure that the Fund Board has the information they need to make good decisions.

Village of Rockland TIF – We have been working with the Village of Rockland to address the issue that they have with a tax delinquent residential subdivision that owes significant special assessments for Village financed infrastructure development. Working with the Village Board, a local business with a desire to expand, and the Coulee Housing Development Corporation (Couleecap), we have been able to attract some state grant dollars to develop workforce housing in that subdivision. The Village contribution to the project will be through the development of a mixed-use TIF district that will encourage industrial and residential development. The County has assisted with drafting the TIF project plan and managing this complex project. The public hearing for the TIF will be on April 13, 2010.

Brian Fukuda

Zoning, Planning and Land Information Department

We have received a grant award of \$30,000 to complete an update to the County's Farmland Preservation Plan. We will be doing a majority of this work in house, and the grant will assist in reducing our 2010 expenditures on staff and computer license costs. This plan update will direct efforts to preserve farmland in appropriate areas of La Crosse County as determined by significant public input. Staff continues drafting an update of the Zoning Ordinance, we have met with Town representatives and will make adjustments based on Town input. We plan to present to the PR&D Committee in April. The 2010 Census continues to move forward. Response rate in La Crosse County, as well as the rest of the State of Wisconsin is well ahead of the national average. Aerial Photography will be flown in April of 2010 to obtain snow-off, leaf-off minimal cloud cover color digital orthophotography of all of La Crosse County and much of Houston County, Minnesota. The County is approaching its first major amendment to the Comprehensive Plan with a public hearing on the ordinance amendment upcoming. This amendment will complete the patchwork quilt of adopting most Town Plans by reference.

In a selfish way, we are sad to announce the retirement of a respected colleague. Mike Weibel will be retiring from La Crosse County in April, 2010. He has served La Crosse County for over 34 years. Mike will be sorely missed. He made the day enjoyable, mostly, because of his personality, but also because he worked hard and helped all around him to perform at a high level. Although there is sadness, we are also very happy for Mike. He is a friend who will definitely enjoy his additional free time.

Jeff Bluske

UW-Extension

- Coordinated a ½ day-long workshop on EAB issues which was attended by over 50 green industry and municipality personnel. The workshop, which featured entomologists from UW-Madison and Purdue University speaking on EAB biology and cost management tools, DATCP's chief regulator speaking on wood quarantine and enforcement issues, and demonstrations by a professional tree care service on trunk injections, was sponsored by UW-Extension and the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources. (JC)

- ATCP 29 rules regarding the new phosphorus and posting regulations for landscape professionals was presented by the Agriculture Agent. Attendees learned about how to identify phosphorus free fertilizers, when phosphorus based fertilizers can be used based on the new laws, and what signs are need to be in compliance with the new regulations. (SDH)
- Over 180 participants, youth and adults, participated in the annual 4-H Clover College, a day of experiential learning. Participants learned through hands on activities in their choice of classes taught by over 50 adult and teen 4-H volunteers as well as area community business professionals and university students. There were more than 25 sessions taught, all related to various 4-H project areas. (JH)
- Recent 4-H Arts Festivals involved over 200 La Crosse County youth in musical, drama, public speaking presentations or individual arts and crafts exhibits. Youth that participated further developed their skills in the performing and visual arts. Each group and participant received feedback to help improve performances and exhibits. (RM)
- In collaboration with the La Crosse County Human Services and Personnel Directors, plans are being developed for a Supervisory Management Academy training to help employees in supervisory positions within County Departments increase their knowledge and skill level in working with and helping employees to develop their strengths. (MMS)
- Gundersen Lutheran and La Crosse County UW-Extension offered the 17th annual "Living with Grief: Hospice and End of Life Care" satellite teleconference. Sixteen participants learned about care options related to cancer diagnoses, loss and grief reactions, psychosocial aspects of cancer, pain management, and ethical issues related to the disease. (MMS)
- Fourteen second graders learned facts about the milk group including recommended amounts and benefits. The students were asked the number of recommend cups of milk they need each day and the data shows that 57 % more children choose the correct answer after participating in the class (pre-43%, post-100%).(SH)
- LaCrossroads alternative school had sixteen students participated in a consumer-wise class to learn about using unit pricing, store verses national brand (a taste testing experiment) and then they were given many money saving shopping tips. At the conclusion of the class, 100% (9/9) who completed the questionnaire had listed at least one new way to save money they had learned and that they planned to try. (SH)
- Presented study comparing municipal assessment data with property sales values – illustrating the potential of inequity between tax payers to over 25 local elected officials at the February La Crosse County Board meeting. Ninety percent of attendees stated this information would be beneficially if presented on an annual basis. (KG)
- Presented "Reducing the Property Tax Incentive for Urban Sprawl through Cost Containment" to a joint meeting between the La Crosse County Board, the La Crosse City Council and the La Crosse School District. Evaluations indicated a wide variety of comments on the difficulty the City has in their tax rate disparity. Many concluded this related much to the low housing values in the City of La Crosse. (KG)

JC – Joyce Cieleki, Horticulture Educator

JH – Jenny Holm, 4-H & Youth Assistant

KG – Karl Green, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Comm. Resource Dev., Community Resource Dev. Agent

MMS – Mary Meehan-Strub, Prof., Dept. of Family Living, Family Living Agent / Dept. Head

RM – Robert Matysik, Prof., Dept of Youth Dev., 4-H & Youth Agent

SH – Sheila Harding, Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program Coordinator

SDH – Steve Huntzicker, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Agriculture, Ag Agent

Land Conservation

An early start to Spring has many farmers and general contractors preparing for another busy season in 2010. The La Crosse County Department of Land Conservation has already begun much of our work several weeks in advance of past years. Of major importance is conducting farm assessments to determine landowner eligibility to participate in the State's Farmland Preservation Program. The Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) provides property liability tax credits to landowners who are engaged in the business of agriculture and generate at least \$6,000.00 in gross receipts annually or \$18,000 in the past three years. They must also be located in a part of the County that is zoned for agriculture preservation and agree to comply with state soil and water conservation standards. In 2008, the FPP provided over \$211,000 in tax credit relief for 257 La Crosse County landowners.

It is the responsibility of the Department of Land Conservation to ensure that all current FPP participants are in compliance with the State soil and water conservation standards to maintain their eligibility to receive the tax credit. In order to accomplish this, the department mailed out 294 letters to landowners who had previously received a tax credit through the FPP to notify them of program changes and how to maintain program eligibility. The State has set a deadline of January 1st, 2011 to have all farm assessments completed for program participants. Those participants that are found not in compliance with the soil and water conservation standards will be given a "schedule of compliance". This schedule entitles a participant five years in which to bring their farming operation into full compliance with the conservation standards. They are eligible to receive the credit during the five years provided they are following their schedule of compliance. Those that do not wish to participate in the program or fail to reach full compliance with the conservation standards will be issued a "notice of noncompliance" and will no longer be eligible to receive the FPP tax credit.

This program represents a huge undertaking for department staff who will have to complete the assessment work while completing their normal assigned duties. With the cooperation of our County's landowners, we hope that we can meet the state deadlines and maintain program eligibility for those who wish to receive the FPP tax credit.

Other items of interest; the Department has already issued 15 erosion control permits under the Erosion Control and Land Disturbance Ordinance for 2010. This is an encouraging sign that the housing industry in La Crosse County is on the upswing, though it is too early in the construction season to determine if the trend will continue through the year.

The department has finished design work on over \$200,000 of agricultural conservation practices that will be installed this construction season. Much of the work includes stream bank stabilization and rock rip rap, protective fencing, grade stabilization and stream crossings. The goal of these practices is to reduce the amount of runoff pollution that reaches the County's numerous rivers and streams, improve local water quality and increase the recreational use of our natural resources. Cost share assistance for these programs comes from grants received through the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the County's Environmental Fund.

The Department continues to work jointly with the La Crosse County Municipal Storm Water Group to develop a website to inform contractors, developers and the local residents about the need for storm water management practices in predominantly urban landscapes. The website will be called **La Crosse Waters** and is hoped to become the "go-to" website about

storm water management rules and requirements as well as the recreational opportunities that our rivers and water ways provide to our residents and tourists. The website is being developed by Nancy North of **NEW Ground** with the assistance of Community Development Agent, Karl Green, and the fine folks at the Information Technology Department. Watch for the announcement of the website going live in the near future.

Gregg Stangl

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Public Works & Infrastructure April 2010

Highway Department

- With the lack of winter events for the last couple months we have spent about \$200,000 less on winter maintenance compared to this time in 2009. We budget by maintenance activities so when we are not working on winter activities we are doing work in other budget specified areas. With the lack of snow we have been able to catch up on our brush and tree removal so in this activity of the budget we have almost spent the amount scheduled for 2010. In the overall budget we have spent about \$100,000 less than at this time in 2009. These savings are great but weather plays a big part in how fast the dollars go. Any severe weather events can quickly take its toll on the budget and our winter maintenance dollars still have to fund November and December. We will be taking the remaining contract salt for this season and it looks like our storage facilities will be full for the beginning of the 2010-2011 season.
- Crews have begun crack sealing and patching on various county trunk highways. We have started with some of our newer pavements in advance of possible seal coating later this season. Crews performing work for the DOT on the state highways in the county are also crack sealing and patching.
- We have started street sweeping in the urban curb and gutter areas and will make the circuit throughout the county as well as some townships that request this service.
- We received bids for construction materials for 2010. Costs for rock from various quarries are about the same as 2009. Hot mix and seal coating oil is up between 5% and 6%. The cost per ton for hot mix at the plant is \$49.91 and the cost per gallon for CRS-2 Emulsion is \$1.90.
- We have started our reconditioning projects for this season starting with culvert replacement and guttering on CTH E from STH 162 to STH 16 in the Town of Burns. The existing pavement will be reclaimed and used for base, extra base added as needed and repave. Other areas scheduled for this season for reconditioning are CTH M from CTH D to CTH Q in the Town of Farmington and CTH YY from STH 33 north to the bottom of the hill in the Town of Greenfield.

Solid Waste

- With the addition of an Account Clerk position, accounting and billing procedures have become more efficient and accurate. This has improved customer service. A standard operating procedures (SOP) guide is being prepared and several new internal control policies have been initiated. Accounting software will be implemented in the next few months to further enhance the accounting operations.
- The HHM Program is off to a strong start in 2010. Residential use is up. On the most recent Wednesday, over 90 households were serviced. This was followed by an additional 60 households on the next Saturday. With the presence of a Reserve Deputy, the medication collection has increased.
- HHM Facility staffing for 2010 is complete. Randy Nedrelo has been named the new HHM and Special Waste Manager. A Sheriff Reserve Deputy will facilitate security of the medication collection program. Additionally, two part-time employees were hired to assist during the busy summer season and the upcoming Clean Sweep events under the Grant Programs.
- La Crosse Sustainability Commission is up to full strength and reviewing the Strategic Plan for Sustainability. A subcommittee has been formed to evaluate metering and tracking strategies on energy and water. Nick Nichols is also doing a presentation at the Sustainable Communities Public Policy Forum in Appleton, WI, on how the City and County of La Crosse put together a Sustainability Program and what impact it is having on the community.
- The Gas-to-Energy Project continues at a steady pace in gathering information. The landfill recently installed a new flow meter and the production of the landfill gas has gone from 240 scfm to 294 scfm. The low number was caused by a faulty meter.
- The Solid Waste Evaluation was approved by both the City of Onalaska and the City of La Crosse. The proposed project will be presented for County Board approval. With County Board approval, the evaluation should be implemented in mid-spring and results available in late summer.

Respectfully Submitted,



Henry A Koch, PE

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Judiciary & Law April 2010

Emergency Services

The La Crosse County Area Radio Group continued to meet bi-weekly during this period and prepared a proposal document to be shared with all municipal officials regarding the choices for radio system changes, known as the Federal (FCC) narrow-band project. Every public safety agency and many public safety partner agencies have completed a comprehensive inventory and are able to demonstrate the fiscal impact of the three proposed solutions to the narrow-band compliance issue.

Public-Safety Communications

January

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,150 (average of 69 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 96.7%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.7%
Answered within 40 seconds: 100%
* 0 calls more than 40 seconds

Total Calls 23,193 (average of 748 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement 8,228
Fire Fighting 167
Emergency Medical 504

December

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 1,910 (average of 68 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 96.3%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.8%
Answered within 40 seconds: 100%
* 0 call more than 30 seconds

Total Calls 19,850 (average of 709 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement 7,762
Fire Fighting 166
Emergency Medical 456

**National Emergency Number Association Standards:*

- 90% within 10 seconds (during the busy hour)
- 95% within 20 seconds.

Public Safety Communications is currently going through its annual testing process to establish an eligibility list for hiring telecommunicators. This process includes a three-hour simulated call-taking and dispatching exam and then a keyboard/Computer Aided Dispatch skills exam. When openings occur, this list is used to obtain candidates for an oral exam, interviews and further screening. Currently, there are two positions open at the emergency dispatch center due to resignations.

Emergency Management (Keith Butler)

Emergency Management continued its support of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) implementation in La Crosse County. Much of the radio equipment needed for Dispatch operation with MABAS has been ordered and received and will be installed soon.

The La Crosse Area SkyWarn Group (storm spotter network) resumed monthly meetings and is preparing for the annual SkyWarn training on April 19. Updates to the operating manual were distributed and the group is planning training and exercises to test their ability to communicate emergency weather warnings to the National Weather Service and the County Emergency Services 9-1-1 Dispatch Center.

The Emergency Management Coordinator partnered with the National Weather Service to conduct a walk-through assessment of the new Holmen Prairie View Elementary School and provided guidance regarding appropriate storm sheltering locations for the students.

The Town of Campbell hosted a tabletop exercise on March 16 to review the Town's emergency planning and readiness. A timely flood scenario was used to conduct the exercise which was facilitated by the Emergency Management Coordinator.

The Town of Holland will be conducting a similar exercise on April 7.

Wisconsin Emergency Management is assisting La Crosse Emergency Management with the development of an exercise program to test the newly enacted Minnesota/Wisconsin Mutual Aid Agreement. Hazardous Materials Response Teams from Rochester, MN and La Crosse as well as area Fire Departments will test the Mutual Aid Agreement during a simulated major HazMat incident near the Dresbach Lock & Dam #7.

Two Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning grants were received during this reporting period. Nancy Carlin, a former GIS Intern with Emergency Management, is receiving a stipend to provide modern GIS mapping enhancements for all of the 45 facilities in La Crosse County that have emergency hazmat planning requirements. The second grant award will fund a transportation commodity flow study of hazardous materials in La Crosse County and is scheduled to begin in mid-summer.

Several La Crosse County representatives participated in a Long Term Power Outage exercise held in Black River Falls on March 25, including Emergency Management and Public Health.

Clerk of Courts

The Clerk of Courts has implemented a couple new and exciting projects the past month. The first is e-filing of small claims actions. E-filing is a new concept for the Circuit Courts. There are currently 14 of the 72 counties signed up to do e-filing of their cases. La Crosse County judges have approved the implementation of small claims cases. The other case types available to do e-filing are family and civil cases. We were implemented on March 15th and four cases were filed on March 18th. The process is coordinated over the web through a CCAP application and fees are paid via the internet through US Bank. The Clerks office is notified of the e-filing and all we do is review the case, accept and give the e-filed summons a case number. The paperwork and filing fee is all electronic. We do not have to worry about filing or receipting. We are excited about this new feature and hope the attorneys will be too.

The other implementation is another scanning option for the Courts. By Supreme Court rules, every case type has a specific retention period. The courts have thousands of files to maintain. In 2007, the office started scanning internally to the CCAP applications. The case types being scanned are records with over a 20 year retention period such as criminal. Our new option is through the county's Document & Graphics Services Department. They will be scanning permanent records and records that need to be retained for a period of 100 years which are not on CCAP. Termination of parental rights and adoptions need to be kept forever. Therefore, we started with the TPR's. The files are prepped by the Clerk of Courts – papers taken out of the files and staples removed. The files are then picked up by the Document & Graphics Services Department and scanned to the county network and ultimately destroyed. This will be a savings to the county in a couple ways. Less file space will be needed and files will not have to be pulled as they will be electronic. This is an immense project converting all of the old files electronically but we are excited about the new scanning process.

Corporation Counsel

Lynch v. County of La Crosse

On July 17, 2008, the complainant, Thomas Lynch, filed a complaint with the Equal Rights Division (ERD) against La Crosse County alleging that it had discriminated against him in hiring for the executive director position of Western Wisconsin Cares because of age and in violation of the Wisconsin Fair Employment Act (WFEA). The Equal Rights Officer who was assigned to issue an initial determination found no probable cause to believe that La Crosse County had violated the WFEA as alleged. Lynch filed an appeal of that determination and a hearing on the case was held before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) on September 23, 2009 in La Crosse. Following the Evidentiary Hearing, the Administrative Law Judge concluded that Lynch has not shown probable cause to believe that the County violated the WFEA by refusing to hire or employ him because of age. As a result, the ALJ dismissed the complaint. On March 12, 2010, Lynch filed a petition for review with the Labor & Industry Review Commission (LIRC). In his petition, Lynch repeats the same arguments that he was the most qualified candidate and the County misrepresented his background in the scoring phase of the application process which resulted in him not being interviewed for the position. The County will continue to defend its position that it did not discriminate against Lynch and hired the most qualified and experienced candidate for the position.

Rod & Pam Olson v. La Crosse County

The plaintiffs, Rod and Pam Olson, were involved in litigation with their neighbors, Mark and Ellen Thorn, with regards to a property line dispute. The Thorns ultimately prevailed in the litigation and were awarded the disputed property at issue along with a substantial amount of damages. The Olsons appealed the trial court's decision and the Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court's decision. The Wisconsin Supreme Court denied the Olsons' petition for review.

The Olsons then filed this action against multiple defendants, including La Crosse County, the Clerk of Courts, and a clerk in that office. The Olsons alleged that the judgments and orders procured in the underlying case were done so via fraud. With regards to La Crosse County, the Olsons have alleged that the clerk did not properly assess and tax the costs awarded by the Trial Court. The Trial Court Judge and the Court of Appeals Judges that decided the appeal were also named as defendants in this action. The case has been assigned to a judge from Grant County who has granted the motion to dismiss for the Court of Appeals Judges and the Trial Court Judge stating that the judges have broad immunity shielding them from the claims of the plaintiffs and that the claims necessarily should be dismissed immediately.

The Court has continued the plaintiffs' case against the County but has indicated that the claims appear to be quite suspect. Motions to dismiss and requesting sanctions have been filed with the Court and will be heard by the Grant County Judge at the La Crosse County Courthouse in May, 2010.

Emergency Medical Services Commission

A proposed contract between the EMS Commission and Tri-State Ambulance Services has gone through several drafts by the sub-committee assigned to this task by the Commission. Work continues on finalizing changes to the draft contract by the sub-committee. The Commission will review the proposed draft of the contract at its next meeting scheduled for April 28, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Shepherd