



*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: August 2, 2010

Re: August Monthly Report to the County Board

Attached is the August 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”

Policy Planning Agenda August 9, 2010 agenda will include:

- Acceptance of the Government Financial Officers Association (GFOA) award for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fifth year in a row;
- Presentation by Auditor Clifton Gunderson on the 2009 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report; and
- Presentation on the Binding Arbitration Law by Personnel Director Bob Taunt; and
- Brief Budget update with an overview Indirect Costs and funding of outside agencies

Human Services Director Interviews set:

The second round of interviews have been set for the afternoon of Monday August 23, 2010. There will be three interview panels with three finalists. The three panels will be:

- Health & Human Services Board and the County Administrator
- Community Panel, led by Supervisor Tara Johnson & Personnel Director Bob Taunt (to include a representatives of consumers and vendors)
- Peer and Employee panel, led by Assistant Personnel Director Mary Marco (to include representation from departments that work with HS and employees).

At the conclusion of the interview process, the County Administrator will make a recommendation for appointment to the full County Board for a vote.

*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 August 2010

Register of Deeds

June 8-11, I attended the WRDA summer conference in Sturgeon Bay. The weather was not very cooperative for being in Door County, but we accomplished a lot in our meetings. Frank Abagnale who the movie Catch Me If You Can is based on, spoke to us about identity theft, check/currency fraud, cyber crime, how to watch for them, & how to avoid them. Wed. June 9th, I attended a CPM class on "Keys to Coaching Your Employees" which was very informative. We elected our new WRDA officers for the coming 2010-2011 year & received our committee assignments. I was elected 3rd Vice President of the WRDA & am also on the legislative, vitals, audit, public relations and sunshine committees.

Thursday June 17th our office electronically recorded its first deed & transfer return. We have been e-recording satisfaction, mortgages and other non conveyance documents for over a year now, but this is another milestone for us doing conveyance documents. Everything went smoothly & our software program is integrated with the Dept of Revenue site so that our recording information is added to the E-RETR automatically.

Effective June 25, 2010, the fee to record documents in La Crosse County covered under s.59.43(2)(ag)1 and 59.43(2)(e) subject to s.59.72 (5) changed to a flat fee of \$30.00 per document. It was a pretty hectic week of recording before the change on Friday June 25th as everyone was hurrying to get their documents recorded at the old fee. Many are complaining about the increase, but Wisconsin is still lower in recording costs than surrounding states.

We have added a watermark to copies made from Laredo and Tapestry, our two online search programs. Across each page is now stamped "Unofficial Copy", this will make it easier for us to know where a copy was printed from. Statutorily we are to charge \$2.00 for the first page & \$1.00 for each additional page per document for official copies, however we let our Laredo and Tapestry customers print unofficial copies for \$.25. Because they are not charged the statutory fee they are not official copies. If someone does not want the watermark on their copy, they will have to purchase the official copy from this office & pay the statutory fee.

2010 statistics

	Birth Certificates	Real Estate Documents	Total Revenue
Jan.	449	1682	\$37,311.03
Feb.	479	1429	\$34,971.79
Mar.	633	1884	\$44,854.13
April	528	1796	\$53,830.34
May	443	1590	\$44,482.08
June	435	2347	\$61,329.62

Cheryl McBride
La Crosse County Register of Deeds

Metropolitan Planning Organization

We have completed the 2010 update of the La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC) long-range transportation plan, the *2035 La Crosse and La Crescent Metropolitan Area Transportation Plan*. Please find the plan document on the LAPC website at www.LAPC.org. It is anticipated that the plan will be adopted at the September 1, 2010 LAPC meeting.

We have been notified by the Minnesota Department of Transportation that the "preferred alternative" for the I-90 Dresbach Bridge will be advanced for construction in 2012 – 2015. This design includes access to and from the rest area, boat launches and lock and dam from I-90 and also includes free flow access to and from La Crescent, Minnesota. This is the alternative that was developed with local input and favored by the Mn/DOT District 6 office in Rochester. A public hearing on the design will be held in La Crescent in September.

The LAPC has chosen four local roadway projects for funding by the WisDOT 2011 – 2014 Surface Transportation-Urban program. This federally funded program is the best opportunity for federal funding of local projects. Although the final amount of funding is unavailable at this time, the following projects will receive funding:

Municipality:	Project Name:	Construction Year:	Recommended Funding:
West Salem	Garland Street	2012	\$181,600
C. La Crosse	Oak Street	2013	\$887,582
La Crosse County	CTH B	2011	\$161,600
C. Onalaska	Crossing Meadows Dr.	2014	\$75,000

Tom Faella

Executive Director, La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC)

Land Conservation

The Department of Land Conservation has scheduled a timber harvest for Hoeth Forest in the north-central part of La Crosse County. Hoeth Forest is a 439 acre parcel of land that is managed for timber production and compatible outdoor recreation activities. The last timber harvest was in 2006-2007 when 200 cords of Red Pine and 40 cords of White Pine were removed. This year's timber harvest will remove 400 cords of Red Pine and 60 cords of White Pine. It is estimated that the timber harvest will produce \$15,000- \$20,000 in revenue. The Hoeth Forest and Bice Forest areas are managed with the assistance of the Wisconsin DNR. Forester Jim Dalton from the La Crosse Office works with the Department of Land Conservation to develop management plans, monitor insect and disease problems and schedule timber harvests. The Land Conservation Department administers the harvest contracts and financial accounting.

The heavy rains over the past several weeks have slowed construction of some major conservation practice installation projects. The Gill's Coulee Creek Stream Restoration Project has been put on hold this summer until the wet conditions in the project area improves. This year is to be the final leg of installation of various conservation practices that are designed to reduce the amount of sediment that is being carried by Gill's Coulee Creek to the La Crosse River and then eventually to the Mississippi River. Nearly 4000 feet of rock rip rap is waiting to be installed before September 1st of this year which is the deadline set by the DNR for doing work in a Class II trout stream.

The Department of Land Conservation, in cooperation with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, will conduct a geologic investigation of the soils and bedrock material under and adjacent to the Coon Creek Flood Control Structure #33. This flood control structure along with Coon Creek Structure #35 make up the only two such flood control structures built in La Crosse County with Federal Funds under the Public Law 566 Act. Both structures will be 50 years old this year. The geologic investigation is being conducted on structure #33 to determine the integrity of the aging dam. There is concern that the bedrock material under the structure may be of the same type that was partially responsible for the dam failures in Vernon County in 2007 and 2008. The information from the investigation will be used to assess the future of the structure. A number of options exist for the rehabilitation of the dam, including its removal if other alternatives prove too costly. The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service is paying for the cost of conducting the geologic investigation which is estimated at \$25,000.00

Gregg Stangl
Director of Land Conservation

Zoning, Planning and Land Information Department

Staff continues drafting an update of the Zoning Ordinance. We have met with Town representatives a number of times and in different venues. We will be reviewing these comments and will make adjustments to the proposed ordinance based on Town input.

Staff will begin public meetings to gather the public's input into the update of our Farmland Preservation Plan this summer. Please look for these meeting announcements. The request to approve the Public Participation Plan will be in front of the County Board in September.

We have started the Committee to review assessing practices. This is in its very early stages, but interest and input into this process is very important.

Budget review and update has begun in earnest. We have put together tentative budgets to present for approval by the Finance Department and The County Administrator in early August. It will be another, in a long line of difficult budget years for this small department.

The department is currently working with the Information Technologies (IT) Department on two exciting projects. We are updating our internet page to make it more user friendly and include more ability for our customers to access information and begin permit processes on line. Second we have started the process to improve hardware and software applications to improve the tax system. The current system has a number of efficiency issues, and we have an older system that is not well supported. We are going from an [AS400 DB2 Database](#) to [SQL Server Database](#). This, more widely supported technology will improve the consistency and efficiency of our tax system.

This Department will be heavily involved in the process of re-districting. This process will be necessary due to the population changes and demographic information provided to us by the 2010 US Census. The committee will be set up soon to react to the new information and make decisions about amending, or retaining current districts, and our department will be assisting in staffing this committee.

Jeff Bluske

Director - Zoning, Planning & Land Information Dept.

UW-Extension

- The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin approved the promotions of [Stephen Huntzicker](#), Agricultural Agent, and [Karl Green](#), Community, Natural Resources, Economic Development Agent to associate professor with tenure, in their respective UW-Extension Departments. (MMS)
- Decisiveness was the third of the ten session pilot Supervisory Management Academy training presented for Human Services Management Team. The trainings are being presented by the Personnel and UW-Extension Departments to further develop knowledge, skills, and strengths in 10 core competencies needed by supervisors. (MMS)
- The Wisconsin Associated County Extension Committees, Inc. annual conference was held in Milwaukee with the focus this year –Wisconsin Counties: Linking UW-Extension Research with Action for a Sustainable Tomorrow. The Department Head attended with Marilyn Pedretti representing the PRD Committee. Don Bina was recognized for 10 years of service on the respective local committee. (MMS)
- Thirteen students participated in the Tractor Safety program at West Salem High School. The 24 hour program, spread over the course of a week, included hands-on instruction for farm equipment and development of a positive attitude towards safety. Fire Extinguisher Training and ATV safety were also part of the training. All participants successfully completed the training by passing a written and driving exam. (SDH)
- The 2010 carcass evaluation night was held at Holmen Locker. Fifty-five youth and numerous adults attended to hear the results from the 2010 La Crosse Interstate

Fair carcass show. UW-Extension in cooperation with the local locker plants provides this opportunity to exhibitors at the fair. Exhibitors learned what factors are important to producing a quality livestock animal, where each meat cut originates, and how a livestock carcass is judged. (SDH)

- Over 100 youth attended 4-H camp in June. Post-camp surveys indicated 100% of those surveyed enjoyed camp and learned things about nocturnal animals, the Wisconsin River and other environmental education during the camp experience. A parent survey indicated the experience was positive and that their children gained skills in self-confidence, group dynamics and teamwork, new friendships, and gained independence. (RM)
- La Crosse County 4-H was selected as one of fifteen counties in Wisconsin to receive a grant to offer a 4-H Gateway Academy science and engineering day camp for 5 days in June. This cooperative venture with the La Crosse School District was attended by 17 middle school aged students. The program offered many hands-on activities including the building of solar-powered model cars, water rockets, gliders, bridges and towers. Evaluation results showed that youth attending increased their knowledge and interest in science and engineering for future education and as possible career choices. (RM)
- Educator continued working with the baseline sub-committee, as well as staffing the Sustainability Committee. Will continue to assist in creating and maintaining extensive energy use records, as well as various statistical applications that allow the County to review and monitor its energy usage on an annual, monthly, and average daily usage. (KG)
- Working with the Village of Holmen in assisting to facilitate the development and implementation of the Holmen Seven Bridges TIF Design Standards Committee. This committee is charged with determining all the covenants, restrictions and requirements for development within the Holmen Seven Bridges Development project area. Will continue to work with this committee in order to develop design standards for the TIF project area. (KG)
- Sixty-eight seniors attend the Southside Neighborhood Center Farmer's Market Grilling class to learn about vegetables and healthy ways to incorporate more of them into our diet. This was in collaboration with the La Crosse County Aging Coordinator. Out of the 46 who completed the questionnaire, 95% thought the class was helpful/very helpful and 33% noted, they will eat or drink a variety of vegetables or veggie juice more often. (SH)
- Nutrition Educator shared hand washing, safe food handling, and storage information with student residents in the La Crosse County Juvenile Detention Facility. After the presentation, 7 out of 8 participants indicated that they learned a new food handling tip from the class they plan to use in the future and 100% said they were going to wash their hands more often. (SH)

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

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Public Works & Infrastructure August 2010

Highway Department

- We have completed our scheduled 2010 seal coating. We sealed approximately 21 miles of various county trunk highways, City of Onalaska scheduled streets, Town of Holland various roads and selected roads in the Town of Farmington. We also will perform seal coating work for Jackson County Highway Department later this month of which we will be fully reimbursed by Jackson County.
- The required bi-annual bridge inspections have been performed on all eligible Federal Aid bridges in the county. For a bridge to be eligible for Federal Replacement Funds it must be 20 feet or greater in length. By meeting the eligibility requirements when a bridge comes up from replacement 80% of the costs are covered by Federal Funds. If a bridge is less than 20 feet in length any replacement costs are the responsibility of the county. The inspections showed that our bridges are in good shape with only minor maintenance recommendations.
- Several projects have been submitted for Federal/State Surface Transportation Projects (STP). A STP-Urban project on CTH B from Greenwood Drive to Sablewood Road has been submitted for 2011 construction. Estimated construction costs of approximately \$550,000 of which we are seeking 80% Federal Funds. This project has been approved by the La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC) and we are hopeful to receive funding. We have also applied for STP-Rural Funds for projects on CTH C and two sections on CTH OA. We will know later in the fall if we receive any of the requested funding.
- Later this month we will begin the second mowing of the County Trunk Highway System. Our intentions are to mow the right-of-ways full width to keep vegetation down and keep early growth of woody plants trimmed down to keep them from encroaching towards the roadway. This full-width mowing not only improves the aesthetics but also allows for proper drainage and the ability to foresee erosion problems normally hidden by tall grass and weeds. We have completed the one time-one swath mowing directive from the Department of Transportation (DOT) on all State and Federal Highways in the county. I assume some safety mowing may be directed by the DOT at a later date.

Respectfully Submitted

Dennis Osgood

Solid Waste

- The Gas to Energy project is on schedule. A presentation to the County Board Planning Committee on the project was provided on July 7, 2010. A resolution to proceed with the project will be introduced in August.
- The joint Solid Waste Evaluation with the County and the Cities of Onalaska and La Crosse is on schedule. An update was given to Solid Waste Policy Board and the local haulers on July 28.
- Sustainability: County Board approved the EECBG (Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant) in June. This grant will give the County \$219,400.00 for two Solar Water Heating systems, one for the LEC and one for Lakeview. The rest of the money will be matched by the County and the City of La Crosse to help Rotary Lights upgrade their Christmas lighting to LED's.
- The Solid Waste Department has responded timely and positively to improvement suggestions made by the Finance Department earlier in the year and continues to look at ways to improve and streamline existing processes. In May a credit reference-check program for new businesses who seek billing status was implemented, thereby protecting us from slow and non-paying accounts. Through attentive collection processes, the amount of aged invoices has been substantially reduced. In August enhancing customer service with the introduction of the credit/debit card payment process currently being used by other county departments will be implemented.
- The number of citizens utilizing the HHM facility is nearly the same as it was last year at this time. However, the total pounds of material collected has decreased by about 10%. Many of the participants are repeat users who have smaller volumes of materials than they did on their initial visit.
- In June and July there were Clean Sweep events in Jackson, Adams and Juneau counties. Participation in Adams and Juneau Counties was particularly high. Pharmaceutical collections, especially from business, have been high in anticipation of changes to service at the end of July.
- Barring an unexpected positive response from the DEA La Crosse County will discontinue the collection of some pharmaceuticals effective 8/1/10. The program will change as follows:
 - HHM will continue to collect only non-controlled substances from residents and businesses at its facility during normal business hours for HHM.
 - Controlled substances will be collected at quarterly special collection events, yet to be scheduled
 - Changes to the pharmaceutical waste collection program will not affect any of the other programs at HHM.
- A permit was received from the City of La Crosse to erect a new landfill entrance sign. A responsive bid was received for demolition of the old shop, scheduled in August. WDNR issued a surface water permit for landfill construction activities planned for this fall.
- A public informational meeting was held on Saturday, July 17, at the landfill regarding the Landfill Land Use Plan. Only one person attended, indicating that no significant controversial issues are associated with this plan.

Respectfully Submitted,

Henry A. Koch, PE
Director, La Crosse County Solid Waste

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Judiciary & Law August 2010

Clerk of Courts

The Clerk of Courts had a couple milestones in the office in July. On July 1st, our Registrar in Probate, Lois Groeschel celebrated 40 years of service with La Crosse County. The office had a party to celebrate with her.

On August 2nd, our bookkeeper, Sue Armstrong will be retiring after 24 years of service to the county. Sue has been an employee with our office since 1988. During her service with the Clerk of Courts office, CCAP financials were implemented and she had to learn the bookkeeping hands on. Sue has been training her replacement, Lindsay Boldt, over the past couple of weeks. The office will be having a potluck to wish Sue well on her retirement.

I am also happy to report a record number of dollars received this year from our tax intercept program. As of July 15th, the Clerk of Courts office has received over \$90,000 from people's taxes for outstanding court financial obligations due to the county. Last year's total was \$88,363. The first full year of participating in tax intercept was in 2004. We collected \$44,919 that year. As you can see this is a very good tool for the courts to collect outstanding financial court obligations.

Pam Radtke
Clerk of Courts

Emergency Services

As indicated previously in this report, the Federal Communications Commission is attempting to expand radio spectrum availability by narrowing the band of frequencies used by many of the public safety agencies. This mandate is required by January 1, 2013. This will force many of the public safety agencies to not only re-program their radios, but in some cases purchase new equipment that will allow for this radio spectrum conversion.

Re-programming must be carefully coordinated so communications can be maintained not only within La Crosse County's public safety agencies, but also must consider the interoperability with neighboring agencies. The transition must be in done in a way that the vital public safety services are not interrupted.

A group of representatives from many La Crosse County Public Safety Agencies has provided three options to address the mandate with a recommendation for one of those options that also provides for replacing some obsolete equipment. Much of the radio infrastructure is 12 years old, and some of the components are beyond the normal maintenance window, so parts are no longer readily available.

Although this would be a more expensive option for La Crosse County, it does provide additional advantages, including extending the serviceable life of our county radio system for a minimum of five years. Other advantages include less programming costs to the individual agencies and providing a new fire/paging channel that will have simulcast capability that allows for transmitting (paging and radio messages) on four transmitters at one time.

Due to the timing of the FCC narrowband mandate and the need for many La Crosse County public safety agencies to either update or replace radios and pagers, upgrading the County Fire radio system to the same functional level as the law enforcement radio channels makes good sense without incurring additional re-programming costs for all of the public safety agencies.

Planning and coordination will continue. Additional options and more details can be obtained from the following website: <http://alertlacrosse.org/RadioGroup/RadioGroup.htm>

Public-Safety Communications

May

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,609 (average of 84 per day)
 Answered within 10 seconds: 96.28%
 Answered within 20 seconds: 99.73%
 * 0 calls more than 30 seconds

Total Calls 27,489 (average of 887 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	9,689
Fire Fighting	195
Emergency Medical	556

June

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,458 (average of 82 per day)
 Answered within 10 seconds: 95.74%
 Answered within 20 seconds: 99.67%
 * 3 calls more than 30 seconds

Total Calls 25,866 (average of 862 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	9,142
Fire Fighting	241
Emergency Medical	501

**National Emergency Number Association Standards:*

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

In July, Public Safety Communications Manager Al Blencoe met with local telephone system providers that offer internet protocol (IP) service. This technology can combine phone calls, faxes, voice mail, email, web conferencing and other features which can be delivered to any handset or cell phone. IP uses a single network for voice and data communications, which can reduce infrastructure costs, making it attractive to businesses with multiline systems.

One of the issues with these systems is how emergency calls are delivered to 9-1-1. Unless the subscriber purchases software, 9-1-1 will not receive accurate location information. In some cases only the address of the main office will be made available and many businesses have multiple locations and extensions. In some cases, no location or call-back number will be provided with the call. In 2009, state legislation was introduced that would require companies and institutions with multiline systems to install this software that provides 9-1-1

centers to see the exact address of the call. This legislation did not make it through the state budget process, however.

Recently there was an armed bank robbery at another city in Wisconsin. The location information given by the phone system to 9-1-1 indicated the business office for the bank, but not the branch location where the call was made from. When the 9-1-1 operator tried to confirm the location with the caller, the caller confirmed the wrong location. This created an 18-minute delay in law enforcement responding to the robbery location.

The purpose of the meeting was to work with these IP service providers in informing their customers on the limitations of providing 9-1-1 location information and encouraging the customers to install this software. State 9-1-1 advocates, including the Association of Public-safety Communications Officials (APCO) and National Emergency Number Association (NENA) plan to continue their quest to promote such legislation.

Emergency Management (Keith Butler)

The County Health Department received a scholarship to fund participation in a national Medical Reserve Corps conference which was to be held in Nashville, Tennessee. A flood disaster in Nashville caused the conference dates and location to be changed to Las Vegas, Nevada. None of the Health Department officials were available to attend during the new conference dates so the Emergency Management office, as a partner entity in the Medical Reserve Corps program, was asked to substitute for the Health Department. The conference was held on June 1 – 5. The Emergency Management Coordinator attended many productive training sessions and formed new networking relationships with regional and national emergency managers and public health officials who have dedicated themselves and their programs to the development of a national system of organizing and utilizing medical personnel during disaster responses, such as the Haiti earthquake.

Two very successful internship programs were well underway during this time period. The AmeriCorps member, Shoua Moua, developed and presented monthly emergency preparedness programs entirely in the Hmong language as well as conducting public awareness booths at the La Crosse Library. The Emergency Management Coordinator assisted (to the extent possible) in the Hmong language preparedness presentations. The Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Grant program provides the funds for the GIS (electronic mapping) Specialist, Nancy Carlin, to completely update all of the 45 emergency plans for facilities with hazardous materials. Her program included presentations to the GIS graduate students at UW-L which helped to expose them to the needs for GIS service in emergency management and public safety and to the La Crosse County Local Emergency Planning Committee. Nancy Carlin has been working closely with Nancy Heimke, 9-1-1 Dispatch Supervisor, in her efforts to integrate GIS with the 9-1-1 Dispatch services and programs.

Multiple severe weather events have occurred during this time period and much effort has been required of area public works and municipal officials to provide timely damage reports to the Emergency Management office. The flooding event of July 22-24 may be sufficient to qualify for a Presidential Disaster Declaration, but La Crosse County was largely spared from any significant damages during that storm situation.

La Crosse County Emergency Management was the lead planning and facilitating agency for tabletop exercise conducted in La Crescent, MN on June 23 to explore the 2009 Minnesota and Wisconsin Supplemental Mutual Aid Agreement. Using a hazardous materials event occurring at the Dresbach Lock & Dam (spanning the state border) as the scenario for the exercise, the participants were able to evaluate and examine local, regional and state resource responses to an emergency situation affecting multiple communities and crossing state borders. A chief concern was whether the La Crosse Regional HazMat Team could respond quickly and effectively to Dresbach (or even La Crescent) or do those communities

have to wait for the Rochester, MN HazMat Team? A follow-up exercise is being planned to test whether responders and emergency equipment from both states can work together and manage a large scale incident.

The County Communications & Command Vehicle was deployed to Onalaska as a command post for the annual concert/fireworks display and Riverside Park during Riverfest. The vehicle was also deployed to the Globe University Public Safety Day on July 16 where Public Safety Communications personnel worked with Gundersen-Lutheran Medical Center staff to demonstrate simulated 9-1-1 calls and pre-arrival EMD (Emergency Medical Dispatch) instructions. The County Mass Casualty Team presented two response trailers and assisted with the MedLink Air helicopter landing and departure during this public awareness event.

Public Safety Communications and Emergency Management deployed the Communications & Command Vehicle to the Ready Camp presentation on July 14 and provided students with an opportunity to actually use public safety radio systems during a simulated fire department response. Students 'ordered' the deployment of fire hoses while their peers actually discharged high pressure water streams into a nearby water containment pond behind Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center.

Farmington Township hosted a medical helicopter landing zone training on July 16 and the Mass Casualty Team evaluated their use of deployment procedures and custom-crafted wind-socks to assist the helicopter crew.

The volunteer La Crosse County SkyWarn (storm-spotter) Group has been very busy during this time period with numerous and frequent requests during severe weather events. Efforts are underway, led by County Jail Chaplain Tom Skemp, to re-organized and effectively manage the emergency amateur radio communication volunteers known as ARES/RACES. Both programs (Skywarn and ARES/RACES) are coordinated through the County Emergency Management office.

Several area organizations have requested assistance from the County Emergency Management office in the development, review or updating of their emergency plans. (Aquinas School District, Salvation Army shelter and St Paul's Lutheran School – Onalaska).

*Jay Loeffler, Administrator
La Crosse County Emergency Services*