



*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: December 2, 2010

Re: December Monthly Report to the County Board

Attached is the December 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”

Jeff Bluske, Director of Zoning Planning & Land Information Receives President’s Award of Excellence, by Wisconsin Real Property Listers Association (WRPLA) for 2010 The award is provided in recognition of distinguished service and/or lifetime achievement. Jeff meets both of these criteria with more than 35 years of involvement in WRPLA, including 3 terms as President, other officer positions and leading as chair of several committees. Jeff has been involved with the drafting and the passing of legislation that directly affects the Real Property Listing including advocating for assessment reform. Jeff continually lends his expertise and experience to this Association and answers the call when needed for the benefit of improved, efficient public service.

Jason Witt our new Human Services Director will be honored as Champion of Change in Juvenile Justice Reform at the National Meeting of the Mac Arthur Foundation As the [attached press release](#) indicates, Jason is being honored for his work in the reform of Juvenile Justice, addressing the problem of Disproportional Minority Contact during his time as Deputy Director of Rock County Human Services.

[La Crosse County is privileged to have the opportunity for Jason to lend his experience in Juvenile Justice during the upcoming retirements in the department’s Family and Children’s unit.]

*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 December 2010

Zoning, Planning and Land Information Department

Staff continues drafting an update of the Zoning Ordinance. We are meeting with local officials and the PR&D Committee in December to finish a public hearing draft of the ordinance, and then proceed to more public comments. We are required to get a new Farmland Preservation Plan Certified by the State by the end of next year, and are pursuing a draft of the update of the farmland preservation plan through the Farmland Preservation Committee. PACE applications are now available for large landowners to apply for 2011 DATCP Grants.

Permits Report:

2009: 382 Zoning/Occupancy Permits issued with an estimated cost of \$24,623,753. 83 of those were for single family homes with an estimated cost of \$15,520,613.

2010 (as of 11/18/2010): 370 Zoning/Occupancy Permits issued with an estimated cost of \$25,244,990. 67 of those were for single family homes with an estimated cost of \$13,109,125.

REAL PROPERTY LISTING QUARTERLY REPORT

The Real Property Listing side of the office just finished up with the 2010 assessing process November 15th this year; one of the municipalities that had a total revaluation did not hold their board of review until November 10th. The tax season for 2010 taxes, payable in 2011 is in full swing. The manufacturing values have been entered for all municipalities in the county; manufacturing property is personal property and real estate that is assessed by the State Department of Revenue. This is the first year that the manufacturing was posted on the DOR website that could be downloaded, thus saving time by not having to wait until the print outs were mailed by the DOR. This process is possible because the DOR is currently working on a new computer system for the entire State called IPAS that will eventually replace the State and Local Finance Division's current processes and system to increase efficiency and to provide easy access to data for all stakeholders. This office looks forward to cooperating with the DOR in this process to benefit all users. All municipalities that have special assessments and charges that need put on the tax bills are busy entering those by access to our citrix system or by sending files to be imported by the Information Technology Department. This department currently hand enters only one municipality's special assessments. The next few weeks will consist of all 18 municipalities bringing in their budgets, revenues, state aids etc. to balance with our figures and to have their mill rates calculated and their tax bills printed. During this tax season this office will again be working very closely with the Information Technology Department and especially the Document & Graphics Services Department during this very busy time of year. During this process thousands of tax bills and hundreds of reports will be generated and printed in this short amount of time.

*Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Handy - County Planner*

Metropolitan Planning Organization Department

At this time I'm pleased to report that 2 of the Transportation Enhancement projects reviewed and proposed by the La Crosse Area Planning Committee have been selected for funding. The City of Onalaska will receive about \$840,000 for the "Great River Road/State Highway 35 Streetscape Project" associated with the City's new waterfront development and tourism center. The City of La Crosse will receive about \$1,000,000 to assist with construction of the Oak St. Bridge Connector bicycle and pedestrian bridge to span the BNSF railroad tracks at Oak St. and Hamilton St.

Submitted by

Tom Faella

UW-Extension

- One-hundred-eighty-seven individuals participated in one or more of ten financial presentations offered during "Money Smart Week", October 2-9. Survey results showed: 71% of the participants were 18-34 yrs of age; 38%-rated their session very valuable, 59%-valuable; 32% are very likely to change the way they manage their money, 53% - likely; 90% are very likely or likely to recommend Money Smart events to friends/family. (MMS)
- The program "What Every Adult Child Should Know—Protecting Your Retirement and Other Financial Information for Family Caregivers " was offered to help caregivers, care receivers, and family members understand the importance of communicating within their families about care giving and financial issues. Participants received financial information and documents to perform their care giving duties, as well as resources for Power of Attorney for Healthcare, Finances, & Transfer of Non-Titled Property. (MMS)
- Over the past two months, the Agriculture Agent has worked with multiple dairy farm families in the county to address farm transfer opportunities and plans for transitioning their farms to the next generation. With the median age of the principal operators of La Crosse County farms at 55 years old, education on transitioning the farm will continue to be a local need. (SDH)
- In September, 12 Master Gardener Volunteers began training in the 10-week Specialized Master Gardener program that focused on Ornamental Trees & Shrubs, Landscaping, and Lawns. All participants passed the required post class exam in November. In return for the training, participants will be giving back at least 36 hours of volunteer time and give a presentation related to a topic they learned about to the local community within one year of completing the course. (SDH)
- Twenty four youth participated in the 8th annual 4-H Middle School Adventure Camp held at the Eagle Bluff Environmental Education Center in Lanesboro, MN. Evaluations by the participants showed they increased leadership skills, strengthened their cooperation and teamwork skills, and increased their ability to interact and positively communicate with their peers. Adult volunteers served as group leaders and chaperones. (RM)
- 4-H youth in grades K-13, were recognized at the 4-H Achievement Celebration for their exceptional growth in outstanding project work, involvement in activities, and leadership they displayed during the past year. Some of the skills that youth involved in the process learn are writing, organization, goal setting and recordkeeping. (JH)

- Presented the La Crosse Housing Report to the La Crosse City Council, La Crosse County Economic Development Committee, North-Side Rotary and Downtown Kiwanis. Evaluations indicated an increased awareness of respondents regarding the trends of low-valued housing stock in the City of La Crosse. All respondents indicated they valued this information. This presentation was also discussed on WIZM 1410 and received coverage from News Channel 19. (KG)
- Facilitated the first Lake Onalaska Protection & Rehabilitation District Survey Ad Hoc Committee. The group developed an initial survey for two groups of lake users, attempting to determine use and value of the resource. The survey is anticipated for delivery sometime mid-Winter. (KG)
- Sixteen Special Olympic recreation adults participated in the third series of 4 classes, which focused on shopping tips, preparing a cost effective meal together, stretching the food budget, and illustrating how buying store brand products could save money. Eighty-eight percent (14/16) indicated that they planned to try one of the recipes from our class at home and 81% (13/16) heard one new way to get more for your food money. (SH)
- A series of classes was taught to 48 kindergarteners at Hintgen Elementary school about healthy eating, physical activity and food safety. The students also had the opportunity to taste a variety of healthy foods. At the beginning of the class, 13 (27%) children said that they would eat spinach and after tasting the spinach in a sample, 38 (79%) said that they would eat spinach again. (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

Register of Deeds

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
July	518	1899	\$55,277.76
Aug.	638	2283	\$62,828.54
Sept.	371	2360	\$62,381.82
Oct.	385	2534	\$71,631.13

Cheryl McBride

La Crosse County Register of Deeds

Department of Land Conservation

The 2010 conservation construction season has come to an end. The colder temperatures no longer allow for the establishment of new grass seedings that help protect the disturbed soils from erosion caused by conservation practice installation. Despite a record year for rainfall in La Crosse County, contractors were able to complete most of the conservation projects that were scheduled for installation this year.

Gill's Coulee Creek Stream Restoration Project was in its final year of conservation practice installation and finally has made its way downstream to the La Crosse River. This project has been a multi-year effort beginning in 2005 with a Targeted Resources Management Grant from the Department of Natural Resources. Five years and four grants later, the Gill's Coulee Creek Stream Restoration Project is coming to a successful end. Water quality monitoring will continue in Gill's Coulee Creek to measure the level of improvement achieved through the conservation efforts of the program. A detailed report will be filed after the first of the year.

A timber harvest in Hoeth Forest is set to begin in December of this year. Biewer Lumber from Prentice, Wi. was awarded the contract to log off 400 cords of Red Pine and 60 cords of White Pine. Biewer Lumber supplies high quality timber stock for manufactured wood products for appearance and traditional wood construction. They are also one of the largest timber providers for the shipping crate business. Biewer Lumber supports "green" harvest methods and uses environmentally sound management practices. They will be harvesting the timber during frozen ground conditions to limit damage to un-harvested trees and to prevent the spread of Annosum root rot which has been found in Hoeth Forest. This is the first of six planned timber harvests through 2020 for Hoeth Forest. The harvests are within guidelines established in the Hoeth Forest Management Plan written by DNR Forester, Jim Dalton.

The winter months are also the time for county-wide informational meetings for farmers and contractors. The Department of Land Conservation will be concentrating on getting information out to farmers in the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program. A new change to the Farmland Preservation program requires that participants follow explicit rules and comply with conservation standards to remain eligible to receive a tax credit.

*Gregg Stangl, Director
Land Conservation*

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Public Works & Infrastructure December 2010

Solid Waste

- Solid Waste Evaluation: Presentation was made by Warren Shuros and Hank Koch to the City's of Onalaska and La Crosse on the evaluation and the pros and cons of other systems. There was also a public meeting held at WTC (Western Technical College). Lots of good questions and feedback. Nick Nichols presented to two sustainability organizations and will continue to get the word out about the study.
- Gas to Energy (G2e): A contract has been signed by Gundersen Lutheran and the County of La Crosse for the sale of the landfill gas. Gundersen has hired a consultant to put into operation their part of the project. They and the County's consultant had a joint meeting on the November 16th. Gundersen will order their equipment by the end of the year and it should arrive around August.
- The winter schedule began on November 1st. Landfill hours are now 7:30 – 3:30, Monday through Friday.
- The first medication drop off, where controlled substances can be accepted, was held on Saturday, November 6th. With the assistance of the Compass Prevention Network and many volunteers collections were held at three sites. Over 600 pounds of unwanted medications were collected, 125 pounds of which were controlled substances. Collections such as this will be held quarterly in 2011. Over-the-counter and non-controlled prescription medications continue to be accepted at the HHM facility during normal business hours.
- Installation of the electric gate to control security has been completed and it is operational. Final adjustments are being made and security codes are being assigned to all users.
- On November 1st the 30 day public notice period began for the Solid Waste Departments application to the Wisconsin DNR's Green Tier program. Acceptance into the program is expected in early December. The La Crosse County Solid Waste Department will become the first landfill and the first municipal entity in the Green Tier program.
- Usage of the HHM facility by citizens has been high throughout the fall. Following the enactment of the landfill ban of electronic waste, there has been a 19% increase in the volume of electronic waste delivered to HHM. Nearly 140,000 pounds of electronic waste has been accepted since September 1st when the ban took effect.
- Construction of the new, larger pad for recycling shingles and clean wood waste has been completed. This new pad reduces the loss of recycled products and allows shingles to be recycled year round.

- EECBG (Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant) grant is being used to install two solar water systems, part of the money goes to Rotary Lights and the City of La Crosse recently passed a resolution to match the County's and the States portion of the funding.
- A compliance tracking system managed by the IT Department is replacing the system a similar system managed by Foth. Necessary information has been entered into the system and reminder emails are being generated.
- Interviews of three consulting firms have been completed. A recommendation will be presented to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee at its December meeting.
- Permit billing, container rental billing, and container lease billing activities were moved to QuickBooks effective November 1, 2010, continuing the process of improving accounting and tracking functions. Additional permit revenues continue to be collected as a result of our permit tracking methods. 2011 Landfill Permit Applications were mailed to haulers and businesses mid-November and payments we should begin receiving payments by late November.

Respectfully Submitted,
Randy Nedrelo, for Henry A Koch

Highway Department

- All winter maintenance equipment has been mounted on trucks, over 20,000 tons of salt/sand mixture has been prepared and salt supplies have been delivered. During November some icy conditions occurred the last week of the month but over-all it was a quite month for winter maintenance.
- Crews have been working on drainage, guardrail repair, patching, shoulder repairs and other general maintenance of the highways.
- Our annual "Safety-Snowplow Roadeo Day" was held in late fall. We conducted training on confined space, chain saw safety, National Weather Service up-date on weather forecasting and a snowplow roadeo. The roadeo event allows the drivers to sharpen their winter maintenance skills by driving a course laid out simulating inside and outside curves, parked vehicles, backing up and a serpentine layout. This exercise allows the drivers to familiarize and refresh themselves with the winter equipment to get ready for the upcoming season
- On November 4th, 2010 a Public Informational Meeting was held for the CTH YY Bridge replacement project. Only the effected landowner and Barre Town Chairman attended. Layout of the by-pass road and different bridge configurations were discussed. Dave Walker from Strand Associates conducted the meeting and will be working with the land owner on any concerns he has.
- The annual Southwest Region Fall Meeting was held on November 5, 2010 at Spring Green. Commissioners and Committee Members from the 16 county region attended. Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WDOT) Officials gave an update on budget

issues. It seems everything is status-quo and officials are not sure what changes will be made under the new Governor. It was reported that the Local Program Projects will be announced by Christmas. Local Program Projects are projects that are submitted to the WDOT for Surface Transportation Projects (STP) to obtain Federal and State dollars to fund up to 80% of a project. We have submitted three STP-Rural Projects. They are CTH C – from CTH DE north to STH 108, CTH OA – from CTH FO to Tyson Rd and CTH OA – Drectrah Rd to CTH O. We are hoping to get funding for at least one of these projects. We have been awarded a STP-Urban Project on CTH B, from Greenwood Place to Sablewood Rd. which is scheduled to be let to bid in January 2011.

Final Report

Respectfully Submitted

Dennis Osgood - Commissioner

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Judiciary & Law December 2010

Emergency Services

Public-Safety Communications (Al Blencoe, Manager)

September

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,567 (average of 85 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 94.62%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.10%
* 4 calls more than 40 seconds

Total Calls 25,848 (average of 862 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	9,914
Fire Fighting	229
Emergency Medical	568

October

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,571 (average of 84 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 95.25%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.26%
* 3 calls more than 40 seconds

Total Calls 24,072 (average of 777 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	9,346
Fire Fighting	193
Emergency Medical	543

**National Emergency Number Association Standards:*

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

The Communications Center is having upgrades to two components of its technology. The alerting system used to notify the La Crosse Fire Department of calls for service became operational in October. This system is an improvement over our previous technology in that it integrates with our Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and can shave time off the process. Now, when a 9-1-1 call taker enters an incident type that indicates a fire or emergency medical call within the city of La Crosse, that information automatically begins the alerting process to the appropriate responding rigs for LCFD. Previous systems required

that the dispatcher manually prepare and send the alert to the city's fire stations after the call-taking process. The City of La Crosse paid for this upgrade.

A new recording/logging system is being implemented. Public safety telephone and radio transmissions must be recorded. Many of these recorded records are used as evidence in court, requested by citizens or the media as public or open records requests and are used for quality assurance for dispatch staff and other public safety responders. Typically Emergency Services gets more than 300 requests a year for recorded records.

The previous recording system – both hardware and software – is no longer being supported by the vendor. The new system will provide updated capabilities, plus will have local service support.

Emergency Services welcomes Brian Bartelt as the newest telecommunicator to join our staff. Brian has experience in security at a university, including dispatching/call-taking duties. He most recently has worked in retail management. Brian is in our training program to learn call-taking and dispatching skills. Public Safety Communications has one telecommunicator opening and is currently in the replacement hiring process.

Emergency Management (Keith Butler, Coordinator)

Severe flooding struck the La Crosse area on September 22-23. County EM conducted extensive damage assessments and provided mutual aid for Trempealeau County.

Also in September:

- Emergency Management assisted with Oktoberfest Aid Station planning and provided an updated Oktoberfest Emergency Operations Plan.
- Participated in the Wisconsin radio interoperability Statewide System Management Group, as the WEMA representative.
- Attended an electric power line development/construction company public presentation.

In October:

- ARES/RACES conducted a county-wide test and County EM participated via the base station installed in the Dispatch Center.
- Participated in the Complete Streets public presentation at the new Myrick Park facility.
- Hosted the Tri-State HazMat Group and assisted with planning for a regional emergency exercise to be held in La Crosse County on December 1.
- Attended the County Fire Officers Association meeting in Mindoro and provided information regarding NIMS/ICS compliance monitoring and annual report.
- Attended the WEM West Central Region monthly meeting in Eau Claire.
- Presented radio interoperability planning information to the Campbell Town officials.
- County EM and Emergency Services Manager facilitated a meeting of the La Crosse Area Radio Group and provided information regarding the local plan for meeting an FCC mandate for radio re-programming.
- County EM completed WEM training in Madison, followed by attending the WI Emergency Management Association (WEMA) annual conference and the WEM State EM Directors meeting. County EM serves as the WEM West Central Region Representative on the WEMA Board.
- County EM attended a HazMat off-loading demonstration/training provided by Hydrite Chemical along with La Crosse FD.

In November:

- County EM completed WEM Debris Management training at Volk Field.

- County EM and a Dispatch Supervisor attended the DNR Dam Safety training held at the Town of Bangor Town Hall.
- Co-facilitated a La Crosse Area Radio Group meeting in West Salem.
- County Emergency Services personnel facilitated a review of a difficult search and rescue incident that occurred on Lake Onalaska. The incident review was held at Onalaska FD.
- County EM participated in multiple Winter Weather Awareness week interviews with area radio and TV stations.
- Attended the WEM WC Regional monthly meeting in Eau Claire.
- County EM provided information regarding a HazMat-GIS planning grant project and grant application to the La Crosse County Local Emergency Planning Committee.
- All 2nd-half 2009/10 Plan of Work activities and documents were submitted and approved during this reporting period.

Jay Loeffler, Administrator
Emergency Services