



*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: June 7, 2010

Re: June Monthly Report to the County Board

Attached is the June 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”

Human Services Director Recruitment in progress

With the coming departure of Jerry Huber, the advertisement for initial screening closes on June 11. As stated in last month's report, this is a vitally important position and that the interview selection process will be inclusive to the extent possible of Health & Human Services Board members, the community and County employees. We plan to begin the first round of interviews toward the end of June which will include representatives of the HHS Board. We will keep the County Board up to date on our progress toward selecting a candidate for consideration of the County Administrator's recommendation.

Health Department recognized for focusing on wellness

The County Health Department was recognized for promoting enhanced wellness among County employees in the May 19, 2010 edition of the La Crosse Tribune in an article by Terry Rindfleisch. The article highlighted the work of the local Pioneering Healthier Communities group who honored more than 20 employers with work site wellness awards as part of National Employee Health & Fitness Day, including La Crosse County. Work sites were recognized at three levels: bronze (on your way), silver (building momentum), and gold (achieving successes). La Crosse County received Bronze recognition.

*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 June 2010

County Surveyor

MONUMENT PRESERVATION: Good communication between the County Highway Department and the County Surveyor Department helped to preserve several survey markers along County highways scheduled for a surface upgrade. Highway Commissioner Denny Osgood informed the County Surveyor Office that the following portions of County Roads were to be reconditioned:

- CTH "M" from CTH "D" to CTH "Q" (Sections 7, 8, 18 & 19, Town of Farmington)
- CTH "E" from STH 162 to USH "16" (Sections 16, 21 & 28, Town of Burns)
- CTH "YY" from STH "33" North to the Greenfield town line (Sections 3, 10 & 11, Town of Greenfield)

A search of the County Surveyor records showed five Quarter corner monuments along with several landowner property corner monuments fell within the paved portions of these routes. Reference marks were placed outside the construction areas of these projects. The exact location of the endangered monuments is noted in relation to the reference marks. When the project is completed, we will reinstall all markers back to their original locations.

PELISHEK RECORDS DONATION: Former County Surveyor Bill Jung recently delivered maps, files, field books and text books to the County Surveyor's Office. These items belonged to the late Ray Pelishek who served as Land Use Coordinator and County Surveyor from 1973 until his retirement in 1993. During his time in La Crosse County, Ray also owned and operated Pelishek Surveys performing survey work throughout the county. Following Ray's death, Bill Jung assisted Ray's widow Peggy in sorting through the survey equipment and records. Peggy felt strongly that any records that pertained to La Crosse County should be donated to La Crosse County Surveyors Office. We certainly appreciate Peggy's thoughtfulness and generosity. A letter of thanks was sent to her from our office. The majority of the equipment has since been purchased by local surveyors. The donated maps will be incorporated into the County Surveyor records where needed. Any duplicate maps and the field books will be added to the archives located in the County Surveyor Office. The donated files will be sorted for pertinent data and the text books will be added to the County Surveyor library.

VOGEL ROAD: We are working in cooperation with the Facilities Department regarding an access issue on Vogel Road in the Town of Farmington. A landowner there appears to lack direct access to Vogel Road. The East ½ of Vogel Road is owned in title by La Crosse County as part of the County Forest Preserve. We have performed the initial survey work to define the East ½ of the road and a large parking area at the end of the road. We will continue to work on this issue and make contact with Corporation Counsel and the Town of Farmington as we work to resolve this matter for the land owners involved.

CORNER MAINTENANCE: With weather more conducive to productive field work, we are visiting Section and Quarter corner markers concentrating this year on those in the Town of Bangor and the Town of Barre. These visits provide an opportunity to check the condition of each corner monument and allow for restoration or replacement of corner monuments as needed. The ties for these corners are then checked, evaluated and replaced as needed.

These corners - or what many refer to as "starting points" - are absolutely essential to survey work and serve as the basic framework of the descriptions used in determining land ownership in the County. If you know of a corner location that is endangered, please contact our office.

EQUIPMENT CONCERNS: As part of our corner maintenance work, we are also acquiring GPS coordinate values on our corner locations. This work is completed using single frequency GPS equipment that has been in use since the late 1990s. We are currently dealing with a software issue which prevents us from performing necessary calculations to get final coordinates. We are working closely with the Information Technology Department to resolve this issue.

MAP REVIEW: As one might expect in light of the difficult economy, the number of Certified Survey Maps (CSM) submitted for review is down for 2010. So far, a total of 18 CSMs have been submitted for review. Our office is responsible for review on all CSMs submitted for recording, but a review fee of \$50.00 is charged for maps which lie outside the limits of cities or incorporated villages. To date eight maps have been submitted that require the review fee.

SCANNING AND MAP INTAKE: We continue our scanning project of the maps found in the County Surveyor files. We have completed scanning of the maps for the Villages of Bangor and Rockland as well as the Towns of Farmington, Burns, Bangor, Washington, Greenfield, Barre and Medary. We have recently begun the rather large task of scanning maps found in the files for the Cities of La Crosse and Onalaska. We also continue the intake, indexing and filing of all other survey maps that are submitted.

*Respectfully submitted,
Bryan H. Meyer
La Crosse County Surveyor*

Zoning, Planning and Land Information Department

Staff continues drafting an update of the Zoning Ordinance, we have met with Town representatives and will make adjustments based on Town input. We made a presentation to the PR&D Committee on May 27th which was open to the public and the Towns representatives. Also we presented at the Towns Unit meeting in May. Wisconsin had the highest response rate of all 50 states in the 2010 Census. Census workers are now following up with those who had errors, questions, or non-response. A wonderful success for our state, and for our local complete count committee. Aerial Photography was flown in April, but due to the early leaf on conditions,

they were not able to complete the higher resolution (lower elevation) flights this spring. The County is approaching its first major amendment to the Comprehensive Plan with the first reading of the amendment ordinance coming in June. This amendment will complete the patchwork quilt of adopting most Town Plans by reference.

Nathan Sampson started in his new role as the Zoning Supervisor in April. He has big shoes to fill, but we are confident in Nathan's abilities and experience. He has hit the ground running.

The Farmland Preservation Committee has held its first meeting, and are well on their way to approving a few applications to forward to the state for potential funding of a Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) program. We have 10 applications for the

2010 round of applications, and with some positive press regarding this subject, a number of interested landowners for the 2011 round of applications coming in April of 2011. 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.

Charlie Handy
La Crosse County Planner

Register of Deeds

Our new employee, Tammy Pedretti, started on Mon. March 29, 2010 and we are very happy to have her. There is a lot to learn, but so far she is doing wonderfully and seems to be a good fit to our office.

Please be advised that 2010 Wisconsin Act 314 was passed into law and will be effective June 25, 2010. SB 507, the flat fee/redaction bill, was signed by the Governor on Wednesday, May 12th at 3:15 p.m. in the Governor's Office.

This law changes in the Register of Deeds office the recording fee of \$11 for the first page plus \$2 for each additional page to a flat fee of \$25 per document. The new law affects only those documents covered under s.59.43(2)(ag)1 and 59.43(2)(e) subject to s.59.72(5). Additionally, Act 314 requires a Register of Deeds to make a reasonable effort to redact social security numbers from an instrument's electronic format that are viewable or accessible on the Internet.

In order to assist Register of Deeds with costs associated with the redaction process, the legislation imposes an additional \$5.00 fee per document. This additional \$5.00 fee will sunset in 2012 **unless** an annual extension is granted to the Register of Deeds by the Wisconsin Department of Administration until January 1, 2015.

Therefore, 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) will be \$30.00. We have been sending out memos to our customers to let them know about this change and also handing them out at the counter.

Since we started taking credit/debit cards at our counter we have done over 100 credit card transactions to date. We have not heard one complaint regarding the small convenience fee and customers are very grateful that they can use their credit or debit card. It is very simple to use, takes little time & the funds are sent to our account in a timely manner. We are still waiting for our new online credit card request site to be built. We did demo the site on Mon. May 24, there are still a few bugs to work out but we hope to have that up and running in the next month to take the place of Official Payments.

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

Cheryl McBride
La Crosse County Register of Deeds

Metropolitan Planning Organization

We have completed our 2010 regional bicycle plan!

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!

We are now working on the 2010 update of the LAPC long-range transportation plan, the *2035 La Crosse and La Crescent Metropolitan Area Transportation Plan*.

Of particular interest to many people in the area, discussion continues on addressing congestion on some of the main roads between I 90 and USH 14/61 (South Avenue), sometime referred to as the "north / south corridor."

The LAPC discussed this issue at its May 19, 2010 meeting and adopted an action plan. Included in the action plan is the fact that a study, *the "Coulee Connections Transportation Study,"* will commence activities in the area in the summer of 2010, with recommendations due in 2013.

Other points included in the action plan include:

- **Aggressive Implementation of Policy-Based Actions.**
All municipal councils, boards and staff, and other organizations (LAPC, DOT, etc.) will work to implement policy-based actions that address congestion. Such actions include the integration of Coulee Visions concepts in comprehensive plans, implementation of pulse node development in conjunction with the STH 16 Corridor Study, promotion and improvement of multimodal accommodations, deployment of a rapid response to incident team, enforcement of development policies that allow multimodal accommodations and access. Other congestion mitigation measures will be pursued by the LAPC technical committees, acting together with area municipalities and other agencies. Such measures could include employer sponsored bus passes, flexible and staggered work shifts, carpooling programs, parking and congestion studies, etc.
- **Construct the USH 53 Extended from CTH SS to Gillette St and 12th Avenue Extended from CTH SS to STH 16 project.**
This project is included in the *2010 - 2013 La Crosse and La Crescent Metropolitan Area Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* and is the recommended "northern section" of the New North/South Roadway recommended in the 1998 *La Crosse North-South Corridor Study, IH-90 to USH 14/61*. This project will be considered with reduced lane capacity if warranted by the reinforcement and reconstruction of the existing north/south grid network, such as the continuation of Oak Ave and 12th Ave and the distribution of other improvements on existing roadways.
- **Minimize the concentration of capacity improvements on a single roadway.**
Improvements should be distributed on existing roadways as much as possible. Further study and modeling of distributed scenarios during the Coulee Connections Transportation Study will help determine the most appropriate improvements to address current and future deficiencies.
- **Complete the *Coulee Connections Transportation Study* to determine the most feasible improvements from Gillette St south.**
The LAPC will work with WisDOT to complete a detailed corridor study with a much more detailed scope than the current MTP update process. The corridor study will determine the most feasible and publicly-acceptable improvements to address the

deficiencies in the north/south corridor from I-90 to South Ave. The corridor study will:

- Take into account the recommendation by the LAPC to proceed with the USH 53 Extended from CTH SS to Gillette St and 12th Avenue Extended from CTH SS to STH 16 project by concentrating on determining solutions from Gillette St south to USH 14/61.
 - Recommend solutions that integrate projects both north and south of Gillette St in a study area extending from I-90 to USH 14/61 (see attached map).
 - Consider the possible reduction in the number of recommended lanes for USH 53 extended through, for example, improvements to the existing grid system.
 - Re-evaluate the existing environmental impact statement (EIS) from the *La Crosse North-South Corridor Study, IH-90 to USH 14/61*.
 - Be consistent with the requirements of the metropolitan transportation planning process.
 - Recommend actions to expend Major Projects Program enumeration.
 - Initiate in late summer 2010, with study completion by late summer 2013.
- **Address congestion in downtown La Crosse and Onalaska without lane expansions.** Modeling forecasts existing and future deficiencies in the downtown areas of the Cities of La Crosse and Onalaska. City planners in the cities are opposed to removing parking or adding travel lanes to increase capacity and speed traffic through the downtown areas. They would rather accept congestion while maintaining safety through traffic calming, traffic signal timing and other congestion mitigating activities.
- **Implement the recommendations of ongoing corridor studies.** Currently, the DOTs are studying the means to address identified congestion on STH 16 between West Salem and Onalaska, at the I 90 / TH 14/61 interchange at the Dresbach Bridge, and are planning operational improvements on many other projects in the region. LAPC communities will continue to implement these recommendations as efficiently as possible.
- **Implement roadway improvements through the TIP process.** The LAPC maintains the *Transportation Improvement Program for the La Crosse / La Crescent Urbanized Area (TIP)*. The TIP is a four-year program of urban area transportation projects that may be conducted under FHWA, Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and state programs. All projects proposed in the TIP are required to be consistent with the MTP and other area transportation programs. Many of the projects in the TIP will help address congestion through operational improvements. Unlike the MTP, the TIP is updated annually and constitutes the primary listing of ongoing and planned projects in the planning area.

Tom Faella

Executive Director, La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC)

UW-Extension

April - May 2010

- Two workshops on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) were held in conjunction with EAB Awareness Week on Wednesday, May 26th, in collaboration with the City of La Crosse Park & Recreation Department. Over 25 people participated in the workshops which featured hands-on demonstrations on insecticide application options for homeowners. (JC)
- A research project with a local dairy farmer was started in May as part of a state wide study to determine if potash and sulfur deficiencies are becoming common in alfalfa fields. Soil and plant samples have been collected to be analyzed and farm/field data will be collected to help determine the effects of field management. (SDH)
- In April, the 4-H Youth Leaders participated in Community Clean Up Day which is part of the local celebration of Earth Day. Each group was assigned an area that they were responsible for cleaning up. This community service activity was a great way to show the essence of "For My Community, My Country and My World" which is a vital aspect of the 4-H Pledge. (JH)
- The first ever IW2K! (I Want to Know) Science, Engineering and Technology Camp was held in April at Camp Upham Woods near Wisconsin Dells. This camp for Middle School youth offered sessions in Rocketry, GPS, Bridge Design and Bat House Building. The camp filled to capacity with 26 youth on a waiting list. Evaluation results showed that 95% of those attending rated the sessions as Excellent or Good and 68% of the youth are considering a career in the Science, Engineering or Technology fields as a result of the camp. (RM)
- Miss Wisconsin, Kristina Smaby, joined the La Crosse Association for Home and Community Education (LAHCE), Cooperative Extension Family Living Programs, and Wisconsin Public Television to celebrate the 12th year of the Bookworms program, and 500,000 books read to and sent home with children enrolled in the Head Start program around the state of Wisconsin. Locally, LAHCE started the program with Head Start in 2004 and 1,249 Head Start children have been beneficiaries, with a total of 9,992 books going into the homes of these children. The Wisconsin Bookworms program encourages literacy, introducing children to the joy of reading and promoting reading in the home. (MMS)
- La Crosse County Family Living Educator was presented the Epsilon Sigma Phi Visionary Leadership Award by Chris Kniep, President of Epsilon Sigma Phi and Rick Klemme, Dean of University of Wisconsin-Cooperative Extension. The award is given for significant accomplishments resulting in leading Extension toward new directions. (MMS)
- The CNRED Educator presented his "La Crosse Housing Promise" research to a group of local stakeholders including representatives from local realtors, WHEDA, local landlord's association, local developers and citizen advocacy groups to illustrate the potential economic development opportunities within the La Crosse School District following implementation of a La Crosse Promise scholarship program. Following the program nine audience members agreed to volunteer on a workgroup to pursue the potential development opportunities, and possibly suggest private/local government partnerships. (KG)

- The CNRED Educator is facilitating the baseline sub-committee, as well as staffing the Sustainability Committee. The CNRED Educator prepared initial; statistical analysis on County energy data, as well as prepared reviews of various "Green" certification programs. (KG)
- WNEP collaborated with three La Crosse School District principals and a Viterbo University intern to research satisfaction with the District food pantries and the best way to provide nutritional education to more parents. The survey was distributed in 180 food pantry bags with the education question results (allowing a response to more than one choice) showing that 54% wanted education through nutritional informational brochures; 43% were interested in money saving grocery tips; 37% wanted healthy, simple recipe ideas and 20% were interested in meal planning tips. (SH)
- The nutrition educator conducted a series of presentations to area 3rd graders on healthy eating and the USDA MyPyramid by featuring different food groups each day while the children had an opportunity to taste familiar and unfamiliar foods. At the beginning of the session, 48% (15/31) students were able to correctly identify that more foods at the base of the MyPyramid should be consumed than at the tip and at the conclusion of the session 96% (26/27) students chose the correct answer. (SH)

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 construction 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. Several large conservation projects have been bid out and awarded to contractors waiting to start up construction as soon as the landowners are ready for them. The largest project scheduled for this year is the Gill's Coulee Creek Stream Restoration Project. After five years of project implementation, the final year of conservation practice installation will come to an end. Over that time period, seven landowners in the Gill's Coulee Creek watershed agreed to install conservation practices that will greatly reduce the amount of sediment that is being deposited into the La Crosse River. Most of the practices involved stream bank protection. By reinforcing eroding stream corners and providing hard bottom areas for cattle and machinery to cross, there will be less sediment for Gill's Coulee Creek to transport. This reduces the loss of in-stream habitat for aquatic insects and game fish species in both Gill's Coulee Creek and the La Crosse River. It also helps to increase water clarity, lower stream water temperatures, reduce nutrient pollution and improve recreational opportunities for residents and tourists.

The Department of Land Conservation has seen an increase in the number of erosion control permits issued this year versus last year at this time. Improvements in the once stalled housing market has seen more interest in new home construction, as well as significant remodeling projects, has more than doubled the number of permits issued so far this year. In mid May of 2009 we had issued 21 erosion control permits. On May 12th of this year, we have issued 49 permits. Most local contractors are doing a good job of implementing erosion

control practices on their job sites and continue to maintain them throughout construction. Their efforts have reduced runoff pollution to our surface waters and have kept sediment out of storm sewer systems.

We are also keeping our eye on recently proposed legislation that could impact where and how much animal manure a farmer can spread on their cropland. Senate Bill 632 would require the DNR along with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to promulgate rules to limit pollution of groundwater caused by the spreading of any kind of waste, including animal waste, septage, sewage sludge and industrial waste to certain areas in the state where there is carbonate bedrock. Carbonate bedrock, such as limestone, is readily dissolved by rainwater and snowmelt runoff. Over time, the bedrock becomes fractured with caverns and crevices that allow water to quickly migrate to groundwater with little or no filtration of pollutants such as land spread animal manure. About 60% of La Crosse County, particularly in the southern half, has carbonate bedrock and additional regulations regarding land spreading of wastes may apply in the future under this proposed legislation.

Gregg Stangl
Director of Land Conservation

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Public Works & Infrastructure June 2010

Highway Department

- Our reconditioning projects for this season have been started. CTH E from STH 162 to STH 16 has had the existing pavement reclaimed, culverts replaced as needed, adequate base course added and a new mat will be paved early this month. The same process is currently under way on CTH M from CTH D to CTH Q.
- Early season crack sealing and patching has been completed in advance of our seal coating program later this season. We also performed this work for the Village of Holmen.
- Mowing has been started with vision areas receiving priority. The schedule is to have two swaths cut on the county trunk system by the 4th of July with full width mowing done later this year. On the state highways in the county one cut or a 15' swath will be cut only one time as per the directive from the Department of Transportation. Vision areas will be mowed as needed.
- With the hot weather the last week of May there were 7 concrete blowups on various state highways. The blowups were temporarily repaired with permanent repairs to be done this fall.
- Crews have been busy performing bridge repair, washing of bridges, repair of safety appurtenances as well as sign repair and replacement.
- I have been notified by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and our Wisconsin County Highway Association that there is a shortage of paint for line striping. This issue seems to be nationwide. The Vernon County Highway Department performs our yearly striping and in talking to Commissioner Virgil Hanold he informs me that they have only received 2 of the scheduled 12 semi loads of paint he has ordered for the season and doesn't know for sure if and when the rest of their order will arrive. This could have an effect on our seal coating program as we cannot seal and cover lines if we cannot re-stripe.

Respectfully Submitted

Dennis Osgood

Solid Waste

- Earth Month was a great success and the La Crosse County Sustainability program was a big part of the events. Highlights included articles in the paper for Pull the Plug day, a ten minute interview on Wisconsin Public Radio heard across the state, Bill Miller in concert, Will Allen from Growing Power, Earth Day activities at the Waldorf School and the Green Expo at Western technical College. Nick Nichols did a presentation to the vital aging conference on the 20th of May along with several presentations to public schools during Earth Day.
- The Gas-to-Energy Project continues at a steady pace, and final revisions are being put together for the financial proforma. The production of the landfill gas continues to perform well and confidence is high for a viable project.
- The Solid Waste Evaluation was approved by both the Cities of Onalaska and La Crosse and the County Board and work was initiated in early May. Nick Nichols is working with Foth to gather information for the study. Foth will be in town on the 1st of June to meet with local haulers and Solid Waste Department staff.
- Utilization of the HHM facility was strong in April and May. Utilization is nearly the same as it was last year at this time and warm weather in March was responsible for an early start of the summer rush. La Crosse County participated in Clean Sweep events in Monroe and Vernon counties. In June and July there will be clean Sweep programs in Jackson, Adams and Juneau counties.
- La Crosse County recently learned it may need to revise operating practices for its medication collection and disposal program. The program may not be in alignment with federal Drug enforcement agency (DEA) interpretations. The County is continuing to provide this service, while working to seek clarification from the DEA. The program may not be able to continue operation without modification after its Special Use Authorization, from the Wisconsin Controlled substances Board, expires on 8/9/2010. Changes to the pharmaceutical waste collection program will not affect any of the other programs at HHM.
- All special wastes are being reviewed and recertified, in accordance with the three year schedule in the special Waste Plan. In addition, deposition, coding and pricing are being reviewed to ensure consistency and adherence to Wisconsin DNR guidelines for coding and paying of fees. La Crosse County has been working with foundries to minimize the release of dust from handling baghouse waste at the landfill.
- An exciting opportunity to recycle non-ferrous metals at the XCEL waste-to-energy plant will be presented to the county in June. This program could add a new revenue stream to the Solid Waste Department.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Judiciary & Law June 2010

Emergency Services

The La Crosse County Area Radio Group completed the bulk of the phase one project during this period by preparing a common letter to be shared with all municipalities and public safety governing boards. The letter provided summary information regarding the project and over-views of the three proposed options to achieve compliance with the Federally-mandated narrow band radio spectrum conversion.

There have been updates to the two Emergency Services websites. Recently, the ALERT LA CROSSE Emergency Management website was updated by the County IT Department. Visit the site at: <http://www.alertlacrosse.org/>

The 2009 Public Safety Communications Annual Report is available on its website at: www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/emergencyservices/Dispatch/index

Public-Safety Communications

March

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,147 (average of 69 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 97.07%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.95%
* 0 calls more than 30 seconds

Total Calls 25,331 (average of 817 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	9,397
Fire Fighting	189
Emergency Medical	472

April

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,261 (average of 75 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 96.02%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.51%
* 1 call more than 30 seconds

Total Calls 24,926 (average of 831 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	9,253
Fire Fighting	176
Emergency Medical	429

**National Emergency Number Association Standards:*

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

In May, two telecommunicators began service. Adriane Forseth is a La Crosse native. She had a degree in Sociology and had been working on her Master's Degree in Business Administration. She had been working at CenturyLink in customer service and is a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Karen Ryun joins our staff after 10 years experience as a telecommunicator, most recently at the Wood County Dispatch Center. After visiting La Crosse last year during a Conference, Karen decided she really liked the area and wanted to move here.

In the first quarter of 2010, one out of every six 9-1-1 calls resulted in what is called a 9-1-1 Check. These calls are often 9-1-1 hang-ups or silent calls where no one responds when answered. If the line is still open, the system checks to see if the call is from a device from the hearing impaired. The dispatcher also listens for any background noises that may be evidence of an emergency.

If the caller has disconnected, in most cases a call-back number is available and the dispatcher will make the call back. Law Enforcement officers are sent using whatever location information that may have been provided to verify the need for emergency assistance. In other words, all 9-1-1 calls are treated as emergencies until proven otherwise.

Emergency Management (**Keith Butler**)

La Crosse County Emergency Management applied for radio grants to provide a Command Vehicle radio for several area law enforcement agencies, the County Communications & Command Vehicle and the County Emergency Operations Center. These radios will assure area law enforcement leaders of having direct communication on the new WISCOM trunked digital VHF radio system.

The County Communications & Command Vehicle was presented to state and federal officials in Madison on Thursday, May 20 during a day-long interoperability exercise known as SIMCOM '10. Communications experts from Wisconsin, Illinois and several federal agencies all remarked on the excellent conversion and use of the vehicle as well as the unique provision of back-up 9-1-1 communications capability.

Exercise plans are nearly complete for a joint Rochester, MN and La Crosse Hazardous Materials response exercise to be held in La Crescent, MN on June 23. Area officials are welcome to attend to observe the examination and exercising of the recently-enacted MN/WI Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement that should allow easier and quicker response to events along the state border.

The Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Grant – GIS Specialist program is well underway with most of the nearly 45 Planning Facilities fully mapped using modern GIS techniques. The modernization of these hazmat plans will allow responders to have access to much more information in a common platform, including the location of nearby special needs and vulnerable population facilities and evacuation routes.

La Crosse County Emergency Management hosted a 13-county regional emergency communications network training session for the State's 'e-sponder' system in the County Board Room on May 18. This web-based information sharing system is available for use by local officials and responders for pre-planned events (such as Riverfest and AirFest) as well as during emergencies and disasters. Contact Keith Butler if you are interested in receiving brief orientation training or would like to obtain on-line access to the secure La Crosse County e-sponder website.

*Jay Loeffler, Administrator
La Crosse County Emergency Services*

Corporation Counsel

Recognition for Outstanding Performance:

The La Crosse County Child Support Agency was awarded a certificate of Outstanding Performance for 2009 by the Department of Children and Families of the State of Wisconsin. The agency was recognized for its ability to increase the percent of cases established by more than 1.5%; maintain a paternity establishment ratio of more than 90% and increase its percentage of current support collected over the previous year.

The award was distributed to the agency at the Director's Dialogue held in Stevens Point April 22nd by Secretary of the Department of Children and Families, Reggie Bicha.

Staffing:

The agency is currently experiencing staffing issues due to turnover and retirement. The agency will start three new staff June 7th to replace workers who have left the agency, are retiring or have moved to other departments within the county. This level of turnover will pose significant challenges to the agency, but it is hoped that the new recruits will take to their responsibilities quickly.

Meg Torgertud

Child Support Supervisor

District Attorney's Office

Over the past few years we've been developing an internship program that will provide incoming students with a well rounded experience to help them complete their requirements for graduation. We plan to have 3 interns per semester, one dedicated to victim witness and 2 dedicated to the attorney staff. There are several opportunities provided to students which include but not limited to the opportunity to view a variety of court proceedings, assist attorneys with case research and summary, assist victims in court, and to gain a basic working knowledge of an office. Each day offers a new learning opportunity for them as no two days are the same. Our internship program has helped many students to determine a direction for their careers after graduation whether it be their quest for law school or help determining what area of law they may be interested in. We truly enjoy seeing the students grow during their time in our office.

Another area that we are excited about is the work that we've done to make the Victim Witness Department run more efficient and effectively for the victims of La Crosse County. When there is a crime involving a victim in La Crosse county, each victim is sent a packet of information to which they are can respond to request restitution, make a statement in court or to simply have court notice's sent to them which allows them to follow the case closer. We have created a new process that ensures that each victim has been notified either by mail or telephone contact and provides our office with the appropriate information to proceed in an efficient manner. We feel this new process helps to cut court times in cases where previously the lack of victim impact was prolonging the case.

Tim Gruenke

District Attorney