



*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: October 5, 2010**

**Re: October Monthly Report to the County Board**

Attached is the October 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”**

**Wisconsin Counties Assoc. Annual Conference: Representative Shilling & La Crosse County recognized**  
*Friend of County Government Award* *Rep. Shilling: Receives Wisconsin Counties Association's highest award*  
Representative Jennifer Shilling was presented with the 2010 Friend of County Government Award. The highest honor presented by the WCA to a non-county official, awarded in recognition of her work on several important county issues including funding for 911 systems, county financial stabilization efforts, and nursing home commission legislation. “From my time as a La Crosse County Supervisor, I earned a great amount of respect for the challenges facing our counties,” said Rep. Shilling. “County governments play an important role in the success, safety, and growth of our communities,” added Shilling. “We’re fortunate to have some of the most innovative and forward-thinking individuals here in La Crosse and I will continue to bring our ideas to the forefront as we work to get our state back on track.”

*Foth Good Government Award* Each year at the WCA conference, the Foth Companies presents the Wisconsin Good Government Award program, in cooperation with the WCA, the League of Wis. Municipalities and the Towns Association. A panel of judges reviews entries and selects the winners. The 2010 Good Government Award volunteer judges were: Todd Berry, President, WTA, Gary Becker, Executive Director, Local Government Institute of Wisconsin Ed Huck, Executive Director, Wisconsin Alliance of Cities. This year La Crosse County was selected in recognition of the Mississippi Valley Health Services commission, a collaboration of 13 WI counties to operate the Lakeview Health Care Center, sharing costs and serving clients with difficult behavioral challenges. This initiative saves La Crosse County taxpayers over \$1 million / year, while collaborating with our partner counties.

**Policy Planning Monday October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010: Presentation by WTA President Todd Berry**

We’re honored that Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance Todd Berry has agreed to make a presentation to the County Board. His presentations on the state economy, taxes and local government are always informative and entertaining. Following his presentation, we will have additional dialogue about the 2011 budget.

*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](mailto:steve.omalley@co.la-crosse.wi.us)*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Planning, Resources & Development Committee October 2010

### UW-Extension

- The Greater La Crosse Area Money Smart Week Steering Committee has made plans for "Money Smart Week", October 2-9, to help consumers, regardless of their income, better manage their personal finances. The Committee is offering targeted sessions on budgeting, debt management, credit, and retirement planning in local businesses and organizations in an effort to expand financial programs to individuals and families where they work. (MMS)
- Facilitated a strategic planning retreat for the newly reorganized La Crosse Area Family Policy Board. Twenty-four agency representatives worked through a nominal group process to prioritize unmet needs and formulate action plans to address these needs for La Crosse County families. The three prioritized areas of need include: coordination of services; mental health & AODA, and mental health of children; and cultural competence. (MMS)
- Corn Fungicide plot ratings were taken at three locations this month and showed small amounts of leaf diseases (rust and northern corn leaf blight were the main two diseases found) were present in our local corn crop. Yields from these plots will be taken at harvest to determine if the application of a corn fungicide resulted in greater yields versus those that were untreated. (SDH)
- Over 75 initial horticulture inquiries were received by the Agriculture Agent in August and September, and approximately 30 plant and/or insect samples were brought to the office for diagnostics assistance. Eleven Master Gardener Volunteers will start a ten week advanced training at the end of September that will be offered by the Agriculture Agent as well. (SDH)
- Over 100 youth participated in the Wisconsin State Fair and exhibited projects in a wide variety of areas including dairy, beef, sheep, goat, rabbits, woodworking, arts, clothing, demonstrations, music and drama. Youth participating in the State Fair are evaluated by certified judges and practice communication skills through their interaction with the many people that visit the Fair each year. (RM)
- Fifty-eight youth participated in the Summer At-Risk program. The program, based in experiential learning methodologies, offered a variety of activities that helped youth to build positive relationships with others, increase their awareness of self and others, and increase their trust and respect of self and others. Many of the hands-on learning activities involved working with animals or were adventure-based. (RM)
- 4-H received a Healthy Living grant, through National 4-H Council and the Wal-Mart Foundation. The program focused on nutrition, physical fitness and safety. Parts of this program were offered at Franklin, Hamilton and North Woods Elementary schools in La Crosse, the Boys & Girls Club of West Salem and 4-H Clover College in West Salem. These programs reached over 600 youth. (JH)
- The City of La Crosse's housing stock report was completed for the La Crosse Promise Housing and Community Development Committee. This report details the low valued housing stock in the City of La Crosse, and provides a comparative analysis in order to illustrate the magnitude of the issue. This report was presented to the City of La Crosse's Finance & Personnel committee meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup>. (KG)

- Facilitated the first Village of Holmen / Holmen Seven Bridges TIF Design Standards Committee meeting. This committee is charged with determining all the covenants, restrictions and requirements for development within the Holmen Seven Bridges Development project area. The CNRED Educator will continue to work with this committee in order to develop design standards for the TIF project area. (KG)
- The nutrition educators shared ideas and tips for stretching the food budget with seniors that illustrated how buying store brand products could save money. The participants compared visual, taste and price differences between store brand and national brand samples. At the completion of the presentation, 78% heard at least one new way to get more for their money that they plan to use in the future. (SH)
- Forty-one Salvation Army residents attended a class led by WNEP staff on the topic of strategies to save money spent on food. Results from the evaluation showed that 81% felt that the presentation was "helpful or very helpful", 96% decided on staples to have on hand when other food is not available, and 92% heard at least one new way to get more for their food dollars. (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

*Cheryl McBride*

*La Crosse County Register of Deeds*

## **County Surveyor**

**WEBSITE UPDATE:** The County Surveyor Department website has received a much needed update. Our department created new verbiage to better clarify the services provided by our office. An added link allows for viewing of our Section and Quarter Tie Sheets. Another link allows for viewing of the survey maps found in several municipalities of our County Surveyor files. As we continue to scan the survey maps for additional townships and municipalities, these will be made available for viewing as well. We are thankful for the work

of Barb Johnson of the Information Technology (IT) department in assisting our department in publishing these updates to our website.

**MONUMENT PRESERVATION:** As the County Highway Department completes resurfacing projects for the year, we continue to restore the affected survey monuments that fell within the paved portions of these roads. The following roads were involved:

- 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 late addition to this list is CTH "A" from STH 108 to CTH "C" (Sections 11 and 12, Town of Farmington). We will work to protect survey markers that fall within the paved portion of this road as well.

**SECTION AND QUARTER CORNER MAINTENANCE:** We continue to visit Section and Quarter corner markers concentrating this year on those in the Town of Bangor and the Town of Barre. Our department goal is to visit at least 5% of La Crosse County's 1405 corners per year. 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 (due to road construction, landscaping, etc), please contact our office.

**COORDINATE VALUE ACQUISITION:** We continue to gather accurate coordinate values on our Section and Quarter corner monuments. These efforts have been slowed due to the loss of functionality of our GPS equipment which had been in use since the late 1990s. A Topcon vendor has indicated to us that the receivers are no longer able to collect data making the software obsolete. We are still able to collect coordinate values by conventional traversing methods. Once collected, these values are given to the Land Records Office to assist with more accurate mapping.

**PUBLIC RESPONSE, MAP INTAKE AND CERTIFIED SURVEY MAP REVIEW:** As always, we regularly respond to interesting and complex surveying and land ownership questions from the public and other County departments. We also continue to index and file survey maps, when submitted, and review Certified Survey Maps for compliance with State Statutes and local ordinance prior to recording in the Register of Deeds Office.

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

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Public Works & Infrastructure October 2010

### Highway Department

- We have completed the reconditioning of CTH A from STH 108 to CTH C. We reclaimed the existing pavement, added base rock as needed and paved a new mat and added shoulders. This section of highway had a pavement rating of 4 out of a scale of 10. A "4" rating calls for reconstructing or reconditioning of the pavement. This area of CTH A will be used as a detour when CTH C is reconstructed under a Federal/State Surface Transportation Project (STP). We should hear latter this year if we will be awarded STP dollars for the C Project. The CTH A project is our last paving project for the year.
- We have completed our seasonal mowing of the county trunk highway system. This second mowing entailed the full width mowing of the right-of-ways to prevent encroachment of trees and brush, maintain drainage, prohibit tall grasses from acting as snow fences and good stewardship with adjoining land owners.
- We experienced minor to moderate storm damage from the late September storms including mudslides, slide outs, shoulder damage, and loss of rip-rap on some bridges. CTH C was closed on the morning of Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> due to water over the road between CTH DE and CTH T. The road was reopened by 4:00 am on Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Repairs will begin after some drying weather and will be completed before freeze up this winter.
- Center Line paint was in short supply earlier this year and no one could guarantee that they could provide any striping services. After making several calls and checking with striping companies, Twin City Striping from Delano Mn indicated they could get enough paint for us to re-stripe our construction projects completed this year as well as our seal coated roads along with some re-stripe on various roads. Twin City striped about 80 miles. In early September the Vernon County highway Department who normally does our striping was able to get some of the paint that was back ordered from last spring and were able to come and stripe about 20 miles for us to finish out our striping this season. The total striping amounts to about one-third of our county trunk highway system.
- The mixing of sand/salt will begin in late October to mid-November. We usually mix about 20,000 tons to cover our needs as well as any cites, villages and townships that need material. The DOT has received their initial salt order and filled their storage buildings. Our salt storage buildings were filled last spring. Winter equipment is being mounted and equipment readied for the upcoming season.

Respectfully Submitted

*Dennis Osgood* - Commissioner

## **Solid Waste**

- Work on designing the compressor building and pipeline for the gas-to-energy project is underway. A preliminary pipeline route has been chosen.
- On September 17, the final version of the Solid Waste Evaluation study. The report identifies ways La Crosse County communities can save money, collaborate and provide for increased sustainability by improving garbage collection and recycling services.
- On September 17, 2010, an Open House and Customer Appreciation Day was held at the landfill. In addition to presenting the Solid Waste Evaluation, tours were given of the HHM and Landfill facilities. The new shop was dedicated and work associated with the design and permitting of the gas-to-energy project was kicked off. Charlie Handy presented the final draft Land Use Plan for the Solid Waste Complex. Diagrams and posters showing alternative routes for the gas pipeline to Gundersen Lutheran were displayed and discussed. Gundersen Lutheran provided a display on their commitment to renewable energy and the gas-to-energy project. Additional displays provided information on the Xcel waste processing system and sustainable programs in La Crosse County. The open house was attended by approximately 80 persons. Numerous positive comments were received.
- The number of citizens utilizing the HHM facility is slightly higher than last year, however, the total pounds of waste collected are 8% below 2009. With the ban on electronic waste, HHM has received an increase in the amount of electronic waste being brought to the facility.
- The Solid Waste Department has applied for the Green Tier Wisconsin DNR program. This program rewards organizations that implement an environmental management system and demonstrate superior environmental performance. When accepted, La Crosse County Solid Waste Department will become the first landfill and the first municipal entity in the Green Tier program.
- A new landfill entrance sign has been erected and installation of an electric gate to control security is under construction.
- The use of QuickBooks accounting software was implemented September 1, 2010, for the Household Hazardous Waste program bringing tighter controls, increased accuracy and enhanced reporting features to the department. Other areas of the department will gradually make use of this effective software in the coming months. Additional permit revenues are being received in response to a new permit tracking method that monitors hauler and customer trucks.
- Operation of the Citizen's Unloading Area continues with the addition of newspaper and radio ads aimed at increasing utilization.
- The Solid Waste Department has instituted a Driver of the Month Award to identify drivers who are performing in a safe manner and serve as role models to other drivers. A monthly newsletter that provides information to the haulers making them aware of safety issues, construction activities and other information at the landfill was initiated in September.

- During the month of September, the landfill was open on three Saturdays - on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday for Citizens, but also on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday due to the Labor Day holiday.
- The process to review and select a consultant to provide solid waste management services to the Solid Waste Department continues. RFP's have been received and are being evaluated and it is expected that interviews will be performed in November with a selection made in December.
- A tour of the landfill facility was made by the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee and the Sustainability Commission.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Judiciary & Law October 2010

### Emergency Services

On September 14, a delegation of officials from Japan visited La Crosse County to study how emergency medical service is provided in urban and rural areas of the United States. This team consisted of one medical doctor, one fire academy deputy and one emergency medical school professor and a researcher from the Japanese National Research Institute of Fire and Disaster.

The Brice Prairie EMS hosted this delegation, which began with a question and answer period at their base. Town of Onalaska officials and members from various aspect of emergency medical services including Brice Prairie First Responders, Holmen Area Fire Department, Gundersen Lutheran Hospital, Tri-State Ambulance, Western Technical College, the Mass Casualty Team and La Crosse County Emergency Services. This was followed by tours at the Holmen Area Fire Department, La Crosse County Public Safety Communication and Gundersen Lutheran Emergency Communications.

### Public-Safety Communications (Al Blencoe, Manager)

#### July

##### Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls      2,707 (average of 87 per day)  
    Answered within 10 seconds:      93.72%  
    Answered within 20 seconds:      99.11%  
    \* 3 calls more than 40 seconds

Total Calls      27,808 (average of 897 per day)

##### Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	9,614
Fire Fighting	262
Emergency Medical	531

#### August

##### Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls      2,592 (average of 84 per day)  
    Answered within 10 seconds:      93.17%  
    Answered within 20 seconds:      99.34%  
    \* 0 calls more than 40 seconds

Total Calls      23,600 (average of 761 per day)

##### Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	9,637
Fire Fighting	205
Emergency Medical	572

*\*National Emergency Number Association Standards:*

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

VoIP/PBX business phones are becoming more prevalent and are problematic for 9-1-1 due to specific actions needing to be taken in order for 9-1-1 calls from these corporate systems to be properly located. A consortium of local Communications Companies has been enlisted to help get the word out to companies having or considering these phone systems.

As the FCC Narrow Banding mandate comes nearer, we have once again started the Radio Group meetings to develop the logistics of an implementation. The group will be meeting regularly to identify and address the issues of this project.

### **Emergency Management (Keith Butler, Coordinator)**

The Emergency Management Coordinator was on vacation from August 1 – 15. Regional and State emergency management personnel were notified and available to assist La Crosse County during my absence. County Emergency Services administration prepared a briefing regarding severe weather events that occurred during this time period, including a series of torrential rain storms, a prolonged high heat event, and an electric power outage. A Presidential (FEMA) Disaster Declaration was not obtained for these storms. None of the local municipalities submitted a Uniform Disaster Situation Report to the County Emergency Management office.

The Emergency Management Coordinator and office Senior Clerk participated in a Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) Regional Radio Interoperability planning session in Pierce County followed by an extensive tour of the Red Wing nuclear power plant on August 17.

La Crosse County was approved as MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) **Division 134** on August 18, culminating years of preparation and promotion. Considerable planning and integration with the Public Safety Communications Dispatch Center and area Fire Departments and EMS agencies will be required before MABAS can be fully implemented.

Emergency Management and the Mass Casualty Team participated in the Farm Safety training in Farmington Township on Saturday, August 21. Nearly 100 participants from WI and MN Fire Departments were exposed to current training on agriculture-specific trauma and rescue techniques.

Many Emergency Management Planning Grant activities occurred during this reporting period including the required review and updates to several emergency plans for facilities with hazardous substances. This work was carefully integrated with the Hazardous Materials Planning Grant project which was used to convert printed or hand-drawn facility maps into modern GIS map layers. Three new facility plans were developed.

The Tri-State HazMat Group has been meeting regularly in La Crosse and is preparing a regional HazMat exercise to be held at the Stoney Creek Inn (Onalaska) on December 1.

The Emergency Management Coordinator serves on the Wisconsin statewide public safety radio system (WISCOM) Board and met with officials on August 26 and September 8.

An annual review of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) implementation compliance by local public safety agencies is being completed. Digital recordings of all volunteer Fire Department radio transmissions during the month of August were reviewed for NIMS compliance. Currently only two of the eight county Fire Departments consistently apply certain NIMS and Incident Command System procedures. One Fire Department was 70% compliant, but all of the others were rarely compliant. Efforts will continue to encourage implementation of NIMS/ICS. Certain Homeland Security grant eligibility is contingent upon this compliance. A "NIMSCAST" online reporting tool is being prepared and will be submitted at the end of September.

A Hazardous Materials Commodity Flow Study for La Crosse County was completed and reveals that a significant quantity of hazardous materials is transported daily throughout La Crosse County. Area Fire Departments and the Hazardous Materials Response Team will be provided with copies of the report and will be encouraged to ensure their awareness and capability for transportation-related hazardous materials events.

The new Town of Holland VHF radio system was field-tested on September 2 to validate interoperability with County and neighboring public safety agencies.

Jay Loeffler, Administrator  
Emergency Services

## **Clerk of Courts**

September is jury appreciation month around the State of Wisconsin. Statewide Juror Appreciation Month was launched in 2008, when Gov. Jim Doyle signed a proclamation, Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson signed a declaration, and the Senate and Assembly each approved citations designating the occasion. Here in La Crosse County jurors were appreciated even more for this year's jury appreciation. We currently have 15 wonderful jurors serving for a record number of trial days in La Crosse County. These 15 jurors were picked from an initial panel of 55 jurors on August 30<sup>th</sup> after a selection process that took the entire day. The case is a medical malpractice suit being heard by Judge Bjerke. The trial should finish up on September 23<sup>rd</sup> after 16 days of trial and jury deliberations.

In checking past history of jury trial cases, our jury case software goes back to 1997. From May 1997 to the present, there were 727 cases taken to a jury. Of those cases, the next longest trial was in 1998 involving another medical malpractice trial. The jury trial lasted 10 days. The La Crosse County case was heard by Vernon County Judge Rosborough. Also during the same time frame there were only 13 cases of the 727 that lasted more than 5 days – 9 were civil cases and 4 were criminal cases. Of those 13 cases, only one jury involved sequestration of the jurors and that was a criminal case involving an attempted homicide in 1997.

*Pam Radtke*  
*Clerk of Courts*

## **District Attorney's Office**

We are pleased to welcome the newest addition to our staff Assistant District Attorney Amesia Ngialah Xiong. He is a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin Madison. His case load will consist of domestic, general crimes, and juvenile cases. He has been a great addition to our staff.

*Tim Gruenke*  
*District Attorney*