



*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 1, 2011

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”

Hillview Terrace Grand Opening

The Aging and Long term Care Committee will be getting a sneak preview of the new assisted living facility, following their committee meeting @ Hillview on Monday December 5, 2011 @ 10:00 am. Any County Board member is welcome to attend the committee meeting and tour the new facility, or stop by for the Grand Opening Monday December 19, 2011 3:30 – 5:30

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 2011

Zoning, Planning and Land Information:

Ordinance Updates:

1. Zoning ordinance: The Planning Resources and Development Committee and staff continue drafting an update of the Zoning Ordinance. We have met numerous times with the public and our towns. The latest draft went to public hearing again in October. Committee will meet in early December with a full report to the Policy Planning Meeting in December.
2. Floodplain Ordinance: Went to public hearing with zero comments, was on the agenda and received its first reading in October, with its second reading in November to be published by the end of the year.
3. Farmland Pres. Plan: We are required to update the current Farmland Preservation Plan to obtain Certification by the State by the end of this year. The plan was approved by committee and received zero comments at the scheduled public hearing. We should receive certification from DATCP soon. The proposed amendments in the upcoming state budget approvals will have an effect on the tools available for farmland preservation.
4. Sign Ordinance: PR&D Committee will be reviewing a public hearing draft on November 28th, with a public informational meeting for the sign ordinance scheduled for December 12th at 6 pm at the Omni Center in Onalaska.

Jeff Bluske Retirement: Our Department Head, Jeff Bluske, has announced his retirement, effective January 6th. We will certainly miss Jeff's direction, and technical expertise in so many issues. More than that we will miss Jeff's boundless energy, and positive spirit, or is that spirits. Over the years Jeff has received many professional accolades and significant recognition for being a creative leader. He was always looking to be ahead of the curve with technology and public service. Jeff was an example of good government in so many ways.

Staff Issues: We are currently in the process of filling the zoning specialist vacancy, and should have that complete by the first of the year. Replacing Jeff will be impossible, but we will be starting on that transition soon.

Zoning Permits Issued - La Crosse County Unincorporated

Total 2011 – 371 Value 2011 - \$21,526,544 Down 16.73%
Total 2010 – 403 Value 2010 - \$25,854,390

Charlie Hardy
County Planner

UW-Extension

- A corn fungicide plot harvest was completed at four cooperating sites this past month. Yields from these plots ranged from 140 bushel to 180 bushel. The application of a corn fungicide versus the untreated checks showed variation in yield, but economically would have been cost prohibitive as a stand-alone application. (SDH)
- In September, 18 Master Gardener interns began training in the 12-week Level 1 Master Gardener program that focused on Entomology to Plant Pathology and everything in between. All participants passed the required post class exam in November and have become certified Master Gardener Volunteers. In return for the training, participants will be giving back at least 24 hours of volunteer time related to horticulture in the local community over the coming year. (SDH)
- 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. Youth involved in the process learn skills such as writing, organization, goal setting and recordkeeping. (JH)
- The Western District IW2K! (I Want to Know) Science, Engineering and Technology Camp offered sessions in Astronomy, Water Quality, GPS, Chemical Reactions and Robotics. Middle School youth evaluation results showed that 95% of those attending rated the sessions as Excellent or Good and nearly 70% of the youth are considering a career in the Science, Engineering or Technology fields as a result of the camp. (RM)
- Over 90 individuals attended one or more of the three part Food Preservation & the Pickle Bill series and/or the Canning Venison & Other Meats program offered via Interactive Television. This collaboration involved Family Living Programs in La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau, and Vernon Counties with Western Technical College, and is being evaluated for impact and outcomes, and efficiencies using technology for sharing education programs. (MMS)
- Completed the facilitation of Results That Last with the Human Services Management Team. The sessions were offered to develop leadership, standardize behavior and response, align processes with organization goals and values, ultimately to increase effectiveness within an organization and for the clientele served. Next steps will extend the process and information to Department Supervisors. (MMS)
- So far this year, visiting only one time per month, WNEP contacted 219 people at a new walk-by educational display/discussion at WAFER and Salvation Army. They were provided with a demonstration on how to safely prepare big bulk packages of raw chicken, received handouts on food safety, and a Food \$ense newsletter. (SH)
- Eleven students at LaCrossroads Central Campus, participated in a vegetable and fruit class to learn about the many benefits of vegetables/fruits and different ways to incorporate more of them into their meals and snacks. At the conclusion of the class, 64% (7/11) are now going to try eating more vegetables each day, and (91%) 10/11 students said that they would eat oven roasted sweet potatoes again after tasting them for the first time as a sample. (SH)
- Presented the City of La Crosse's Challenging Housing Trends data to Downtown Main Street Executive Board, Chamber of Commerce's Executive Board, League of Women Voters, the City of Onalaska Community Development Authority, and the La Crosse Area Convention & Visitors Bureau Executive Board. Over 60 attendees learned about the nature of the City of La Crosse's Housing stock, and the impact this has on tax rates in the City of La Crosse. (KG)
- Began researching and presenting Frac Sand Mining Information to the La Crosse Economic Development Committee, the Town of Holland Planning Commission, as well as to a group of approximately 200 individuals interested in the subject – an

event sponsored by State Senator Jennifer Schilling and State Assembly Person Steve Doyle. Those present learned why frac sand mines are an issue for La Crosse County and various regulations that may apply to operations. (KG)

JH – Jenny Holm, 4-H & Youth Assistant

KG – Karl Green, Assoc. 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, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Agriculture, Ag Agent

Metropolitan Planning Organization

As you all know, the MPO Department has been very active in advocating for high-speed and higher frequency rail service to the La Crosse Area, providing data and information for the Minnesota State Rail Plan, and being actively involved in the Empire Builder Coalition, Minnesota High Speed Rail Commission and Minnesota Passenger Rail Forum.

Well, we were pleased to see that the Minnesota Department of Transportation Rail Office has received authorization by the Federal Rail Administration to continue planning for 90 MPH rail service between the Twin Cities and Milwaukee on the existing Amtrak Empire Builder Route through La Crosse. The next phase of a tiered plan will be a Service Development Plan beginning in early 2012 and completing in 2013. This plan will determine train frequencies, needed rail station improvements, crossing upgrades and other engineering considerations to prepare for final design. I will be participating in the Service Development Plan as well as representing bi-state interests in the long term financing plan being developed by Mn/DOT. I am also participating in a study of adding a second Amtrak train to the Empire Builder Line, including keeping an eye on impacts of additional rail freight needs of frac sand transport.

Tom Faella

Executive Director, La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC)

County Surveyor

GLOBAL POSITIONING SATELLITE SYSTEM EQUIPMENT PURCHASE: We are awaiting delivery of Topcon Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) equipment. Positioning Solutions representative Tom Walrath has indicated the new Tesla data collector is set for release in late November, so we anticipate delivery in late November or early December. This equipment update is part of our current Land Records Modernization Plan. Monies for this purchase are a part of the 2011 budget and will come from the Land Records funds of the Land Information program.

SCANNING PROJECT: Senior Engineering Aide Pete Follansbee continues to rehabilitate the maps located in the City of La Crosse files of the County Surveyor Records. In addition he is assigning and applying a unique identifying number to each of those maps. The unique identifying number is necessary so that the digital images can one day be incorporated into the La Crosse County Geographic Information System (GIS).

CERTIFIED SURVEY MAP, PRELIMINARY PLAT REVIEW AND MAP FILING: So far in 2011, we have had 49 Certified Survey Maps (CSMs) submitted for review. Of these 49 maps, 25 are located in the unincorporated areas of La Crosse County and are subject to a review fee of \$50. The number of CSMs reviewed this year is on pace for the number we had in 2010. We continue the intake of Plat of Survey maps submitted for filing in the County Surveyor files.

SECTION AND QUARTER CORNER VISITS: As we finish up our field work for the year, I am happy to report that we were able to visit 87 of our Section and Quarter corner locations throughout the County. This number represents just over 6% of the County's 1405 corner locations. Our department goal is to visit and perform maintenance on 5% of those corners each year. This year we focused our efforts on the monument locations in the Town of Burns (T17N, R5W) and the Town of Holland (T18N, R8W). We also made visits to other corner monuments that may be at risk of disturbance or removal (for example road construction). If you know of a survey marker that may be endangered, please contact our office.

ONGOING RESPONSE: As always, we continually respond to the public, other County Departments and other governmental agencies to assist them with surveying and land ownership questions. These interactions take place via e-mail, telephone and face-to-face visits.

*Respectfully submitted,
Bryan Meyer
La Crosse County Surveyor*

Department of Land Conservation

The Department of Land Conservation has completed the Gill's Coulee Greek Stream Restoration Project in September of this year. Gill's Coulee Creek is located between West Salem and La Crosse, north of Highway 16. It is a tributary to the La Crosse River entering below Lake Neshonoc. It has been designated by the Department of Natural Resources as an "impaired water body" meaning that the creek was not meeting State water quality goals. Excessive streambank erosion, upland erosion and cattle access were the leading causes of sedimentation in Gill's Coulee Creek. The streambank erosion and the resulting sedimentation caused the destruction of aquatic habitat for fish and the insects they feed upon. The creek had also become wide and shallow due to cattle access causing water temperatures and dissolved oxygen levels to reach levels unsuitable to support a viable sport fishery.

In 2005, the La Crosse County Department of Land Conservation received the first of four Targeted Runoff Management Grants from the Department of Natural Resources to implement a stream restoration project on Gill's Coulee Creek. The Land Conservation Department staff contacted landowners in the Gill's Coulee Creek watershed to solicit their participation in the restoration project. There were seven landowners who choose to participate in the project and became instrumental in assisting staff with the restoration effort.

After seven years of work, the Gill's Coulee Creek Stream Restoration Project has successfully achieved its goals. The stream has been narrowed by using rock rip rap to stabilize eroding stream banks thus increasing stream depth and water flow and reducing

sedimentation by more than 60%. Upland erosion sites that contributed sediment to the creek were controlled with grade stabilization structures and grassed waterways. Cattle access to the creek was controlled or eliminated and cattle/machinery crossings were installed to prevent further erosion to the streambanks.

Water quality monitoring in Gill's Coulee Creek has already shown signs of improvement. Both water temperature and dissolved oxygen parameters have returned to healthy levels. We anticipate that a strong response from aquatic insects and cold water fish species will take place soon. Another benefit to the restoration project is that these water quality improvements will be carried downstream positively affecting the La Crosse River and eventually, the Mississippi River.

Gregg Stangl
Director of Land Conservation

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Public Works & Infrastructure December 2011

Solid Waste

- **HHM-** Responding to the suggestions from customers, HHM is expanding its hours of operation starting in 2012. HHM will be open as follows.

Walk-ins (Citizens Only)

Tuesday, 8:00 am–4:00 pm

Wednesday, 10:00 am–6:00 pm

1st & 3rd Saturdays, 9:00 am–noon

By appointment only

(Small Businesses given Priority)

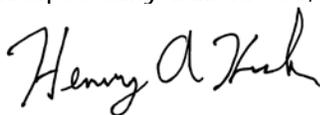
Monday, 11:00 am–4:00 pm

Thursday, 9:00 am–4:00 pm

The last quarterly medication collection was held on 11/5/11 at Viterbo University, the Onalaska PD and HHM. Cooperation between several organizations allows us to hold collections at multiple sites. A total of 875 users brought in 1,280 pounds of unwanted medications, including over 250 pounds of controlled substances.

- **Solid Waste Evaluation-**The cities of La Crosse and Onalaska continue to meet and discuss ways in which garbage collection and recycling can be improved.
- **Gas-To-Energy-**Construction should be completed by the end of November. Permits and final approvals are expected from the PSC by January 1, 2012. Start up of the system is expected in January 2012.
- **Shingle Recycling-**Storm damage from this spring has resulted in unprecedented quantities of shingles being received. This will limit the quantities that can be processed next year and will require a first-come, first-served policy until market demand for the recycled shingles catches up.
- **Landfill Contractor-**Lack of compliance to contract requirements and violation of WDNR regulations has required re-evaluation of alternatives to provide landfill contract operations for the future.

Respectfully Submitted,



Henry A. Koch, P.E.

Highway Department

- The Highway Department has commenced our Shop reorganization and modernization with the hiring of our new Shop Superintendent. The gentleman we hired is Roger Ondeck. Roger has been with us since 1999, most recently as a mechanic in the shop. Since starting he has been working on various procedures and operations to improve our cost effectiveness and efficiency. For example; since the WisDOT has equipped us with GPS in our plow trucks for other purposes, Roger has tapped into that resource for maintenance scheduling and it looks to save us between 25% and 30% on our equipment maintenance costs. Another area he is in the process of working on is a system of comprehensively tracking daily equipment/vehicle checks along with corrective actions to rectify any noted deficiencies.
- Along the lines of Sustainability and improved level of service the Department will be running two test sections this winter to try out a newer salt product that has come on the market, trade name of Ice Slicer. When I was in Adams County we had significant success with the product to the point where this year Adams has changed over completely for the County Highways. The product is significantly higher in cost per ton, but the utilization is 1/3 to 1/2 of the quantity of conventional road salt. Therefore the actual cost of product utilized is about even. The advantages of the Ice Slicer product are: better residual effect in future storm events, quicker action after application, lower effective temperatures and significantly lower quantity of chlorides introduced into the environment. After the winter I will report on our test results.
- On the grant front I have submitted:
 - CTH A (STH 108 to Williams Road) for \$241,507.20 of funding under the County Highway Improvement Program. That section is currently scheduled for 2015.
 - CTH Z (STH 35 to Termini) for \$223,048.96 of funding for an overlay project in 2012 or 2013 under the Indian Reservation Roads Program.
- Currently we are wrapping up the guard rail installation on CTH EE.
- Our winter maintenance fleet is ready to go and up sot speed for the winter.
- The Highway Department has just completed the Lakeview demolition project for the Facilities Department.
- The Highway Department has been compiling information on existing and historical traffic counts in those areas that have the potential for frac sand operations. We have also started analyzing existing pavements in those areas so that we will be prepared to discuss road compensation issues with perspective companies.
- La Crosse County Highway is hosting a tri-state highway department meeting to open up dialog with other departments is the hopes of promoting more cooperation between our neighbors in the area. That meeting is scheduled for December 6th.

Respectfully Submitted
Ronald Chamberlain

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Judiciary & Law December 2011

Emergency Services

All La Crosse County public safety first responder agencies, including the Public Safety Communications Dispatch Center and Emergency Management, completed a three-year project during the week of October 17 – 21 to become compliant with a national radio system conversion to 'narrow-band' operation. All radios, pagers and siren controllers were re-programmed to the new standard frequency spacing, as mandated by the Federal Communications Commission.

In addition to the re-programming of radios, a new La Crosse County Fire repeater channel was placed in service, replacing a decades-old simplex channel that was in direct conflict with one of the WI state mutual aid channels. The addition of this new channel was very timely, as it aided tremendously with the conversion process, allowing dispatchers to 'patch' wide-band and the new narrow-band channels to ensure that no emergency communication messages were lost or not received.

The implementation of the new LC FIRE channel was the first phase in improving our fire and emergency medical communications. In early 2012, simulcast feature components will be added that provide the new LC FIRE channel with improved countywide paging and voice communication for all fire departments and EMS agencies in La Crosse County, excluding the City of La Crosse which uses a radio system in the 800 MHz range. This upgrade will also replace an out-dated simulcast system now being used on county law enforcement channels.

The smooth transition can be credited to multiple factors. Area radio vendors and technicians are to be commended for their incredible service by re-programming hundreds of radios and pagers in just five days. All area public safety agencies played no small part in the success of this project, with time-consuming planning, preparation and coordination. Dispatchers needed to alter procedures during the transition, doing redundant paging and broadcasting on multiple channels to assure information was received appropriately. Emergency Management Coordinator Keith Butler and former Communications Manager Al Blencoe facilitated the radio user group and deserve recognition for leading the effort.

Public-Safety Communications

September

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,679 (average of 89 per day)
 Answered within 10 seconds: 93.95%
 Answered within 20 seconds: 99.03%
 * 2 calls more than 40 seconds

Total Calls 25,186 (average of 840 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	9,300
Fire Fighting	311
Emergency Medical	569

October

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,416 (average of 78 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 96.15%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.59%
* 1 call more than 40 seconds

Total Calls 22,721 (average of 733 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	8,061
Fire Fighting	223
Emergency Medical	554

**National Emergency Number Association Standards:*

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

Oktoberfest often provides challenges for the Public Safety Communications Center due to the volume of 9-1-1 and non-emergency calls. 2011 proved no different as the first weekend of the event resulted in 395 9-1-1 calls and just less than 1,400 calls for service. As busy as that weekend was, it was still not as intense as a brief storm that ran through La Crosse County on Friday, September 2. During a one-hour period (7-to-8 am) there were 60 9-1-1 calls and 77 calls for service, mostly downed power lines, traffic signal outages and other hazards, such as fallen trees blocking streets or roads.

Long-time County employee Nancy Lubinski retired in October. Nancy began as a Traffic Police Communications Officer in 1978. She worked as a telecommunicator with the beginning of the combined emergency dispatch center and eventually was promoted to supervisor. Nancy was the longest serving member in the history of the department at 33 years.

Telecommunicator Cory Lynch will be promoted to Supervisor in January, filling the position vacated by Nancy. Cory has been with Public Safety Communications since 2004. He will now be the relief supervisor on second and third shifts.

Emergency Management (Keith Butler, Coordinator)

October happenings:

- Corey Lynch and Keith Butler represented La Crosse County government during a statewide Amateur Radio emergency test on Saturday, October 1 by using the communication equipment installed in the County Emergency Operations Center.
- The Mass Casualty Team met in Vet's Park on October 5 to test their night incident scene lighting equipment.
- The County Communications & Command Vehicle was a featured display during the Onalaska Fire Department annual Open House on Saturday, October 15. Jay Loeffler and Keith Butler were on-hand to show the vehicle and explain its purpose.
- The City of Onalaska conducted an outdoor 'functional' exercise test of their recently revised City Emergency Operations Plan on Tuesday, October 25. Citizen "CERT" team volunteers were given the opportunity to test their skills as true 'first responders' during a simulated tornado incident at a simulated mobile home park. County Emergency Management officials built a "Rowe Mobile Home Park" using wooden stakes with Location Information Tags which provided damage and situational awareness for the CERT volunteers and the Fire Department responders. Victim Symptom cards were

designed and scattered throughout the Park to test the community's ability to manage a large-scale disaster with dozens of injured persons. County Amateur Radio volunteers provided communication support for the CERT volunteers, the County Mass Casualty Team demonstrated the proper use of Triage, Treatment and Transport Zones, and the County Disaster Volunteer Coordinator led efforts to determine if Onalaska is prepared to manage the numerous spontaneous citizen volunteers that would likely respond to a tornado incident. The new La Crosse County MABAS Division 134 Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services mutual aid system was tested during the exercise. County Dispatchers and Responders from all over La Crosse County, and even from Stoddard (Vernon County), participated in the exercise and verified enhanced coordination and management of a disaster using the MABAS procedures.

- The County Emergency Management Coordinator completed the last of a ten-year series of required training programs from Wisconsin Emergency Management on October 28. The Emergency Services Administrator completed the required Emergency Management Institute's Professional Development series.

November happenings:

- County Emergency Management traveled to Sparta on November 4 to explain how La Crosse County was able to successfully complete the narrow-band conversion process. Nearly 20 Monroe County responders and officials received information that they may be able to use in their planning efforts.
- The County Emergency Services Department participated in a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System on November 9. Although many FM radio users reported garbled voice messages, the 9-1-1 Dispatch Center was able to receive the test emergency signal and message.
- The Local Emergency Planning Committee met on November 16 and discussed recent proposals at the State level to reduce the La Crosse Regional Level A Hazardous Materials Response Team funding and to shift resources to other areas of the State. A letter of support for continued funding for the La Crosse HazMat Team was sent to area elected officials.
- The County Emergency Management Coordinator is serving as the Exercise Director for a multi-state Federal Exercise that will test communication and incident command systems used by emergency responders along the Upper Mississippi River corridor. An exercise planning meeting will be held in Winona, MN on December 1.
- Efforts are underway to complete a tabletop exercise in Farmington to determine the readiness of responders to incidents involving large numbers of trauma victims in an isolated rural environment.
- Kwik Trip officials are working with the County Emergency Management office to develop an exercise to test the response to a hazardous materials incident occurring at the City of La Crosse North Industrial Park complex. The exercise is scheduled to be conducted in January, 2012 with a potential functional or full-scale exercise later in the same year.
- The La Crosse Fire Department Collapse Structure Rescue Team is planning a full-scale exercise and they are in need of a large structure in which to hold the exercise. The exercise may be conducted at the collapse rescue training site at Volk Field (the REACT Center) if a suitable structure cannot be located in La Crosse County.

**Jay Loeffler, Administrator
Emergency Services**

Register of Deeds

With the new voter ID legislation that passed, some new problems have come about for the ROD offices. Milwaukee Co recently passed a resolution to give 5000 customers free birth certificates so they can get their ID's to vote. Milwaukee County thinks they have more people that do not have a driver's license or state issued ID card, and that cannot afford the birth certificate to get one or the other, than other counties do. Milwaukee County reduced the ROD's budget by \$100,000 in order to provide this free service to their customers and still pay to the state the required statutory amount per certificate issued. Numerous questions have arisen from what is happening in Milwaukee. What do other ROD offices tell their customers when they come in for a free certificate? What does a person living in Milwaukee but was born in another county do? Are they marking the certificate in some manner, such as a stamp that says "For Voter ID only"? Do they get to keep that free certificate once they have received their ID for voting so they can use it for other purposes or does the DOT keep the certificate & shred it? Why 5000 customers, why not everyone if it is for voter ID? The ROD stated that they didn't care who got the 5000 certificates or if it was even used for voter ID, even though that is the reason behind the resolution?

In 2010 this office issued 3016 first copies of birth certificates of which we sent \$21,112 to Children's Trust Fund, \$24,128 to Dept of Administration and retained \$15,080. So far in 2011 we have issued 2597, sending \$18,179 to Children's Trust Fund, \$20,776 to DOA & retaining \$12,985. Not everyone who applies for a birth certificate will need it for voting purposes & already have a driver's license or state issued ID, but if we gave away free copies, we would still need to send many dollars to the state. I will keep you updated on this continuing problem as more information is gathered.

Electronic recording of documents via the internet began in the LaCrosse County Register of Deeds office on March 25, 2009. Currently about 15% of our total documents each week are received electronically. We are starting a campaign to drum up more business electronically as it is a time & money saver. We have been sending out a letter explaining e-recording, the benefits, and companies to contact, with all of our outgoing real estate mail. Two of my trusted submitters have also agreed to give new customers a discount on the e-recording fee. We would like to see the number of documents e-recorded go up to around 35-40% in the next year.

We recently unveiled our "new" online request site which now has a shopping cart feature. Paygov's IT person and I have been working on this feature for the past 6 months, building it to my specifications & needs. We put it into production on Oct. 24, 2011 and so far it is working great. On our old site, to order multiple types of documents (real estate & vital records) customers would have to order one at a time, thus completely filling out numerous applications, plus paying a convenience fee on each transaction. On the new site, they can order a birth certificate & add it to their shopping cart, order a marriage certificate & add it to their shopping cart. They can keep adding to their shopping cart until all certificates they need are ordered. They can also click a box to copy name, address, phone, email address, etc from one application to another thus not having to retype the information on each application. Then they only pay one convenience fee on the total number of items in their shopping cart.

October was the busiest month so far this year for recording real estate documents. Many people are taking advantage of low interest rates to refinance.

2011 statistics

	Birth Certificates	Death & Marriage Certificates	Real Estate Documents	Total Revenue
Jan.	428	1417	2038	\$ 50,549.12
Feb.	429	1079	1510	\$ 46,560.96
Mar.	495	1046	1519	\$ 51,874.28
April	514	1304	1345	\$ 45,518.11
May	447	1178	1418	\$ 51,585.51
June	418	1260	1639	\$ 59,376.62
July	419	909	1564	\$ 45,206.01
Aug.	598	1323	1713	\$ 50,611.81
Sept.	519	1210	2051	\$ 66,251.07
Oct.	295	1314	2323	\$ 65,030.00

Cheryl A. McBride
LaCrosse County Register of Deeds

Medical Examiner

During the months of October 2011 through November 2011, there were 63 deaths investigated by the Medical Examiner's office:

Natural Deaths: 47

Deaths by Unnatural causes: 6 Falls, 2 suicides by firearm, 1 suicide by hanging, 1 motor vehicle accident, 2 drug overdoses, and 1 by other means.

Accident: 10 (6 deaths related to falls, 1 Motor Vehicle Death, and 3 other accidental deaths)

Suicide: 3

Homicide: 0

Undetermined: 0

Also there has been a recent increase in deaths due to Heroin use. In 2010 there were 2 overdoses, and 4 to date in 2011. However, in the same time period there were 18 deaths due to prescription drug overdoses and 47 deaths due to Alcohol abuse.

John Steers
Medical Examiner