



*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: February 2, 2011**

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

Attached is the February 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”**

Interviews begin for Highway Commissioner With the help of the Personnel Department, we have narrowed the pool of 14 applicants to 7 for first interview, today February 2nd. After consultation with the Public Works & Infrastructure committee, this first round will be without committee members for the purpose of narrowing the field to two or three finalists, who will be interviewed with the committee members invited to participate on the evening of February 10, 2011. It is possible that we will have a recommendation for County Board consideration for appointment as Highway Commissioner for the February 17, 2011 meeting.

Resolution: Schroeder Property acquisition on State Road 16 This item will be discussed with additional information presented to both committees (Public Works & Infrastructure Monday February 7 @ 10 am; and Executive Thursday February 10 @ 1:15pm ) who will reconsider the original resolution and make any modifications to the resolution as presented.

Management Team monthly meetings Following discussions last month, I've decided to invite the County Board Chairman and / or his designee, so that there would be no more than two Board members in attendance at monthly management team meetings.

Jail Inmate Letter Enclosed is a recent letter from an inmate that the Sheriff received regarding how he was treated in our County Jail.

*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 February 2011

### County Surveyor

#### 2010 YEAR IN REVIEW

**SECTION AND QUARTER CORNER MAINTENANCE:** We were successful in our efforts to perform maintenance work on at least 5% of our Section and Quarter corner markers. We were able to visit 87 Section and Quarter corners in 2010 which is **6.2%** of La Crosse County's 1405 corners. These visits provide an opportunity to check the condition of each corner monument and allow for restoration or replacement as needed. The ties for these corners are then checked, evaluated and replaced as needed. We are currently in the process of updating the tie sheets for these corners.

**PROJECTS FOR OTHER AGENCIES:** The **County Highway Department** required assistance with survey monuments within the paved portions of four roads:

- 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)
- CTH "A" from STH 108 to CTH "C" (Sections 11 and 12, Town of Farmington).

The endangered monuments were referenced with markers placed outside the construction areas. Following completion, all markers were restored to their original locations.

Tom Myers of the **Township of Washington** placed a request for assistance on Larson Road in Section 5. The request was related to what portion of the road was actually located in the Town of Washington. We were able to determine the portion of the road for which the township is responsible and illustrated it on a map.

In cooperation with the **Facilities Department**, we performed survey work on Vogel Road in the Town of Farmington. This work allowed for a local landowner and Real estate agent to clarify and assure direct vehicular access to Vogel Road.

We worked with the **State Cartographer's Office** to make La Crosse County Section and Quarter tie sheets available on the SCO website.

We assisted the **Land Records Office** with a specific request for State Plane coordinate values in Sections 25 & 36, T18N, R6W and Sections 29, 30, 31 & 32, T18N, R5W in the Town of Farmington to allow for more accurate parcel mapping.

We assisted the **County Planning Department** by restoring disturbed and missing monumentation of County lots in the plat of Meadow Park Estates in the Village of Rockland.

**PUBLIC RESPONSE, MAP INTAKE:** As always, we regularly respond to interesting and complex surveying and land ownership questions from the public, local units of government and other County departments. These requests come in via telephone, e-mail and face-to-face visits. We also continue to index, scan and file incoming survey maps submitted for filing in the County Surveyor files.

**WEBSITE UPDATE:** Our Department website received a much needed update. New verbiage was created by our office to better clarify the services we provide. An added link allows for viewing of our Section and Quarter tie sheets. Another link allows for viewing of 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 maps will be made available for internet viewing as well.

**COORDINATE VALUE ACQUISITION:** We continue to gather accurate State Plane coordinate values on our Section and Quarter corner monuments. These efforts were slowed during 2010 due to the loss of functionality of our single frequency 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 and computed, these values are provided to the Land Records Office to assist with more accurate parcel mapping.

**CERTIFIED SURVEY MAP REVIEW:** Our office reviewed a total of 59 Certified Survey Maps in 2010. Of these, 25 maps were required to be reviewed prior to recording as per Chapter 18 of the County Code. These 25 maps generated revenue of \$1250.00. The other 34 maps illustrated parcels within municipalities outside of the jurisdiction of Chapter 18 but are reviewed on a cursory basis prior to recording

**SCANNING:** We continue the process of scanning records found in the County Surveyor files. We are currently focusing our efforts on the Towns of Hamilton and Shelby. All maps are evaluated for condition and rehabilitated as needed, scanned and digitally renamed. A final proofreading assures a quality final product.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION:** In February, Engineering Aide Pete Follansbee and I attended the Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyor's (WSLS) Annual Institute in Wisconsin Dells. The three day session covered a wide range of survey issues and concerns and was very much worth the trip. I also attended the Wisconsin County Surveyors Association (WCSA) meeting at this institute. WCSA met again on March 19, May 14, August 6 and November 5. All meetings take place at the Clark County Courthouse in Neillsville. I have been nominated to serve on the Board of Directors in 2011. I also had the opportunity to attend the Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA) 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. This event covered an interesting range of topics and allowed for good networking opportunities with associates in the land records community.

**Goals for 2011:**

- Continue to provide premium service to the public and government agencies by being a source of information and assistance.
- Visit a minimum of 5% of our Section and Quarter corners.
- Purchase Real Time Kinetic (RTK) GPS equipment using Land Records funds.
- Formulate a unique numbering system for survey maps found in the City of La Crosse files.
- Formulate an updated form of the index for our County Highway maps
- Continue scanning of maps in the County Surveyor files focusing on the Towns of Shelby and Onalaska.
- Continue to check all Certified Survey Maps submitted for recording.
- Continue to enforce the Subdivision Control Ordinance and address violations.
- Continue to take an active role in professional organizations and take part in continuing education opportunities offered by WSLS, WCSA and WLIA.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bryan Meyer  
La Crosse County Surveyor

## **Zoning, Planning and Land Information Department**

**Ordinance Update:** The Planning Resources and Development Committee and staff continue drafting an update of the Zoning Ordinance. We have drafted some updates based on input at meetings held in December. There will be another minor tweak to the ordinance this month, which should finalize the public hearing draft of the ordinance, and then proceed to intense public comments. The new draft of the ordinance update has now seen significant scrutiny and seems to continue to stand up with minor edits.

**Farmland Preservation:** We are required to update the current Farmland Preservation Plan to obtain Certification by the State by the end of this year, (2011) and are pursuing a draft of the update of the farmland preservation plan through the Farmland Preservation Committee. PACE applications have been received and the FPC has approved 4 of 6 applicants to be forwarded to the State. These applicants should have a fighting chance to get a state PACE Grant.

**Department Goal Setting:** The Committee and Staff have held goal setting activities for 2011. These goals will give us direction as to priorities for the year 2011 and allow us to assess past successes, or areas of improvement. Projects and goals that have been accomplished as a result of this process include:

1. Us Census: La Crosse County had one of the highest response rates in the Country
2. Ortho-LiDAR Purchase has saved hundreds of man hours and provided a significant public benefit, and has easily payed for itself in less than two years.
3. GIS Mapping on the Web-site, was the County's web page with the highest number of hits for much of the previous 2 years.
4. We have completed a number of document imaging projects which create a location for staff and the public to easily view important permit information, surveying records, etc.
5. We have completed significant improvements to the GIS system which allow us to utilize more data review to provide improved information to policy makers.
6. Transportation Plan, Comprehensive Plan, Farmland Preservation Planning, Land Records Modernization Plan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, Road Study Capital Improvement Plan, and etc.

**Assessment Reform Study Committee:** The Assessment Reform Study Committee met on the January 19, 2011 and heard a presentation from the Dept of Revenue (DOR) that assessment reform is moving along very well. The DOR has a new power point presentation that we will make available on our county website. This presentation shows the dates needed for Assessor compliance with new training and record keeping compliance. It also shows what the DOR is doing with new technology to speed up their end of the tax and assessment process, which will still include the equalization of values. The DOR indicated the WI Towns Association is part of the reform process as well as the League of Municipalities. They also indicated that if the local leaders claim to not know about this reform, it's because they have either not been reading the DOR correspondence sent them or their local assessor has not been taking their continuing education classes and updating the local boards on the new requirements.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Charlie Handy - County Planner*

## **Register of Deeds**

The beginning of 2011 will see a lot of changes in the Register of Deeds office. We are beginning another imaging project that will take us back to 1935 in the real estate records. We are going to have our tract books, grantor/grantee indexes, and miscellaneous document books imaged. These projects are being paid for with the redaction fund monies that we have been collecting since July 2010 and will continue to collect until all of our documents back to 1935 have been imaged, indexed, social security numbers redacted and verified. We hope to have that project done by Dec. 31, 2014.

Another change in the office is the way vital records are going to be handled. Currently we have all La Crosse County vital records in our office and issue certified copies from those documents. Within the next 3 years, no original vital records will be kept in this office and all certified copies will be made on our computers from the State Vital Records office main frame. This is in compliance with a Federal Government mandate that all states go to a statewide vitals system. This will be a huge change for us and training on the birth certificate module begins for us in Feb. 2011. Death certificate roll out is planned for some time in 2012 and marriage certificates will follow in 2013. This new system is not going to be genealogist friendly and we know there are going to be complaints regarding this. The new system does not have a very competent built in accounting/reporting system so we will be using the new system AND our old system (doing double entry) until the bugs can be worked out of the new system. The vendor of the new system does not want to work with local offices regarding the accounting/reporting system so we may be doing double entry for the duration. Currently it takes less than 5 minutes for a customer to come into our office, complete an application for a vital record, for us to make the copies and receipt the transaction. With the new system it will take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete the whole transaction and that includes the double entering.

### 2010 statistics

	Birth Certificates	Real Estate Documents	Total Revenue
Jan.	449	1682	\$37,311.03
Feb.	479	1429	\$34,971.79
Mar.	633	1884	\$44,854.13
April	528	1796	\$53,830.34
May	443	1590	\$44,482.08
June	435	2347	\$61,329.62
July	518	1899	\$55,277.76
Aug.	638	2283	\$62,828.54
Sept.	371	2360	\$62,381.82
Oct.	385	2534	\$71,631.13
Nov.	331	2421	\$64,452.84
Dec.	317	2432	\$69,966.52
TOTALS:	5527	24,657	\$663,317.60

*Cheryl McBride*  
*La Crosse County Register of Deeds*

## **Department of Land Conservation**

The Department of Land Conservation completed two public information meetings in La Crosse County during the month of January. The meetings were in the Greenfield Town Hall and the Farmington Town Hall on January 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the meetings was to inform farmland preservation program participants about new program updates and program eligibility requirements. There are approximately 240 landowners in La Crosse County who participate in the farmland preservation program. There were 75 attendees total that attended the two meetings. The farmland preservation program pays qualifying landowners \$7.50 per acre to keep their farmland in agricultural production and maintain compliance with soil and water conservation standards.

The timber harvest at Hoeth Forest is under way and should be completed by mid February. There will be approximately 400 cords of Red Pine and 60 cords of White Pine removed in a 55 acre parcel in the forest. This is a timber stand improvement harvest where most of the trees will be left to grow another 10-15 years allowing the trees to add additional circumference and volume making them saleable as saw logs. Depending on current markets, the value of the timber will fluctuate as demand for certain wood products changes. The Hoeth Forest is managed to provide a high quality timber resource that often brings top dollar bids from timber buyers. Jim Dalton, DNR Forester from the La Crosse Office is instrumental in providing timber cruising and disease monitoring for Hoeth Forest. Hoeth Forest is a certified member of the American Tree Farm System that promotes sustainable forestry practices, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, improved water quality and forest aesthetics.

The staff of the Department of Land Conservation is currently conducting nutrient management planning classes for county farmers who need to have a nutrient management plan on their farm for program participation requirements or for those who want to learn how to better manage their crop nutrient levels. There are 13 new farmers enrolled in the nutrient management classes. The two day classes will assist farmers in the basics of crop nutrient requirements and available nutrient calculations from commonly found sources such as animal manure and legume crops. The farmers learn to balance nutrient applications with crop nutrient needs to grow healthy crops and prevent over-application of nutrients that can pollute surface and groundwater resources. After completing the class, the farmers are certified to write their own nutrient management plans and submit them to the Department of Land Conservation for approval. Nutrient management plans need to be updated annually as crop rotations and nutrient needs change from field-to-field. There is a week-long, open class session for farmers who need to update their nutrient management plans and have them approved by the Department of Land Conservation. There is currently 25,500 acres of cropland in La Crosse County that is being managed under an approved nutrient management plan.

*Gregg Stangl, Director  
Land Conservation*

## **Metropolitan Planning Organization Department**

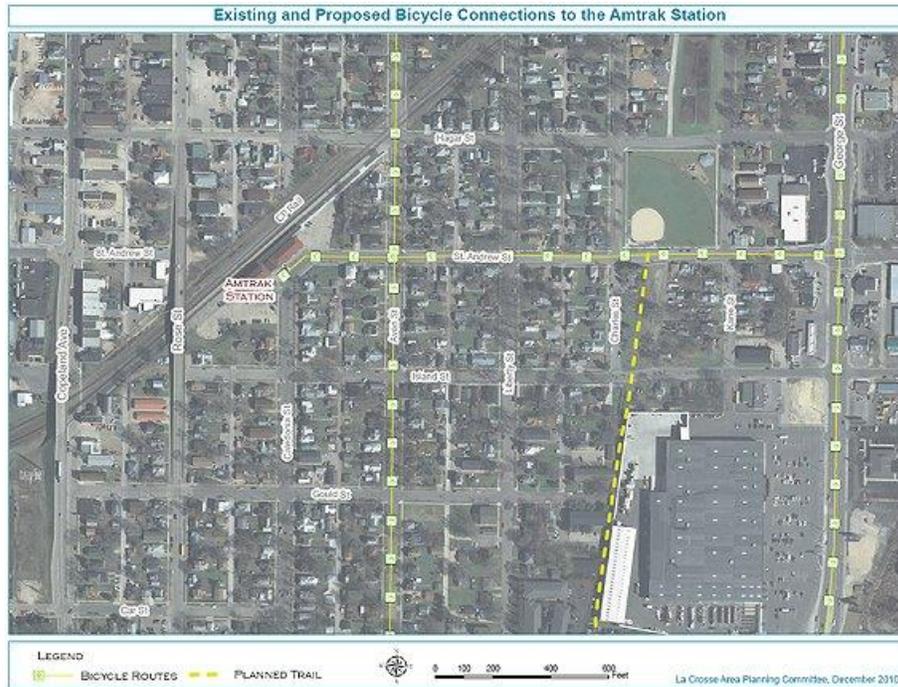
Wisconsin and Minnesota are currently conducting a Tier 1 environmental impact statement (EIS) study to determine the preferred alternative for high-speed rail service between Milwaukee and the Twin Cities. As input to this study, we have developed recommendations to improve multimodal service and connections for the general public to the Amtrak Station:

- Implement a deviated fixed-route transit service when passenger rail service is improved. This map illustrates two of the most feasible options for deviation by the Valley View and northbound North Side routes:



- Implement the recommendations set forth in the [2035 Coulee Regional Bicycle Plan](#) (2010):
  - Sign St. Andrew St as a bike route.
  - Install shared bicycle/parking lanes and shared road markings on Avon St between Monitor St and St. Andrew St.

This map shows Existing and Proposed Bicycle Connections to the Amtrak Station:



- Work with Amtrak to provide a car with bicycle racks so that bicycles do not have to be boxed to be transported between Milwaukee, La Crosse, and the Twin Cities.
- Install missing sidewalks on Island St between Charles St and George St.
- Improve information:
  - Provide MTU transit schedules at the Amtrak Station.
  - Advertise International Mountain Bicycling Association ride center status.
  - Provide regional bike route maps at the Amtrak Station.
  - Provide directional signage to Amtrak Station.

These recommendations, background information on connections to the Amtrak station, and more detailed maps can be found on the La Crosse Area Planning Committee website at [www.LAPC.org](http://www.LAPC.org).

*Submitted by  
Tom Faella*

## **UW-Extension**

- Money Talk\$ presentations on credit, debt, renting, FICO ratings, savings, and on-off campus housing were provided for 59 students enrolled in three UWL 100 classes, and 95% indicated the information was useful-very useful. The program expanded this year to include presentations for 105 students enrolled in Economics and Microeconomics classes at Central High School, and also included information on funding for college.(MMS)
- The Intake/Access/On-Call Strategic Planning Team presented their final report to the Human Services Management Team. Implementing the 26 recommendations is needed to accomplish the overall recommendation -- *a "single point of entry" model be implemented to assist all customers from the point of their initial contact with Human Services Department, with telephone, walk-in, web, on-call/after hours, and referrals as points of contact.*(MMS)
- Forty-three people attended the fifth annual Dairy Herd Health Clinic held jointly in La Crosse and Jackson Counties. Trisha Wagner, Jackson County Ag. Agent, and myself presented on the topic of positive farm labor management practices at our respective locations. Evaluations from 24 of the 43 participants indicated 30% will be making a change in the incentives they are offering to their employees.(SDH)
- Ten local farmers learned about safe handling of pesticides and how to properly post areas that had been sprayed to avoid unnecessary exposure to others at the Pesticide Applicators Training held at the Town of Holland. A test was given which the farmers must pass in order to receive their license. All farmers passed the follow-up exam required for licensing for the next five years. A second training will be held in February in West Salem.(SDH)
- In 2010, forty-two new adult 4-H leaders were added to the nearly 375 leaders that have completed the orientation and certification process required of volunteers. Leaders completing the certification process learn about child development principles, experiential learning, the basics of 4-H and watching for signs of child abuse/neglect.(RM)
- Over 85 youth ages 5-19 participated in the 4-H Communication Arts Festival involving individual speeches and group drama performances. Communication skills are among the most frequently mentioned skills learned in 4-H and the participants meet with the judges to receive verbal as well as written feedback to help them improve their speaking and drama presentation skills.(RM)
- WNEP staff educated 2090 (11% increase over the same period last year) individuals throughout La Crosse County on nutrition topics including food safety, diet quality, physical activity and how to purchase/prepare economical healthy foods. Fifty four percent of WNEP participants were youth age 6 to 11, 22% were senior adults, 14% were youth age 4 to 5, 7 % were youth age 12-14, 3 % adults without children and 1 % parents of infants/children. (SH)
- The nutrition educator taught a "Quick Meals for Busy Families" class to 4 families living at the New Horizon Women's Shelter and in order to demonstrate the lesson, commodity pantry items were included as a part of the evening meal. Of the 4 parents and five children in attendance, 100% are going to plan a one dish meal that they will prepare for their family.(SH)
- Presented the La Crosse Housing Report to the La Crosse School Board, Washburn Neighborhood, City/County/School District work group and Valley View Rotary. Evaluations indicated an increased awareness of respondents regarding the trends of low-valued housing stock in the City of La Crosse. All respondents indicated they valued this information.(KG)

- Facilitated the La Crosse Area Planning Commission's two-year goal setting exercise. The group developed a compilation of four goal for which the LAPC will begin formulating their next two year activities around.(KG)

JH – Jenny Holm, 4-H & Youth Assistant

KG – Karl Green, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Comm. Resource Dev., Community Resource Dev. Agent

MMS – Mary Meehan-Strub, Prof., Dept. of Family Living, Family Living Agent / Dept. Head

RM – Robert Matysik, Prof., Dept of Youth Dev., 4-H & Youth Agent

SH – Sheila Harding, Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program Coordinator

SDH – Steve Huntzicker, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Agriculture, Ag Agent

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Public Works & Infrastructure February 2011

### Solid Waste

- Gas to Energy – Bidding documents being finalized with bids going out in February. Construction on the pipeline to begin in May. Compressor skid ordered. Solid Waste Department direct purchase will save tax and contractor markup.
- Mediation with St. Joseph Construction Company continues regarding the operation contract for the landfill.
- In 2010 the number of users of HHM increased 5%, while the total weight of the waste received dropped 1.5%. The collection of e-waste increased 40% following the ban of disposing e-waste in landfills on September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- With the collaboration of the Sheriff's Department and several community organizations, HHM conducted its first quarterly Medication Drop Off event on November 6<sup>th</sup>. All medications, including controlled substances, were accepted at this event. In 2011 these quarterly events are scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup>, May 7<sup>th</sup>, August 20<sup>th</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The Solid Waste Department's application for the Green Tier Wisconsin DNR program has passed through the 30 day public notice period. La Crosse County and the Solid Waste Department will be the first landfill and the first municipal entity in the Green Tier program. The Solid Waste Department is working with the Wisconsin DNR to set a date for the presentation of the Green Tier certificate.
- Houston County adopted an ordinance requiring haulers to be licensed with the County in order to operate within Houston County. As a condition of the license a hauler is required to direct all its garbage to the La Crosse County system.
- In 2010 the hauler rebate program has been simplified and enhanced. This includes quarterly payments, payments of the rebate as a credit on a quarterly basis and increased rebates for a longer term agreement. Two new haulers signed the agreement.
- SEH has been selected as the consultant for the Solid Waste Department. The contract will be for the next five years. Foth will continue to consult on the Gas-to-Energy project.
- A resolution requesting the elimination of WDNR fees from Xcel residue was approved by the Legislative and Public Works and Infrastructure Committees and County Board. If these fees are eliminated it would save the Solid Waste Department approximately \$250,000 per year.
- The new electric gate to control security has been installed. Individual codes have been assigned to department staff, haulers and select contractors. Codes are being assigned to haulers on an as needed basis.

- Permits revenue for 2011 has increased with diligence of the staff in tracking and monitoring haulers and customers permits and ensuring that all of a haulers vehicles have the appropriate weights entered into the system.
- The 2011 Clean Sweep Grant was approved and signed by the County and the State of Wisconsin. The HHM program will receive \$108,000 for clean sweep services in La Crosse and neighboring counties.

Respectfully Submitted,

Henry A. Koch, P.E.

### **Highway Department**

- In December and January we have been hit with an excessive amount of snow, with WisDOT reporting 44.4 inches in this area. Our crews have been out with about 5,600 regular hours and almost 1,200 overtime hours plowing and treating the county highways. They are looking forward to a more seasonable February.
- As of the end of January we have spread 2,243 tons of clear salt and 6,811 tons of treated sand. Our treated sand has fewer than 5% salt added to keep the sand useable. We have sold 275 tons of clear salt and over 4,300 tons of treated sand to other local municipalities.
- With the slippery conditions there have been several areas where guardrail, beam guard and signs have been damaged. Crews have been busy repairing these damages in a timely manner.
- The winter road school was held at WI Dells the second week in January. This was earlier than other years. Mark Gottlieb, the new Secretary of Transportation, was the keynote speaker. It was his first public appearance as Secretary. Secretary Gottlieb was a strong supporter of transportation while in the legislative branch of government and understands the county highway departments' relationship with WisDOT.
- The CTH B project bids were taken in early January. The bid came in at \$456,940 which was higher than the \$381,109 which was estimated. WisDOT is now considering how to proceed with this project. The main options are to accept the current bid, rebid later this year in hopes of a better bid or to change or cancel the project.

Respectfully Submitted

*Keith Back*

# **MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD**

## **Judiciary & Law February 2011**

### **Clerk of Courts**

Even though September is officially jury appreciation month around the State of Wisconsin, La Crosse County along with Marathon County would like to extend our appreciation to 13 of our fine La Crosse County jurors for serving on a rare 10 day sequestered trial in Marathon County. Court staff and sheriff department staff arrived in La Crosse on Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> to select the jury. The case was involving a homicide of a high school girl. The 13 person jury was picked by 11:30 am and the bus picked the jurors up at 1:30 pm to take them to Wausau. The jurors were sequestered for 10 days – which means no access to phones unless supervised by the bailiff, no access to the internet, no newspapers, and no TV except for the Packer game on Sunday. Jurors listened to 8 days of testimony including working on Saturday. After deliberating for 90 minutes, the jury found the defendant guilty of all counts. Sentencing is to be held on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Sequestered trials are very rare. Since taking office in 1997, La Crosse County has only had one sequestered trial in 1999. The case involved an attempted murder. Those jurors were selected from Portage County and served for a week long trial here in La Crosse. In the past, there have been two other cases in which our jurors served in other counties. In 2004, La Crosse County jurors sat on a 5 day sequestered trial in Adams County and in 1999, jurors served on another 5 day trial in Washburn County.

The courts appreciate their jury service while carrying out one of the highest civic duties in our democratic system of government.

*Pam Radtke*  
*Clerk of Courts*

### **Medical Examiner**

The Medical Examiner's office is currently working on a community awareness and statistical data gathering project regarding suicides in La Crosse County. We are forming a Suicide review group called SADIE Group (suicide assessment, detection, intervention and education). This group will review suicide data and develop a long range education and intervention program.

2010 was a busy year for the office; we investigated 388 deaths with 312 of those being certified by the office. There were 43 deaths in 2010 where alcohol or drugs contributed or directly cause the death. We also issued 558 cremation permits. Total revenue from issuance of Cremation permits and certification fees was \$70594.00 the breakdown of the cases is as follows:

<u>Manner of death</u>	<u>Total</u>
Accident	62
Homicide	2
Suicide	16
Undetermined	5
Natural	227

*John Steers*  
*Medical Examiner*

## **Emergency Services**

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

#### **November**

##### **Telephone Calls**

9-1-1 Calls 2,335 (average of 78 per day)  
 Answered within 10 seconds: 96.75%  
 Answered within 20 seconds: 99.70%  
 \* 0 calls more than 30 seconds

Total Calls 22,246 (average of 741 per day)

##### **Calls for Service**

Law Enforcement 8,285  
 Fire Fighting 176  
 Emergency Medical 522

#### **December**

##### **Telephone Calls**

9-1-1 Calls 2,832 (average of 91 per day)  
 Answered within 10 seconds: 95.55%  
 Answered within 20 seconds: 99.54%  
 \* 2 calls more than 30 seconds

Total Calls 25,062 (average of 808 per day)

##### **Calls for Service**

Law Enforcement 8,259  
 Fire Fighting 233  
 Emergency Medical 592

*\*National Emergency Number Association Standards:*

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

The Communications Center experienced a 4% increase in 9-1-1 calls in 2010, the most since 2002 and the fourth busiest year in its 28-year history. A big reason was the substantial snow events we experienced in December which provided one of the busier

months in recent memory. One could say Father Time did not leave 2010 quietly as second shift on New Year's Eve answered 110 9-1-1 calls in just a four-hour period. Typically anytime the Communications Center receives triple-digit totals of 9-1-1 calls over a 24-hour period is considered a very active day.

I wanted to commend dispatchers Jason Allen, Kevin Brickner, Lisa Deyo, Dave Hutchison, Zach Rieves and Rose Rosenbaum as well as supervisor Nancy Lubinski for their work in responding to these calls on that challenging shift.

Emergency Services welcomes Matthew Waters as the newest telecommunicator to join our staff. Matt is an Army veteran, including a tour of duty in Iraq. Matt is originally from La Crescent and now lives in Holmen with his wife Amanda and three-year-old son Levi and are expecting their second child this winter.

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

Selected local public safety agencies received new WISCOM mobile radios to provide access to the new State-wide digital VHF trunked mutual aid radio system. A base radio was installed in the County Emergency Operations Center and a mobile radio installed in the Communications & Command Vehicle in November. UW-L Police, West Salem PD, Campbell PD, and the Sheriff Dept also received WISCOM radios via the fully funded grant program.

### **In December:**

- La Crosse County hosted a tabletop exercise involving emergency officials and responders from Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin at the Stoney Creek Inn, Onalaska. With a focus on cross-border communication and information sharing, the exercise allowed participants to develop networking and pre-planning collaboration in preparation for incidents spanning state borders, such as a catastrophic chemical spill along the Mississippi River. A follow-up function exercise is being planned for later this year.
- Numerous significant winter weather events occurred in December which all served as opportunities to test local emergency response and reporting capabilities. Although the expenses related to the storm responses did not meet the threshold level for Federal assistance, many public works departments were able to submit timely Uniform Disaster Situation Reports to the County Emergency Management Coordinator.
- The Emergency Management Coordinator serves on the State management group for the WISCOM radio system and was able to participate in a state-wide planning meeting via the video conferencing system at UW-L campus, saving extensive travel time and expenses. Additional efforts are underway to participate in regional and statewide meetings via telephone or video conferencing, such as the upcoming Homeland Security Funding Advisory Council meeting.
- Significant effort has been allocated to the development of a revised County bomb threat policy and response plan following an incident that occurred in 2010. Research and information gathering activities indicate the need to coordinate across many jurisdictions, programs and missions.

## **In January:**

- State HazMat planning grant funds are being used to continue the GIS-enhancement project for the chemical storage facility emergency plans. Nancy Carlin renewed her temporary employment with Emergency Management in January, with the project is expected to continue until September.
- The Emergency Management Coordinator met with the Campbell Emergency Management Team on January 5 and began efforts to host US Army Corps of Engineers flood-fighting training in advance of predicted spring flooding.
- Amateur Radio volunteers, serving La Crosse County as ARES/RACES under the direction of Tom Skemp, have been very active in preparing and equipping the County Emergency Operations Center radio communication facility. New antenna cables and antennas are being installed on the Administrative Center building. The volunteers helped clean and clear the "Ham Shack" during their monthly meeting. County Facilities Department will re-paint the room and install additional electric power outlets.
- Al Blencoe and Keith Butler facilitated a meeting of the La Crosse Area Radio Group at the Campbell Town Hall in preparation for the major changes in radio licensing and programming. La Crosse County will convert to VHF narrow band operation during the week of October 17-21, 2011.
- The Emergency Management Coordinator met with the La Crosse Squadron – Civil Air Patrol and presented Mass Casualty Team assets and discussed a potential storage and sharing of a Team Support Trailer with the Civil Air Patrol. One of the Mass Casualty Team Support trailers has been stored outside at the Hillview garage site and is buried in ice and snow.

Jay Loeffler, Administrator  
Emergency Services