



*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: August 2, 2012**

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

Attached is the August 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"**

Policy Planning Meeting @ Highway Dept Shop Tour @ 5:30 p.m. and meeting begins at 6:00 p.m.

This meeting will provide a good orientation to the work and funding challenges of the County Highway Department. In addition to the overall perspective, the Highway Commissioner will provide a detail examination of road needs, an opportunity for discussion about specific impacts of development (e.g. sand mining) and we'll discuss future funding options for the 2013 budget.

Complaint filed with Governmental Accountability Board

The people who filed the recent ethics complaint before the County Ethics Board have now made a complaint to the GAB regarding my professional support for the City Administrator referendum. We have no indication from the GAB how or when this will be addressed at this time.

*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 August 2012

### County Surveyor

**25 YEAR CELEBRATION:** Friday, July 20, 2012 marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of employment for Senior Engineering Aide Peter Follansbee in the County Surveyor's Department. Much has changed for Pete and the department during that time. One thing that has not changed is Pete's dedication to hard work and excellence. Pete was presented with a card of appreciation, a 25 year pin and a gift certificate to Red Lobster at a gathering in the Zoning Office. Congratulations, Pete!

**GLOBAL POSITIONING SATELLITE SYSTEM EQUIPMENT PURCHASE:** There have been some issues with the delivery of the software components of the new Topcon Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) equipment. Our purchase coincided with the rollout of the new Topcon software known as "Magnet". While this delay has been a bit disappointing, we are please be on the leading edge of the new and more versatile technology and not on the "tail end" of an older version of software. We also want the final product to be ready to go as we approach the fall/winter/spring months which tend to be more optimal seasons for better GPS work due to the reduction in the canopy (the leaf cover is reduced so satellite signals are more accessible.)

**CERTIFIED SURVEY MAP, PRELIMINARY PLAT REVIEW AND MAP FILING:** So far in 2012, we have had 29 Certified Survey Maps (CSMs) submitted for review. Of these 29 maps, 16 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 2011. We continue the intake of Plat of Survey maps submitted for filing in the County Surveyor files.

**SCANNING PROJECT:** Now that he has completed much of the work on the maps in the City of La Crosse files, Pete has turned his attention to the maps found in the City of Onalaska. Prior to scanning, Pete checks the condition of the maps and rehabilitates them as needed.

**SECTION AND QUARTER CORNER VISITS:** We are working to complete our corner visits for 2012. Our department goal is to visit 5% of La Crosse County's 1405 Section and Quarter corner monuments. Our primary focus this year is the Section and Quarter corners found in T18N, R7W (Towns of Holland and Farmington). 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

## **UW-Extension**

- Mary Teclaw and Danielle Johnson are summer staff working with the Summer Teens at Risk Initiative, a joint program effort with the School District of La Crosse and La Crosse County Human Services. Jason Krug is collecting data for updating the Cost of Community Services program. (MMS)
- Facilitated a Strategic Planning – Update session for the La Crosse Area Family Policy Board. The Board prioritized areas of need to be used in their 2012-2014 committee work using the original prioritized results from Family Policy Board's 2010 plan, Compass NOW – 2012, the La Crosse School District "Me and My World" and "Profiles of Life" surveys (2011), and Couleecap's 2010 Needs Assessment. (MMS)
- The carcass evaluation night was held at Holmen Locker. In attendance were 54 youth and numerous adults to hear the results from the La Crosse Interstate Fair carcass show. UW-Extension in cooperation with the local locker plants provides this opportunity to exhibitors at the fair. Exhibitors learned what factors are important to producing a quality livestock animal, where each meat cut originates, and how a livestock carcass is judged. (SDH)
- Twenty-four people participated in a field day relating to care and management of strawberries, blueberries and other fruit crops. Participants learned techniques in transplanting, fertilization, weed and disease management that they can implement in their own operation. (SDH)
- Three 4-H Youth Leaders were selected as delegates for the week long 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) program. The CWF participants are provided opportunities to: strengthen their communication, leadership, and citizenship skills on a national level; understand the importance of civic and social responsibilities as they relate to the development of better citizens and leaders; exchange ideas, practice respect, and form friendships with other youth from diverse backgrounds and experience hands-on learning using the historical backdrop of Washington, D.C. (JH)
- La Crosse County 4-H was selected as one of twelve counties in Wisconsin to receive a grant to offer a Gateway Academy science and engineering day camp. This cooperative venture with the School District was attended by 24 middle school aged students. The 5 days of program offered many hands-on activities including the building of solar-powered model cars, water rockets, gliders, bridges and towers. Evaluation results showed youth attending increased their knowledge and interest in science and engineering for future education and as possible career choices. (RM)
- WNEP staff taught eighth grade students attending the Successful Transitions program about the USDA food groups from MyPyramid/MyPlate and how to use the nutrition facts label and ingredient list to make informed choices. After class the students completed a survey which showed that 12 out of 17 (70%) students are going to start or more often look at the nutrition facts label to determine the serving size on package items. (SH)
- WNEP educated 1280 individuals in La Crosse County on nutrition-related topics including healthy eating, food safety, food resources management and physical activity. Thirty-seven percent were Senior Adults, 35% were Youth age 4 to 11, 13% were Youth age 12-17 and 15% were Adults with or without Children (a 10% increase over last year). (SH)
- Presented "How to Build a Rain Garden" program to over 100 City of La Crosse residents looking to apply for the Residential stormwater credit. All respondents said program met their expectations on stormwater, stormwater credits, building rain gardens and rain barrels, etc.(KG)
- Continued presenting program on Frac Sand mining in Western Wisconsin to Holmen Rotary. In addition, worked on and published a local government related Frac Sand

mining fact sheet. The latest Wisconsin Counties Association magazine also has an article I contributed on the issue of frac sand mining. (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

**Register of Deeds Office**

2012 statistics

	Birth Certificates	Death & Marriage Certificates	Real Estate Documents	Total Revenue
Jan.	477	1110	2075	\$ 57,725.30
Feb.	515	1188	1815	\$ 43,208.18
Mar.	504	1324	2078	\$ 58,370.81
Apr.	451	1370	2062	\$ 64,185.41
May	427	1049	2035	\$ 56,671.75
June	407	1132	1929	\$ 69,535.26
July	477	1375	2064	

Cheryl McBride  
 Register of Deeds

**Zoning, Planning and Land Information:**

**Ordinance Updates:** Zoning ordinance: The Towns of Holland and Washington have adopted County-Wide Zoning and we will be meeting with the other 10 towns to discuss their options.

**Farmland Preservation:** The State has approved of an Agricultural Enterprise Area in La Crosse County. This is one of only 5 approved statewide. This Area Designation will allow those landowners to enter into conservation agreements with the state and receive additional tax credits for conservation efforts and will generate a network of contacts which we hope will significantly enhance their access to other agri-business opportunities creating economic development potential in our ag sector.

**Permits:** Zoning permits are on the rise in 2012.

<b>1/1/2011 - 7/27/2011</b>	Permit Count: 189	Estimated Value: - \$11,484,253
<b>1/1/2012 - 7/27/2012</b>	Permit Count: 222	Estimated Value: - \$20,232,395
	<b>Up – 17%</b>	<b>Up - 76%</b>

*Charlie Hardy*  
*County Planner*

## **Department of Land Conservation**

This summer's hot temperatures and lack of rainfall has suspended much of the Department of Land Conservation's construction work for conservation practice installation. Dry conditions interferes with adequate soil compaction needed during earthworks when building practices such as clean water diversions, grassed waterways, grade stabilization structures and many others. Most conservation practices also need to be stabilized after construction. Seeding and mulching disturbed sites with low soil moisture often results in poor germination and leaves sites vulnerable to erosion. Farmers are also cautious at this time, concerned about spending money on conservation practice installation when the possibility exists that they will need to purchase additional feed for their livestock some time during the year.

The issuance of erosion control permits for one and two family dwellings is slightly behind last year's pace. Contractors are optimistic that they will secure enough home-building/remodeling work to carry them through the winter months. Many of the erosion control permits have been issued for building sites that are relatively level and carry the lowest amount of fees assessed for the permits.

Due to the lack of rainfall this year, the County-wide water quality monitoring program should show less agricultural pollutants entering the County's streams. With less rainfall, there is less cropland erosion and therefore less soil, fertilizers and animal waste pollutants deposited in the streams. Water samples have indicated that that hasn't been the case so far. We have seen, at times, high levels of phosphorus, sediment and bacteria that were collected in our sampling scheme this summer. The cause of the high pollutant levels has been traced to livestock that have been allowed to wallow in the streams as a means of cooling off. Cattle that have uncontrolled access to streams often wade up and down the stream corridor, stirring up sediment from the stream bottom and defecating directly into the water. This practice can cause extreme levels of E. coli bacteria and phosphorus in the stream, making the water unsafe for human contact, destroying fish habitat and severely reducing the recreational value of the resource. The Department of Land Conservation strongly discourages this practice. We provide financial assistance to those landowners who engage in unconfined cattle access to streams through grant monies provided by the DNR and Department of Agriculture as well as the County's Environmental Fund. Conservation practices like streambank stabilization, fencing, remote waterers and cattle crossings are cost shared at 70% - 90% of actual installation costs. This financial assistance reduces the cost of these practices to the landowner and greatly improves the water quality of our streams.

*Gregg Stangl*  
*Director of Land Conservation*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Public Works & Infrastructure August 2012

### Solid Waste

**Solid Waste Evaluation** – The evaluation committee met on June 12<sup>th</sup> in the landfill conference room. The discussion centered around initial recommendations that the committee will present to their respective city councils. The next meeting of the committee will be on September 11<sup>th</sup> and will include discussion of RU status for the Cities and impacts of changing the status and responsibilities of each municipality.

**Gas-To-Energy** – The gas to energy project has been running smoothly since its start-up in March. We have achieved a mid-nineties percentage in up time for the months of May and June and are on course for the same in July. Our first annual meeting with Gundersen Lutheran was held at their Onalaska Clinic on July 10 with both parties expressing a high level of satisfaction with how the project is operating. The goal now is to maximize gas production and to minimize operating costs for both parties.

**HHM** - Utilization of HHM continues to be high, in spite of the hot weather. Year-to-date the number of household users is up by over 40% and the total weight of waste collected has increased by over 55%. The average weight of waste, per user, has also increased by 10% to 74 pounds. Adding an additional day for households to use the facility without an appointment is one factor in the increase. Users have commented favorably on the increase in hours of operation.

On 6/1/2012 an enforcement conference was held with the WDNR regarding the Notice of Violation from the HHM inspection on 2/29/2012. The meeting consisted of discussion of the issues and the corrective actions that HHM has undertaken. Following a walk through by the inspector, the WDNR issued a letter closing out the Notice of Violation. A key for HHM will be to consistently maintain compliance at all times while managing the large increase in usage that the program has seen in this year.

Currently, there is a position vacancy with the resignation of Special Waste Technician, Ben Dahlby.

**Landfill Contractor** – Six contractors were chosen from nine submittals of qualifications to advance to the request for proposal (RFP) phase. A draft contract is being prepared by Corporation Counsel. Detailed operations specifications will be included in the RFP. Following receipt of the RFP, the bid will be evaluated and three contractors chosen for interviews. The new seven year contract is expected to start in February 2013.

**Financial** - The Solid Waste Department's 2013 budget was submitted to the Finance Department on schedule. As part of the budget review process, we will continue to meet with Finance and Administration during the next few months to discuss various revenue, expense, and capital topics. There are no fee increases to customers planned for 2013. Officially launched in March 2012, the Gas-To-Energy Project with Gundersen Lutheran is underway producing gas and generating revenues. The result of four months of gas operation and sales reflects that gas revenues will be lower and operating expenses will be higher. This results in the project return on investment being moved from 6-7 years to 9-10 years, with our contract period at 15 years.

**Annual Safety Inspection** – On July 17, 2012, the annual safety inspection of the landfill and HHM facilities was conducted. A few minor issues were identified which will be corrected as soon as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,



Henry A. Koch, P.E.

### **Highway Department**

- Our CTH DE project (from CTH E to Balmer Road) is moving along, we will be performing an oil base stabilization the week of August 6<sup>th</sup>. This will need a 2 week cure time, therefore we will be paving approximately the week of 27<sup>th</sup>.
- We are current working with the Village of Holmen, the Town of Onalaska and the City of Onalaska toward a project on CTH SN from CTH S north to Alpine Lane. This design project will be set up with the intent to fund the construction through the Surface Transportation Program Urban (STP-U) component. That is a federal program with up to an 80/20 funding match.
- County highway seal coating with chips is complete; this year we sealed CTH MM CTH N, CTH O, part of CTH S, and CTH T (STH 108 to STH 162).
- Starting on 7/30/2012 we will be placing fog seals on CTH MW, CTH N and CTH O. These fog seals are a new process for La Crosse County. They are intended to perform multiple functions, including pavement rejuvenation, locking down chip seals and enhanced winter performance. I look forward to letting you know how this process worked for us as we move into spring 2013.
- Yet this fall we will be working to replace small structures on CTH DE and CTH M. These small structures are small bridges that do not meet the Federal definition of a bridge and yet are larger than the average culvert.
- We are starting to prepare for winter, equipment is being inspected and repaired as necessary, and sand will be purchased and mixed. Fortunately the mild winter in 2011-2012 left us with a good inventory of salt on hand, this will help defray the costs in the winter of 2012-2013.
- The August planning meeting of the County Board will be held at the Highway Shop, and we are looking forward to show casing our shop and equipment for you. In addition I will be presenting a great deal of information on Highway Department operations and County Trunk Highway Road needs.

Respectfully Submitted

*Ronald Chamberlain*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Judiciary & Law August 2012

### Emergency Services

La Crosse County is experiencing record-high temperatures this summer, most noticeably the first week of July. For most of the week, high temperatures were 15-19 degrees above normal, setting record highs on July 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of 103 degrees. Heat Indices were recorded as high as 111 degrees.

During the week, there were many special events happening including Riverfest, races at the Interstate Fairgrounds Speedway, Bangor's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration and the Stars of Tomorrow youth baseball tournament. Extreme temperatures and outdoor activities bring about an increase of public safety calls for service. There were 45 calls that were considered heat-associated, such as emergency medical calls, checking the welfare of people and animals, roads that buckled and LP (liquid petroleum) fuel tanks that popped valves, resulting in responses from fire departments. Two of the 17 heat-related emergency medical calls resulted in deaths, while one other death occurred where heat was considered a contributing factor.

Emergency Management worked with the Health Department, Red Cross, Salvation Army and Great River's 2-1-1 to open cooling centers, including an overnight shelter. There were 10 citizens that resided at the cooling center over three nights. Cooling centers for overnight accommodations are offered when conditions reach the following conditions: one day with a heat index of 110 degrees or higher; two consecutive days with heat index of 105 degrees or higher; or three consecutive days with a heat index of 100 degrees or higher, plus 85% or more sunshine on two of the three days.

In addition, public announcements were released and posted on web-sites with heat-related safety advice.

### Public-Safety Communications

#### May

##### Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls      2,517 (average of 81 per day)  
    Answered within 10 seconds:      96.70%  
    Answered within 20 seconds:      99.76%  
    \* 0 call more than 30 seconds

Total Calls      24,565 (average of 792 per day)

##### Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	9,748
Fire Fighting	198
Emergency Medical	540

#### June

## Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,651 (average of 88 per day)  
Answered within 10 seconds: 96.53%  
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.59%  
\* 3 calls more than 30 seconds

Total Calls 23,400 (average of 780 per day)

## Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	9,197
Fire Fighting	214
Emergency Medical	567

*\*National Emergency Number Association Standards:*

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

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

### Events of Note

- The Local Emergency Planning Commission formed a sub-committee to explore the use of mass notification systems for hazmat incidents and all-hazards incidents. The subcommittee met once and determined to review the commercial service that was selected by the State Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program and to review a web-based demonstration during the next full LEPC meeting on July 18.
- Emergency Management participated in a Public Health tabletop exercise on May 24 and provided an awareness/collaboration presentation to the La Crosse area School Nurses Association later that afternoon.
- The County IT Dept has been working with the Emergency Services Dept and others to develop an alerting system for the County government buildings and conducted a demonstration on May 30.
- Cory Lynch, Dispatch Supervisor and Keith Butler deployed the County Communication & Command Vehicle to Jefferson County to participate in the State SIMCOM exercise. Many of the advanced communication capabilities were tested and demonstrated to hundreds of communication officials from around the State.
- Public Health and Emergency Management began preparations for excessive heat emergencies on June 18. The excessive heat advisories continued through the first half of July, resulting in the need for frequent briefings in the Emergency Services conference room and activation of the County cooling center program on several occasions.
- The La Crosse Airport conducted an exercise on June 20 featured a "live-burn" aircraft fuselage training. EM and the Mass Casualty Team participated. One of the immediate exercise lessons learned was the lack of Accountability Tags for the Mass Casualty Team members and trailers. This has been corrected.
- Emergency Management conducted a thorough review of the 2012 budget and developed a 2013 budget that may be slightly reduced without compromising disaster response capabilities. Changes in telephone and wireless communication services required some adjustments to those expense accounts.
- The Tri-State HazMat Group three-state communication exercise was held in April and the final exercise After-Action Report session was held in La Crosse on June 27.

- The La Crosse County EM was selected to serve as the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program Lead for a national cyber-terrorism exercise to be held in Atlanta, Georgia on September 11, 2012.
- EM and Dispatch Supervisor Ken Damaschke deployed the Communications Vehicle to the Onalaska Fireworks event on June 30.
- Numerous Heat Wave activities occurred in July including several webinars from the National Weather Service and briefings with the Health Department, Great Rivers 2-1-1, American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. An overnight cooling center was provided at the Salvation Army during evenings with very high heat indexes. La Crosse County experienced as many as three heat-related deaths during this period.
- Emergency Management worked with Public Health, Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center and Riverfest officials to ensure adequate cooling was available for fest participants.
- The Communications & Command Vehicle was deployed to the Globe University Emergency Services Day event on Saturday, July 14.
- EM participated in the Regional Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan council meeting and West Central Emergency Management meeting in Eau Claire on July 17 and returned with HazMat Guide books for all of the County emergency response vehicles and two new WISCOM radios for the Mass Casualty Team.
- The LEPC met on July 18 to view the SEND WORD NOW mass notification system demo and received information from two Homeland Security programs that can support the LEPC's mission.
- EM completed and submitted a Homeland Security grant for the purchase and installation of a second MABAS radio channel to be directly connected to the Dispatch Center at no additional cost to the County.
- EM participated in TV-8 weather alert radio programming and promotion events at the Onalaska Walgreens store on July 20. Over 125 radios were purchased and/or programmed.

**Jay Loeffler, Administrator**  
**Emergency Services**