



*Office of County Administrator
County of La Crosse, Wisconsin*

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Memo To: La Crosse County Board of Supervisors
From: Steve O'Malley, County Administrator
Date: June 4, 2012

Re: June Monthly Report to the County Board

Attached is the June Monthly Report to the County Board, providing monitoring information about department activities to the full County Board instead of reporting only to governing committees.

REMINDER Monthly Reporting by roughly half the organization every other month. While you will receive this report each month, the reports do not cover every department each time.

February, April, June, August, Oct. & Dec.

Planning, Resources & Development
Public Works & Infrastructure
Judiciary & Law Enforcement
Corp Counsel & Child Support

January, March, May, July, September, November

Health & Human Services
Aging & Long Term Care
County Clerk, Finance, IT,
Printing, Personnel, Treasurer

“OF INTEREST”

Recommendation for Planning & Zoning Administrator

The Planning Resources and Development committee, County Administrator and Personnel Director interviewed finalist candidates for the Planning & Zoning Administrator. With the unanimous support of the committee, the County Administrator will recommend Nathan Sampson (Interim Department Head) to be appointed as the Department Head at the June 11, 2012 Policy Planning meeting.

Ethics Board Advisory Opinion and Complaint

Following an open records request, I requested an advisory opinion of the County Ethics Board regarding my professional support for the City Administrator referendum. I requested the opinion since I believe my participation did not violate the Code of Ethics, State Law or County Ordinance, because promoting professional local government management and best practices is part of my job, motivated by a drive for greater efficiency, collaboration and cost savings. The day before the May 24 meeting, a formal complaint was received. So the Ethics Board heard my statement and will consider this at a future meeting on the complaint. The date has not yet been set to consider the complaint, but it will likely be during the first week of July.

*If you have any questions, feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail.
County Administrator direct line: 785-9789, cell phone 608-385-3316
or e-mail steve.omalley@co.la-crosse.wi.us*

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Planning, Resources & Development Committee June 2012

County Surveyor

GLOBAL POSITIONING SATELLITE SYSTEM EQUIPMENT PURCHASE: We are excited to report that we have received most of the components of our new Topcon Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) equipment. Software installation and training is set to begin May 31. Positioning Solutions representative Shane Behlendorf will be working with Senior Engineering Aid Peter Follansbee, Land Conservation Specialist Kurt Pederson and myself. This equipment update is part of our current Land Records Modernization Plan. Monies for this purchase will come from the Land Records fund of the Land Information program.

SCANNING PROJECT: Senior Engineering Aide Pete Follansbee has completed the tedious task of assigning and applying a unique identifying number to each of the 3,257 survey maps currently found in the City of La Crosse survey files. 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). We have also completed scanning of the survey maps found in the Towns of Campbell, Hamilton, Holland, Onalaska and Shelby. We have submitted a request to IT to have those maps published to the County Surveyor website so they will be available to the public.

CERTIFIED SURVEY MAP, PRELIMINARY PLAT REVIEW AND MAP FILING: So far in 2012, we have had 20 Certified Survey Maps (CSMs) submitted for review. Of these 20 maps, 10 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.

SECTION AND QUARTER CORNER VISITS: We have begun our corner visits for 2012. Our department goal is to visit 5% of La Crosse County's 1405 Section and Quarter corner monuments. We also make our visits first and foremost to those corner monuments that may be at risk of disturbance or removal (for example road construction). We will move on to other marker locations as time allows. If you know of a survey marker that may be endangered, please contact our office.

WCCA PRESENTATION: I had the privilege of serving as a presenter at the Wisconsin County Code Administrator's (WCCA) spring conference in Wausau on March 30, 2012. The topic of my hour long presentation was "*The County Surveyor, Land Records and Interface with the Zoning Office.*" The presentation appeared to be very well received and very much appreciated by those in attendance.

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

Zoning, Planning and Land Information:

Ordinance Updates: Zoning ordinance: The Town of Holland has adopted County-Wide Zoning and we will be meeting with the other 11 towns to discuss their options.

Farmland Preservation Plan: The State has certified our Farmland Preservation Plan, which is great news for our rural landowners who will continue to be able to receive the conservation assistance and farmland preservation income tax credits that they have qualified for since 1980 in La Crosse County. We will be bringing the ordinance forward for County Board Consideration soon.

Transition to New Committee and Department Head: The Planning Resources and Development Committee has now met as a body three times (in one month). They have set meeting dates and times for the same Monday prior to Committee Week, starting at 5 pm for the Business Portion and 6:30 pm for the Public Hearing portion. We have also held an orientation session and are getting comfortable with each other's personalities. The County Administrator, Steve O'Malley, with assistance from the Committee has offered the Department Head position to our interim director, Nathan Sampson. If this is confirmed, Nate will help us to have a smooth transition.

Permits: Zoning permits are on the rise in 2012. We should have a ½ year data report at the next Department Monthly Report.

Charlie Hardy
County Planner

Metropolitan Planning Organization

In May we will be selecting a consultant for the *Coulee Vision 2050* project. The purpose of *Coulee Vision 2050* is to develop a vision for transportation and land use decisions in the La Crosse / La Crescent area, specifically as guidance in writing a long-range transportation plan due in 2015.

As the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the La Crosse / La Crescent area, the La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC) does not have a community developed long-range vision document to inform future planning. Although some visioning has been a component of long-range planning, the LAPC has traditionally based planning on demographic and employment projections based on a continuation of current trends.

The need for a more specific vision is especially important given future trends that will not be addressed with "transportation planning as usual." Some of these trends include decreasing financial resources available at the federal, state and local level; a continuing increase in the cost of fuel, maintenance and construction; the aging of the population; the notion that we will not be able to "build our way out of congestion"; and an increasing desire for creating livable and sustainable communities that include viable transportation for all citizens regardless of age, ability, and economic status.

The LAPC desires to engage all stakeholders in an inclusive, collaborative approach, for example discussing scenarios with different future conditions and policy directions. In addition to creating a vision, the purpose of *Coulee Vision 2050* will be to direct the

implementation of the vision by determining next steps, a financial plan, and "buy in" by the area's elected officials.

A transportation planning consultant will meet with LAPC staff in June to create a public participation plan and action steps to complete the vision. The project will "kickoff" at the LAPC policy board meeting in July.

Tom Faella

Executive Director, La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC)

Department of Land Conservation

La Crosse County's Hoeth Forest is currently undergoing a timber harvest of mature Red and White Pine. There is an estimated 570 cords of Red Pine and 175 cords of White Pine to be harvested from 59 acres of managed timber. Lambert Forest Products from Warrens, WI, is conducting the harvest and bid the timber at \$55,204.50. The revenue from this harvest is used for the department's Environmental Fund. This fund provides cost share assistance to county residents who need help installing conservation measures that preserve and protect the county's soil and water resources. Hoeth Forest is located in the north-central part of the county. It is a 439 acre parcel that was obtained through property tax delinquency and purchase beginning in 1930 for the purpose of;

1. Providing a well managed, continuous flow of forest products from La Crosse County
2. Providing an educational opportunity for persons interested in forest lands and their management
3. Providing areas for compatible forms of forest recreation
4. Providing revenues for soil conservation, water quality and forestry projects through the Department of Land Conservation's Environmental Fund

The County Forest system also has an additional 524 acres of timber and recreational land in the northeast part of La Crosse County. The Raymond C. Bice Forest Preserve is 462 acres of forested recreational land. It has a mixed hardwood/conifer vegetative cover type and is managed primarily for recreational purposes and has occasional timber harvests.

The Department of Land Conservation has recently completed the 2012 Nutrient Management Planning and Training course for 117 farm operators in La Crosse County covering 37,092 acres of cropland. Twenty nine of those operators were first-time planners who added 5,357 new acres that are under an approved nutrient management plan in La Crosse County. Nutrient management planning assists farmers in the crop fertilization decision process by distributing available nutrients to areas of the farm that need them the most. By reducing over-application of nutrients to fields, we can reduce the amount of nutrients that leave the farm that can pollute streams and groundwater resources.

Gregg Stangl

Director of Land Conservation

UW-Extension

- Serving as Facilitator for the team planning for the future of Lakeview. The team is reviewing data from Lakeview, Mississippi Valley Health Services, Western Wisconsin Cares, program needs and costs, plans and data from counties who have recently or are in the process of building nursing home facilities, remodeling costs, and opportunities for shared services in providing the continuum of care for individuals receiving care through Lakeview. (MMS)
- The Family Living Agent, with Family Living Agents in Monroe and Vernon Counties, and the Resource Agent in Trempealeau County, was presented the Joint Council of Extension Professionals Team Award, which is presented to encourage work across disciplines within UW-Cooperative Extension. The team was selected for their leadership and work with COMPASS NOW 2012, a joint effort to assess community needs, identify community resources to address the most urgent needs and encourage action plans that solve community problems. (MMS)
- The youth education classes in La Crosse County, such as Meat Animal Quality Assurance and Sheep/Beef Education Sessions, offered this spring have taught youth better care and management practices for the animals they are raising as well as ethics for showing their animals at the fair. Approximately 90 youth have participated in these educational sessions. (SDH)
- Multiple horticulture presentations were given over the past two months, including a presentation on soils to 3rd graders at Summit Elementary and a presentation to adults in the Onalaska area on basic gardening techniques for home food production in small spaces. (SDH)
- La Crosse County 4-H Afterschool program, in partnership with the La Crosse School District, reached over 400 youth this past school year. Youth in this program received one-on-one as well as small group tutoring, classroom enrichment and life skill programming. The afterschool program enrichment classes "bring to life" the theories and lessons of the day to day curriculum. (JH)
- Sixteen teenagers who have applied to be Camp Counselors at the 4-H residential camp this summer have been interviewed, completed assignments and are participating in 15 hours of training and camp planning conducted by the 4-H Agent. A statewide study of camp counselors indicated that teens who serve as counselors indicate it is one of the most powerful leadership experiences ever and they use skills learned as a counselor in many other areas of their lives. (RM)
- Working in partnership with the La Crosse School District and La Crosse County 4-H, nutrition educators from WNEP have been providing after-school students (grades 3 to 5) at North Woods Elementary hands on experience in preparing and tasting healthy foods such as whole grains and fruits and vegetables. At the end of the 14 week session, 20/23 students indicated that they had tasted a new vegetable that they would eat again in the future. (SH)
- WNEP collaborated with La Crosse County Aging Unit specialist to share information about Healthy Hydration for the senior Hmong at their Community Center by presenting different beverages and show them how to read the labels for sugar, fiber, vitamins and minerals etc. in order to make healthy fluid choices. After the presentation, the seniors assisted in making/tasting a nutritious smoothie and 77% (10/13) agreed that this lesson made them more aware of why it is important to drink low fat milk. (SH)
- Continued Frac sand education within La Crosse County through presentations to the Onalaska Business Association, the Town of Greenfield, Wisconsin Women's Alliance, and Dairyland Power – Lunch and Learn in-service. Evaluations indicate an unbiased presentation that increased knowledge of attendees.(KG)

- Performed significant administrative duties with the Harbor Commission regarding the placement of waterway markers within the Mississippi River Pools #7 & 8; and the drafting of a job description following the 2011 Port of La Crosse Harbor and Waterfront Plan. (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

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Public Works & Infrastructure June 2012

Solid Waste

23rd Annual Stakeholder's Meeting – On April 18, 2012, the 23rd Annual Stakeholder's Meeting was held at Fox Hollow Golf Course Banquet Hall. The event was attended by approximately 50 people. As in past years, a review of the Solid Waste Disposal System and the status of Xcel were presented. A panel discussion on improvements to recycling and garbage collection in the cities of Onalaska and La Crosse was conducted and a question and answer period completed the event.

Solid Waste Evaluation – The evaluation committee met on May 15 at the landfill conference room. Discussions are now centering on creating the recommendations that the committee will present to their respective City Councils. The next meeting of the committee will be on June 12.

Gas-To-Energy – The construction and start-up phases of the gas to energy (G2e) project were completed on February 29th. A small amount of retainage is being held to confirm adequate vegetative growth and correct operation of all components. The system components are covered by a 1 year warranty. For May, the system had an up time of 93% at an average of 175.74 MMBTU/day. The scheduled 2000 hour maintenance requirements and the first PSC inspection were completed. Both activities went very well and the PSC is quite pleased at how we are operating the pipeline.

HHM - Utilization of HHM continues to be high. April was the busiest month that the program has ever had. Year-to-date the number of household users is up by 48% and the total weight of waste collected has increased by over 68% as compared to last year.

On February 28th the WDNR conducted a hazardous waste inspection of HHM. As a result of this inspection, HHM received a Notice of Violation citing issues with container labeling, closure of containers and distribution of the RCRA Contingency Plan to outside agencies. None of the issues were the result of improper handling or disposal of wastes. We have been working closely with the WDNR and are addressing the violations. A meeting has been scheduled with the WDNR on Friday, June 1st. We anticipate being able to close out the issues at that time.

Landfill Contractor – A Request for Qualification (RFQ) was released on May 9, 2012. Interest remains high with many calls received and numerous tours given of the landfill complex. The RFQ is due June 8, 2012. The RFQ will be followed with a request for proposal, interviews and contract award in December, 2012.

Financial - In October 2011, 55-year-old company Harry Viner, Inc., filed for bankruptcy owing the Solid Waste Department approximately \$122,198 in tipping fees. The unpaid balance represented two large demolition jobs in 2011, namely the Quillins/Festival project and the Jay Street building fire. Working with both TCI who managed the Quillins/Festival construction project and with a firm representing the owner's of the Jay Street building,

neither of whom had yet paid Harry Viner, Inc. for the waste loads, we have been able to recover \$114,371 of the balance owed.

Respectfully Submitted,



Henry A. Koch, P.E.

Highway Department

- The Highway Department has just completed this year's bi-annual bridge inspections, as required by Federal Highways. As a result of those inspections we have load posted a number of local bridges. Those bridges, and others identified as requiring work, will be placed in the schedule for design and ultimately replacement.
- Our CTH DE project (from CTH E to Balmer Road) is moving along, we have wrapped up the culvert replacement, started the process of replacing the guardrail and the road will be pulverized starting the week of 6/4/2012.
- We have been meeting with several of our local municipalities to discuss various cooperative efforts along the County Roads ranging from shared projects to full jurisdictional transfers. This effort has been well received with those municipalities we have met with.
- Costs for materials have yet again increased dramatically, below is the difference between this year and last year.

Material	2011	2012	% Increase
Lime Chip	\$12.95	\$12.00	-7.34%
Granite Chip	\$20.35	\$24.60	20.88%
Slag	\$34.92	\$35.00	0.23%
Seal Coat Oil Crack Filling Material	\$1.88	\$2.79	50.84%
Base Rock	\$0.42	\$0.44	4.76%
Hotmix Asphalt	\$6.50	\$6.50	0.00%
Ultra-thin Asphalt	\$43.86	\$52.40	19.47%
Fuel		\$67.98	
	\$3.15	\$3.71	17.78%

Continued extreme increases in costs of this nature do have an adverse effect on what services we can provide and what projects we can accomplish within the current Highway budget.

- Under a Local Force Account (LFA) contract, we are currently working on STH 162 (STH 16 to STH 33) for the WisDOT. This work is in preparation for a project currently scheduled for 2015.
- The Department has been fortunate to receive a maintenance Local Force Account (LFA) contract with the WisDOT for various items on STH 16 between LaCrosse St and West Salem to include joint repairs, patches and improvements to the bypass lane at Moos Road. This contract is for work done this season.

Respectfully Submitted

Ronald Chamberlain

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Judiciary & Law June 2012

Clerk of Courts

La Crosse County Courts is scheduled to have one of its longest jury trials in history. The Eric Koula, double homicide case, is scheduled to commence with jury selection on June 4th and trial will follow through June 29th. Depending on how testimony goes, the trial could last 20 days. The prior longest trial held was for 17 days in 2010 and it was civil case.

Jurors will be able to go home every night with the possible exception of if deliberations go more than one day – if that happens, the jurors will need to be kept together in a motel.

A lot of preparation goes into a long trial of this nature on the court side alone - scheduling of eligible jurors, bailiffs, clerks and meals, coordinating with the Sheriff Department for security, Facilities helping with extra chairs, and the Kitchen for preparation of lunches every day. In La Crosse County, the cooperation between departments goes very smoothly.

Emergency Services

Community relations and education are an important aspect performed by both the Public-Safety Communications and Emergency Management divisions of Emergency Services.

April was National 9-1-1 Education Month. Even though the concept of 9-1-1 as the nation's emergency number for public safety services is simple enough, there is still substantial misuse and abuse of the number. Last year, Public Safety Communications answered 30,000 9-1-1 calls. On 5,000 occasions, an emergency call resulted in a 9-1-1 check where law enforcement officers were sent to determine if the caller actually needed emergency help. These calls are the result of inappropriate use of the 9-1-1 number, an open line where no one speaks or a hang-up before a 9-1-1 dispatcher can speak to the caller. On more than 200 of those occasions, the call truly was an emergency.

So far in 2012, more than 1,200 people have participated in some form of 9-1-1 education, either through a presentation or a tour of the 9-1-1 dispatch center. Although limited staffing hinders our ability to attend many off-site functions, we encourage educational tours. Most of the tours involve children, including many of the area's 5th-grade classes for Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE).

Emergency Management Coordinator Keith Butler spends portions of most weeks with the media or making presentations to various civic or business groups. This past month, a chain of emails indicating La Crosse County Emergency Management as the source, were spreading through schools and businesses warning of chemical bottle bombs. Although everyone should be wary of such suspicious items and this warning was based off some facts, this particular email chain was a hoax and has been circulating for years.

Public-Safety Communications

March

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,229 (average of 72 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 96.41%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.73%
* 1 call more than 30 seconds

Total Calls 24,586 (average of 793 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	8,607
Fire Fighting	172
Emergency Medical	544

April

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,030 (average of 68 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 96.75%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.90%
* 1 call more than 30 seconds

Total Calls 20,124 (average of 694 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	8,256
Fire Fighting	138
Emergency Medical	420

**National Emergency Number Association Standards:*

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

Work on the simulcast upgrade for county fire communications was completed during this period. Simulcast allows dispatch to page and transmit on multiple tower sites simultaneously rather than selecting one tower and having limited geographical signal range. The equipment installed for this upgrade also allowed for updating the law enforcement simulcast system and should ensure that parts and service for our county-wide radio system are available for a minimum of five years. The transition to simulcast went smoothly with no disruption of services.

April 8-14 was designated as National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week, providing recognition to the dispatchers. The 9-1-1 dispatchers provide the public with their first contact with emergency services, but are typically behind the scenes and get little acknowledgement for their vital role.

Supervisor Cory Lynch has been awarded a scholarship by the Association of Public-safety Communications Officials. This \$1,000 award can be applied to classes from the APCO Institute, APCO's Virtual College and towards books, tuition and living expenses to attend an APCO International Conference. This year's International Conference is in Minneapolis in August.

Emergency Management (Keith Butler, Coordinator)

April Events

- Attended County Fire Officers meeting in Mindoro on April 9
- Wisconsin Emergency Management West Central Regional meeting and tabletop exercise in Eau Claire on April 10.
- Provided GIS presentation to UW-L Geography students on April 12
- Numerous National Weather Service webinars for threatening storms on April 13 – 15.
- Met with La Crosse School District Safety Committee on April 17 and provided NIMS/ICS background information and a review of severe weather procedures
- Numerous radio and TV interviews during Severe Weather Awareness Week (April 16-20)
- Visited the new Tri-State Ambulance facility on Causeway Blvd on April 19 and discussed cooperative efforts/plans with TSA and Gundersen Clinic officials
- Amateur Radio volunteers completed installation of emergency communication antenna work on the County Administrative Building.
- Served as the Exercise Director for the three-state Communications Exercise on April 26
- Participated in a state-wide roll-call for the new WISCOM radio system on April 30.

May Events

- Assisted Public Health Dept with an "Open for Business" disaster readiness presentation at the La Crosse Main Public Library on May 2
- Participated in a SkyWarn (storm spotter) actual deployment on May 3.
- Provided emergency communication support for the La Crosse Fitness Festival for 10 hours on Sunday, May 6
- Began discussions and meetings with County IT Dept staff to develop an effective alerting system for the downtown County campus and out-lying facilities on May 7.
- Responded to viral email hoax regarding chemical bottle bombs with numerous media interviews
- Completed AED/CPR refresher training provided by the Health Dept on May 8
- Wisconsin Emergency Management West Central Regional meeting and tabletop exercise in Eau Claire on May 15.
- Communications & Command Vehicle deployment and presentation at the Slide-In to Safety program at Copeland Park with Jay Loeffler
- Follow-up meeting and demonstration/presentation with IT Dept on May 21 regarding County alerting system
- Recorded an interview with TV-8 on Sunday, May 20 regarding the one-year anniversary of the May 22, 2011 tornado in La Crosse.
- Began work on new GIS project with GIS Specialist/Intern Nancy Carlin on May 23

**Jay Loeffler, Administrator
Emergency Services**

Corporation Counsel

1. Claims

- A. Dawn Williams v. La Crosse County – Case No. 11-CV-531. A complaint was filed in this matter in federal court requesting damages for pain and suffering and punitive damages in connection with the service of a search warrant at her residence. The County’s insurer now settled this case for payment of \$59,000 to the plaintiff. The City of La Crosse also contributed to the total settlement. The complaint alleged that the search and seizure of the property was based upon a warrant for a single family residence, where it was later learned that the structure was duplex. The officers entered the residence of Dawn Williams and she was initially detained. The officers then executed the warrant at the property next door. The case was settled because of concerns about liability exposure and the cost of pursuing the matter to trial.
- B. WE Energies v. La Crosse County – Case No. 11-CV-562. This is a case where WE Energies alleges that La Crosse County was negligent when Highway Department crew members struck a WE Energies gas line when digging near County Trunk Highways M and C in 2010. La Crosse County alleges that they dug sufficiently away from the markings so that La Crosse County is not negligent. The Circuit Court heard motions for summary judgment and denied the motions of both parties. The matter is now set for trial. WE Energies is asking for damages of \$7,246.34.
- C. King v. La Crosse County – Case No. 10-CV-123. This is a case where the King family sued La Crosse County for alleged improper treatment of an inmate. The County was successful at the Federal District Court by obtaining a summary judgment dismissing the claim. The matter was appealed to the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals, which issued a decision on May 25, 2012. The decision affirmed the dismissal of the case against Officers Koby-Gobel and Olson and Nurse Mondry-Anderson but reversed the District’s Court’s decision of dismissal against Nurse Kramer and La Crosse County. The Court of Appeals found that the County could not relieve itself of the duty to provide appropriate care by contracting out the service to another entity. This means that the suit against the County will be allowed to proceed. I will keep the Board informed of developments in this case as they occur.
- D. Heather Stevens v. La Crosse County – Case No. 11-CV-190. Heather Stevens filed a complaint against La Crosse County arising out of a \$10,000 deposit required to cover the cost of the Custody Assessment Team’s (CAT) work in a circuit court action. The deposit is required by local court rule. The federal District Court granted an order dismissing the case on a motion for summary judgment on March 23, 2012. Heather Stevens has asked for time to file an appeal of the case. If Ms. Stevens does not appeal the case in a timely fashion, the matter will be closed.
- E. Paula Dolan v. La Crosse County – Case No. 11-CV-270. Paul Dolan filed a claim against La Crosse County as a result of injuries she sustained when she slipped and fell due to an accumulation of snow and ice near the sidewalk running along the north side of the jail. La Crosse County filed a motion for summary judgment to dismiss the case, and the circuit court granted the

motion to dismiss the action on April 12, 2012. The circuit court determined that Wis. Stat. s. 893.80(4) provides discretionary immunity to the County against Dolan's claims. Ms. Dolan had expressed a willingness to waive her right to appeal in exchange for a waiver of costs. This case will be closed.

- F. Marian Gronbeck v. La Crosse County – Case No. HUD 05-11-0305-8. The Estate of Marian Gronbeck filed a complaint with the Federal Housing Urban Development (HUD) Department. HUD issued a decision on May 14, 2012, dismissing the complaint. HUD determined that no reasonable cause exists to believe that a discriminatory housing practice had occurred. The allegation of the Estate of Marian Gronbeck was that the County had discriminated against Marian Gronbeck based upon her handicap. The complainant alleges that La Crosse County should have accommodated her handicap and granted the variance. It should be noted that the Estate of Marian Gronbeck may still pursue a private remedy by alleging discrimination in a separate civil action. We will continue to keep the Board informed as to any future developments regarding this case.

2. **TPR Case**

Megan DeVore, Deputy Corporation Counsel, recently was involved in a Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) case which took 4-5 days. This was a jury trial before the Honorable Todd Bjerke. I mention this because jury trials on Termination of Parental Rights cases are very labor intensive. The actual trial may last 4-5 days but the preparation consists of at least double or triple that amount of time. In addition, it is also very common for these cases to be appealed to the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, which involves the filing of detailed briefs.

Child Support

La Crosse County Child Support was awarded the Certificate of Outstanding Achievement for 2011 at the Director's Dialogue Conference held in Stevens Point April 5th, 2012. The award was presented to 11 out of the 72 Child Support agencies in the state. The award recognized those agencies that demonstrated achievement in reaching the following benchmarks:

- Paternity Establishment Rate of at least 90%
- An increase in the Court Order Establishment Rate of at least 1.5% over 2010 performance
- Current Support Collection Rate increased over 2010 performance

Meg Torgerud, Supervisor
La Crosse County Child Support