



*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: April 4, 2013**

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

Attached is the April 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”**

March 11, 2013 Policy Planning Agenda

The agenda will cover a number of topics that should be especially interesting to the Board, including:

- Steve Flotmeyer of the Wisconsin DOT will update the Board on the upcoming major projects that begin this year and will take several years to complete: the replacement of the Dresbach Bridge and reconstruction of I-90 and Exit 3.
- Orientation to the vital role and work of the County Surveyors office.

*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 [omalley@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:omalley@lacrossecounty.org)*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Planning, Resources & Development Committee April 2013

### County Surveyor

**WISCONSIN LAND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION (WLIA) PRESENTATION:** I was privileged to be a presenter at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual WLIA Conference this year at the Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva Wisconsin. My topic was titled: "*The County Surveyor - 'Hey, what do those people do anyway?' - The History of the County Surveyor in Wisconsin and Reasons Why this Position Remains Relevant to Today's Land Records Initiatives*". The presentation was one of 57 given at the conference. The session went very well and appeared to be well received by those who attended the session. At the closing general session and lunch, it was announced that my presentation was voted the "Best Presentation" of the conference. This is truly humbling for me and speaks well of the land surveying profession, County Surveyors and La Crosse County. It is very easy to look like a good presenter when you have good subject matter and solid support from your peers and your employer.

**2013 CSM REVIEW:** Through the first three months of 2013, we have had 14 Certified Survey Maps submitted for review. This is slightly ahead of the three month pace for the two previous years (we had 10 maps in 2011 and 10 maps in 2012). Ten of the 14 maps are in unincorporated areas of La Crosse County and are subject to the new \$100 review fee (the previous review fee was \$50). I have had no complaints regarding the fee increase and most surveyors seem to understand the need for the increase.

**WISCONSIN/MINNESOTA STATE LINE QUESTION:** I have been asked to sit in on a meeting to offer assistance on locating the Wisconsin/Minnesota state line. Officials from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Minnesota Department of Transportation and Department of Natural Resources would like to meet to discuss the matter. Winona County Surveyor Pat Veraguth has also been invited. This item has become a topic of discussion due to the I-90 bridge replacement. The exact location of the State line is needed in large part because of differing pay scales in Minnesota verses Wisconsin. There are also liability issues associated with the construction project. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for late April or early May.

**WEATHER CONCERNS:** We, like most everyone else are anxiously awaiting more spring-like conditions. We can most certainly work outside in the current weather, but we are far more productive not having to deal with the snow and frozen ground as we do our field work. Hopefully the weather straightens out for all of us very soon.

**NATIONAL SURVEYORS WEEK OPEN HOUSE:** In honor of National Surveyors Week, the Western Chapter of the Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors held an open house in Room 3220 of the Administrative Center on March 21. There were displays of historic survey equipment and a presentation on land surveying. While the turnout was not what was hoped for, we did have a number of County Board members attend. The Western Chapter thanks those who took the time to stop in and see what the land surveying profession is all about.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bryan Meyer, La Crosse County Surveyor

## **La Crosse County UW-Extension**

- UW-Extension has begun implementing the Cooperative Extension Mobile Collaboration Network (MCN) based on the Google Apps for Education (GAPE) suite. This is a managed deployment of the GAPE suite of tools, including Google Nexus tablets, to all UW-Extension employees, allowing them to be more effective and efficient in their job functions and responsibilities at County, State and Federal levels. The MCN has been adopted to increase collaboration, reduce work related travel, provide for on demand video conferencing, use for real time collaborative document editing, use YouTube to increase the reach and availability of educational efforts, introduce new tools to expand target audiences, and simplify collaboration with County and external partners. (MMS)
- Thirty youth and eight parents participated in a Meat Animal Quality Assurance Training (MAQA) this past month. The program teaches youth ages 8-19 about addressing the health and welfare of animals and the proper use of animal health products to prevent drug residues. Each youth learned about identification, feed and water requirements for various species of livestock and the importance of ethical treatment of animals, during multiple hands-on activities. (SDH)
- The local organization Bluff Country Master Gardener, which is comprised of more than 80 volunteers who aid UWEX staff in horticulture education in our local communities, held their 11<sup>th</sup> annual "Spring into Gardening" workshop on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Over 180 people attended the event and learned about a number of topics including peony care, evergreens, and gardening with annuals, ornamental grasses and perennials. (SDH)
- Recent 4-H Arts Festivals involved over 250 La Crosse County youth in musical, drama, public speaking presentations or individual arts and crafts exhibits. Youth that participated further developed their skills in the performing, communication and visual arts. Each group and participant received feedback to help improve performances and exhibits. (RM)
- The 4-H Youth Leaders groups spent an afternoon exploring Architecture. They started out with a presentation by an Architecture Technology instructor at Western Technical College and then ventured downtown La Crosse. The walking tour of the downtown business district gave them a first hand look at several historic architectural styles. Each youth walked away with an expanded view of a career in Architecture and a realization of all the beauty that exists downtown when you take the time to "look up." (JH)
- WNEP educators presented a series of four nutrition education classes to 40 fourth grade students. They learned about healthy choices using the USDA MyPlate food groups, how to read a food label, easy and nutritious snacks, and how to handle food safely. During the presentations, students had the opportunity to taste foods from the MyPlate food groups and surveys indicated that 67% of students who tried red beans and rutabagas said that they would eat them again. (SH)
- The WNEP educator conducted presentations at eight senior dining sites that highlighted the importance of "Eating Healthy on a Budget" and the acronym CHEF Cheap, Healthy Easy and Fast. After the presentation, 77% indicated that the nutrition class was very helpful or helpful, and some ideas that they plan to use in the near future were: eat more fruit, do not skip meals, plan ahead, freeze leftovers, determine unit price, use coupons, try to use all the food groups more, and use a grocery list. (SH)
- Presented the "Challenging Trends Facing Housing in La Crosse" program to the La Crosse School District Board. This presentation was well received by the school board, as indicated by administrative staff of the school district. (KG)

- Completed and submitted the La Crosse Urban Stormwater Group's 2012 annual report for Public Education. This report is submitted to all urban stormwater group members for inclusion in their WDNR annual report, and is a requirement under each urban municipality's stormwater permit. (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 – Bob Matysik, Prof., Dept of Youth Dev., 4-H & Youth Agent

SH – Sheila Harding, Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program Coordinator

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

## **Metropolitan Planning Organization**

The *Coulee Vision 2050* project, designed to develop a vision for transportation and land use decisions in the La Crosse / La Crescent area is just about completed. We have had numerous meetings with the La Crosse Area Planning Committee, two meetings with each municipal planning commission and multiple opportunities for public input. You can find the project report as well as supporting documents at [CouleeVision2050.com](http://CouleeVision2050.com).

The most interesting thing for me throughout the whole process was the interest expressed by all of the municipalities in pursuing boundary agreements as an important tool of smart regional development.

The Vision Statement from *Coulee Vision 2050* is:

**Coulee Vision 2050 is a long-range vision for the improvement of transportation systems in the La Crosse-La Crescent region. The region's towns, villages and cities each recognize the vital link between land use decisions and transportation outcomes, and will collaborate with each other over the coming decades to encourage infill development, limit urban sprawl, and increase mobility options for all users across the region. By incorporating the guiding principles of *Coulee Vision 2050* into local plans and policies, and through sustained, proactive local leadership, our communities will improve quality of life for all residents, strengthen the region's economic competitiveness, and preserve the unique coulee landscape.**

In addition to the vision statement we developed Guiding Principles to help implement the vision. These include:

Overall guiding principles identified through the *Coulee Vision 2050* planning process include:

### 1. Healthy Communities

Our communities have clean air and water and are safe and convenient to walk and bike.

### 2. Universal Access

All residents of the region can meet their daily travel needs, regardless of age, ability or income.

### 3. Economic Competitiveness

Business growth is supported by a transportation network that moves people and goods efficiently, including north-south routes through the region.

### 4. Quality of Place

The unique coulee landscape and unique urban places are valued and enhanced through transportation decisions.

### 5. Flexibility

Mixed-use development, multi-modal transportation systems, connected street networks, and new technologies and techniques are all embraced.

## **Land Use Principles**

The following land use principles are intended to help regional and local stakeholders develop policies and implement improvements that are consistent with the preferred land use alternative. The land use guiding principles include the following:

1. Housing and neighborhoods in the City of La Crosse will attract new investment and more residents, especially through renovation and enhancement of existing housing stock.

This vision encourages the City of La Crosse to reinvest in the existing housing stock and neighborhoods to support infill development that will benefit the City and the entire region.

2. Senior housing options will continue to expand, and new housing intended for residents who remain mobile and active should be located within a 10-minute walk of retail and services.

This vision recognizes the need to provide housing options to accommodate an increasing aging population. Sites in close proximity to clinics and hospitals should be prioritized for assisted living facilities.

3. New housing will continue to include a range of housing types and lot sizes, including a priority on single family lots smaller than ½ acre.

This vision recognizes that single-family detached housing should generally occur on lots smaller than 1/2 acre, including a mix of conventional suburban formats with more than 70 feet of street frontage and also narrower lots, sometimes using alleys. Housing with attached units should grow as a percentage of the overall housing mix, including both rental and owner-occupied units in twindo, townhome, low-rise multi-unit and high-rise multi-unit formats appropriate to the site and setting.

4. The region places a high priority on infill development to enhance the utilization of existing urban infrastructure and enhance the concentration of uses so that more residents are within a 10-minute walk of their daily retail needs.

This vision recognizes that maintaining existing infrastructure should be an especially high priority near major transit stops. Each community will identify

locally-appropriate locations and strategies to allow taller, more land-efficient buildings as compared to existing development. Careful site and building design should be required to minimize negative impacts to nearby residents and community character.

5. New buildings and development areas will often include a mix of uses.

This vision encourages communities to seek appropriate ways to allow residential, retail, and office uses to be intermixed, within the same building, the same site, or the same development, especially where doing so allows for more efficient land use. Local governments should actively advocate for such outcomes and should consider the use of incentives to help overcome resistance to such development common among banks and lenders.

6. Towns and municipalities will pursue and approve boundary agreements that allow some growth in unincorporated areas.

This vision recognizes that town governments have an important role in the effort to limit sprawl. Towns desire some tax base growth, and that growth can be directed close to existing urbanized area through the creation and maintenance of boundary agreements that establish limits on municipal annexations and limited extensions of urban services.

### **Transportation Principles**

The following transportation principles are intended to help regional and local stakeholders develop policies and implement improvements that are consistent with the preferred land use alternative. The transportation guiding principles include the following:

1. New roads for the primary purpose of facilitating regional commuter traffic will generally be avoided – community preference is for expansion of existing roads and transit enhancements instead.

This vision recognizes the desire of stakeholders to focus improvements along existing regional corridors and to promote alternative transportation modes, including expanded regional transit service, as a way to effectively accommodate future development and address capacity deficiencies.

2. The region will have a flexible and fully interconnected grid of streets and highways.

The vision recognizes the importance of developing a flexible, interconnected roadway network that safely and effectively address future year mobility needs. New development areas will connect to the existing network in multiple places. Existing choke points, such as the Mormon Coulee Road railroad overpass south of La Crosse, will be relieved through the construction of new streets that provide a detour option in case of unplanned road closures.

3. A Regional Transit Authority (RTA) will be created to fund and maintain transportation systems.

This vision supports the formation of a RTA that would expand public transportation services and establish a sustainable local funding source for regional transportation systems. The concept of developing an RTA is consistent with the current MTP and steps should be taken at both the local and regional levels to encourage the State of

Wisconsin to allow the creation of a RTA. Emphasis should be placed on improving universal access to major destinations within the region, including all schools; La Crosse, La Crescent, Onalaska, Holmen and West Salem downtowns; hospitals; airport; Amtrak station; Valley View Mall; etc.

4. Transit use will increase among all age groups.

This vision recognizes the need to provide alternative transportation options for a wide range of users. As the percentage of the population age 65 and over continues to increase, it will be important to provide viable mobility options including expand public transportation. Implementing the preferred land use alternative, through increased infill development and limits on urban sprawl, makes regional transit a viable mobility option for all transportation users.

5. Fixed-route regional transit, such as Bus Rapid Transit, should be actively studied and pursued. Routes should be identified and necessary right-of-way protected (or gradually acquired) until implementation becomes feasible.

This vision recognizes that the region should utilize new technologies to make alternative transportation modes a viable travel option compared to the automobile. Specifically, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), or BRT principles, should be explored to improve bus travel times and to enhance the overall experience for transit riders. Regional transit corridors should be identified and opportunities to implement transit improvements should be considered in all regional and local planning efforts.

6. Average commuting times, including all travel modes, will be maintained below 20 minutes.

This vision reflects the desire of the region to maintain commuting times at a reasonable level – identified to be a goal of 20 minutes or less. Currently, the average commute within the region is approximately 15 minutes. The preferred regional land use alternative supports infill development and limited urban sprawl – principles which in turn support shorter commutes resulting in reduced travel times, alternative transportation modes that offer express services, and residential developments in urban centers which make walking a viable travel option.

7. Growth will be accommodated without a significant increase in congestion through the use of many strategies, including road and highway improvements, traffic signal timing improvements, new/enhanced transit services, enhanced and expanded bike and pedestrian facilities, scheduling adjustments by major employers, and other approaches.

This vision recognizes that multiple strategies will be used throughout the region to accommodate future traffic levels associated with projected population and employment growth. There is a desire among stakeholders to accommodate future growth through expansion of alternative transportation modes and improvements within existing travel corridors.

8. Truck routes in the region will be efficient and clearly identified, especially including those through the City of La Crosse.

This vision recognizes the need to strike a balance between efficiently moving goods within and through the region while promoting safety and minimizing the negative aspects associated with heavy truck traffic. This ultimately supports the desire of

regional stakeholders to support the economic competitiveness of the region while preserving the unique quality of place.

9. Mississippi River locks and dams will be upgraded to accommodate modern shipping requirements.

This vision recognizes a unique asset of the region – the Mississippi River. The river serves many purposes including the movement of freight and other goods. Coulee Vision 2050 encourages increased investment in the Mississippi River infrastructure to ensure that the river remains a valuable regional asset that enhances the economic competitiveness of the region.

10. Interstate passenger rail service to Minneapolis and Milwaukee/Chicago will increase in frequency and reliability.

This vision supports the region's desire to expand interstate passenger rail service along the Minneapolis to Milwaukee/Chicago corridor. While the State of Wisconsin has recently declined Federal funding to explore high speed rail, it is the desire of the region to continue to promote alternative travel modes including expanded interstate passenger rail service.

11. Public and private landowners will reduce their subsidy of automobile use through a mix of strategies.

This vision recognizes that a wide range of policies will be needed to effectively implement the preferred land use alternative. One such policy is for public and private landowners to reduce their subsidy of automobile use through a mix of strategies including shared parking, fees for parking, and incentives to encourage alternative travel modes such as transit. The policy would also result in a reduction of the ratio of off-street parking spaces to building area in the region, especially in community centers. Such policies are essential if regional transit is to be successful.

12. Bike and pedestrian facilities will become ubiquitous.

This vision supports the continued focus of the region to develop bicycle and pedestrian facilities that are consistent with complete street policies and support the development of healthy communities. It is the desire of the region that the ongoing development of nonmotorized facilities and trail network improvements will provide safe non-motorized access to every part of the urban area.

So, what do you think about this vision? Do you see any opportunities to implement these ideas as a member of the La Crosse County Board?

*Tom Faella*

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

**Zoning, Ordinance Updates:** The La Crosse County Zoning Ordinance will be submitted soon to the Wisconsin DATCP for Ordinance Certification. Staff is working on the updates of

the Telecommunications Ordinance, Outdoor Advertising Ordinance, & Floodplain and Shoreland Zoning Ordinances for consideration in 2013.

**Land Information:** The new tax system is being tested and is projected for completion in the near future. Staff has spent considerable time in helping develop and test the new system, planned for use in the next property tax year. This project has spanned over three years and is very close to being implemented, hopefully by the end of April/early May.

The Land Information Council has been formed and appointments will be made in April.

**Staff:** The Department has recently hired Angel Much to fill the 0.8 time administrative assistant position. Angel came to us from River City Irrigation, LLC. in Holmen. She started in early March. If you see her at meetings or in your daily activities please welcome her to La Crosse County.



**Board of Adjustment Change:** We also have a new Board of Adjustment Member, Larry Warzynski, from the Town of Holland.

**Permits:** Zoning permit numbers are picking up significantly giving a very positive preview of the upcoming construction season.

*Charlie Handy*  
*County Planner*

## **Land Conservation**

The Department of Land Conservation staff are getting ready for another construction season of installing conservation practices. Barnyard runoff control systems, grade stabilization structures, streambank stabilization and waterways will make up the bulk of the practices being installed in 2013. We are hoping for a more "typical" year weather-wise to keep the farmers, contractors and us on a consistent pace through this construction season. Hot, dry weather can stop construction of conservation practices that require

adequate soil moisture to properly compact earthen fill and poured concrete should not be placed in forms when the ambient air temperature exceeds 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Once the frost has left the ground and farmers have finished planting crops, we should be underway for the 2013 construction season.

Department staff have recently finished nutrient management training for 29 farmers this past winter and 88 farmer/operators had annual plan updates. There is now 27,000 cropland acres in La Crosse County that are actively managed under an approved nutrient management plan. Data from the University of Wisconsin Soil Testing Laboratories shows that La Crosse County average soil test phosphorus levels have declined rapidly from 2004 through 2009. This is a good indication that farmers are applying nutrients, especially phosphorus, at optimum crop utilization levels. This ensures that the crops have the needed nutrients for good yields, yet not excessive amounts that can runoff in storm events and pollute local surface waters. Although we are seeing soil phosphorus levels decline, the county wide average is still three to four times higher than the optimum level. It will take a concerted effort by both farmers and Department staff to reduce the soil phosphorus levels to an environmentally safe level.

*Gregg Stangl*  
*Director of Land Conservation*

## **Facilities Department**

### Campus

- The Department has been working with Hillview on a boiler and water heater replacement project that is scheduled to take place this summer.
- I have been working with Lakeview and Finance on procuring an Architectural Firm and Construction Manager for the replacement of Lakeview.
- The Department responded to 655 work requests in the first quarter of 2013 along with dealing with the snow and ice.

### Parks and Campgrounds

- Both Goose Island and Veterans Memorial Campground will open April 15<sup>th</sup> as planned.
- We interviewed and are checking references for Seasonal staff to operate the campground store at Goose Island as planned.
- Hopefully the spring flooding will be mild this year so we can concentrate on operating the campground store.
- We received two proposals from individuals interested in becoming a Camper Host for Goose Island Campground and are currently working through the interview/reference checking process.
- Goose Island staff had a change this past year with George DeFlorian retiring and Blaine Lee transferring in from the Highway Department as Parks Maintenance Worker.
- Park Shelter Season begins May 1<sup>st</sup>. Reservations have been steady.
- Winter Special Events on Lake Neshonoc went well this year. These special events included Vintage Snowmobile Races, Sports Car Club of La Crosse Winter Ice Races,

Lake Neshonoc Ice Fishing Derby and the first annual Pond Hockey Tournament. No major issues reported with these events.

- Special events planned in the County Parks this summer include:
  - June Dairy Days Run will utilize Neshonoc Swarthout Park as part of the five mile race route on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - The YMCA will be holding the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Got Energy La Crosse Area YMCA/Touchstone Energy Triathlon scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Neshonoc Swarthout Park.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jim Speropulos*

*Facilities Director*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Public Works & Infrastructure April 2013

### Solid Waste

**Timber Harvest** – Work on the sustainable timber harvest for the landfill community forest continues. The third and final payment has been received and cutting has begun for the third phase. The harvest will not be completed this spring due to the weather, and will begin again late fall or early winter.

**Solid Waste Evaluation** – The last scheduled meeting for the cities of Onalaska and La Crosse was cancelled due to the fact that RFP's are in process and there were no updates. The next meeting is scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM in the landfill conference room. This meeting will be an update of the RFP process and a review of the calendar. If you would like any information on the meeting or copies of previous minutes, please contact Nick Nichols, the Sustainability Coordinator.

### **Gas to Energy (G2e) –**

1. March 1, 2013, G2e system completed its first year of operation.
  - 90.52% runtime (24-7).
2. March 4, 2013, scheduled semi-annual system maintenance was completed.
  - 10,104 compressor hours.
3. March 5, 2013, first PSC review of the pipeline operation and maintenance plan which had 510 points of inspection on state and federal code.
  - Component/system design, pressure control, corrosion, operations, damage prevention, emergency plan, pressure control and odorization had no issues.
  - Joining, construction/repair, patrols and leak surveys have needed document language revisions and we will be required to resubmit revisions to the PSC.
  - No operational issues were found.

**Xcel Contract Amendment** – Meetings continue with Xcel to develop a proposed contract amendment. After many months of discussions, a proposal offered by Xcel provides little benefit to La Crosse County and does not address the contract extension. The Solid Waste Department staff is analyzing the proposal and will be meeting with Administration, Finance and Corporation Counsel to discuss future actions.

### **HHM (Household Hazardous Materials)**

Personnel - Both HHM technician positions filled. Training has commenced prior to the spring spike in users and the beginning of the clean sweep season.

Completed 2012 Annual Report to Stakeholders. It is being distributed to County and Municipal officials and is available on the HHM website.

HHM Priorities for 2013:

- Increase recycling or beneficial reuse of wastes brought to the facility. HHM's diversion rate in 2012 was 63%. Initial efforts have been to identify more materials that are suitable for the Reuse Room and to work with disposal vendors to increase find recycling options for more materials.

- Increase educational outreach to county residents. In April, "Earth Month", the theme is replacing hazardous materials in the home with less toxic and safer alternative.
- To continuously improve service to customers while maintaining safety and compliance with environmental regulations.

The next Medication Drop Off is Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> with sites at HHM, Viterbo, Onalaska PD and CESA 4.

#### **Upcoming Meetings –**

Annual Solid Waste Disposal System Meeting – Wednesday, May 15, 2013, 8:45 – 12:00, Fox Hollow County Club. All County Board members will receive an invitation in the mail or you may contact Deb Henriksen if you would like more information or to register.

Solid Waste Policy Board – Wednesday, April 10, 2013, Solid Waste Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,



Henry A. Koch, P.E.

#### **Highway Department**

- The WisDOT approached us a few months ago to consider transferring CTH C in exchange for STH 108, from the southern intersection of both routes to the northern intersection of both routes. They have indicated this is of interest to them because CTH C carries more traffic, and is the roadway of higher classification. This section of CTH C is 10.68 miles long, and this section of STH 108 is 13 miles long. To sweeten the transfer they have offered to cut a \$3 million check, which corresponds roughly to the materials that would be required to recondition this portion of STH 108. The PW&I Committee directed me to communicate with the 2 Towns involved, Farmington and Hamilton, to obtain their input. Farmington has expressed their concern that this transfer has the potential to impact the businesses in and around Mindoro, and we have been working to gather information on that potential impact to present at the April PW&I meeting. Farmington also expressed a strong desire for the County to hold a Public Information Meeting. Hamilton has not as yet taken a formal stance, but their thought is that this is a good deal if it results in more roadwork done in the County with funding from a source other than tax levy. I will be reporting back to PW&I at their April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting with regards to what information we have come up with since February, and looking for direction with regards to the Public Information Meeting.
- Keep in mind that this year's construction projects are CTH OA from CTH O to CTH FO, CTH D from Knudson Road west to Forest Ct. and a small structure replacement on CTH DE just south of Balmer Road.
- The bids for CTH OA are in and look reasonable. The State awarded their section (Dretrah Road to the Old School House) to St. Joes Construction and the PW&I Committee will be considering awarding the County project at the April 8 PW&I

Committee meeting. In the meantime we are wrapping up the clearing and brushing and will be commencing grubbing operations the week of April 1.

- Currently on the State system we are working on crack patching along STH 16, STH 157 and STH 35. Later this season will be working along STH 162 between STH 16 and STH 33.
- In addition to these projects we intend to aggressively pursue seal coating and crack filling on the CTH system. More on the actual locations for seal coating in my next report as we see what in what condition the winter and spring break up leaves. And as to crack filling, we will be looking at all of our system and sealing what we can.
- If any of the County Board would care for an in-depth tour of our infrastructure investment, please feel free to contact me at your convenience and we can schedule such a tour. Thank you for your continued support of our operations.

Respectfully Submitted

*Ron Chamberlain*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Judiciary & Law April 2013

### Emergency Services

Both Public Safety Communications and Emergency Management divisions are involved with the planning for public safety responses for some long-term road-construction projects. The Interstate 90 bridge at the Mississippi River and Hwy 61/I-90 interchange construction will begin this spring and is expected to run through late 2016.

Even though the majority of the construction zone will be in Minnesota, responses from both Minnesota and Wisconsin public safety agencies may be needed. In addition, the majority of the wireless 9-1-1 calls from this area are routed to La Crosse County's communications center.

There will be additional construction from milepost 1 in the Town of Campbell to Theater Road in Onalaska. This project will also have different phases of construction running through 2016.

Such road construction often results in additional public safety calls, as even minor accidents can cause traffic back-ups and lead to more severe calls for service. Pre-planning is necessary to determine what levels of response will be needed for potential public safety needs.

More information about these two construction projects can be obtained from Minnesota and Wisconsin Department of transportation websites.

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/dresbachbridge/>

<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/swregion/90/index.htm>

### Public-Safety Communications

#### January

##### Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls      2,215 (average of 72 per day)  
    Answered within 10 seconds:      96.52%  
    Answered within 20 seconds:      99.50%  
    \* 3 calls more than 30 seconds

Total Telephone Calls      21,712 (average of 700 per day)

##### Calls for Service

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Law Enforcement   | 8,472 |
| Fire Fighting     | 194   |
| Emergency Medical | 634   |

## February

### Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 1,921 (average of 69 per day)  
Answered within 10 seconds: 97.29%  
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.95%  
\* 0 calls more than 30 seconds

Total Telephone Calls 20,124 (average of 719 per day)

### Calls for Service

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Law Enforcement   | 7,881 |
| Fire Fighting     | 187   |
| Emergency Medical | 509   |

*\*National Emergency Number Association Standards:*

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

Allan Tiedt and Michael Sevallius have retired, taking with them a combined 59 years of experience as Public Safety Communications telecommunicators. Allan is one of the original staff when La Crosse Police, La Crosse Fire and the Sheriff's Department combined into one consolidated public safety answering point in 1983. This was at the same time that the emergency number 9-1-1 was initiated in La Crosse County. Mike joined the staff in 1984. Both have had a significant impact on public safety in this county.

In 2012, there were nearly 5,000 9-1-1 checks, which is 17% of emergency calls. A 9-1-1 check is when law enforcement officers are sent to verify if a call is an emergency when a caller hangs up prior to voice contact; does not respond to the call-taker; or has misdialed and verification is needed to determine if it is an emergency.

Seven percent or 348 of those 9-1-1 checks were determined to be an actual emergency. This includes such calls as domestic violence, trouble with other people, motor vehicle accidents and emergency medical calls. These calls resulted in peace being restored 47 times, 58 arrests, 22 ordinance violations and 10 verbal warnings.

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

#### **Events of Note**

- Emergency Management met with City of La Crosse Police and Salvation Army officials to help continue emergency planning that is being led by former Chief Kondracki on January 28.
- County Mass Casualty Team met in West Salem to review operation of new inflatable light towers.
- Emergency Management assisted Emergency Services with radio system planning meeting involving the Highway Department on January 29.
- Emergency Management assisted the Health Department with the 2013 CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) course that began on February 1.
- Emergency Management presented a proposal for Volunteer Reception/Registration Center support from the Lions Club during their regional meeting in Hillsboro on Saturday, February 9.

- Emergency Management assisted with the Lake Onalaska Search & Rescue Plan mapping presentation at Onalaska Fire Department on February 11.
- State Homeland Security auditor conducted radio equipment audit led by Emergency Management on February 18.
- Emergency Management provided Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) support for a major national cyber terrorism exercise that was held in Atlanta, Georgia on February 19. The exercise after-action report will be completed by the end of April.
- Emergency Management participated in a La Crosse School District Safety Committee planning meeting on February 25.
- Emergency Management hosted radio system training for State WISCOM mutual aid radio system users on February 25 and 26. Began programming update for Sheriff Department BEARCAT mobile radio.
- Emergency Management participated in a major Interstate Highway construction project planning meeting on February 27 and was tasked with facilitating further planning meetings involving public safety responders from MN and WI.
- Emergency Management and Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission met with Village of West Salem officials on February 28 to review potential mitigation project and plan updates.
- Numerous winter storms occurred during February and March which resulted in multiple media presentations and interviews
- Emergency Management attended the 2013 Governor's Emergency Management Conference in the Dells area on March 7 – 8.
- Health Department and Emergency Management facilitated planning meetings for the formation of a local VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters) in February and March.
- Emergency Management assisted Western Wisconsin Cares officials with a review of their facility and the use of Weather Alert Radios.
- Emergency Management participated in a Strategic Planning meeting for the City of La Crosse Fire Department on March 14.
- Emergency Management participated in a tabletop exercise at Health Tradition in Onalaska on March 18
- Emergency Management attended an Advisory Board meeting for Great Rivers 2-1-1 on March 19
- Emergency Management facilitated the LEPC meeting on March 20 due to the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair
- Emergency Management facilitated a public safety planning meeting for the I-90 bridge project in La Crescent on March 20.

**Jay Loeffler, Administrator  
Emergency Services**

**Corporation Counsel Office**

1. Claims.

King v. La Crosse County.

- As I indicated in my previous report, on January 18, 2013, the jury returned a verdict finding that the County of La Crosse and jail nurse were not liable. King filed a motion to amend or set aside the jury verdict on February 20, 2013. Briefs were filed and the motion is currently pending before the trial court. If

the trial court declines to amend or set aside the verdict, the plaintiffs still have time to appeal the decision to the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals. I will continue to inform the County Board of the status of this case.

Lueck v. La Crosse County. (ERD#CR201103176)

- Allen Lueck filed a complaint with the State of Wisconsin, Department of Workforce Development, alleging that he was discriminated against because he had complained previously under the Wisconsin Fair Employment Law. The State initially found no probable cause to believe that the County had violated Wisconsin law. Lueck has appealed that decision and requested a hearing. A hearing is scheduled for June 5, 2013, before an administrative law judge.

Marian Gronbeck Living Trust v. La Crosse County.

- Marian Gronbeck had filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), alleging housing discrimination based upon disability for events that occurred at a Zoning Board of Adjustment hearing in 2009. HUD eventually dismissed that complaint in May, 2012. However, the Marian Gronbeck Living Trust has threatened to file a civil action in federal district court based on discrimination due to disability or handicap and failure to accommodate her needs at the hearing. WMMIC is handling the potential claim, and the attorneys for the County are assessing the potential claim. Our office has assisted with investigating additional facts that occurred at the Board of Adjustment hearing. We will continue to keep the Board informed of developments in this case.

Sandra Orzechowski v. La Crosse County. (Case No. 12-CV-90)

- This claim arose from the alleged sexual assault of a patient at Hillview Health Center. The County has filed a Motion for Summary Judgment, requesting dismissal of the claims as a matter of law. This matter was heard on March 26, 2013 but the judge did not issue a decision. If the motion is denied, the case will be set for a jury trial. I will continue to keep the County Board informed of the status of this matter.

2. Open Records. Our office continues to respond to a number of record requests which continue to occur on a frequent basis. As I indicated in the last Report to the County Board, these requests involve a significant amount of time and seem to have increased in frequency over the past year.

3. Employment Issues.

- Stratman Grievance. Deputy Trisha Stratman filed a grievance in 2012 regarding her termination from employment with La Crosse County. The hearing was held before an arbitrator and briefs were filed regarding the arbitration in December, 2012 and January, 2013. The parties are waiting for a decision from the arbitrator from the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission. As of the date of this report, no decision has been received.
  - Our office will continue to work on several issues relating to employee relations within La Crosse County, including discussions about the grievance of the deputy sheriff's union regarding the enactment of a high deductible health insurance plan, and issues regarding the future of

employer/employee relations in La Crosse County in 2014 and beyond, due to 2011 Wisconsin Act 10.

4. Department Assistance.

- Our office continues to assist the various County Departments regarding legal issues as they arise. This report will highlight some of the specific issues we have been involved in recently:
  - Solid Waste Department
    - Update Chapter 15 Ordinance
    - Issues involving contract extension with Xcel Energy
    - Amendments to Hauler Rebate Agreements
  - Zoning Department
    - Questions regarding changes to town zoning within La Crosse County.
    - Discussions regarding amendments to the Zoning Ordinances and other ordinances involving the Zoning and Land Information Dept.
  - Facilities Department.
    - Goose Island Campground issues – assist with the issues as they arise regarding the changes to the operation of the Goose Island Campground and concessions at the campground.
    - Initiate an eviction action regarding the concessionaire.
    - Assist with issues involving sale of properties taken in tax foreclosures within La Crosse County.

5. Court Work.

Megan continues to work on CHIPS and TPR cases. Our office is also working with the Human Services Department to utilize funding to assist with more efficient completion of CHIPS and TPR cases.

Amy continues to work on Chapter 51 mental commitment cases and Chapter 54/55 guardianship/protective placement cases. She also works on child support calendars and issues. Amy continues to work with the County Health Department on various issues as they arise.

6. Ordinance Updates.

Our office continues to work with County Departments in updating La Crosse County Ordinances. There are several ordinances that will be brought before the County Board to be repealed since they do not appear to be utilized or necessary.

7. Miscellaneous.

- Contracts – assist with negotiations regarding NetSmart contract with the Information Technology Department and Human Services.
- Assist with legal matters regarding the Park Plaza Property.

Respectfully submitted,

*David L. Lange*  
*Corporation Counsel*

## **Sheriff's Department**

The Sheriff's Dept. has been notified that Western Technical College has been awarded a \$292,000 Federal Department of Education the next 30 months to support successful transition from the jail to the community. It is one of only 3 in the nation and is the product of strong collaboration between Western, the La Crosse County Jail and multiple community agencies. WTC is in the process of hiring a project director and are very excited about making a difference in our community through these efforts. There will be media releases coming from WTC the week of April 1<sup>st</sup> which will explain the partnerships and efforts.

*Jeffrey A. Wolf*  
*Chief Deputy*