



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

County Administrative Center
400 4th Street North • Room 3300 • La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601-3200
(608) 785-9700 • Fax (608) 789-4821
www.co.la-crosse.wi.us

Memo To: La Crosse County Board of Supervisors
From: Steve O'Malley, County Administrator
Date: August 7, 2013

Re: August 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”

September 15th 2013 County Board meeting

Agenda will include many resolutions and decisions on a wide range of topics, so there will be a need for more reading than many County Board meetings.

Of particular will be a complete revision of the Personnel Code:

First Consideration of Ordinance No. 118 to Repeal and Recreate Chapter 3 Entitled “Personnel Administrative Code” of the General Code of La Crosse County, Wisconsin

*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*

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Planning, Resources & Development Committee August 2013

County Surveyor

VERNON COUNTY ASSISTANCE: On July 9th, I had the opportunity to speak to the Vernon County Land Information Council (LIC). Vernon County is one of just ten Wisconsin Counties that have no County Surveyor. Local surveyors and some residents would like to see the position reinstated. I shared a brief PowerPoint presentation regarding the vital role that a County Surveyor plays within County Government and the valuable services provided to landowners, private sector entities and other units of government. The discussion that followed among the LIC members was encouraging – however no decision was made at this meeting regarding the position. I remain hopeful that the position will be reinstated. I did make the offer to assist with the hiring process, if I would be of assistance.

2013 SECTION AND QUARTER CORNER MAINTENANCE: As of July 25, 2013, we have completed field evaluations and maintenance on 46 corner locations. Our department goal is to visit 5% of our 1405 Section and Quarter corner locations per year (5% would be 71 locations). Our efforts this year are focused in T17N, R6W in the Town of Hamilton where there is a bit of a void in our GPS coordinates for these corner locations. Our work in this area will allow for us to perform needed maintenance work on these vital corners and provide an opportunity to collect GPS coordinate values for our Land Information Department. These coordinates are an important component for improved accuracy in our GIS mapping. If you know of a County survey marker that may be endangered, please contact our office.

GPS EQUIPMENT: We continue to work through some minor issues with our new GPS equipment. One hurdle was cleared when we acquired an FCC license for the external radios recently. We continue to work with our vendor, Positioning Solutions to work through some bugs in hardware and software functionality. We have found that when working properly, this equipment does an exceptional job – even in heavy tree canopy.

2013 CSM REVIEW: Through July 25, 2013, we have had 31 Certified Survey Maps submitted for review. Eight of the 31 maps are in unincorporated areas of La Crosse County and are subject to the \$100 review fee. This is on pace with the number of CSMs reviewed in 2012 (we had 30 through the end of July of 2012). The Certified Survey Maps are reviewed for compliance with Chapter 236.34 of the Wisconsin Statutes, A-E7 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code and Chapter 18 of the La Crosse County Code (Subdivision Control Ordinance).

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

La Crosse County UW-Extension

- Sessions on “The Affordable Care Act—101” were presented for over 150 Health and Human Services professionals in the La Crosse area. Information on the basics of the federal health reform law and the new Marketplace insurance exchange was included. (MMS)
- Facilitated efforts with the local Coalition, forming in the Western Region for Economic Assistance network, to plan for enrollments in the Marketplace insurance exchange, starting October 1. (MMS)
- Abby Diehl and Rachel Helgeson have joined the UW-Extension team as summer interns working with the Teens at Risk program, a joint program effort with the School District of La Crosse and La Crosse County Human Services. (MMS)
- The 2013 carcass evaluation night was held at Holmen Locker in July. In attendance were 48 youth and numerous adults to hear the results from the 2013 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 for quality. (SDH)
- In June, 22 people participated in a field day relating to apple and small fruit production. Participants learned about disease and pest control options for 2013 and new pest to be watching for in the coming year. 79% of participants found the information to be very useful and many commented on changing their scouting routine by being more vigilant. (SDH)
- 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 20 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)
- Nine 4-H youth leader delegates were sent to “Explore the Possibilities” at the Wisconsin 4-H & Youth Conference, held on the UW-Madison Campus. The delegates attended workshops and assemblies which highlighted leadership, individual responsibility, goal setting, healthy living, and living up to potential. Delegates also participated in a variety of community service projects around the Madison area. (JH)
- WNEP partnered with La Crosse Healthy Families, (a home visit program that helps parents of newborns cope with the stress of caring for an infant) and the Market Baskets Program to provide mini-lessons about quick, inexpensive, and healthy meal ideas. An evaluation at the end of the classes showed that 100% of participants learned at least one tip about planning quick & healthy meals that they plan to use in the next month or so. (SH)
- For a second year, WNEP staff was asked to share nutrition information with at-risk eighth grade students who were invited to attend the Successful Transitions program. After making and tasting a snack that included all of the food groups, the students completed a survey which showed 78% of them are going to start or more often look at the nutrition facts label of package items to determine the serving size. (SH)
- Presented Challenging Trends Facing Housing in La Crosse to fifteen members of the Learning in Retirement class offered through UW-La Crosse’s Department of Continuing Education. 100% of all evaluations indicated a perception of problems exist in the City’s housing stock. All evaluations also indicated attendees valued the housing program. (KG)
- Convened and facilitated the La Crosse Area Urban Stormwater Group in moving forward on their two-year stormwater educational efforts. Currently, the intergovernmental group is creating a work plan with UW- Extension and a marketing

consultant on developing educational materials for large parking lot commercial facilities within the urbanized area of La Crosse County. (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 Surface Transportation Program is an opportunity for the federal government to do the right thing by sharing transportation dollars with local municipalities. In Wisconsin each Metropolitan Planning Organization (such as the La Crosse Area Planning Committee) is allocated funds to be distributed based on criteria developed by the MPO. In our case the criteria include safety, congestion relief, economic development, multimodalism, etc.

For the 2014 – 2017 cycle the La Crosse Area will receive about two million dollars. At the July 17 meeting the LAPC decided to fund three projects: reconstruction of North Mark Street in West Salem, pavement replacement of 6th Street South between Badger Street and State Street in the City of La Crosse and reconstruction of Riders Club Road from STH 35 to Sand Lake Road in Onalaska.

Tom Faella, LAPC Executive Director

Zoning, Planning and Land Information:

Zoning, Ordinance Updates: County Board approved this ordinance update in July for a July Published Ordinance date. With the publishing of this updated ordinance, we will be seeking certification from DATCP soon.

Land Information: The new tax system has been implemented. 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. This is a milestone accomplishment and will increase customer service to all taxpayers, assessors and municipal treasurers.

Permits: - Zoning Permits Issued - La Crosse County Unincorporated

Total through July 2012 – 213

Value 2012 - \$20,100,895

Total through July 2013 – 158 Total Down 25.9% Value 2013 - \$16,573,163 Value Down 17.5%

Nate Sampson, Director

Zoning, Planning & Land Information

Land Conservation

The La Crosse County Planning, Resources and Development Committee recently approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Land Conservation and the River Alliance of Wisconsin, a nonprofit, conservation organization that advocates for the protection, enhancement and restoration of Wisconsin's rivers and watersheds. The purpose of the MOU is to form a working partnership of federal, state and local units of government as well as conservation groups and associations that support activities that protect this

region's surface water resources. The partnership will focus on containing and controlling aquatic invasive species in the Mississippi River and its tributaries from La Crosse County up river to Buffalo County, Wisconsin. Aquatic invasive species such as Zebra and Quagga Mussels, Asian carp, water lettuce, hyacinth and parrot feather have already established a foothold in our region of the Mississippi River and threaten to dislocate native species of plants and animals. The biggest concern regarding aquatic invasive species is how quickly they displace native species and how easily they can be transported to new water bodies throughout the state. The La Crosse Area Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership will focus on efforts to conduct public outreach activities to inform river users of the importance of knowing what invasive species are and what they should do to stop them from spreading. Other groups that have joined, or plan to join the partnership include; Friends of the Black River, Friends of Pool 2, Southwest Badger Resource Conservation and Development, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Geological Survey, UW-La Crosse, Wisconsin DNR, Wisconsin Lakes Association and many other potential partners in the region.

Department staff continues to work with county farmers that are enrolled in the State's Farmland Preservation Program. Program participants are required to comply with soil and water conservation standards in order to collect the program's tax credit. Most of our county farmers in the Farmland Preservation Program are not in full compliance with the state's conservation standards and prohibitions and need to be by December 31st 2015 to retain their eligibility. The Department of Land Conservation provides planning, technical and financial assistance to help farmers achieve full conservation compliance by the deadline.

Gregg Stangl
Director of Land Conservation

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Public Works & Infrastructure August 2013

Solid Waste

Gas to Energy (G2e) -

June 12th Blower Motor Failure

- Main 40 hp blower motor for compressor failed due to drive end bearing failure (system down 13 hrs)

June 17th – 24th System down for Gundersen Maintenance.

- Scheduled 10000 hour work.
- Repair oil leak.
- Modifications to heat exchanger system

May - 98.27% runtime

June - 69.65 % runtime

Xcel Contract Amendment – The Solid Waste Department has solicited proposals to get assistance from national solid waste consultants on the Xcel contract amendment. Costs for these proposals and the time frame in which the work was to be completed was deemed excessive. As a result, an alternative approach to resolve issues in a phased manner is being discussed with the strategic advisory team. The phased approach would allow the most critical issues to be addressed first, while the less critical and less time sensitive issues resolved within the next two to three years. The current Xcel contract goes through 2023.

HHM (Household Hazardous Materials) – The HHM program is now able to accept appliances containing refrigerants.

Update on HHM's Priorities for 2013:

- Increase recycling or beneficial reuse of wastes brought to the facility. To date, nearly 20,000 pounds of usable material has been placed in the Reuse Room for local residents to take free of charge. Only once in program history has the reuse total exceeded 20,000 for the entire year.
- Continuous improvement is becoming the norm with the staff. Several internal procedures have been updated to improve safety and efficiency.
- Use of HHM services by small businesses has been increasing, resulting in increased program revenues from these users.

HHM exceeded 1,000 users in both May and June. In 2012 there were three months with over 1,000 users. The number of users and weight of waste received has increased by 19% and 14% respectively.

Sustainability

Timber Harvest – The logging company has decided it would be in their best interest to finish the harvest this summer instead of waiting until the fall or winter. After review by all interested parties, it has been determined that there will be no discernible negative impact on the landfill or its operations if this is to proceed. As of this time, a date has not been determined for when logging operations will resume.

Living Green Expo – Planning has begun for this year's expo. In the past, the expo has been held at Western's Lunda Center; but due to the overwhelming popularity of the event, this year's production will be held on October 19 at the La Crosse Center's North Hall. All

events will be indoors and out of the weather. This is a huge improvement over space at the Lunda Center and a welcome turn of events for the planning team.

Boy Scout Camporee - The Boy Scout Camporee took place over the weekend of May 3-5 at the landfill, and has been deemed a huge success. An article is being developed that will be distributed to national waste periodicals describing the events and results of a weekend camping at the landfill.

Boy Scout Scrapathon – This inaugural event was held June 1 at the Citizens Drop Off Area at the landfill with six volunteers from the local Boy Scouts of America Gateway Area Council. Metal was gathered from the public and all material brought in during the event was sold to Runde Metals and donated to the Council. Over 14,000 pounds was recycled and a check for over \$1,200.00 was presented to the Boy Scouts.

Baling Hay on the Landfill – The landfill has recently worked out a change to the normal operations of mowing the grass. St Joe's Equipment has contracted with a local farmer to harvest the grass for hay. This is a much more sustainable way to utilize the grass that needs to be controlled on the landfill complex. Although mowing has not been completely eliminated, it has been drastically reduced.

Inspections – Three inspections were performed at the landfill complex. First, was a solid waste inspection and all items were found in compliance. Second, was an inspection of air permit requirements. All items were found in compliance. The third inspection was an annual safety inspection. All items from 2012 were resolved. A number of items were identified for improvements in 2013 and will be resolved as soon as possible.

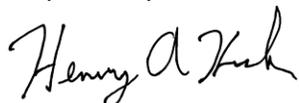
Waste Security and Hauler Rebate Revisions – In the second quarter of 2013 Waste Management elected to participate in the Hauler Rebate Agreement provided revisions to the Hauler Rebate language was made to clarify a number of issues. These revisions were prepared by David Lange, Corporation Counsel, and discussed with the Solid Waste Policy Board which recommended approval by the oversight committee. The Public Works and Infrastructure Committee approved the revised Hauler Rebate language on July 8, 2013. Significant increases in tonnage at the Xcel facility and at the landfill have occurred as a result of the execution of the Hauler Rebate Agreement by Waste Management. Revenues have increased by approximately \$200,000 per quarter while the payment for increased rebates to Waste Management is approximately \$28,000 per quarter. This is the last major hauler in the service area to take advantage of the Rebate Agreement which provides the Solid Waste Department with enhanced waste security.

Presentations and Tours – At the end of June the Solid Waste Department has made approximately ten different presentations to 365 persons. These presentations varied from subjects such as the gas to energy project to environmental stewardship through community service. At the end of June approximately 19 tours of the landfill complex were given which were attended by approximately 474 people. The presentations and tours have significantly enhanced the communities' understanding of the value that the Solid Waste Department provides to the La Crosse community.

Upcoming Meetings –

Customer Appreciation Day – Friday, September 20, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted,



Henry A. Koch, P.E.

Highway Department

- CTH OA (CTH O to CTH F) is progressing along very well. Due to the late spring and heavy rains we experienced earlier this year the project is currently about a month behind schedule and it has been necessary to make some design changes to achieve stable conditions and compaction. Those changes have necessitated some increases in project cost due to more excavations and larger quantities of sub-base material.
- There will be another Public Information Meeting for the potential jurisdictional transfer of STH 108 and CTH C. This meeting will be held late August in the Mindoro area. We will be presenting the possible actions that the Public Works and Infrastructure (PW&I) Committee could take at this juncture and some explanation about each alternative.
- Seal coating has been completed on CTH B (CTH O to STH 16), CTH JB, and CTH II.
- We are currently seal coating for the City of Onalaska and the Town of Holland, as well as some bridge sealing for the WisDOT.
- The culvert replacement on CTH D is complete and paving is scheduled for early August, timing depends on the weather cooperating.
- CTH DE will be closed July 29th through September 15th for a structure replacement just south of Balmer Road. There will be a posted detour for this project.
- More shoulder widening and culvert replacement is in the schedule for STH 162 between STH 16 and STH 33 for later in August and early this fall. This work will be performed by our forces under a Local Force Account contract with the WisDOT.
- We continue to try to work through the WisDOT in an effort to convince them to allow more frequent mowing of the STH right of ways. This is a state-wide effort and both the Wisconsin Counties Association and the Wisconsin County Highway Association are on board with working through the problem as a policy effort with the WisDOT.
- Other upcoming operations including continuing to spray right of ways for invasive species, county right of way mowing, extensive crack filling, and other items of general roadway maintenance.

Respectfully Submitted

Ron Chamberlain

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Judiciary & Law August 2013

Clerk Of Courts

As President of the Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Courts, I attended a NACM (National Association for Court Management) conference in San Antonio, Texas on July 14-18th. The conference was attended by over 400 people throughout the United States. The conference was a rare opportunity to network with others in the country. Many face the same issues of budget constraints and increased workload. In attending the conference, I could not help but think how fortunate Wisconsin is to have our statewide courts software program of CCAP. Many courts have stand only software they must create and purchase court by court. As budgets get tight, the need to support CCAP because even more apparent as it huge asset to the state and counties.

Another highlight from the conference was how the majority of the states use bail bondsmen. Stories were told of the issues other states face by using the bail bondsmen. As you know, our Governor vetoed this in the past month. Showing again, Wisconsin is up and coming in that area also. I would like to thank the county board for their support by passing the resolution in opposition. The many requests to veto the bill was overwhelming.

Locally in the courts, the double homicide trial of the local businessman and his son started July 23rd with jury selection and the trial is scheduled to last 9 days.

Pam Radtke
Clerk of Court

Emergency Services

La Crosse County is in the process of studying its public safety radio system. In 2012, there was an upgrade that extended the life of our system for five years. Our current system was implemented in 1997 and continues to provide for our needs, but is approaching 20 years of life. Much of the technology used is outdated and soon will not be supported by the vendor. Typically it takes four-to-five years to study, plan and implement an extensive radio system such as ours, so we must begin the process now.

The City of La Crosse is currently in the process of upgrading its radio system, which was implemented in 1993. In early August, Emergency Services is requesting approval to use a technology consultant to analyze our current and future requirements for our public safety radio system. This would include the radio system infrastructure and our outdated dispatch radio consoles (purchased in 1992 and updated in 2006). Since the County's Public Safety Communications Center provides dispatch, emergency and non-emergency call-taking services for the City of La Crosse, the console is a key factor when integrating into any new system by La Crosse. An up-to-date console would also be needed with any new system implemented for county as well.

This study will include a strategic plan to help provide valuable and necessary information to help Emergency Services and other public safety agencies determine what is best for La Crosse County. A key factor for this study is to require a plan that will minimize duplication

of effort and redundancy while increasing utilization and interoperability through sharing available resources.

Public-Safety Communications

May

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,456 (average of 79 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 96.82%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.67%
* 6 calls more than 30 seconds

73.94% of 9-1-1 calls were from wireless phones.

Total Telephone Calls 24,057 (average of 776 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	9,814
Fire Fighting	251
Emergency Medical	576

June

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,265 (average of 76 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 95.14%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.34%
* 7 call more than 30 seconds

74.61 % of 9-1-1 calls were from wireless phones.

Total Telephone Calls 23,114 (average of 770 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	9,404
Fire Fighting	236
Emergency Medical	571

**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

- County EM continues to facilitate public safety planning meetings for the I-90 bridge construction project including major incident pre-planning for road and river emergencies. Most of the meetings are held at the La Crescent Fire Department.
- County EM participates in emergency planning meetings for the School District of La Crosse and assists with review and updating of emergency plans. An August workshop presentation has been developed.
- Numerous hazardous materials facility plans were updated during this period including the XCEL Energy French Island RDIF plant, Northern Battery, Hydrite, Great Lakes Cheese, and several municipal wells.
- Public Health and Human Services officials met with EM to review and update the County Emergency Operations Plan Annexes.

- An UW-L Intern is providing Damage Assessment Team program support and is preparing a countywide team that can assist any community with post-disaster damage assessment processes.
- County EM serves on the Great Rivers 2-1-1 Advisory Board which met on June 4.
- County EM co-facilitated a full-scale exercise at Central High School using a chemistry laboratory explosion as the scenario on June 11. Nearly 25 fully-moulaged volunteer patients provided a realistic training exercise for area responders, school officials and the HazMat Team. The County Mass Casualty Team provided on-scene support. This exercise required many months of planning and preparation but was not funded by the State Homeland Security exercise grant program.
- County EM participated in a review of the Airport emergency plan update on June 13.
- County EM worked with Public Health officials to make ready a community cooling center during several high heat events during June and July. The cooling center was needed on July 18.
- County EM assisted during the Megan McB tug boat incident at Lock & Dam #7 on July 3 and delivered Mass Casualty Team support equipment and supplies.
- County EM has been working with various State and local agencies regarding resolution of the WI/MN state border issue following the Megan McB incident and in conjunction with the I-90 bridge project. Responder jurisdiction issues can cause delays and prevent effective management of responders and resources across state lines.
- County EM met with the Mass Casualty Team on Sunday, July 7 and conducted a complete inventory and cleaning of both Support Trailers.
- County EM and Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission met with Town of Medary officials on July 9 to review updates to their Mitigation Plan.
- County EM, EM Volunteer Coordinator, and Public Health have been facilitating planning meetings for the development of a La Crosse County VOAD group. (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster). VOAD will assist all municipalities with the management of volunteers (and some donated goods management) following a major incident or disaster by coordinating the efforts of dozens of disaster response volunteer agencies. The VOAD bylaws and other organizational processes have been completed and will be working with County Corporation Counsel to develop an MOU with the new VOAD group.
- The LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) has reviewed some mass-notification systems but does not intend to submit a budget request at this time. Effective public notification during major incidents is limited to EAS and National Weather Service all-hazards weather radios systems in La Crosse County. The Town of Campbell and the City of Onalaska use a Code Red system.

Jay Loeffler, Administrator
Emergency Services

Corporation Counsel Office

1. Claims.

- King v. La Crosse County. On May 30, 2013 the trial court denied several motions filed by King after the jury verdict. On June 24, 2013 King filed a Notice of Appeal to the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. This means that a briefing schedule will be set forth, requiring briefs in September and October, 2013. There may be oral arguments and a decision would be made by the Court of Appeals sometime in 2014. In addition, on July 18, 2013 the trial court issued an order approving the taxation of costs against King on behalf of the County in the amount of \$30,397.17.

- Marian Gronbeck Living Trust v. La Crosse County. This case has now settled. La Crosse County, through WMMIC, paid the Marian Gronbeck Living Trust the sum of \$10,250 for a full and final settlement of all claims. The case settled because the plaintiffs threatened a private civil action based upon possible violations of the Fair Housing Amendments Act and the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). If this case had proceeded further, the litigation would have been complex and WMMIC would have incurred substantial attorney's fees. Due to reasons of potential liability and the cost of defending this matter further, the settlement was reached in this case which is now closed.
 - Sandra Orzechowski v La Crosse County (Case No. 12-CV-90). This case arose from an alleged sexual assault of a patient at Hillview Health Center. The County had filed a Motion for Summary Judgment, requesting dismissal of the claims. The matter was heard on March 26, 2013. The trial court issued a decision on June 28, 2013 denying the Motion of the County of La Crosse for a summary judgment. The court's reason was that there are still genuine issues of material fact that needed to be tried. Therefore, the case will proceed to a jury trial which has not yet been scheduled.
 - Estate of Rita Soulia v La Crosse County, et al. (Case No. 13-CV-472). This lawsuit was filed on July 18, 2013. La Crosse County has not yet been served with this complaint. Once served, the defense of the complaint will be handled by an attorney secured through West Bend Mutual Insurance Company. The complaint arises from an incident that occurred September 8, 2010, when Rita Soulia was found deceased at Hillview Health Care Center. The complaint alleges negligence, breach of civil rights under 42. U.S.C. § 1983, and also a request for punitive damages. It is anticipated this lawsuit will involve complex issues of fact and law that will need to be further investigated. Our office will continue to keep the County Board informed of the status of this case.
2. Open Records. Our office continues to respond to open records requests. We have dealt with several open records requests involving the Sheriff's Department in the last several months, which may involve a potential claim.
3. Employment Issues.
- Child Support Supervisor. Our office has been fulfilling the duties of the Child Support Supervisor since Meg Torgerud resigned her position. Our office is presently involved in recruiting a new supervisor to handle the day-to-day management of the Child Support office. In the meantime, our office has been involved in responding to complaints in dealing with administrative matters as needed.
 - Stratman Grievance. As the County Board is aware, the arbitrator in the Trisha Stratman grievance issued an arbitration award on June 21, 2013. The award ordered reinstatement of Trisha Stratman, subject to a passing a fitness for duty examination and undergoing any other necessary training. The discipline of termination is reduced to a 30 day, unpaid suspension, effective October 9, 2011. Further, Trisha Stratman is to receive back pay from October 9, 2011 to the date of reinstatement, offset by the 30 day suspension and any income had she earned from other sources in the interim. The County has not appealed the decision because there are no grounds under Wisconsin law to appeal the decision in this case. The tentative reinstatement date is July 29, 2013.
4. Park Plaza. Our office continues to work on issues involving the Park Plaza Property. Recently, our office has been working on the details of the development agreement with the buyer. I will continue to meet with City of La Crosse officials regarding the

offer to purchase and the development agreement, and any other issues that need to be resolved for the sale of the property.

5. Ordinance Updates. Our office continues to work with the County Departments in updating County ordinances. Primarily, our office has been working on updating Chapter 1 "General Government" and Chapter 3 "Personnel Administrative Rules". In addition, we are beginning to work on updates on Chapter 2 "The Governing Body".
6. Department Assistance. Our office continues to assist various County Departments regarding legal issues as they arise. More specific issues are the following:
 - Facilities Department
 - Goose Island Campground Issues – La Crosse County started a lawsuit against Ida Jensen, the former Goose Island Campground Concessionaire, and our office is in the process of obtaining a judgment for the amounts owing to La Crosse County.
 - Assist with issues involving sale of properties taken in a tax foreclosure action.
 - Zoning Department
 - Work on amendments to Chapter 17 "Zoning Code" Ordinance and any other ordinances involving the Zoning and Land Information Department.
 - Specific discussions include any impacts of 2013 Wisconsin Act 20 on the La Crosse County Zoning Ordinances and Chapter 28 "Telecommunication Facilities".
 - Solid Waste Department
 - Continue to work on various issues involving Solid Waste Department, such as contract extensions with Xcel Energy, Hauler Rebate Agreements, and other issues as they arise.
 - Highway Department
 - Our office will be working with the Highway Department regarding several actions which have been filed regarding compensation awards in the Highway OA Construction Project. Several matters have been filed which will require hearings before the La Crosse County Condemnation Commission. A notice of appeal has also been filed with the La Crosse County Circuit Court regarding one of the condemnation awards.
7. Miscellaneous. Court Work: Megan continues to work on Child in Need of Protection or Services and Termination of Parental Rights cases. Several jury trials have been scheduled this year. Our office is also in the process of hiring a legal secretary to assist Human Services Department in preparing CHIPS and TPR cases so these can proceed more efficiently to completion. Amy continues to work on Chapter 51 Mental Commitment and Chapter 54/55 Guardianship and Protective Placement cases. She handles the Child Support matters and also matters involving La Crosse County Health Department, Zoning Department, and Highway Department matters as they arise.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Lange
Corporation Counsel