



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

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

Re: February Monthly Report to the County Board

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

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

February, April, June, August, Oct. & Dec.
Planning, Resources & Development
Public Works & Infrastructure
Judiciary & Law Enforcement
Corp Counsel & Child Support

January, March, May, July, September, November
Health & Human Services
Aging & Long Term Care
County Clerk, Finance, IT,
Printing, Personnel, Treasurer

“OF INTEREST”

February 11, 2013 Policy Planning Agenda

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

- Update Report on Western Wisconsin Cares by Executive Director Tim Garrity. Nearly half of the current County Board were not Supervisors when the family care pilot Care Management Organization (CMO) was a part of La Crosse County Human Services, before leaving to form the current regional collaboration serving eight counties.
- Consider action on resolution: Support of Wisconsin's Acceptance of Federal Funding to Expand Coverage for the State Medicaid Program (Badgercare), Guaranteeing Coverage to Low Income Adults
- Preliminary report on Lakeview Strategic Plan by Wipfli consultants about the potential right sizing of Lakeview services.

*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 February 2013

Zoning, Planning and Land Information:

Ordinance Updates: Zoning ordinance: The Towns of Campbell and Burns have not adopted County-Wide Zoning.

Staff: Recently hired Scott Custer to the Zoning Specialist position. Scott comes to us from the Solid Waste Department where he was employed as Special Waste Technician. Scott is a recent graduate of UW Stevens Point with a degree in Soil and Land Management and minor in biology, and we welcome him aboard!

We have completed interviews for a 0.8 time administrative assistant position and hope to offer the position to a very well qualified individual soon.



Permits: Zoning permit values significantly rose in 2012, see counts and value below.

2011 - Totals: Permit Count **358** Estimated Value **\$22,649,644**

2012 - Totals: Permit Count **356** Estimated Value **\$33,566,454**

0.6 % decrease in permit count 48.2% increase in permit value

Charlie Handy
County Planner

Land Conservation

The Department of Land Conservation has completed a tree sale harvest on two small parcels of county-owned land in section 12 of the Town of Burns. The two small parcels of land produced 120 cords of Jack Pine, 105 cords of Oak and 98 cords of Red Pine. The tree harvest produced \$13,144 46 in revenue for the County's Environmental Fund. Jelinek Trucking out of Black River Falls was the contracted logger. He completed the harvest in less than three weeks. The harvested timber was sold to Domtar in Nekoosa, Wisconsin as pulp wood for the paper industry and Krueger Road Lumber of Augusta, Wisconsin as saw logs for dimensional lumber. The Department of Land Conservation is responsible for the management of the County's forests and administration of the timber sales. We work in cooperation with the local DNR Forester, Adam Zirbel, to maintain a healthy forest system, provide recreational opportunities for residents and a reliable stream of revenue to the Environmental Fund.

Nutrient Management Planning Workshops for La Crosse County farmers were conducted for new program participants in the month of January. There were twenty three Farmers who attended their first nutrient management workshop this year. Their total planned acres amounted to nearly 5,000. The workshops, taught by Land Conservation Department staff, provide an opportunity for farmers to learn the process of nutrient management planning on their own farms. Proper distribution of nutrients from animal manure and/or commercial fertilizers can achieve desired crop yields while eliminating excessive nutrient levels in the soil that can contaminate surface and groundwater resources. The first week in February, department staff will be available to assist farmers who have nutrient management plans that need to be updated for this year's crop growing season. It is anticipated that 150 farmers will update their nutrient management plans this year. Staff from UW-Extension Services and the Natural Resources Conservation Service assist in the workshops as well and provide the Department of Land Conservation much needed help.

Gregg Stangl
Director of Land Conservation

UW-Extension

- UW-Extension Team successfully completed a Civil Rights Review by UW-Extension. The review, conducted every 4-5 years, evaluates county efforts to reach out to protected classes and underserved audiences. The team was commended on team efforts, and several programs and activities were highlighted as "Best Practices" that the UWEX Civil Rights Leadership Team will share with colleagues around the state, including: office record-keeping systems, teams efforts with HMAA, Hmong property tax bill, Compass NOW focus groups, leveraging outreach with the Master Gardeners organization, Science Adventures Club reaching ELL students with 4-H at school. (MMS)
- Served as Advisor to the Human Services Leadership Team in planning and presenting the third Leadership Development Institute which focused on "Measurement 101". The trainings are offered to develop supervisor leadership skills, standardize behavior and responses, and align processes with organizational goals and values, ultimately to increase effectiveness. (MMS)
- The weekly news segment "Hands on Gardening" is now into its seventh year of providing timely information to the general public regarding a host of horticulture related topics. To date 277 non-duplicated, horticulture related, educational segments have aired on WKBT. (SDH)
- Local farmers learned about safe handling of pesticides and how to properly post areas that had been sprayed to avoid unnecessary exposure to others at the 2013 Pesticide Applicators Training. After the teaching material was presented, a test was given which the farmers must pass in order to receive their license. All farmers passed the exam and are therefore licensed for the next five years. A second training will be held in February. (SDH)
- In 2012, 39 new adult 4-H leaders were added to the nearly 375 leaders that have completed the orientation and certification process required of volunteers. Leaders learn about child development principles, experiential learning, the basics of 4-H and watching for signs of child abuse/neglect. (RM)
- Over 50 youth ages 5-19 participated in the 4-H Communication Arts Festival involving individual speeches and group drama performances. Participants meet with the judges to receive verbal as well as written feedback to help them improve their skills. Communication skills are among the most frequently mentioned skills learned in 4-H. (RM)
- WNEP staff educated 1,389 individuals throughout La Crosse County on nutrition topics including food safety, diet quality, physical activity and how to purchase/prepare economical healthy foods. Forty seven percent of WNEP participants were youth age 6 to 11, 14% were senior adults, 5% were youth age 4 to 5, 8% were youth age 12-17, and 26% were parents of infants/children. (SH)
- WNEP staff shared information on ways to stretch the food budget to thirty-four Salvation Army shelter residents where topics included: spending plan basics, couponing and other grocery shopping tips (i.e. don't go shopping when hungry), ways to mix and match foods on hand to make easy, inexpensive healthy meals. (SH)
- Began assisting the La Crosse School District in developing a survey for open enrollment students to assist in addressing the declining student enrollment numbers for the La Crosse School District. (KG)
- Assisted the City of Onalaska in publishing the "How to Read Your Property Tax Bill" flyer that was included in the City of Onalaska's property tax bill mailing. Over 6,500 recipients received the flyer. In addition, provided basic property tax bill education to the WIZM listening audience with an hour long interview program on Property Taxes. (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

County Surveyor

SECTION AND QUARTER CORNER MAINTENANCE: As we gear up for field work for Section and Quarter corner maintenance work for 2013, we have a project in mind that will allow us to work in cooperation with the Land Conservation Department and the Land Information Office. This project involves the area known as the Neshonoc Creek watershed. This watershed is located primarily in the Town of Hamilton along with smaller portions of the Towns of Burns and Farmington. This project will provide the County Surveyor department with a chance to perform maintenance work on these vital corners, many of which have not been visited and evaluated for many years. This project also benefits the Land Information Office as we acquire accurate GPS coordinate values on the corners we visit for more accurate GIS mapping.. And finally, this project will benefit the Land Conservation Department as we acquire GPS locations on culverts within this watershed. Knowing the location, size and condition of these culverts will allow for improved hydrologic modeling for better watershed management.

SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE REWRITE: One major department goal for 2013 is a rewrite of Chapter 18 of the County Ordinance or the Subdivision and Platting Code. This rewrite will offer an opportunity to review the verbiage and content and allow for updates as needed. We will work with related departments and local surveyors as we work toward accomplishing this goal.

NEW FEES FOR 2013: Effective January 1, 2013, the review fee for Subdivision Plats and Certified Survey Maps increased. The cost for Subdivision Plat review increased to \$300 (up from \$200). The cost for Certified Survey Map review increased to \$100 (up from \$50). These fees were last increased in 2003. So far this year, only two of the four Certified Survey Maps submitted for review were subject to the review fee, so it is difficult to know if the increase has had any type of impact for the department.

BICE FOREST TRAILS: The Facilities Department has requested our assistance with a project in Bice Forest near the Northeast corner of the Town of Farmington. Bice Forest has several trails which are used for hiking and cross country skiing. We will make use of our GPS equipment to provide accurate locations of these trails to allow for accurate mapping and production of a map so trail users have a better idea of trail locations and lengths.

SCANNING PROJECT: Senior Engineering Aide Pete Follansbee has completed scanning of all of the maps found in the County Survey files with the exception of the maps found in the City of La Crosse files. I have placed a request to the Information Technology Department to have those completed scanned images made available on the County Surveyor Department portion of the County website. This has been a tedious process and hats off to Pete for his diligence and attention to detail as this process moves toward completion.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan Meyer, La Crosse County Surveyor

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Public Works & Infrastructure February 2013

Highway Department

- Winter maintenance has been interesting this season. While we have not had a great deal of accumulation with regards to precipitation, we have had a fair number of events that have required us to go out. Events like these are materials heavy in comparison to actual physical effort, meaning we use a disproportional amount of salt and sand to the amount a physical effort expended in the storm. That said we are in good condition with regards to salt and sand inventories.
- This year's large project, CTH OA (from CTH O to CTH FO), has officially commenced. Our crews have demolished the two residences that we needed to acquire and remove. We have also started clearing operations for the realignment of the roadway where necessary. The center segment of the project is under a Highway Safety grant and as such is under WisDOT oversight, that portion is to be let in March. We will follow with the let portions of the remaining segments one week after the WisDOT let.
- Real Estate acquisition for the CTH OA project is on schedule and nearing completion.
- The Department is currently hauling sand to stockpile in preparation for next winter's mixing requirements.
- Our new storage building is complete and has been turned over to us by the contractor, Brickl Brothers.
- Several of our mechanical staff as well as outside crew have recently completed a welding certification through WWTC. This certification and education process will allow us to insource various repairs to equipment and bridges. The WisDOT has already expressed an interest in our services for bridge maintenance on their structures where welding is necessary.

Respectfully Submitted

Ron Chamberlain

Solid Waste

Xcel Contract Amendment – Discussions are continuing with Xcel to prepare an amendment to the Xcel operating contract. Work continues on the proposal development but will take an additional four to six months before a final draft version can be presented to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee. Work was delayed due to an illness of the Director in the Solid Waste Department.

Personnel – Both HHM technicians resigned for better paying positions. Personnel and Administration have provided assistance to accelerate the recruitment and replacement process. In the last two years approximately five employees have resigned from the HHM program for better pay. This underlying problem needs to be addressed.

Timber Harvest – Work on the sustainable timber harvest for the landfill community forest continues. Unusually warm weather experienced in December and January has somewhat delayed the harvest.

Winter Landfill Operations – The landfill complex has successfully made the transition to winter operations. All snow removal, sanding and road maintenance operations are being managed to provide safe access to the landfill during winter conditions. High winds have increased the necessity for paper picking operations and will require some spring cleanup.

An unusually large (in excess of 3,000 to 4,000) number of starlings have been present at the landfill site. The starlings present a health hazard to both the County Solid Waste Department personnel and to the landfill operations personnel, St. Joseph Construction Company. Jadd Stilwell, Landfill Operations Coordinator, worked with the Federal Wildlife Services to oversee a vector control program associated with the starlings. The program successfully eliminated most of the starlings by using poison baits at the landfill. The program was concluded with no adverse impacts or complaints from the neighbors.

Solid Waste Evaluation – The next scheduled meeting of the cities of Onalaska and La Crosse to discuss changes in the garbage collection and recycling operations has been scheduled for February 12, 2013 at the landfill conference room. If you would like any information on the meeting or copies of previous minutes, please contact Nick Nichols, the Sustainability Coordinator.

Gas to Energy – The federal EPA methane outreach program has selected La Crosse County and Gundersen Lutheran as the project of the year on a national basis. The award for project of the year was presented on January 30 at Baltimore. Representatives of the Solid Waste Department and Gundersen Lutheran were present to receive that award.

The cold weather of the winter has decreased the production of methane slightly. Operation of the equipment varies depending upon maintenance needs. In December a high run time of 99.57% was achieved.

HHM (Household Hazardous Materials)

HHM Totals for December 2012:

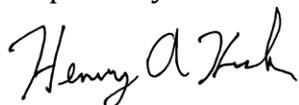
Residential Users: **779 people** a **90%** increase over December last year.
Weight processed: **57,044 lbs** a **72%** increase over December last year.
Average weight per visit: **73 lbs**

HHM Totals for 2012:

2012 Total Residential Users **9,915** users a **54%** increase compared to 2011
2012 Total Residential Weight **708,753** lbs. a **62%** increase over compared to 2011

The next Medication Drop Off is scheduled for Saturday, February 16, 9:00 – Noon at HHM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Henry A. Koch, P.E.

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Judiciary & Law February 2013

Emergency Services

Public-Safety Communications

November

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,034 (average of 68 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 97.35%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.71%
* 4 calls more than 30 seconds

Total Telephone Calls 20,141 (average of 671 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	8,483
Fire Fighting	184
Emergency Medical	511

December

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,419 (average of 78 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 96.20%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.75%
* 2 calls more than 30 seconds

Total Telephone Calls 21,464 (average of 692 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	7,854
Fire Fighting	183
Emergency Medical	605

**National Emergency Number Association Standards:*

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

2012 ended much the way it started with mild weather, which dropped totals for 9-1-1 calls drastically from the record-setting 2011. There were just fewer than 28,000 for the year, down 7 % and the lowest total since 2006. This gives an indication of how weather affects the need for 9-1-1.

Despite having 2,000 less emergency calls than the previous year, overall there were still more calls for public safety services. Police calls were up from 2011. Since 93% of the calls for service are law enforcement related, total calls rose 6%. Fire Fighting and Emergency Medical call for service were down from previous years.

Public Safety Communication and 9-1-1 for La Crosse County celebrated its 30th anniversary on January 5th. During that time there have been more than 9.5 million total telephone calls (*non-emergency, out-going and 9-1-1*) of which more than 700,000 were received on 9-1-1 lines. There have been 110 employees in the history of La Crosse County's communication center.

In January, Emergency Services was visited by a crew from CBS show *48 Hours Mystery*. The television program will be airing an episode on a La Crosse County homicide this February and filmed some background footage in the communications center. This will be the third time La Crosse County Public Safety Communications has been featured on a national television program.

Emergency Management (Keith Butler, Coordinator)

Events of Note

- EM Coordinator and ES Administrator participated in consultant presentations for radio system upgrades for the City of La Crosse and the Highway Department on December 4.
- The Emergency Services Department hosted the bi-monthly County Fire Officers Association on December 10. District Attorney Gruenke discussed public safety concerns regarding recent concealed/open carry gun law changes.
- EM Coordinator attended the Wisconsin Emergency Management West Central Regional meeting in Eau Claire on December 18.
- EM coordinator participated in several live and recorded media interviews during BLIZZARD conditions on December 19 – 21.
- EM Coordinator presented annual radio system maintenance agreement funding request to the Judiciary & Law Committee on January 8.
- EM Coordinator co-facilitated a new La Crosse area VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) planning meeting with the Health Dept on January 14. Volunteer Coordinator Karen Hoel will work with new VOAD group (called Response-Ability) to draft by-laws and other organizational documents.
- The Local Emergency Planning Committee met on January 16.
- Several on-going projects were continued during this reporting period including the development of EPCRA off-site plans for four Holmen Wells, Pepsi and Coca Cola facilities, and McLoone Metal Graphics.
- Planning continues for the June 11 Chemistry Lab Explosion full-scale exercise to be conducted at Central High School. EM Coordinator meets with three GLMC Medical Students and their advisory bi-monthly to develop the exercise components. Moulage supplies (fake wounds) were obtained during this planning period along with some other exercise equipment.
- EM Coordinator is providing Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program support for a major national cyber-terrorism exercise to be conducted in Atlanta, Georgia on February 19, 2013.
- The Mass Casualty Team is scheduled to meet in West Salem during the evening of January 28 to prepare for their involvement in the Chem Lab exercise and to work with some new emergency scene lighting equipment.
- Emergency Management will assist the Health Department with a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) course beginning Friday evening, February 1.

Jay Loeffler, Administrator
Emergency Services

Corporation Counsel Office

1. Claim.

King v. La Crosse County, Case #10-CV-123.

- On January 18, 2013, the jury in this case returned with a verdict that determined that the County of La Crosse and jail nurse were not liable in the case. This means that the jury did not address the issue of the amount of damages caused to the family of John King. There is still a period of time during which the King family can appeal the jury verdict. If an appeal is not initiated within the time frame, then this case will end. If an appeal is made within the required time after the jury verdict, then the federal Circuit Court of Appeals will hear the appeal, based upon the record before the District court and briefs submitted by the parties. I will keep the County Board informed of any future developments.

2. Open Records. Our office assists with open records requests which occur on a frequent basis. These requests involve significant time and seem to have increased in number over the past year.

3. Employment Issues.

- Our office has worked on several issues relating to Wisconsin Act 10 and the challenges that the Act presents in dealing with the La Crosse County employees. Specifically, our office has been involved in discussions regarding the deputy sheriff's union, the recent arbitration decision, and the evaluation of using health plan design tools to offset employer expense. Our office will continue to work on these and other related issues. Another issue that our office will need to work on in the near future will be how to address the challenge of preparing for 2014, when the present union contracts have expired.

4. Department Assistance.

- Highway Department – assist with purchase of properties for highway to work on County Highway OA and assist with the various resolutions as needed.
- Zoning Department – work with the Department regarding transition of the Town of Campbell opting out of the County Zoning and enacting the Town's own zoning ordinance. Other issues involve future amendments to the County Zoning Ordinance and addressing use of conditional use permits to address high vehicle use issues in the future.
- Facilities Department – work with the Department regarding issues of the Goose Island Campground Concessionaire and the non-payment of fees owing to La Crosse County.
- Solid Waste Department – continue to work with the Department on various issues, including review and approval of easements at the Solid Waste Department site and contractual matters with Xcel Energy.

5. Court Work.

Megan continues to work on CHIPS (Child In Need of Protection/Services) and TPR (Termination of Parental Rights) cases. In 2012, Megan processed 18 minor

guardianships and 26 TPR cases, achieving permanence for children in these cases. Megan also assists me with County Board and departmental issues as needed.

Amy Flottmeyer continues to work on Chapter 51 mental commitment cases and Chapter 54/55 guardianship/protective placement cases. She also is spending time on child support calendars and issues involving child support warrants and jail overcrowding issues. Amy is also working with the County Health Department on various issues, including issues involving dangerous animals.

6. Ordinance Updates. Our office will continue to work with County Departments in updating the La Crosse County ordinances. Our office has worked with UW Extension on changes to Chapter 30 and is also working with the Sheriff's Department on changes in Chapter 9 "Public Peace & Good Order".

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Lange
Corporation Counsel

Sheriff's Department

The first phase of law enforcement in-service has been completed. 86 officers from 8 Departments in the County recently completed 16 hours of annual training. In April they will all go through another 16 hours of training to meet the states mandated requirements. Training includes Emergency Vehicle Operation, self defense, taser updates, firearms, and crime scene preservation.

Jailer in-service began on February 7th which involves 16 hours of training on mental health, suicide prevention, CPR updates, drug identification, and communication skills. All jail staff are required to attend the annual training.

The jail is working on a project along with the County IT Dept. The project consists of a new medical records system to better document and protect various inmate medical records. It is hoped that the project will be completed in 2013.

Tom Olson recently retired from the Dept. after 39 years of service. Tom worked his entire career in the patrol division, the last several years assigned to Court Services.

Jeffrey A. Wolf
Chief Deputy