



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

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**Memo To: La Crosse County Board of Supervisors**  
**From: Steve O'Malley, County Administrator**  
**Date: June 6, 2013**

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

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

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

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

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

January, March, May, July, September, November

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

**“OF INTEREST”**

June 10, 2013 Policy Planning Agenda

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

- Coulee Cap Annual Report
- Update on the Gas to Energy Project
- Status of Park Plaza Development
- Update on Lakeview Facilities and Site Plan
- Update on the work of the Administrative Center and Downtown Campus Study Committee
- Status Report on Chapter 1 revisions.

*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 June 2013

### County Surveyor

**WISCONSIN/MINNESOTA STATE LINE QUESTION:** On May 1, 2013, I was part of a group of 25 concerned professionals regarding the Wisconsin/Minnesota state line location. The need to know the exact location of the state line relates to the I-90 bridge replacement project. As I understand it, one of the main concerns relates to hiring workers for the bridge replacement. If the majority of the bridge is found to be in Wisconsin, the workers would be hired from Wisconsin. If the majority of the bridge is in Minnesota, the workers would be hired from Minnesota. There were representatives at this meeting from Wisconsin and Minnesota Department of Transportation (DOT); Wisconsin and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; a representative from the Minnesota Attorney General's Office; Winona County Surveyor Pat Veraguth. The discussion concerns Island 98 and where the state line is in relation to that island. Minnesota representatives feel documents and evidence places Island 98 in Minnesota. Wisconsin representative contend Island 98 is in Wisconsin. The difference being debated amounts to 1260 feet. There is compelling evidence on both sides of this disagreement. In the end, both states agreed to disagree. As it stands now, Island 98 will remain in Wisconsin as evidenced by current mapping and the "STATE LINE" sign on the bridge.

**COUNTY SURVEYOR FILES AVAILABILITY:** We are working with the Information Technology (IT) Department to get more of our surveyor files available on the County Surveyor portion of the County website. Survey maps continue to come into our office so our hope is that IT can provide us with the tools to make timely updates to those the files on the website. In the mean time, Senior Engineering Aide Pete Follansbee is fine tuning the images we currently have scanned.

**2013 CSM REVIEW:** Through the end of May 2013, we have had 23 Certified Survey Maps submitted for review. Five of the 23 maps are in unincorporated areas of La Crosse County and are subject to the \$100 review fee (I had mistakenly reported in April that there were 10 maps which were subject to the review fee when in fact there were only four.)

**2013 SECTION AND QUARTER CORNER MAINTENANCE:** We are making good progress in our efforts in this area of work considering the extended cool and inclement weather we had this spring. As of the end of May, we have completed corner evaluations and maintenance on 30 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. We will also be working in cooperation with the Land Conservation Department to collect data on culvert within this watershed to allow for better modeling for drainage in this area.

**VERNON COUNTY ASSISTANCE:** I have agreed to speak to the Vernon County Land Information Council (LIC) in July. Vernon County is one of just ten Wisconsin Counties that have no County Surveyor. Jessica Sandry, a local private sector land surveyor who serves

on the LIC would like to see this position filled, but she is encountering a great deal of resistance from other committee members – five of whom are County Board members. Jessica reached out to me and my colleagues on the Wisconsin County Surveyor's Association. My hope is that I can share with the council the important role of the County Surveyor and encourage them to see the value of investing in this vital position, even if it's only on a part-time basis.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bryan Meyer, La Crosse County Surveyor

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

- "ACA – 101," a session on the basics behind the Affordable Care Act, and how it will impact individuals, families, businesses, and government entities was presented for the Human Services Directors, Deputy Directors, Managers, and Supervisors from the Western Region Economic Assistance consortia. The presentation was video-taped for airing on the Trempealeau County cable television station. (MMS)
- Family Living Agent presented on the Affordable Care Act and how it is poised to change the health care landscape...affecting health care costs, quality, access to insurance, and therefore care, at the 2013 National Priester Extension Conference. How national and state-based programming around the ACA tie together, how to deal with policy issues--including implications for small and large businesses, and community reactions was included. (MMS)
- Congratulations to Bob Matysik, 4-H & Youth Development Agent, as he received the Distinguished Service Award from Epsilon Sigma Phi at the 2013 Joint Council of Extension Professionals Conference. (MMS)
- The youth education classes in La Crosse County, such as Meat Animal Quality Assurance and Sheep/Beef Education Sessions, offered this spring have taught youth better care and management practices for the animals they are raising as well as ethics for showing their animals at the fair. One hundred seven youth have participated in these educational sessions. (SDH)
- Multiple horticulture presentations were given over the past two months, including a presentation on soils to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Summit Elementary and a presentation to 37 adults in Onalaska on basic gardening techniques for home food production in small spaces. (SDH)
- On-farm, University based research continues in La Crosse County as two dairy farms are currently involved in a statewide study on the cost of raising dairy heifers. Also, an organic community supported agriculture (CSA) farm is part of a monitoring project for spotted winged drosophila. (SDH)
- Sixteen teenagers who have applied to be counselors at the 4-H residential camp this summer have been interviewed, completed assignments and are participating in 15 hours of training and camp planning conducted by the 4-H Agent. A statewide study showed that teens who serve as camp counselors indicate it as a powerful leadership experience and they use skills learned in many other areas of their lives. (RM)
- In May, 23 volunteer leaders conducted a 2 day 4-H Horse Camp, which served over 70 youth horse project members. During camp, youth take classes in a variety of horse subjects; caring, grooming, breeds, safety and many others. This camp conducts safety certification tests as well. All youth must safety certify with the horse(s) they plan to show. This is required to ensure the safety of both rider and horse. (JH)
- Each week, a WNEP nutrition educator shared nutrition information and assisted after-school participants in grades 3-5 to prepare healthy snacks to taste as part of a

program partnership between the 21st Century after school program, La Crosse County UW-Extension WNEP and 4-H. Letters and recipes were sent home to the parents/guardians at the conclusion of each class and were posted on the after-school web-site. Surveys showed of the 21 students who tried spinach, 20 said they would like to eat it again, and of the 23 who tried rutabaga, 20 would like to have it again. (SH)

- WNEP partnered with the La Crosse School Nutrition Supervisor, Western Wisconsin College students and principal to offer 3 nights of the Family Fun Cooking/Nutritional Educational Class to Franklin, Roosevelt & Coulee Montessori families who were on the Free or Reduced meal program. 100% of the surveyed families: were very satisfied with the program; tried new foods and ways of preparing food that they will be using in the future; and had made at least one of the recipes from the class at home. (SH)
- Advised and facilitated the City of La Crosse's Neighborhood Revitalization Commission and City Planning staff with writing the Reinvest La Crosse Program guidelines, as recommended by the La Crosse Housing Taskforce. This program has been in the City's Capital Improvements budget since 2012, but staff shortages led to lack of time for creation of program. The program guidelines will be introduced to the City Council June 7th. (KG)
- Advised, facilitated, and assisted in writing the Schedule H for the La Crosse Promise 501c3 application. This request was in the works since last July. In May 2013 the IRS contacted the La Crosse Promise Board requesting a completed Schedule H (the former application had an abbreviated draft) by May 14th. Through a coordinated effort with the County Community Development Specialist Brian Fukuda, the complete materials were re-submitted on time, and have assisted in the overall effort of the La Crosse Promise effort. (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 has been approved by the La Crosse Area Planning Committee at its May 29, 2013 meeting. You can find the project final report as well as other interesting details on the LAPC website at [www.LAPC.org](http://www.LAPC.org).

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. In discussions at the May 29 meeting, LAPC members agreed that an outside entity helping with boundary agreements will be better than current staff.

It was agreed that we should continue the *Coulee Vision 2050* with a second phase, concentrating on defining implementation steps, financial analysis, review of planned transportation projects and working on the boundary agreements. I will find federal funding to continue the project and will write a request for proposals for consultant help.

Tom Faella, LAPC Executive Director

## **Land Conservation**

Land Conservation staff, as well as staff from UW-Extension and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, recently completed nutrient management planning for La Crosse County farmers for the 2013 cropping season. Nutrient management planning is a crop growing strategy that utilizes all available sources of nutrients that are present on the farm, or nearby farm, to meet the nutrient needs of seasonal crops. Nutrient sources include animal manures, nitrogen from legume crops or cover crops and commercial fertilizers. Other than commercial fertilizers, the nutrient levels in these sources can vary widely but they all contain valuable nutrients that crops can utilize during plant growth. The focus of nutrient management planning is to provide just the right amount of nutrients to complete plant growth while meeting expected crop yields. Too few nutrients and the crops may under-yield or fail all together, too many nutrients and the excess may leach to groundwater resources or runoff during rain storm events to nearby streams. This is where experienced staff help farmers create annual nutrient management plans that produce healthy crops while protecting our valuable water resources.

Earlier this year, conservation staff conducted nutrient management workshops for La Crosse County farmers. The workshops were divided into two sessions, one for first-time planners and a second session for those farmers who needed to update an existing plan. Staff assisted 28 farmers who developed their first nutrient management plan which covered 4,798 acres of cropland. They also assisted 103 farm operators update their existing nutrient management plans. The updated plans covered another 26,437 acres of cropland. This brings the total planned acres in La Crosse County to 41,890 or about 56% of all County cropland.

### **Nutrient Management Summary, La Crosse County (1999 – 2013)**

<b>Crop Year</b>	<b>New Farms Planned</b>	<b>Soil Sample \$\$\$\$</b>	<b>New Cropland Acres Planned</b>	<b>Cropland Acres Updated</b>	<b>Total Cropland Acres in NPM</b>	<b>Total Farm Acres in NPM</b>
1999	9	1,584	1,139		1,139	2,569
2000	31	3,279	2,339	312	3,478	7,565
2001	23	2,807	4,326	673	7,804	13,513
2002	36	3,860	3,293	2,331	11,097	20,563
2003	17	2,825	2,061	6,588	13,158	24,735
2004	33	2,807	2,585	6,774	15,743	29,127
2005	26	2,778	2,097	8,146	17,840	33,264
2006	18	2,211	1,477	10,023	19,317	36,516
2007	19	3,472	1,270	9,463	20,587	39,788
2008	29	9,106	2,647	11,373	23,234	45,443
2009	22	5,456	2,270	12,425	25,504	50,711
2010	41	12,000	3,164	13,460	28,668	58,483
2011	41	9,033	3,067	19,785	31,735	65,281
2012	61	14,816	5,357	21,623	37,092	77,967
2013	63	17,296	4,798	26,437	41,890	89,337

*Gregg Stangl*  
*Director of Land Conservation*

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

**Zoning, Ordinance Updates:** The La Crosse County Zoning Ordinance held a public hearing on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013. This ordinance text amendment will likely come before County Board for first reading in June.

**Land Information:** The new tax system has been tested and currently in process of being 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.

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

**Permits:** Zoning permit numbers - we will have a mid-year report of these numbers in the August edition of this monthly report.

*Charlie Handy*  
*County Planner*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Public Works & Infrastructure June 2013

### Solid Waste

**Solid Waste Evaluation** – The evaluation committee has decided they have met their criteria and will no longer need to meet. This marks the end of a very successful effort on the committee's part and they deserve to be commended for their dedication and perseverance. The City's of La Crosse and Onalaska are currently moving towards mechanized collection of carts, single stream recycling and Harter's Quick Clean Up, who won the bid, will be buying Compressed Natural Gas vehicles.

### **Gas to Energy (G2e)** –

April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013, GL completed stack testing.

- Field results were acceptable, awaiting lab results.

April 1 – May 29<sup>th</sup>

- 92.17% Runtime

Changes to OM plan from the March 5<sup>th</sup> PSC review were submitted.

- Changes included - Joining, construction/repair, patrols and leak surveys.

Gas Collection

- Construction was completed May 15<sup>th</sup> on 2 additional STOC's (Horizontal Gas Wells) in Phases VI and VII of the MSW Landfill for additional collection of LFG.

At this time it is very difficult to note the benefits of leachate recirculation due to the extremely high rainfall.

**Xcel Contract Amendment** – The Solid Waste Department met with the strategic committee consisting of the Finance Director, Corporation Counsel and County Administrator. A proposal for a contract amendment made by Xcel was reviewed. The strategic team suggested a number of additional alternatives that should be analyzed and a number of details that should be reviewed before any response is made. The Solid Waste Department will continue its evaluations and meet again with the strategic team before any counter-proposal is offered.

**HHM (Household Hazardous Materials)** - Over 1,300 users dropped off 1,800 pounds of medications during the April 27<sup>th</sup> Medication Drop Off event. This was the most successful collection to date. An event of this scale was possible because of the cooperation between La Crosse County, the La Crosse County Prevention Network, local law enforcement agencies and nearly 100 volunteers.

During April and May, La Crosse County conducted the first three clean sweeps of the season in Crawford, Vernon and Monroe counties.

Update on HHM's Priorities for 2013:

- Increase recycling or beneficial reuse of wastes brought to the facility. To date, more than 11,000 pounds of usable material has been placed in the Reuse Room for local residents to take free of charge. This total is more than double the total of last year at the same time.
- Increase educational outreach to county residents. The HHM technicians are concentrating on informing users about the safe transport of hazardous materials

and handing out flyers informing them of the availability of usable products in the Reuse Room.

- Continuous improvement is becoming the norm with the staff. Several ideas by the staff and suggestions from users have been implemented in the program.

In May HHM reached the 1,000 user level for the first time in 2013. In 2012 there were three months with over 1,000 users.

**Annual Disposal System Meeting** – The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual La Crosse Disposal System Meeting was held on May 15 at Fox Hollow Banquet Hall. As in past years, Hank Koch presented the disposal system year in review and Tina Ball from Xcel Energy provided Xcel's annual update. This year's feature speaker was Steve Apfelbaum, a noted author and speaker from Applied Ecological Services, Inc. His presentation was called Landfills as Ecological Jewels. A roundtable discussion provided an opportunity for the approximate 45 attendees to ask questions of all presenters.

**Timber Harvest** – A review of harvesting operations was conducted on April 19 to evaluate the impact of the harvest so far. There were no discernible negative impacts to date and another review will be conducted after the harvest is completed sometime in the fall of 2013.

**Earth Fair** – The Earth Fair and Marsh Cleanup took place on the weekend of April 20-21 at the Myrick Hixon Eco Park. Saturday's event included over 60 volunteers including the local detachment of the Civil Air Patrol. Over 1000 pounds of debris was collected and disposed of with the Solid Waste Department providing containers and disposal. The Earth Fair was a great success with over 2000 attendees. Many events took place including vendor's local foods demonstrations, seed library and other educational programs. A recycling fair was also held that disposed of confidential material and e-waste. Over 35,000 pounds was collected by Dynamic Recycling.

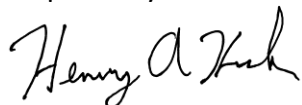
**Boy Scout Camporee** - The Boy Scout Camporee took place over the weekend of May 3-5 at the landfill. Approximately 120 Boy Scouts and 30 leaders camped on the north end of the landfill property on Friday and Saturday night. Various educational activities were conducted Saturday related to merit badges including landfill operations, the gas to energy project, household hazardous materials collection and disposal along with a presentation by Tom Thompson from Gundersen Lutheran on their Envision program. In addition, the Boy Scouts were divided into a number of smaller work groups and participated in clean-up activities, trail development and litter removal.

**Environmentally Controlled Burn** – The environmentally controlled burn took place on April 26, 2013 at the landfill. The purpose of this burn was to improve wildlife habitat, minimize invasive species and noxious weeds and minimize maintenance associated with grass cutting. An area approximately 30 acres in size was burned without incident, comment or concern.

**Upcoming Meetings –**

Solid Waste Policy Board – Wednesday, June 12, 2013, Solid Waste Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,



Henry A. Koch, P.E.



## **Highway Department**

- CTH OA from CTH O to CTH F has commenced. The signed detour for this route is CTH O to CTH M to STH 33 to CTH OA or CTH FO depending on where a person is going. Due to weather conditions the contractor has not been able to make much in the way of progress, and so we are behind schedule. At this time CTH OA is closed/local traffic only, in the future it will have a hard closure (closure not permitting any traffic) in certain locations. We will maintain access to all property; however it may not be convenient, meaning the residents may be forced to drive either north or south. We are utilizing message boards to inform residents of upcoming changes. Emergency Services are fully in the loop with regards to traffic patterns, and will continue to be kept up to date.
- On Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup> we will be participating in a new product demonstration. Meigs Oil, one of our seal coat oil vendors, will be applying a new pavement preservation product to CTH B in the area of Northwood's School. The only cost to La Crosse County for this application is sweeping and traffic control, which will allow us to see how effective the product is on our pavements with minimal investment on our part.
- On the State Budget front the news looks promising. The Governor's budget contained provisions to increase STH maintenance by \$55 million over the biennium which would provide a \$812,000 increase in the Routine Maintenance Agreement between La Crosse County and the WisDOT for the maintenance of STH within La Crosse County borders. Joint Finance reduced that amount by \$2.5 million resulting in a net proposed increase of \$52.5 million, or someplace between \$700,000 and \$800,000 to La Crosse County. In addition to that Joint Finance proposed a 2.4% increase to General Transportation Aids in fiscal 2015 for Counties.
- Other upcoming operations including spraying right of ways for invasive species, mowing, extensive crack filling, and other items of general roadway maintenance.

Respectfully Submitted

*Ron Chamberlain*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Judiciary & Law June 2013

### Emergency Services

#### Public-Safety Communications

##### March

###### Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,089 (average of 67 per day)  
Answered within 10 seconds: 96.36%  
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.47%  
\* 3 calls more than 30 seconds

Total Telephone Calls 21,656 (average of 696 per day)

###### Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	8,844
Fire Fighting	168
Emergency Medical	771

##### April

###### Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,188 (average of 73 per day)  
Answered within 10 seconds: 97.62%  
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.82%  
\* 1 call more than 30 seconds

Total Telephone Calls 21,534 (average of 718 per day)

###### Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	8,716
Fire Fighting	207
Emergency Medical	586

*\*National Emergency Number Association Standards:*

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

Public Safety Communications welcome Tim Robers and Scott Baird to our public-safety team in May. Tim is from the Milwaukee area where he served as a dispatcher and emergency medical technical for an ambulance service. He also has experience as a firefighter. Scott was a dispatcher, fire-fighter and paramedic in Arizona prior to joining our communications center. He also has volunteer experience with the Arizona Rangers.

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

### **Events of Note**

- EM provided WISCOM radio system training for Campbell Fire and Emergency Management volunteers on April 2 at 7 pm.
- EM met with La Crosse School District officials on April 3 (District Crisis Prevention Team)
- EM worked with State Exercise Officer to complete the After-Action Report for a national Cyber-Terrorism Exercise that was held in Atlanta, GA in February.
- EM continued to help facilitate contingency and emergency response planning meetings for the 4-year I-90 bridge construction project.
- The County Mass Casualty Team had training at the West Salem EMS bldg on Sunday, April 7.
- EM provided report to County Fire Officers Association at Shelby FD on April 8 at 7 pm.
- EM provided portable radios to the Onalaska FD for their community marathon in April.
- EM met with La Crosse Fitness Festival planning leaders on April 11.
- EM participated in a State STEP program completion presentation at Logan Middle School on April 12
- EM participated in several live and recorded broadcast media interviews following the Boston Marathon bombing incident on April 15.
- EM attended the annual National Weather Service Storm Spotter Training at Mayo Health System on April 16 at 6:30 pm
- EM participated in State Tornado Drill on Friday, April 19 and operated Amateur Radio base station located in the Dispatch Center
- EM assists Health Dept and Volunteer Coordinator with the development of a countywide VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters) program. The group meets in the LEC conference rooms.
- EM met with City of Onalaska officials to discuss modifications to their Emergency Operations Center, met with Onalaska School District to discuss emergency planning, and participated in a Globe University panel presentation on April 30.
- EM facilitated a functional exercise at Central High School on May 1 to prepare for the full-scale exercise on June 11
- EM assisted with the Fitness Festival medical planning meeting on May 1 at 7 pm
- EM and 2 members of the Mass Casualty Team assisted at the Fitness Festival Marathon all day on Saturday, May 4
- EM completed an ICS-EOC Interface course held in West Salem on May 8
- The Local Emergency Planning Committee met on May 15 and received an on-line live demo of a mass-notification system from Send Word Now.
- EM attended the annual Police Memorial Service at Onalaska City Hall on May 15.
- Several EPCRA off-site plans were revised during this period, including Allied Coop, Metallics, Northern Battery and XCEL – French Island power plant.
- EM completed DOT train-the-trainer program for Emergency Incident Scene Traffic Management on May 23
- EM met with UW-L Intern to begin new Disaster Assessment Team project on May 24

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

## **Corporation Counsel Office**

1. Claims. There is no news to report regarding the pending actions referenced in the April, 2013 report.
2. Open Records. During the last several months, our office has been involved in several open records requests. One request involved the La Crosse County Register of Deeds office regarding a company that has on-line access to the records. We have worked with Cheryl McBride in responding to the open records requests. Our office continues to be involved with other open records requests to other County departments. As indicated in past reports, the amount of time spent in responding to open records request has increased in frequency over the last several years.
3. Employment Issues. Our office continues to work on several issues regarding employee relations within La Crosse County. These issues include discussions about the enactment of a high deductible health insurance plan, and the development of employment policies after 2011 Wisconsin Act 10, and other employment issues as a member of the Transition Team addressing rules and policies once covered by collective bargaining agreements.
4. Department Assistance.
  - Our office continues to assist the various County Departments regarding legal issues as they arise. Some of the highlights to the specific issues are as follows:
    - Facilities Department.
      - Goose Island Campground issues – assist with the development of contracts for County operation of the Goose Island Campground. These contracts include agreements with the host campers and other personnel utilized at the site.
      - Work with Facilities involving properties taken in tax foreclosure and proper disposition of the properties.
    - Zoning Department
      - Questions regarding changes to town zoning within La Crosse County.
      - Work on amendments to Chapter 17 of the Zoning Code.
    - Solid Waste Department
      - Issues involving contract extension with Xcel Energy.
      - Amendment to Hauler Rebate Agreement
5. Ordinance Updates. Our office has worked with County departments by updating La Crosse County Ordinances. Our office has been working on the following ordinances:
  - Chapter 1 “General Government” revisions – meetings with Sharon Hampson and Steve O’Malley.
  - Chapter 3 “Personnel Administrative Rules” – meetings with Personnel Department and updating Chapter 3.
  - Chapter 6 “Law Enforcement & Courts” – proceed to repeal this chapter.
  - Chapter 10 “Public Nuisances” – Chapter 10 has been repealed.
  - Chapter 30 “Navigable Waters, Harbors & Navigation” – prepared to introduce to County Board for amendments to Chapter 30.

6. Park Plaza. Our office has been or will be working on the following tasks:
- Offer to Purchase by buyer, West Coast Development LLC.
  - Meet with City and County officials regarding the offer.
  - Development Agreement with buyer.
  - County staff regarding issues that need to be resolved for the sale of the property.
  - Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of La Crosse

7. Court Work.

Megan continues to work on CHIPS and TPR cases. A 3 day jury trial on a Termination of Parental Rights case is scheduled for the second week of June, 2013. Megan has also been working with Human Services Department regarding the hiring a new position to receive Title IV funding and to assist social services in preparing CHIPS and TPR cases for court matters.

Amy continues to work on Chapter 51 Mental Commitment cases and Chapter 54/55 Guardianship and Protective Placement cases. She also continues to work on child support cases and issues that arise with the County Health Department where court action may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

*David L. Lange*  
*Corporation Counsel*

## **Mediation and Family Court Services**

### Changes in Department

Bonnie Sacia retired April 5, 2013. Erin Balsiger became Director of Mediation and Family Court Services. Dawn Bender was hired as new Mediator/Child Custody Evaluator.

### Training

On May 16, 2013, and May 17, 2013, Erin Balsiger and Dawn Bender attended the annual WIPCOD (Wisconsin Inter-Professional Committee on Divorce) conference. The two topics covered were managing high-conflict personalities in divorce and children who resist post-separation contact with a parent.

### Future Department Developments

The MFCS department is in the process of gathering more data and statistics on the clients we serve. The department initiated the first phase of statistics gathering May 1, 2013, and will implement (and make changes for improvement) phase two of statistics gathering commencing January 1, 2014.

The MFCS department is working on updating the forms our department uses and adding links to our county department webpage.

*Erin N. Balsiger*  
Director/Mediator/Child Custody Evaluator