



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

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**Memo To: La Crosse County Board of Supervisors**  
**From: Steve O'Malley, County Administrator**  
**Date: April 8, 2014**

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

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

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

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

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

January, March, May, July, September, November

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

**“OF INTEREST”**

**Medical Examiner’s Office Recognized as one of the top in the Nation**

In March, the La Crosse County Medical Examiner’s office received national recognition from RTI as one of the top Medical Examiners offices in the country that work with them on tissue donations based on approved referrals of 97%, compared to the national average of 37%. This recognition provides evidence of the sensitive approach taken by our Medical Examiner when meeting with the family of a deceased person.

In 2012, the La Crosse County Medical Examiner upgraded the morgue to accommodate tissue recovery by RTI Donor services. RTI Donor Services is the non-profit affiliate of Regeneration Technologies, Inc. Surgical and is accredited by the American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB).

Tissue donation is life enhancing, and in some cases, life saving. One person’s gift can be a miracle for many. Donated tissue can dramatically improve the quality of life for recipients, and even save lives. Tissue includes bone, skin, heart valves, connective tissue and veins used in surgeries and medical research. Most tissues are donated after death by people who previously committed to donation. Unlike organs, tissues can be donated up to 24 hours after a person’s heart has stopped beating.

*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](mailto:steve.omalley@co.la-crosse.wi.us)*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Planning, Resources & Development Committee April 2014

### La Crosse County UW-Extension

- Family Living Agent and the Trempealeau County UW-Extension Community Natural Resources Economic Development Agent received the national Joint Council of Extension Professionals Teamwork Award for outstanding Extension teamwork and commitment for interdisciplinary partnerships across program areas with colleagues and stakeholders, and that impact the local, regional, state or national level. The award was presented for their regional work on COMPASS NOW 2012, a community needs assessment completed with Great Rivers United Way, the 6 partner hospitals, and the 5 County Health Departments. (MMS)
- Continued work with Human Services Leadership Team in planning and presenting the Leadership Development Institute which focused on "Improve Employee Selection and Retention; and Harvesting Intellectual Capital." 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)
- An outbreak of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus across the nation and state has caused a change in protocol for this year's La Crosse Interstate Fair swine show. I have organized and facilitated meetings with local swine associations, our regional DATCP veterinarian and the Ag. Society, and a plan has been developed to address this issue. (SDH)
- I presented and was one of a three person panel at the La Crosse League of Women Voters meeting on agriculture policy in March. Topics covered included the Farm Bill, Land and Water Conservation, Food Safety and more. (SDH)
- Recent 4-H Arts Festivals involved over 175 La Crosse County youth in musical, drama, public speaking presentations or individual arts and crafts exhibits. Youth that participated further developed their skills in the performing, communication and visual arts. Each group and participant received feedback to help improve performances and exhibits. (RM)
- Wisconsin 4-H is celebrating 100 years in 2014. The first statewide event was "4-H Day at the Capitol" our local delegation consisted of over 40 youth and adults. This group traveled to Madison for the day and met with Representatives Jill Billings and Steve Doyle as well as State Senator Jennifer Schilling. In their meetings youth presented to them the amazing things that 4-H is doing throughout the year. (RM)
- The WNEP educator provided local WAFER pantry participants flip chart lessons accompanied by a discussion, recipes and a taste sample. The lessons included healthy one-dish meals, side dishes, or snacks in a cost effective way. After the presentations 80% indicated that they had learned something that will make it easier to use pantry foods in their family's meals and snacks. (SH)
- Nineteen residents of the La Crosse Salvation Army Shelter attended a class led by WNEP staff to learn ideas on how to plan, buy, prepare and store food on a limited budget. Also include was information about healthy eating, planning easy meals that incorporate foods that are on-hand, and grocery shopping tips. At the end of the class, 83% heard at least one new way to get more for their food money. (SH)
- Presented the Challenging Trends in Housing in La Crosse program to over 25 Builders at the La Crosse Area Builders Association February meeting, and the La Crosse School Board. Both organizations had seen the information in previous years, but requested an update of the program. (KG)

- Presented the updated Cost of Community Services program to the La Crosse Area Towns Association. The Administrator from the Town of Shelby indicated Shelby town officers present at the program thought it was great information and were interested in having the program presented to the full town board. (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

## **Department of Land Conservation**

La Crosse County's diverse and abundant water resources contribute greatly to the area's economy through recreation and tourism. High quality- high value water resources provide more beneficial uses to citizens than waters that have been degraded from pollution. The La Crosse County Department of Land Conservation is charged with the responsibility of protecting and improving the County's soil and water resources and improving the quality of life for its citizens and visitors.

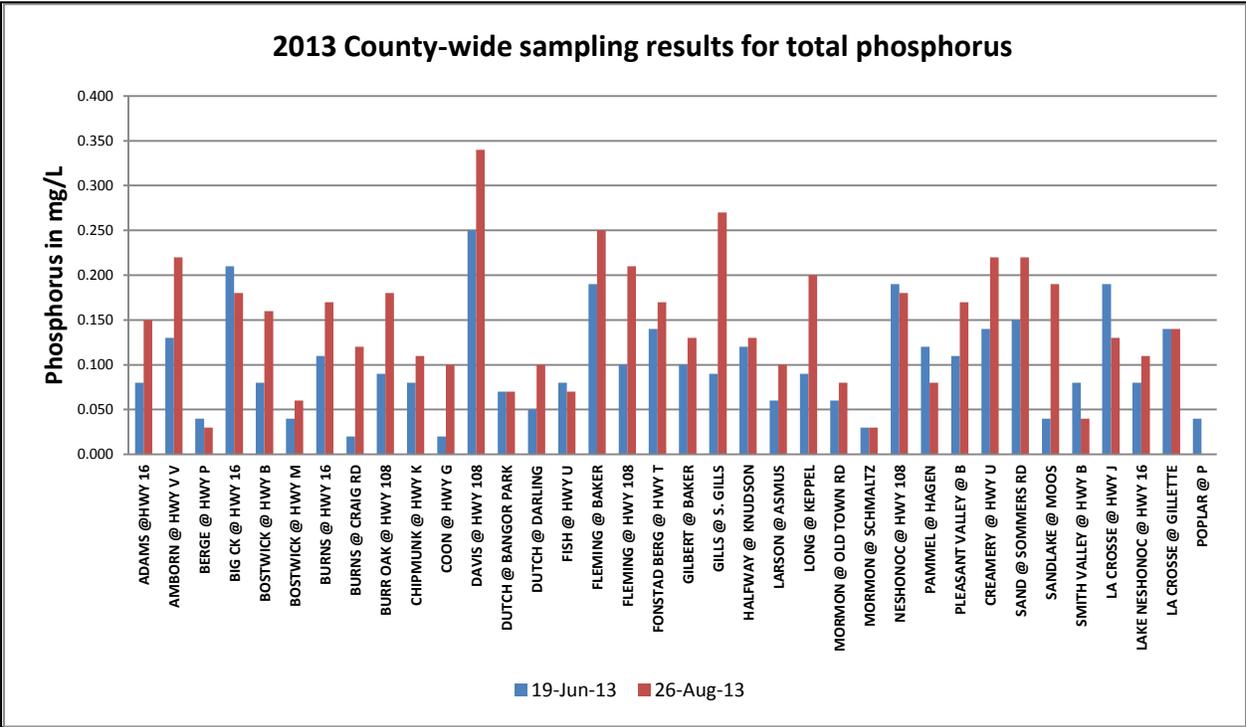
The Department of Land Conservation has been monitoring surface water quality for all major watersheds in La Crosse County since 1995. The water quality monitoring program is an essential part of the Department's resource management strategy since it provides current surface water quality conditions as well as revealing water quality trends. Based on monitoring results, the Department can then focus its financial and staff resources in those watersheds where the worst water quality conditions exist. There are three primary pollutants that we monitor in surface water; phosphorus, sediment (suspended solids) and e. coli bacteria. These pollutants come primarily from agricultural related sources and have the biggest impact on surface water quality in La Crosse County. Another monitoring parameter that we use is Dissolved Oxygen. Dissolved oxygen is important for sustaining fish populations, especially trout, which are very sensitive to oxygen levels in the water. It is our goal to maintain dissolved oxygen levels above 5 mg/L throughout the year for trout streams.

The following report was submitted by Bob Nelson, Conservation Specialist with the Department of Land Conservation. Bob is the lead person for the Department's water quality monitoring program. The report looks at monitoring data from 2013 and water quality trends from past years.

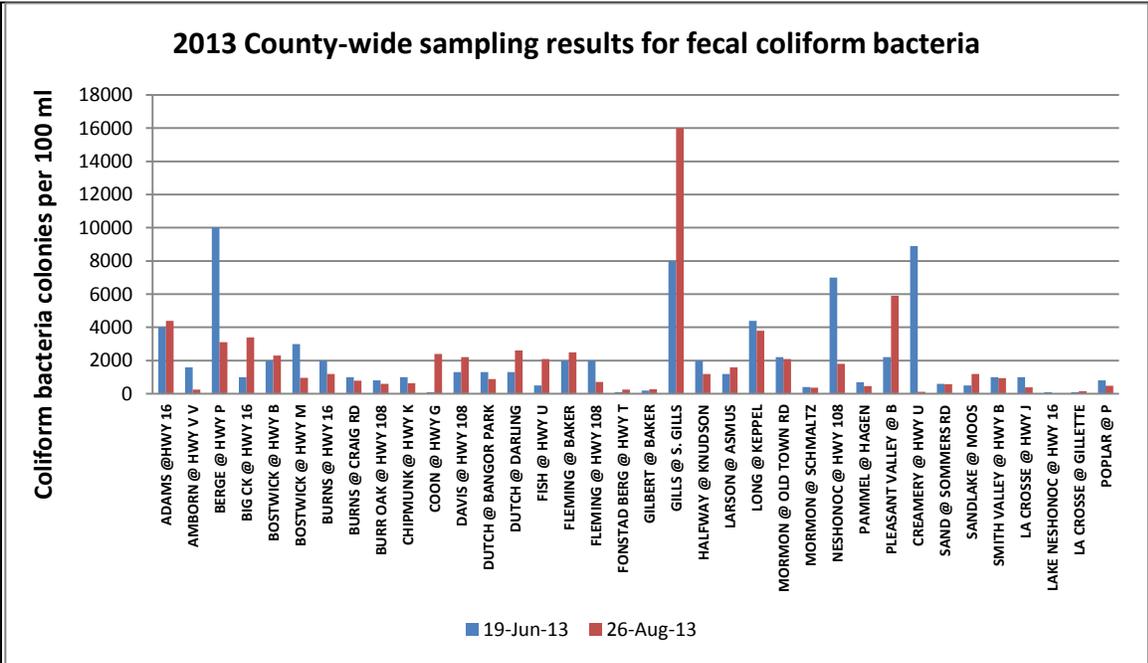
### **Water Quality Monitoring Report**

2013 can be described as a feast or famine year. We either had more rain than we knew what to do with, or we received no rain at all. We were pulling samples out at the Dutch Creek monitoring station practically every day, March through May, but by the middle of June the rain stopped coming and we went bone dry. 89% of the suspended solids and 82% of the phosphorus was transported in March, April and May.

The county-wide sampling was conducted on June 19 and August 26. These sample runs are done during base flow conditions and after at least 3 days of no runoff or precipitation. Samples are analyzed for total phosphorus and fecal coliform bacteria. The goal for total phosphorus is 0.05 mg/L, or less.



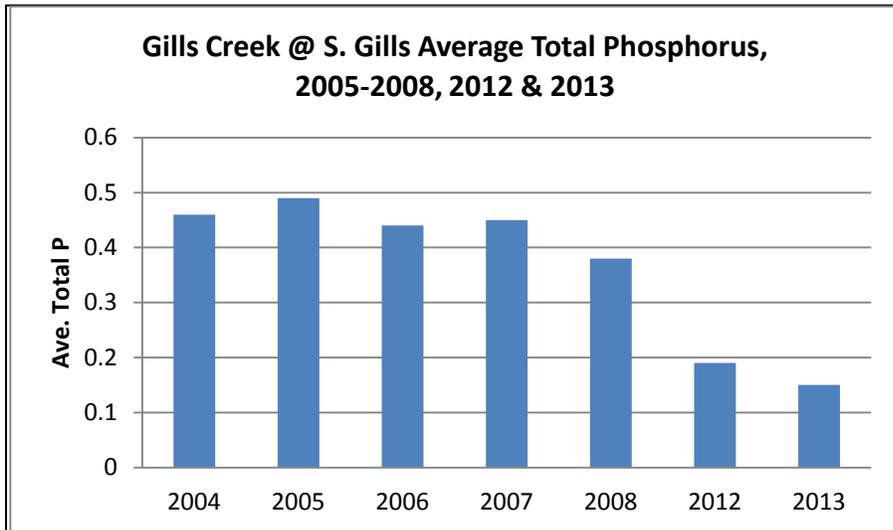
Fecal coliform bacteria is measured by the number of colonies that develop on a petri dish from 100 milliliters of water. Since the bacteria are microscopically small, it's very difficult to count them individually. Instead, water containing the bacteria is spread over a petri dish and each bacterium is allowed to grow and form a colony from each of the individuals. After 24 hours, the colonies grow to a point where they're visible to the naked eye and can be easily counted. The goal for fecal coliform bacteria is 1000 colonies per 100 milliliters of water.



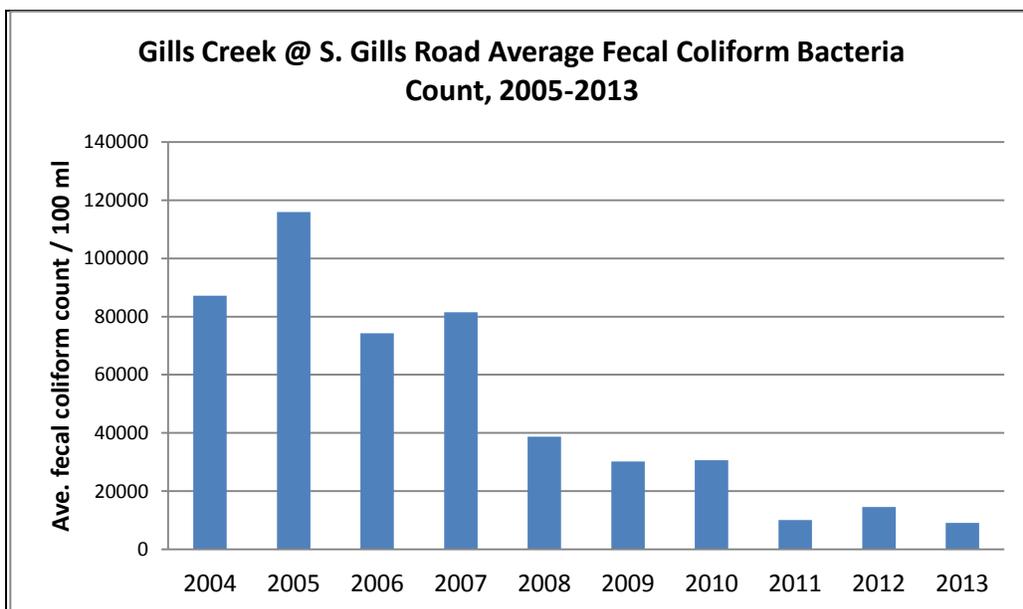
The Department did a major water quality improvement project in the Gills Creek watershed from 2005 to 2011. We have also been taking water samples from the stream to analyze

for total phosphorus, fecal coliform bacteria and dissolved oxygen. The following graphs are for the yearly averages for these parameters at the furthest downstream sampling point, Gills Creek at S. Gills Road.

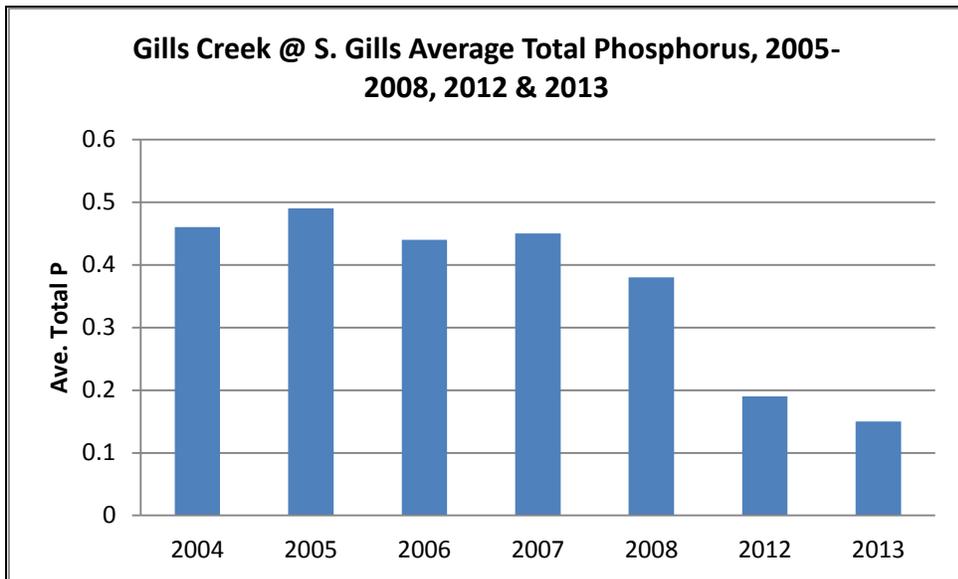
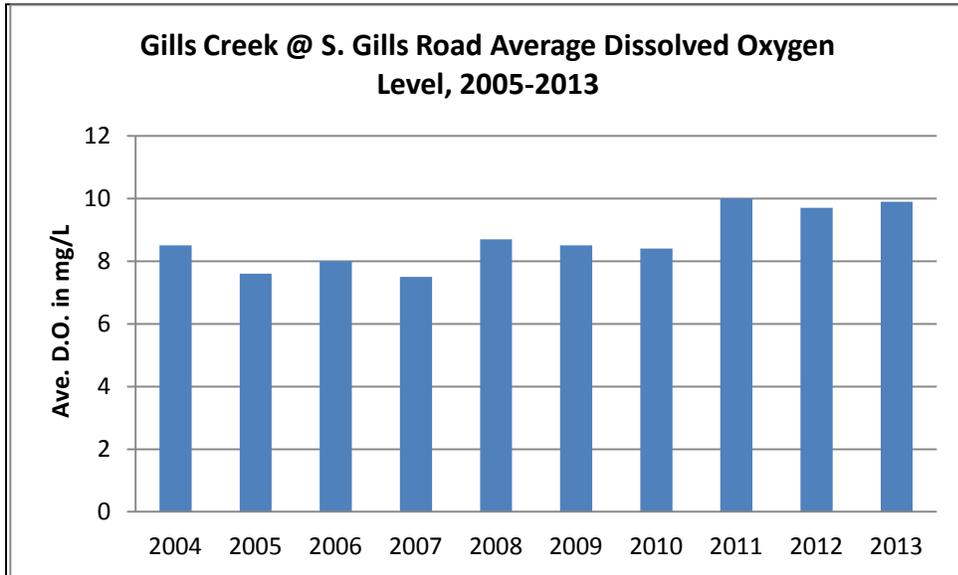
Average total phosphorus has fallen by 2/3rds since 2005/2005. Even so, it is still 3 times higher than the goal of 0.05 mg/L. Soil test data in the watershed shows that much of the cropland has excessive levels of phosphorus in the soil. Through nutrient management planning, the Department hopes to eventually pull down these levels, and, hopefully, phosphorus levels in the stream will fall as well.



Average fecal coliform bacteria levels have fallen by 90% over 2005 levels. While this is a nice accomplishment, the average is still 10 times higher than our goal of 1000 colonies per 100 ml.



The average dissolved oxygen level has risen by about 2.5 mg/L over the 2005 and 2007 levels. More importantly, the minimum dissolved oxygen level measured has not fallen below 5 mg/L, and very rarely below 6 mg/L, since 2011. This is an important accomplishment for the re-establishment of a trout fishery in this stream.



## **County Surveyor**

**FACILITIES DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE:** We have been able to provide assistance to the Facilities Department in recent weeks. We were able to provide some elevations for a proposed new maintenance building at Veteran’s Park. These elevations were shared with our Zoning Department as flood zone issues were considered. The elevations will also help with construction plans so that the elevation of the floor of the new building will be constructed high enough to stay out of the flood zone. I am currently working on a survey of the lands to be purchased by the West Salem School District near the Lakeview Healthcare Facility. This survey will also include a parcel for the new Lakeview Facility along with a proposed extension of Garland Street. Additionally, I will be doing some work at Hillview to develop a water line easement description.

**HIGHWAY PROJECTS:** Thanks to good communication from the Highway Department, we will be referencing existing survey markers that fall within the pavement along County

Roads that will be resurfaced in the coming months. There are three projects scheduled for resurfacing: 1) County Road OA from the County Road FO South to State Road 33; 2) County Road AE from County Road TA West to County Road A; 3) County Road A from State Highway 162 West to County Road C. Survey markers along these roads will be referenced out and reset after the new surface is in place.

**WISCONSIN REGISTER OF DEEDS ASSOCIATION PRESENTATION:** La Crosse County Register of Deeds Cheri McBride has asked me to serve as a presenter at her association's conference at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. This conference will be held in conjunction with the Wisconsin Land Information Association spring conference June 4-6. The topic for my session will cover legal descriptions. I am looking forward to the opportunity to share and engage with other land records professionals.

**MAP REVIEW:** We have experienced a nice influx of maps since my last report in February. A total of nine Certified Survey Maps have been submitted for review this year. While each map presented for recording goes through a County Surveyor review, just five of those maps are from the unincorporated areas of La Crosse County and subject to the \$100 review fee called for in Chapter 18 of the La Crosse County Code. While the nine maps are encouraging, that count lags behind what we had for the first three months of 2013 when we had 14.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bryan Meyer, La Crosse County Surveyor

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

### **Annual Staff Meeting and Goal Setting:**

Each year, the Zoning Planning and Land Information Department staff meet to review goals for the previous year and prioritize for the coming year. We completed this activity in March. Some of the highlights of this meeting include:

1. Significant success stories from 2013
  - a. New Tax System
  - b. Transfer to ArcMap 10.1
  - c. Transition to Campbell and Burns Town Zoning
  - d. Adoption of Coulee Vision 2050 Plan at the LAPC
  - e. Completion of Zoning Ordinance comprehensive rewrite
2. Goals for 2014
  - a. As always customer service is our #1 goal
  - b. Less paper: Sustainable office practices
  - c. Complete ordinance updates
  - d. Complete web site update
  - e. Increased scanning and public availability of office records
  - f. Smooth transition for changing Board and Committee

### **Projects currently underway in the Zoning Department:**

1. Telecomm Ordinance repeal & recreate - second reading at April County Board
2. Shoreland Ordinance re-write
3. Complete update of land records mapping website with GISi
4. Tax System operations manual
5. Assisting in the update of Sub-division Ordinance

6. Town Wide Zoning Map amendments – at April County Board

**A few major items planned for 2014:**

Update of Comprehensive Plan

1. Aerial photos, for a 2015 flight
2. Implement Coulee Vision 2050
3. Update of GIS web site
4. DATCP Certification
5. Permits: - Zoning Permits Issued Through February 2014 - La Crosse County Unincorporated

Jan - Feb 2013 – 11

Value 2013 - \$ 824,800

Jan - Feb 2014 – 11

Value 2014 - \$ 567,800

*Nathan Sampson, Director*

*Zoning, Planning & Land Information*

## **Metropolitan Planning Organization**

In 2013, the La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC) adopted Coulee Vision 2050, a long-range vision for land use and transportation planning in the La Crosse and La Crescent area. Committee members (including representatives from cities, villages, and towns as well as La Crosse County) agreed that boundary agreements will be a key component to achieving the vision.

If you have already completed the La Crosse County version of our online survey about boundary agreements thank you very much! If you have not, the survey is still available at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LaCrosseCounty>

The survey requires a case sensitive password, enter: LAPC

Thank you!

Tom Faella

Executive Director, La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC)

# **MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD**

## **Public Works & Infrastructure April 2014**

### **Solid Waste**

#### **Adverse Weather Affects Landfill Operations:**

The unusually cold and extended winter weather continues to have an adverse impact on Landfill Operations. As previously reported, a decrease in efficiency in the Gas-to-Energy System is occurring. Ice build-up around the scale has resulted in malfunctions. The prolonged snow cover did not provide an opportunity during the winter to provide litter clean-up. With the recent snow melt, a larger accumulation of litter on site is present. As soon as weather conditions allow, this litter will be removed. Alterations in the filling procedures are being made to accommodate winter conditions.

#### **Xcel Operations:**

Cold conditions during January and February have apparently decreased the tonnage of solid waste being received at Xcel. This is unusual. Monitoring of tonnage totals is being done as the weather warms to determine if previous tonnage rates will return. Some impact to the Xcel tonnage may be attributed to the single stream recycling program implemented in the cities of La Crosse and Onalaska. This is being monitored to determine what impact that program is having. During February, damage to the transfer trailer tipper for wood waste at Xcel occurred. This did not interfere with the wood waste program at the La Crosse County Landfill. In late February, the Xcel French Island Facility was awarded the Traveling Trophy by Xcel for Safety and Maintenance. This is a prestigious accomplishment. Under the recently approved Amendment 8, an increase in the processing of the waste to produce a higher yield and therefore, increased refused derived fuel has occurred in both January and February. On April 10, 2014, the Solid Waste Department's Landfill Complex will be audited by a third party company as part of a broader program, where Xcel audits all disposal facilities that they utilize.

#### **Proposed Construction Activities 2014:**

On February 21, bids were received for two major construction projects at the Landfill Complex. The projects included cell development and final cover. Eight bids were received with a tight grouping around the engineer's cost estimate. The low bid was approximately \$120,000 under the engineer's cost estimate. Another project, the construction of a pedestrian bridge for the walking trails under the Master Land Use Plan, is being bid and results should be known shortly. The normal spring burn associated with controlling invasive species, obnoxious weeds and vegetation at the landfill has been postponed and an alternative fall burn will be tried.

#### **Personnel:**

With the increased work load at the Solid Waste Disposal Facility and with the winter conditions (colds, flu and vacations) has been increasingly difficult to man the scale operations and the Household Hazardous Materials Facility. An increased number of phone calls, due to the implementation of the City of La Crosse and City of Onalaska's single stream recycling program has also burdened the secretarial and reception services of the department.

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

Utilization of the HHM facility is still about 10% below last year. A rebound is expected as the weather becomes better. HHM staff will continue to monitor this trend.

Recently one person brought over 1,600 pounds waste to HHM in a single load. Situations like this can cause delays for the people waiting for service and are potentially hazardous to employees especially if they hurry in order keep the line moving. Large loads generally occur once or twice per month. HHM staff is preparing information to distribute encouraging people with loads of over 300 pounds to make appointments vs. showing up during walk-in hours.

HHM supports the Cities of La Crosse and Onalaska, and the La Crosse County Sheriff's Department putting drop boxes to collect unwanted medications. We will be working with them to dispose of sharps and other non-medication type materials that are collected.

### **Sustainability:**

- **Sustainable La Crosse Commission:** The next quarterly meeting of the commission will take place in April. Discussion will center on the indicators report and the annual Sustainability report.
- **Presentations/Tours:** Randy and Nick gave a presentation to 15 Boy Scouts on Saturday February 1<sup>st</sup> who are earning their sustainability merit badge. Randy and Nick also gave tours to 65 students from Viterbo and UWL. Nick gave a presentation to the Houston County Board on February 25<sup>th</sup> at the Houston County Courthouse.
- **First Choice Mattress Recycling:** This is a facility located in Eau Claire that recycles mattresses; Nick took a tour on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February. La Crosse County may do a pilot recycling effort this year and send a load of mattresses to be recycled. This could lead to another item being diverted from being landfilled in our region.
- **Ag Bags:** a report was give to the Solid Waste Policy Board on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March on the ag bag demonstration of a large shredder at the Olmsted County landfill.

Respectfully submitted,



Henry A. Koch, P.E.

### **Highway Department**

- Winter has been tough on budgets, salt supplies, staff and equipment. We look to be nearing the end in reasonable shape with 70% of our winter budget spent. While we have plenty of salt and salt/sand to get through the remainder of this winter, we used large quantities of both materials that will need to be replaced prior to next winter.
- The Highway Department has been successful in obtaining two local force account contracts with the WisDOT in which they would pay us for work on their roadways. The projects are both pavement joint repair projects one on STH 157 and the other on STH 16. We are currently working through the process for a performance based cracking contract on STH 16 in front of the mall.
- Allen Boruch, our new Highway Engineer, has started with the Department. And I am happy to report that he has hit the ground running, getting up to speed on this year's projects along with the design projects currently in progress on CTH SN, CTH M, and CTH B.

- Three of this year's major projects will be starting in April.
  - This month we will start finishing up the CTH OA (CTH O to CTH FO) project that we started last year. This work will include patching some soft areas that have shown up over the winter along with placing the finish course of asphalt on the roadway, re-shouldering with gravel and painting the pavement marking. This work will be performed with the roadway open to traffic, but there will be delays due to flagging in work areas.
  - We will also be commencing work on the next portion of CTH OA (CTH FO to STH 33). This is a reconditioning project that will consist of replacing culverts, upgrading cable guard and guard rail, pulverizing the existing pavement, adding 3 inches of new base gravel, applying a base stabilization agent in the upper 4 inches of the base gravel, paving with 4 inches of warm mix asphalt (WMA), shouldering and repainting the pavement markings. This project will be completed in a "Road Closed, Local Traffic Only" situation with a posted detour for through traffic. Access will be maintained to residences and businesses.
  - The third project is on CTH A (STH 162 to CTH C). This is also a reconditioning project that will consist of replacing culverts including 4 larger structures, pulverizing the existing pavement, adding 3 inches of new base gravel, applying a base stabilization agent in the upper 4 inches of the base gravel, paving with 4 inches of warm mix asphalt (WMA), shouldering and repainting the pavement markings. This project will be completed in a "Road Closed, Local Traffic Only" situation with a posted detour for through traffic. Access will be maintained to residences and businesses.
- We are also commencing normal spring time maintenance activities including crack filling, shoulder repairs and guardrail repairs in various areas.
- Spring road postings are on certain roadways within La Crosse County. These postings are done to protect and preserve our infrastructure investment during this unstable period of freeze/thaw. Please contact me with any questions or concerns on this process.

Respectfully Submitted  
*Ronald Chamberlain*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Judiciary & Law April 2014

### Corporation Counsel Office

#### 1. Claims Update.

- Lueck v. La Crosse County, ERD Case No. CR 2011 03175. Al Lueck has filed a complaint alleging discrimination because of a previous complaint filed by him. The State initially determined there was no probable cause to support his claim and Lueck appealed. After a hearing held on June 5, 2013, the State Administrative Law Judge issued a decision dated March 14, 2014 finding no probable cause to support Lueck's complaint and ordering that the complaint be dismissed.
- Orzechowski v. County of La Crosse, Circuit Court Case No. 12-CV-990. This is a case where Orzechowski filed a complaint against the County, alleging that Hillview was negligent and violated her patient rights under Chapter 51 due to allegations of a sexual assault on the premises by her acquaintance, a non staff member. A motion for summary judgment to dismiss the case was denied and the case was set for trial. The case has now settled. The County through West Bend Insurance Company agreed to pay Orzechowski \$15,000 to settle the matter and to forgive her indebtedness to Hillview of \$3,871.50. The County admits no liability as a condition of the settlement.
- Liza Collins v. County of La Crosse, ERD Case No. CR 2014003897. Collins filed a complaint on February 3, 2014 alleging that the County of La Crosse discriminated against her because of her sex and because she opposed discrimination in the workplace. The County's liability insurance WMMIC has agreed to provide coverage and the firm of Weiss, Berzowski and Brady has been retained to represent the County in the case. The County will provide a response and the State Department of Workforce Development then makes an initial determination whether probable cause exists to find that discrimination has occurred.

#### 2. County Property Matters. Our office continues to work on a number of issues involving various County properties, which include the following:

- Administrative Center – Our office has been involved with discussions with Associated Bank regarding the purchase of an Associated Bank property and will continue to be involved in an offer to purchase the Associated Bank building, which also includes potential development on Lot C. Our office has also retained the firm of Crivello Carlson to assist with the legal documents necessary for these transactions.
- Park Plaza – Our office continues to work on an amendment to the Offer to Purchase with West Coast Development, LLC and also a Development Agreement between West Coast, the City of La Crosse and La Crosse County.
- Lakeview Properties – Our office has continued to work on issues involving two Lakeview properties. First, La Crosse County has accepted an offer from the West Salem School District to purchase approximately 25 acres of land near the Lakeview Health Center. Second, there is also a possible offer to purchase the Lakeview Health Center building and the surrounding property.

Negotiations have occurred regarding this and an offer is imminent. Our office will continue to assist with any of the legal issues involved in these transactions.

4. Ordinance Updates. Our office continues to work with the County Departments in updating County ordinances. Megan DeVore worked with the Zoning Department to amend Chapter 28 to read 'Mobile Tower Television or Radio Broadcast Service Facility Siting' to comply with recent changes in state law. Our office will continue to work on the remaining ordinances that require updating.
5. Department Assistance. Our office continues to assist various County departments regarding legal issues as they arise. Specific issues include the following:
  - Solid Waste Department – Corporation Counsel continues to work with the Solid Waste department on several issues including:
    - Several construction projects such as the recent request for bids for construction of a liner and for closure of a landfill cell.
    - An amendment to the Service Agreement with Xcel Energy
    - Issues involving negotiations regarding the Walz and Sjolander wells and possible resolutions to the water issue regarding their wells.
  - Personnel Dept. – Have worked with the Personnel Department and the relevant County Departments on several labor matters involving employees that has taken substantial time and research.
  - Highway Dept. – Our office continues to work with the Highway Department regarding the appeals filed regarding financial awards for the County Trunk Highway OA Construction project. La Crosse County Corporation Counsel represents the County in two of the pending court cases and the other cases are being handled by Attorney Ben Southwick. Some negotiations have been ongoing. These cases are expected to be completed sometime during 2014.
  - Medical Examiner – Assist Medical Examiner with open records requests and other legal issues as they arise.
6. Court Activities. Our office continues to work on Child In Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) and Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) cases. Jury trials in these cases require extensive preparation, and Megan Devore will be handling two jury trials in May and June of this year. Often these cases are also appealed to the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, which require a significant time commitment to complete the legal documentation. Our office represents the Human Services Department in Chapter 51 mental health cases and Chapter 54/55 Guardianship and Protective Placement cases to serve clients in need of services in La Crosse County.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Lange  
Corporation Counsel

### **Child Support Agency Report to the Board**

The Agency continues to work hard to improve performance in order to maximize incentive funding.

The Agency case numbers remain steady at about 5500 cases.

The Agency is examining our processes and looking for methods to streamline and improve efficiencies in order to meet increasingly rigorous expectations by the State.

The Agency is looking for ways to use technology to improve customer service delivery and to increase public awareness of the child support program.

*Debra L Barnes*

Supervisor, La Crosse County Child Support Agency

## **Emergency Services**

Here is an update on the joint La Crosse City/County Public Safety Radio project. Requests for Proposals for the two radio systems have been posted and are due from the prospective vendors on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Those RFPs will be reviewed by the consultant Elert & Associates, who will then turn in a report for the City and County to review, by mid-April. A review team will analysis the proposals and then makes a recommendation for a reward in May.

## **Public-Safety Communications**

A Wisconsin Senate and Assembly bill (SB566/AB779) has been introduced on state 9-1-1 telecommunications services. Representative Steve Doyle was a co-sponsor of this bill. The proposed bill would:

- Eliminate the current 75-cent monthly Police and Fire Protection Fee on all devices capable of dialing 9-1-1. *(No portion of the money collected by this fee is available to county or municipal emergency services providers, or the telecommunications carriers serving those providers.)*
- Replace the roughly \$53 million raised annually by the Police and Fire Protection Fee for the shared revenue program with state general purpose revenue.
- Eliminate the current enhanced 9-1-1 landline surcharge *(currently 21-cents in La Crosse County)*.
- Create a new, 40-cent monthly fee on all devices capable of dialing 9-1-1 and indexes the fee for inflation, subject to approval by the Governor and Joint Committee on Finance.
- Create a statewide contract to provide 9-1-1 telecommunications services to all county public safety answering points, eliminating the need for county-by-county contracts, as well as the need for any county funding for lines to county 9-1-1 centers. *(In addition to the surcharge collected on land-line telephones, La Crosse County pays more than \$36,500 annually for its share of wireless 9-1-1 fees. Our county shares the wireless routing equipment and costs with Trempealeau, Jackson and Monroe counties.)*
- Establish a grant program for county 9-1-1 centers, also known as Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP), for equipment, software, and training.
- Encourage service consolidation by specifying that only one PSAP per county is eligible to receive the grants *(This is already the case in La Crosse County.)*
- Establish a statewide advisory council to the Public Service Commission to oversee the administration of the statewide 9-1-1 contract and the 911 grant program.

In March, the Wisconsin Senate/Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities held a public hearing on this legislation. La Crosse County Public Safety Communications joined the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Badger State Sheriffs, the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), the Association of Public-safety Communications Officials (APCO), the

Wisconsin State Telecommunications Association, the American Heart Association and many other County PSAPs in supporting this legislation.

Registering against the bill were the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association, the League of Wisconsin Municipalities and municipal PSAPs that are not designated County-wide PSAPs.

The bill was not presented in the Assembly or Senate this session so it will need to be introduced again next session.

## January

### Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,086 (average of 67 per day)  
Answered within 10 seconds: 98.22%  
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.81%  
Average Answer Time: 4 Seconds  
*\*0 calls more than 30 seconds*

73% of 9-1-1 calls were from wireless phones.

Total Telephone Calls 21,378 (average of 690 per day)

### Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	8,005
Fire Fighting	273
Emergency Medical	576

## February

### Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 1,898 (average of 68 per day)  
Answered within 10 seconds: 97.00%  
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.53%  
Average Answer Time: 4 Seconds  
*\* 4 calls more than 30 seconds*

76 % of 9-1-1 calls were from wireless phones.

Total Telephone Calls 20,337 (average of 726 per day)

### Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	7,920
Fire Fighting	289
Emergency Medical	546

*\*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 during this period**

- Emergency Management (EM) assisted with the vendor tours for the public radio system RFP process. Travel to most of the radio tower sites was required including snow removal at gates and access doors.
- EM provided situational reports to Wisconsin Emergency Management during the statewide propane shortage emergency period. Only one homeowner from La Crosse

County filed a request for heating fuel assistance and no businesses or propane suppliers reported any shortages in La Crosse County.

- EM continues to work with the State Hospital Preparedness Program and the County Health Dept and Medical Examiner's Office to develop a comprehensive Mass Fatality Response Plan for La Crosse County.
- A Mass Casualty Team Support Trailer was damaged during a response to a house explosion in Onalaska and was delivered to Holmen for repairs.
- EM provided information to the Judiciary & Law Committee in response to citizen and public official concerns regarding the transportation of Bakken crude oil through La Crosse County. EM has been working with the La Crosse Area Planning Committee to develop a neighborhood evacuation plan for the portions of the City of La Crosse that may be impacted by the installation of a second Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad track. La Crosse EM hosted a meeting with BNSF and emergency management officials from the eight Wisconsin counties with BNSF lines.
- EM met with homeowners and Town of Onalaska officials in regards to localized flooding from a frozen stream.
- EM and several LEPC members met with City Brewery officials to update their EPCRA hazardous substances emergency plan and many took part in a comprehensive tour of the facility.
- EM and the County Finance Dept are attempting to sell the 1957 US Army cots that have been in storage for use during disasters. 10 cots were sold via the on-line Public Auction site. Approximately 35 remain. A local emergency responder has offered to deliver any un-sold cots to area youth summer camps.
- EM has participated in all of the National Weather Service regional and local Spring flood outlook webinars. Current forecasts indicate a 40% chance of reaching the minor flood level of 11' on the Mississippi River. EM met with City of La Crosse officials to review flood preparation measures.
- EM participated in an International Cybersecurity exercise that was held in Atlanta, Georgia via on-line video streaming and document exchange. EM is preparing the Homeland Security Exercise After-Action Report.
- EM participated in a presentation at the Bangor Elementary School for the STEP program (Student Tools for Emergency Planning). <http://readywisconsin.wi.gov/STEP/default.asp>
- EM is working with the UW-Madison WARM program (Wisconsin Academy of Rural Medicine) to prepare a meth lab response exercise to be held in the Town of Shelby in June. County Board members will be invited to observe the outdoor exercise.
- EM facilitated a tabletop emergency response exercise for the I-90 Bridge Project Group. The exercise focused on communication and incident management coordination using a scenario of a wrong-way driver in the bridge project work zone. An actual incident involving a wrong way driver occurred after that date and responders were able to use information and the lessons-learned from the exercise during that actual response (no collision and no injuries, thankfully).
- EM participated in the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Conference on Emergency Management in Appleton and completed a disaster assessment course provided by Wisconsin Emergency Management.
- EM processed two training course requests from the La Crosse Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team and completed and submitted the annual Computer & HazMat Equipment grant.
- EM is working with the County Health Dept and Wisconsin Emergency Management to have access to a shared emergency responder identification badge system. County costs to participate in the shared system may be less than \$200 as opposed to purchasing the system independently at a cost of over \$12,000.

**Jay Loeffler, Administrator  
Emergency Services**

## **La Crosse County Medical Examiner**

During the month of February our department has investigated 45 cases and 69 cremation cases for a total of 114 cases. Of the 45 cases investigated, we have had 23 scene visits and 22 hospital reports. We had 2 suicides; no accidents or homicides. We had 4 autopsies performed in Madison. We also had one tissue donation at the La Crosse County morgue.

The breakdown for the first two months of the year is:

85 cases  
35 scene calls  
40 hospital reports  
3 accidents  
0 homicides  
4 suicides  
142 cremations

We have taken 7 bodies to Madison for autopsies and have one tissue donation. La Crosse County has been chosen to host the 2014 Wisconsin Medical Examiners and Coroner Associations fall conference at the Radisson Hotel in late October. We also received national recognition from Regeneration Technologies, Inc. (RTI) tissue donation organization as one of the top Medical Examiners offices in the country that work with them on tissue donations based on approved referrals.

*Tim Candahl*  
*La Crosse County Medical Examiner*