



*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: August 4, 2014

Re: August Monthly Report to the County Board

Attached is the August 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”

August 11, 2014 Planning Meeting

The main agenda item will be a presentation by Weber Holdings the recommended developer for Lot C. The presentation will also include an overview about the committee interview process. If the Executive Committee approves, there will be a vote on a resolution to authorize appointing a negotiating team to negotiate a Development Agreement with Weber Holdings for Lot C.

Health Department update

Though this is not their month to report, at the conclusion of this monthly report, Doug Mormann has provided an update as requested about the Child Car Safety inspections and the status of closing the Home Health program.

*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 August 2014

La Crosse County UW-Extension

- Community Collaboration organization sponsored the Joining Forces for Families day with thirty-five La Crosse area agency professionals and volunteers visited six Dane County community-based offices to learn more about outreach efforts utilizing partnerships to change the way services are delivered to better meet the needs of children, families and the community. Working with the Community Collaboration Team, Human Services Department Managers/Supervisors will be determining the potential for establishing this type of out-reach effort within La Crosse County, starting in the neighborhoods where there is a significant number of youth involved with the legal system. (MMS)
- Sara Rosenow and Jacob Peterson have joined the UW-Extension team as summer interns working with the Teens at Risk program, a joint program effort with the School District of La Crosse and La Crosse County Human Services. (MMS)
- Thirteen youth participated in the Tractor Safety program this June. The 24 hour program was taught over three days and included hands-on instruction for farm equipment and development of a positive attitude towards farm/tractor safety. Fire Extinguisher training, a first responder presentation and general farm and livestock safety were also part of the program. The program had a 100% success rate as all 13 participants were certified both by written exam and by completion of the driving course. (SDH)
- The 2014 carcass evaluation night was held at Holmen Locker in July. In attendance were 39 youth and numerous adults to hear the results from the 2014 La Crosse Interstate Fair carcass show. UW-Extension in cooperation with the local locker plants provides this opportunity to exhibitors at the fair. Exhibitors learn what factors are important to producing a quality livestock animal, where each meat cut originates, and how a livestock carcass is judged for quality. (SDH)
- Over eighty youth attended 4-H camp this summer with fourteen teenagers serving as counselors. Post-camp surveys indicated 100% of those surveyed enjoyed camp and learned things about the history and use of the Wisconsin River for logging and other environmental education during the camp experience. Parent surveys indicated the experience was positive and that their children gained skills in self-confidence, group dynamics and teamwork, new friendships, and gained independence. (RM)
- Twenty 4-H youth leaders represented La Crosse County at the Wisconsin 4-H & Youth Conference, held on the UW-Madison Campus. The delegates attended workshops and assemblies developed around the theme "100 Years of Growing Wisconsin Leaders" which highlighted leadership, individual responsibility, goal setting, healthy living, and living up to potential. Four of the delegates were a part of the overall conference leadership teams. La Crosse County had representatives on 3 of the 4 teams; Arts Team, Drama Company and Press Team. (JH)
- At La Crosse Healthy Families picnic, WNEP partnered with the Hunger Task Force/Community Garden director to provide a lesson about quick, easy ideas to liven up meals with vegetables and fruits. After the lesson, adult family

members completed an evaluation which showed that their families are going to try to eat more fruits and vegetables each day. (SF)

- WNEP staff shared nutrition information with at-risk eighth grade students who were participating in the Successful Transitions program to prepare them for attending Central High School. After making and tasting a snack that included all of the food groups, the students completed a survey which showed that 71% of students are going to start or more often look at the nutrition facts label of package items to determine the serving size. (SF)
- Presented summary report of the La Crosse Housing Survey to the Mayor's neighborhood stakeholders group. The full report will be available in the next few weeks. (KG)
- Completed work with the Village of West Salem's Capital Improvement Planning Committee on the West Salem Capital Improvement Plan. This plan calls for a significant budget increase required to maintain capital spending without issuing debt. The Village will be going to referendum on the issue in November. (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 Franz, Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program Coordinator

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

Metropolitan Planning Organization

In 2014 and 2015 the MPO Department (La Crosse Area Planning Committee staff) is crafting a new “Transit Enhancement Plan” for the La Crosse Metropolitan Transit Utility. This plan documents existing conditions for our great local bus system and recommends improvements that will provide people with more and better options for travel.

Along with the recommendations comes a proposal for a new name for the system – “Grand River Transit.”

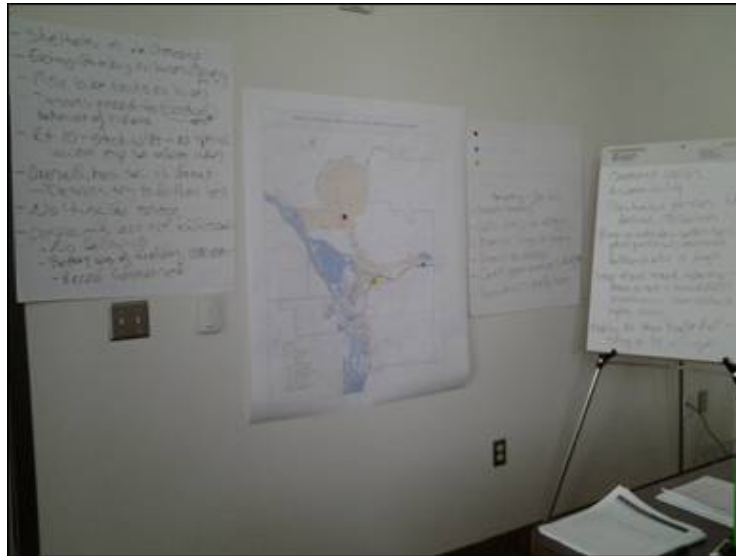
The previous LAPC transit plan, completed in 2007, resulted in a number of service improvements. Eliminating several rail crossings, modifying routes and adding shelters has resulted in MTU providing more than one million rides annually in the Cities of La Crosse, Onalaska and La Crescent, and the Town of Campbell, with free transfers to the Onalaska/Holmen/West Salem Public Transit and Scenic Mississippi Regional Transit serving rural portions of La Crosse and Vernon Counties.

LAPC staff are organizing a number of public input opportunities and data collection activities to help assess attitudes about, satisfaction with, and use of transit service including: 1) An all-day public input opportunity hosted at the Grand River Station; 2) an onboard survey and boarding/alighting count of MTU riders; 3) an online survey of employees and students at area colleges and universities; and, 4) an online survey of area major employers.

Grand River Station Public Input

On Monday, March 31 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm at the Grand River Station (GRS) LAPC staff provided MTU riders and others the opportunity to comment on MTU service—what they like and don't like and what they'd like to see for improving service.

Comments covered a wide-range of topics from infrastructure to information to customer service to bus service to marketing.



Comment sheets at GRS public input session.



Transit riders taking a survey.

MTU Rider Count and Survey

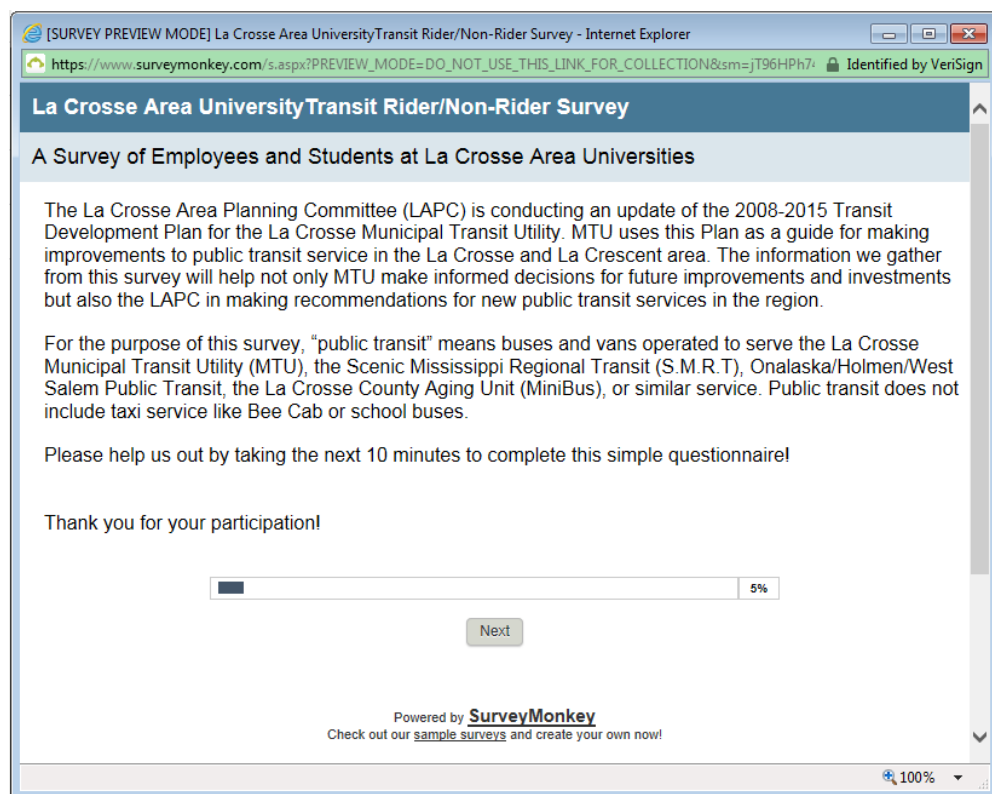
ETC Institute of Olathe, KS, conducted a 100% boarding and alighting count and onboard survey of the MTU fixed-route system on Sunday, April 6 and Monday, April 7, 2014. ETC hired and trained local temporary help to use iPads to plot the locations and record the number of persons getting on and getting off the bus. The result of the count showed that the actual number of rides on Monday (4,404) was 3.7 percent higher than the estimated number of rides (4,247) for that day. 205 questionnaires were completed and returned.

The purpose of the count was to identify stops that best meet boarding criteria for the installation of shelters. The purpose of the survey is to ascertain riders travel habits and likes, dislikes, and desires for transit service.

University and College Online Survey

From April 7, 2014 through May 2, 2014, employees and students from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (UWL), Wisconsin Technical College (WTC), and Globe University were given the opportunity to participate in an online survey designed to help inform the recommendations presented later in this plan.

A total of 858 people participated in the survey: 84.6% (726) from UWL; 13.1% (112) from WTC; and 2.3% (20) from Globe.



The first page of the college and university online survey.

An employer online survey will be taking place from August 4 through August 27. Please help us out with this plan by responding to an upcoming survey invitation in your email!

Tom Faella

Executive Director, La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC)

County Surveyor

HIGHWAY PROJECTS: We have completed phase one of referencing survey monuments that fall within the paved portions of three County roads that are in the process of being resurfaced. Those projects are: 1) County Road OA from 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. Phase one is finding these property corner markers (iron pipes, iron bars, spikes and nails) and referencing them out. Once the resurfacing work is completed, I will reset new markers at the previous locations in the new road surface. Preserving these property corner locations will save landowners thousands of dollars in replacement survey costs if those corner locations had been lost without referencing them. Thanks to Highway Commissioner Ron Chamberlain and the staff at the Highway Department for giving our department a "heads up" well in advance of this resurfacing work.

REGISTER OF DEEDS ASSOCIATION PRESENTATION: I had the privilege of serving as a presenter at the Wisconsin Register of Deeds (WROD) Conference on June 6 at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells on June 6. My session was titled "The Document Says What?/Understanding Legal Descriptions". Aside from a technical glitch which made my PowerPoint presentation appear in a purple/pink hue, the presentation appeared to be very well received and very much appreciated. There were some really good follow-up questions at the end and we had a great interaction about how our two associations can continue to work together. I received a letter of thanks from La Crosse County Register of Deeds Cheri McBride who just ended her term as president of the WROD at this conference.

MAP REVIEW: As of July 30, 2014, a total of 29 Certified Survey Maps have been submitted for review. Twelve of those maps are in unincorporated areas of La Crosse County and are subject to the \$100 review fee called for in Chapter 18 of the La Crosse County Code. At this time in 2013, we had 32 maps submitted for review.

CORNER MAINTENANCE AND PRESERVATION: We have performed maintenance and preservation work on 41 Section and Quarter corner locations in the County so far this year. Our department goal is to get to a minimum of 5% of La Crosse County's 1405 corners (71 corner locations per year). This work allows us to check the condition of the monuments at these corners to insure stability as well as check the reference ties. The reference ties serve as insurance for the corner locations. Should the corner marker be destroyed, these reference ties would be used to re-establish the corner location. We also set a warning sign near the corner to make people aware of the monument and encourage them to call the County Surveyor if the corner location is endangered.

ONGOING RESPONSE: As always, we continue to respond to land owners, land surveyors, attorneys, title people, appraisers, assessors, real estate agents, other County Departments and other governmental agencies to assist them with surveying and land ownership questions. These interactions take place via e-mail, telephone and face-to-face visits.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Meyer, La Crosse County Surveyor

Department of Land Conservation

The installation of conservation practices that prevent soil erosion and protect water resources in La Crosse County continue throughout this summer. The weather has been ideal for earth contractors who need the appropriate amount of soil moisture for proper soil compaction for practices such as manure storage facilities, grade stabilization structures and clean water diversions. The past two summers were exceedingly hot and dry and stopped several conservation practice installation projects from being constructed until adequate levels of moisture returned.

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

Another session of nutrient management training for County farmers has wrapped up for this year. The training sessions help farmers determine when and where to apply manure and commercial fertilizers to their crop fields to optimize plant growth while eliminating excessive nutrient runoff that can pollute surface and groundwater resources. This year 18 farm operators developed nutrient management plans for the first time on 2,277 acres of cropland. Department staff also assisted 121 farm operators in updating 29,295 cropland acres with nutrient management plans. To date, there are over 44,000 acres of cropland that are farmed in accordance with a certified nutrient management plan. That represents nearly 60% of all cropland in La Crosse County.

Gregg Stangl
Land Conservation Director

Zoning, Planning and Land Information:

Meet our staff: Our Department will introduce you to members of our staff in the following bi-monthly reports. In this report you will meet:



Pamela Hollnagel, Real Property Lister. Pam has been with the department for 21 years

- Born and raised in Ottumwa, Iowa
- Moved to La Crosse area in December 1986
- Began working for La Crosse County Zoning, Planning and Land Information Department in February 1993

I often get asked what a Real Property Lister does. The simplest answer is I make sure when homes are bought and sold that the correct person receives their tax bill for what they own. As the Real Property Lister I work on a daily basis with government officials, attorneys, title people, surveyors, assessors and the general public to name a few. January begins the annual cycle of the assessment process that leads up to the printing of the tax bills for the County in December. The following is a link on the County's website that has a

tab titled "Real Property Lister Functions in La Crosse County"; to understand my job better. <http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/zoning/real/real.asp> I hope you will take a minute to peek at this and feel free to call me if you have any questions.

On a personal note I was born and raised in Ottumwa Iowa. My husband Jay and I have been married 27 years and have two grown sons. I truly love what I do and I thoroughly enjoy serving the citizens of La Crosse County and am thankful that I have been given the opportunity to do so.

Pam works regularly with local Assessors

Out of the 18 municipalities in the County, 15 have held their board of reviews. The three remaining municipalities, which are Town of Barre, Town of Shelby and the Village of West Salem, are all having revaluations this year. Their board of reviews are scheduled for the end of August and in September.

Update on Permit System: The La Crosse County Zoning Permit Software that was originally produced by the IT Department in 2002 is currently in the process of being replaced by a new system. The current and future software will be utilized by various departments to address permitting needs related to construction projects. Enhancements in the new system include some of the following:

- The creation of a project based system that will integrate all permits that may or may not be associated to a specific construction project. This new system will create a project for the new development and will tie all of the permitting needs under one project.
- Email notifications will be utilized to notify the various departments and staff of project initiation and/or completeness. The email system will allow all of the staff from multiple departments to keep up to date on the current status of a specific permit or project.
- The new system will also create a "Project Folder" for each new project that is created. This folder will be a shared folder between the departments and will allow for data storage of supplemental information.
- The new system will also allow data extraction from our current on-line permitting application.
- The new system will also have enhancements that are specific to permits issued by the the ZPLIO Dept. Initially, the Zoning Permit has been enhanced to reflect the changes incurred by adoption of the new Zoning Ordinance in 2012. Future capabilities will include a computer based format for entering public hearing applications such as Conditional Use Permits, Zoning Petitions and Variances.

Permits: - Zoning Permits Issued Through July 2014 - La Crosse County Unincorporated

2013 - Jan – July Permits Issued– 161
2014 - Jan- May Permits Issued – 212

UP 32 %

Value 2013 - \$ 15,858,963
Value 2014 - \$ 19,105,768

UP 20.5%

Charlie Handy
La Crosse County Planner

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Public Works & Infrastructure August 2014

Highway Department

- We have recently wrapped up this year's CTH OA project, including the final course of asphalt on last year's project. The Town of Greenfield has expressed an interest in the old alignment of CTH OA, which is now named Casa Del Sol, so we resurfaced that as well in preparation to turn it over.
- Our projects on CTH A and CTH AE are in progress, all of the small culverts have been replaced along with two of the 4 larger structures and we are moving on to the 3rd and 4th large structures. CTH A and CTH AE pavements will be reclaimed in August in preparation for additional base and paving. We anticipate completion of these projects in late September or early October.
- Seal coating is complete and went well this year. In addition to our own system the crew sealed streets in Holmen, the City of Onalaska and the Town of Holland.
- On the State system we just wrapped up a night time rubber crack filling project on STH 16 between Gillette and the La Crosse River Bridge. This project was completed under the new performance based maintenance program that the WisDOT rolled out this year. The project went very well and was completed on time and under budget.
- Another large State project we are working on is a joint repair project on STH 157, which is being completed under a local force account contract. This is also night work and the crew is working on it this week and possible next, depending on progress.
- The last of the large State projects for our crew this year will be wrapping up the culvert replacement and shoulder widening on STH 162 between STH 16 and STH 33. We will be working on that in August and September.

Respectfully Submitted

Ronald Chamberlain

Solid Waste

Xcel Operations:

Xcel has prepared their annual report for 2013 and provided a brief presentation at the Solid Waste Department's Annual Stakeholder's meeting on June 27th, 2014. A time will be chosen in the near future that Xcel can make a presentation to the County Board at a planning meeting. A memorandum of understanding has been approved by the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee which will cover the down time in September while Xcel does repairs to their plant. The landfill will accept the bypass waste for a 4 to 6 week

period to be utilized in the fluff lift of the new cell. The impacts of the single stream program on reducing the tonnage to Xcel are still being evaluated. The Solid Waste Department is supporting an internship with the UW extension for a student to study the recycling rates under this program and its impacts on the Xcel operations. That report should be available in the first or second quarter of 2015.

Landfill Construction Activities 2014:

Landfill construction for the liner and final cover continues. Liner construction was complete and 80% of the gravel was placed on the liner. Following the June 27th Stakeholder's meeting, a soil slump failure occurred in the southwest corner. The administrator was contacted and emergency authority was granted to commence investigation and repairs. A previously unknown geological condition was found which caused the saturation of the clay liner and the slump. A presentation of the repairs will be made to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee in August and authorization for a final change order will be presented in September. Adequate monies were budgeted in the 2014 budget anticipating some contingencies with this project. Authorization is needed from the Public Works Committee to access funds necessary for these repairs.

Construction activities continue on final cover but have been delayed between one to two weeks because of the significant rainfall event on Saturday July 12, 2014. Gas wells have been installed but the header line to extract the gas have not been completed.



This picture depicts the clay liner slump. The plastic liner was removed to expose the underlying soil.

Increased Customer Usage

The landfill experiences continued increase customer usage. This is primarily due to the citizens unloading area and the fact that the cities of La Crosse and Onalaska are no longer collecting bulky waste items. The loss of two staff personnel has resulted in the department utilizing temporary employees until these positions can be replaced. The Administrator is assisting by overseeing a reorganization of the staffing associated with the scale and front office duties.

The projection in budgeted revenues has declined since a modest amount of tonnage was diverted in the spring from Xcel to the landfill and will be diverted in the fall. As a result of that diversion to the landfill increased fees are paid on that solid waste material to the DNR and to the landfill contractor. This decrease in revenues from increased recycling and the increase in operational fees has been accounted for in the 2014 end of year projection and 2015 budgets.

HHM (Household Hazardous Materials):

After a slow start to the year, utilization of HHM has surpassed that of the record year of 2013. Both the number of participants and total weight of the waste have increased 5% this year.

The next quarterly medication collection is scheduled for August 16th, 9:00 – Noon at HHM only.

Solid Waste Department Wins Bronze SWANA Award

The Solid Waste Department will receive in August from the Solid Waste Association of North America a Bronze Award for their public education efforts. The education efforts were those associated with our partnership with the Boy Scouts on various programs including the Camporee on the Landfill in 2013 and the Winter Klondike. These activities demonstrated a strong community partnership. At the events environmental education along with service projects were undertaken. This is a significant honor for La Crosse County in that the Gold and Silver award winners were for California and Montreal. Maureen Freedland will be attending the Dallas Wastecon Conference and will be accepting the award for La Crosse County.

The La Crosse County landfill assisted the Boy Scouts with their second annual Scrap a Thon and helped bring in over 30,000 Lbs of scrap metal and presented a check to the scouts for over \$1800.00 (picture below).



Annual Meeting June 27, 2014

The Annual Meeting for the La Crosse Solid Waste Systems Stakeholders was conducted on June 27th at the landfill. A tent was provided for the presentations and opportunities to view and tour the construction of the liner and final cover were provided. Participants included representatives from La Crosse, Houston, Trempealeau, Buffalo, and Wabasha counties. In addition, representatives from Manitowoc, Marathon, Adams, Monroe, Winona and other counties were also present. Approximately 50 participants attended. In addition to an overview of the 2013 accomplishments and financial status of the Solid Waste Department, presentations were made on Solid Waste Planning by Professor John Katers University of Wisconsin and Sustainability by Dane Andrews from SEH. Lunch was provided.

Sustainability

- **Sustainable La Crosse Commission:** Mike Giese (new County Board member and former mayor of Onalaska) has been approved by Tara Johnson to represent the County on the commission. Mike will be meeting with the Mayors of La Crosse and Onalaska to discuss other members of the commission including elected officials and citizen members.
- **Presentations/Tours:** Nick, Randy, and other HHM staff gave presentations and tours to over 61 students and staff from several institutions including Onaventure High School Onalaska, the Ho Chunk youth learning class and the Boy Scouts. Presentations were done on WLFN 1490 every Tuesday in June and the Customer Appreciation/Annual meeting was held at the landfill on June 27th.
- **Mattress Recycling:** This effort has moved from conception and research to implementation. Currently Recycleall and Riverfront are working out employee details along with location and equipment logistics. The Solid Waste Department has committed to supporting a pilot project to run between 4 and 8 weeks. This should give the department enough information to determine if this effort is viable or not.
- **Bridge Project:** This project is part of the landfill trail and recreation master plan and has taken great strides this month. The footings for the bridge were excavated and concrete poured in June and the bridge was placed on the footings June 18th. The bridge, which is handicap accessible, allows the walk trails to cross a wetland area and provides a viewing area (see picture below). Brant Attleson the Eagle Scout candidate will now be in charge of ordering, scheduling and installing the decking and railings for the bridge. A ribbon cutting will take place sometime in September to dedicate the bridge.



- **Bioblitz:** Matt Heeter from the Coulee Region Herpetological Society has agreed to bring his group out to the landfill to do a survey of snakes and amphibians. This should take place in two steps. One in mid august and the second near the end of September. The Solid Waste Department continues to search for other experts to flesh out this valuable and needed research.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A. Koch, P.E.

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Judiciary & Law August 2014

Corporation Counsel Office

1. Claims Update.

- King v. Kramer and La Crosse County, Case No. 10-CV-00123-WNC. On July 10, 2014 the U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the trial court and remanded the case to the District Court for a new trial. The Court of Appeals determined that the District Court applied a deliberate indifference standard instead of the 4th Amendment objective reasonableness standard regarding the claim against Nurse Sue Kramer and ordered that there should be a new trial applying the 4th Amendment objective reasonableness standard. It should be noted that the Court of Appeals found that the two other arguments raised by the plaintiff that concern the County did not have merit. The Court of Appeals concluded that the District Court did not abuse its discretion in refusing to take judicial notice of the HPL contract and also did not abuse its discretion by excluding the indemnification agreement between the County and HPL. At this time attorneys for La Crosse County have filed a petition for re-hearing regarding the decision with the Court of Appeals to seek clarification that the decision regarding the proper legal 4th Amendment standard should apply only to Sue Kramer and not to La Crosse County.
- Jurjens v. La Crosse County, Case No. 13-CV-455. The complainant Jurjens alleged that he was denied adequate and timely medical care for a broken ankle while in custody at the La Crosse County Jail. The parties are close to settlement which would involve nominal payment by the County. Our office will continue to keep the County Board informed.

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

- Administrative Center/Associated Bank – Our office continues to work with Associated Bank regarding the documentation for the purchase of Associated Bank property and the purchase of a portion of Lot C by Associated Bank. Our office is also reviewing and finalizing the lease of Associated Bank of property at the site from La Crosse County after closing because of a delay before Associated Bank can move into its new location on Lot C. Our Office has also been involved with the process for the development of Lot C and will continue to be involved in any negotiations and development agreement with a chosen developer for Lot C.
- Lakeview Properties – Our office has continued to work on issues involving Lakeview properties. The negotiations concluded with Harry Griswold and Peter Opsahl for the purchase of Lakeview Health Center and the purchase agreement has now been finalized. Our office will continue to assist with any legal issues involving the transaction. Our office will continue to be involved

in follow-up issues regarding the lease of Lakeview farm property and issues regarding development of the new Lakeview campus site.

- Park Plaza – Our office continues to work as needed on the development agreement between West Coast Development LLC and City of La Crosse and La Crosse County and any other matters regarding the offer to purchase between West Coast Development, LLC and La Crosse County.

3. Ordinance Updates. Our office continues to work with a number of County departments in updating County ordinances. The County is working on the following ordinances:

- Chapter 24 Emergency Government – Our office has worked on a final draft of the updated ordinance which should be submitted in the month of August for its first reading.
- Chapter 23 Animal Manure Management Ordinance – this ordinance has been re-written and Land Conservation is in the process of obtaining public input before introducing this matter to the PRD committee for eventual approval by the County Board.
- Chapter 22 – Historic Sites Commission – we continue to work on updating this ordinance
- We will begin work on Chapters 5, 7 and 25 of the La Crosse County Ordinances

4. Department Assistance. Our office continues to assist various County departments regarding legal issues as they arise. Specific issues include the following:

- Personnel Dept. – Continue to work with the Personnel Department on a number of labor matters which involve different County Departments. One matter involves an appeal of unemployment compensation decision involving a County employee. Our office has also worked on a number of other personnel issues.
- Solid Waste Dept – Corporation Counsel continues to work with the Solid Waste Department on several issues including:
 - Agreement with Sjolander/Walz regarding the wells located on the property
 - Issues regarding new Landfill liner
 - Miscellaneous matters as they arise
- Highway Dept. – Our office works with the Highway Department on a number of issues, including:
 - Highway 108/CTH C jurisdiction issues
 - Various contractual issues and ongoing issues regarding CTH OA project
 - Wanless communications site
- Child Support – Continue the work on several matters including:
 - Work on budget with Debra Barnes
 - Work on issues in improving efficiency in the office
 - Handle complaints as they arise

5. Court Activities. Our office continues to work on Human Service matters as they arise involving child protection cases and Chapter 51 and 54/55 cases.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Lange
Corporation Counsel

Clerk of Courts

The Court system is pleased to report the implementation of the court room presentation equipment. In the 2013 & 2014 courts' budget, the county board approved updating the courtrooms with courtroom presentation equipment. Previously, our courtroom equipment included a portable TV with a DVD player and a prehistoric screen. This system was hard to see by everyone in the courtrooms. Many of the squad videos presented in the courtroom could not be played on the DVD player. The District attorney and private attorneys needed to bring a laptop and projector and try to set up the archaic screen.

To update the courtrooms, a committee was formed including members of the District Attorney office, IT, Facilities, Finance, private attorneys, judges and clerk of court. The committee researched and determined what kind of equipment to be requested to accommodate our needs but still be within budget. After hours of planning and coordination, we are pleased and happy to say all five courtrooms are now set up with a large screen that at a touch on the monitor comes out of the ceiling, a projector mounted to the ceiling, an elmo or document reader, plus attorneys can bring their laptops to hook up to show videos, use power point or show other evidence. The update brings the La Crosse County courtrooms into the technology age and better serve the cause of justice.

The Courts would like to thank all involved in the implementation. The coordination of departments has been amazing. Our own IT Department and Facilities Department completed most of the installation along with the programming of the vendor. If we have any issues with the equipment, our support system, or help, is in house.

At the end of July, attorneys were invited to see the new equipment and have IT present a mini training session. The attorneys were excited with the capabilities of the system.

With the 2015 budgets being worked on, the judges are requesting the enhancement of video conferencing for two courtrooms to further the use of technology.

Once again, thanks to all who helped in coordinating the courtroom equipment.

Pam Radtke
Clerk of Courts

Emergency Services

The City of La Crosse has signed a contract with Motorola Solutions to replace their out-dated 800-megahertz trunked radio system. That system is currently in a detailed design review. This is the first phase of a two-phased project that will include updating the County's public safety and highway radio systems.

This first phase includes two new tower locations - one a new site being developed on top of the bluff over-looking the Highway 16/County Road B area and one to piggy-back on an existing tower in the Town of Shelby. Those two new locations are expected to be shared with and utilized by the County's upgraded system. Also in the first phase, the radio consoles in the County Public Safety Communications Center will be replaced to work with the new City of La Crosse system.

Currently, Emergency Services is working with County Administration to obtain and review Motorola Solution's proposed County system and its costs. This updated proposal is expected in early August. The proposal will be also be reviewed by other public safety agencies including the Sheriff's Department, the Highway Department, Information Technology and Facilities. Plans are to bring this proposal and a recommendation to the County Board in September.

Public-Safety Communications

A severe storm on June 28th with damaging winds made for some challenging times in the Communications Center. There were 335 9-1-1 calls, making that Saturday the busiest for emergency calls on record. The previous high was 256 which happened during flash flooding in 2007. In fact, the 287 911 calls answered by the second-shift dispatchers alone would have been an all-time record.

The peak of the storm happened between 9 and 10 PM, when there were 332 total calls, one third being on 9-1-1 lines. That works out to nearly six calls every minute. Those calls generated 281-storm related calls for service, including trees down on buildings, streets or cars; power lines down, alarms and other fire-related calls. Third-shift dispatchers were called in early and the second shift dispatchers stayed over to assist with the additional volume of calls.

An earlier storm on June 18th also contributed to the busy month of June. Because many of the calls for both events were concentrated into short periods of times, the 9-1-1 answering times increased slightly, but the average for the month remained within national standards.

May

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,353 (average of 76 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 97.03%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.83%
Average Answer Time: 4 Seconds
**0 calls more than 30 seconds*

77% of 9-1-1 calls were from wireless phones.

Total Telephone Calls 24,336 (average of 785 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	10,632
Fire Fighting	228
Emergency Medical	557

June

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,812 (average of 94 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 94.42%
Answered within 20 seconds: 98.51%
Average Answer Time: 5 Seconds
** 11 calls more than 30 seconds*

77 % of 9-1-1 calls were from wireless phones.

Total Telephone Calls 25,406 (average of 847 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	7,769
Fire Fighting	323
Emergency Medical	605

**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 has been working with the Health and Human Services Departments, both local hospitals and the Medical Examiner to develop a comprehensive Mass Fatality Management Plan and one of the sub-components (Family Assistance Center). Efforts are underway to determine appropriate responsibilities and assignments for this new emergency plan.
- The UW-Madison School of Medicine – Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine partnered with Emergency Management again this year to develop and conduct a public safety exercise program. The exercise was held on June 17 in the Town of Shelby. A meth lab/car fire and active shooter with hostages scenario was used to test responder plans and actions for a hostile environment incident. The La Crosse Police Department used a simulated gun fire system as well as the Bearcat armored vehicle to rescue victims and provide tactical support for the Fire Department and medical responders.
- A straight-line wind storm struck a portion of the City of La Crosse on June 18 resulting in lengthy power outages and hundreds of downed trees. County Emergency Management and Emergency Services Administrator conducted a damage assessment which included the destruction of a commercial storage building adjacent to a propane facility.
- The County Mass Casualty Team had been storing the largest response trailer at the Airport; however that site is not currently available and several Mass Casualty Team trailers are being stored outside at the 3507 Park Lane Drive garage.
- County Emergency Management provided a Disaster Response presentation during a community “Brown Bag Lunch” on June 25 and assisted La Crosse Police and Fire with a missing boater later that afternoon.
- County Emergency Management deployed the Communications & Command Vehicle to the Onalaska fireworks on Saturday, June 28, but after consultation with the Mayor and other officials the event was postponed (and later cancelled). A severe storm struck the area that evening.
- County Emergency Management conducted a storm damage assessment on Sunday, June 29 and assisted with arrangements for the Governor’s tour on Monday.
- County Emergency Management collaborated with the National Weather Service to update the local flood impact statements by providing historical and photographic documents showing the impacts at various river stages.
- La Crosse County has been accepted as one of a few AmeriCorps disaster preparedness program sites and efforts are underway to ensure adequate funding is available to off-set local travel costs for this program that will provide 900 hours of service to the County.
- County Emergency Management is working with Fire Departments to assess the local response capability for a crude oil fire and presented some emergency planning information to the La Crosse Area Planning Committee on July 16.

- State, Regional and Federal agencies are working with County Emergency Management to conduct an exercise in La Crosse County to examine and test response capability for a crude oil spill into the Mississippi River.

*Jay Loeffler, Administrator
Emergency Services*

Mediation and Family Court Services

From January until June, our office received 141 new mediation referrals, 8 custody assessment teams were ordered, and 4 step-parent adoption screenings were completed. The new mediation referral numbers have increased.

Dawn Bender and I continue to teach half of the Families First divorce education classes. We also attend the Family Law Roundtables.

Dawn Bender and I attended WIPCOD's (Wisconsin Inter-Professional Committee on Divorce) annual conference in April. I attended the AFCC (Association of Family and Conciliation Courts) annual conference in May.

Respectfully submitted,

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

La Crosse County Medical Examiner

Year to Date as of July 31, 2014

229 Total Cases Investigated

98 Scene Investigations (2 pending death determinations, 14 suicides, 3 car accidents, 19 autopsies). We have had 166 natural deaths and 37 accidental deaths.

229 Reportable Cases Investigated

472 Cremation Cases Investigated

701 Total Cases Investigated as of 7/31/14

472 Cremation Permits signed

140 Death Certificates signed

We have had six tissue donations as of July 31, 2014 at our La Crosse County Morgue

Total Revenue through July 31st is \$87,200

As documented in our last report, there continues to be no drug-related deaths for 2014 in La Crosse County. The surge in suicides has leveled off; no new cases to report.

Training of the three new deputies is moving along smoothly. I expect the new deputies to be working independently sometime late fall.

We are implementing a new drug policy this week with the Sheriff's Department on how we sign off drugs that we take in from our cases. The chain of custody of drugs will be tracked and documented from scene to disposal.

We are also planning to implement a new service in La Crosse County in early 2015 which will be called Psychology Autopsy. This involves families who have lost a loved one to suicide. We will meet with these families to gather information that will be sent to a National Suicide Data Base, with the hope that this data will provide knowledge of those at risk for suicide and also prevention efforts which can be undertaken. At this time, we have three families willing to participate in this process. To our knowledge, we are the first county in the State who will offer this program.

Tim Candahl

La Crosse County Medical Examiner

Special Report – the Health Department isn't scheduled to report until next month, but wanted you to be updated on the following items.

Health Department

The Health Dept. began to offer car seat education and installation for a \$25 fee in June 2014. We are working with local Medical Assistance providers to explore their providing of this education and installation service under Medical Assistance Program. Limited free car seat inspections are now provided at 3 locations by community groups including members of the Safe Kids Coalition. Brenengen Chevrolet is providing free car seat checks at monthly April to Sept.

The Health Dept home health care program ended on June 30 as planned. All clients are discharged, they went to 6 different home health agencies plus a couple of people who's need for service ended without having to be transferred to another agency which is normal. Of the 11 staff involved in this 3 are working for the County of La Crosse, 3 retired, 4 found other employment and one filed for unemployment.

Doug Mormann, Director

La Crosse County Health Department