



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: October 2, 2014

Re: October Monthly Report to the County Board

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

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

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

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

January, March, May, July, September, November

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

“OF INTEREST”

September 8, 2014 Planning Meeting

The main agenda item will be the 2015 Budget Overview, plus detail review of the following items:

- 2015 Debt Service schedules and impact on Tax Levy
- Capital Improvement Plan projects
- Future decisions regarding Highway Funding
- Fund Balances Applied

Question regarding difference between HSA, HRA and FSA's

At the last County Board meeting, there was a question about the difference between Health Savings Accounts (HSA), Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRA) and Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA). Our insurance consultant from Associated Financial provided a one page summary of the differences, which is included at the back of this monthly report.

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 October 2014

La Crosse County UW-Extension

- The random household survey for Great Rivers United Way Compass Now 2015 community needs assessment has been distributed, and the Education Council and Income Indicator Council are completing updates to indicator profiles for their respective area. Family Living Agent serves as a member of the Compass Now 2015 steering committee. (MMS)
- Robert Matysik, 4-H & Youth Development Agent, retired after 29 years of service to youth and families in La Crosse County. Final interviews to fill the vacant position are scheduled for the end of September. (MMS)
- Sara Rosenow, 4-H summer intern, will be continuing as the Youth At-Risk Intern working with the School District of La Crosse After School Program at Northwoods, Northside, and Hamilton schools. (MMS)
- Soybean variety maturity is a critical part of a farmer's selection decision when purchasing soybean seed. Therefore it is critical to collect this information on research plots each year. Ag Agent is in the process of collecting maturity data on 81 varieties of soybeans that will be used as a part of the statewide report which will be available to farmers this winter. (SDH)
- Agriculture and Horticulture telephone and walk-in clientele requesting information during the first 8 months of 2014 averaged 212 per month, or approximately 53 requests for information per week - - not including e-mail or other media requests. Requests cover a broad range of topics including land/building rent to farm transfer or tree concerns to insect identification. (SDH)
- On Sunday, September 7th La Crosse County 4-H held its own 4-H Centennial Celebration at the La Crosse Interstate Fairgrounds. Over 200 people attended the picnic, which was open to all. It offered a display of historical information on the local program, games, inflatable's, food, friends and a lot of fun. (JH)
- 4-H "Celebrate!" art exhibit at the Pump House Regional Arts Center provides patrons the opportunity to see the work of 4-H youth (grades K-13). It is through hands-on learning in project areas that has developed these skills and talents. Being chosen is an honor, as these are indeed the best of the best – all fair arts/photography blue ribbon exhibits are considered for merits, but only 10% will receive merit awards. Those that receive merits are then considered for this exhibit. This is a true celebration of local 4-H youth artists. (JH)
- The WNEP nutrition educator presented a series of nutrition lessons to 95 kindergarten, first and second grade students at Hamilton Elementary School. Students learned about proper hand washing, choosing foods from MyPlate, and had the opportunity to taste vegetables from the school gardens. (MHL)
- Thirteen seniors at the Hmong Cultural Center learned about ways to save money on vegetables and other groceries during a presentation by WNEP staff. At the end of the lesson, 62% indicated that they learned information that they intended to use in the near future and 100% asked for the vegetable recipe that was shared. (MHL)
- Completed the La Crosse Large Employer Housing Survey Report per collaborative efforts of Large employer stakeholders in the La Crosse Powell-Poage-Hamilton and Washburn Neighborhoods. The survey garnered nearly 4,000 responses and attempts to better understand housing demand by buyers in the area. Currently,

this is being shared with various local organizations such as the La Crosse Builders Association, La Crosse Realtors Association, Chamber of Commerce, etc. It has also received major news coverage from television, newspaper and radio. (KG)

- Assisted the La Crosse Neighborhood Development Corporation as they moved towards securing the organization's 501c3 status, by providing information on housing in La Crosse, as well as presenting the organization with an informational program on potential revenue sources for the organization to consider. The organization is moving towards a series of strategic planning processes that should help guide their first few years of activity. (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

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

MHL – Mary Hoeft-Leithold, Nutrition Educator

County Surveyor

COUNTY ROAD W DESCRIPTION ISSUE: We have been working in conjunction with the Land Information Department and the Highway Department to resolve a title issue involving a portion of County Road W in the Town of Onalaska. The road was described in a recorded legal description; however the road - as it is built - does not match the location as called for by the legal description. We have been in contact with the adjoining land owner and have worked out a plan to correct the legal description. Our plan is to write a new legal description which matches where the road is currently being traveled. A correction document will then be drafted and recorded.

HOETH FOREST TRAILS: The Land Conservation Department has requested our assistance. They have asked that we locate roadways/trails within Hoeth Forest in the Town of Farmington. While Hoeth Forest is not specifically designated as a recreational area, many people use the roadways in it for hiking and horseback riding. Our plan is to develop a map illustrating the location of the roadways/trails. Should an emergency arise, an accurate map would be of assistance to emergency personnel.

COUNTY ROAD A and AE RESURFACING PROJECTS: We are working in conjunction with the Highway Department as they work on resurfacing County Roads A and AE in the Towns of Farmington and Burns. Prior to this work beginning we were able to locate and reference approximately 47 survey monuments which fell in the paved portions of these roads. 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 have the potential to save these 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.

MAP REVIEW: As of September 30, 2014, a total of 33 Certified Survey Maps have been submitted to this office for review. Twenty 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 date in 2013, we had 45 maps submitted for review.

CORNER MAINTENANCE AND PRESERVATION: We have again exceeded our goal of maintaining and preserving a number of Public Lands Survey System (PLSS) corners. Our department goal is to maintain a minimum of 5% of La Crosse County's 1405 corners (71 corner locations per year). We have maintained and preserved 73 corners so far in 2014. 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

Hoeth Forest in northern La Crosse County is scheduled for another timber harvest this winter. Bids were let on a 29 acre harvest comprised of an estimated 760 cords of Red Pine and 25 cords of White Pine. This harvest is in a compartment of Red Pine that has had several thinnings over its 60 year life span and is producing high quality timber for this harvest. There were two bids received on this harvest and both of the bidders are the larger timber buyers in Wisconsin. The harvest was awarded to Bell Timber Inc. at a bid price of \$59,919.05. Bell Timber is located in Barron, Wi. and the Pacific Northwest and buys timber for resale for log home construction, utility poles and saw logs. The timber harvest is scheduled to begin in December of this year and be completed by February 15th, 2015.

The Department of Land Conservation is conducting another Nutrient Management Farmer Education day on October 16th near West Salem. The outdoor classroom will teach farmers how to correctly soil sample their crop fields for nutrient testing and reporting. Twelve La Crosse County farmers have signed up for this training and will use the soil sampling report to generate a nutrient management plan for their farms. The Department provides the participating farmers with a soil probe, field maps and data sheets to assist them with soil sampling. The nutrient management farmer training event is sponsored by the Department of Land Conservation, UW-Extension, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Allied Co-op of West Salem. A grant from UW-Extension was obtained to fund the training event.

The construction season for installing conservation practices has technically come to a close this year. Conservation practice installation that disturbs the soil and requires seeding and mulching to stabilize the site should be completed by September 15th to avoid a killing frost. Other practices that don't require seeding and mulching can continue through the winter although any projects that use concrete must be covered and kept at a minimum temperature of 40 degrees. Department staff will be busy looking at potential conservation practice installation sites over the next three months and sign cost share assistance agreements with participating landowners in preparation of next years construction season.

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:



Dan Leis, GIS Specialist

Dan has been with the Department for 39 years. Born and raised in Cashton, WI and graduated from high school in 1970. Dan graduated from UW Stevens Point in 1974 with a degree in Wildlife Game Management and a minor in Biology. After graduation worked at Trane Company for 6 months and then began working for La Crosse County on July 1, 1975. He started as a Tax Map Draftsman, drawing maps on Mylar with Leroy pens and templates. In 1992 we went to computer mapping. At this time he does the research behind the mapping, checking the records in the Register of Deeds Office, County Surveyors Office and La Crosse County Highway Dept in order to draw the most accurate tax maps possible. Dan also assists the County Treasurers office, Corporation Counsel and the Facilities Dept during the Tax Foreclosure process; and other County Offices, as well as answer questions from assessors, appraisers, surveyors and the general public about real estate descriptions, road right of ways and assessments.

"I enjoy working for La Crosse County and helping the public when they come in with a question. I always try to have an answer for them when they leave the office. It may not be the answer that they want to hear but at least they have an answer. Public service is what we do and I think most people appreciate what we do for them."

On a personal note, my wife Sonia and I have been married for 29 years. I have one son and daughter-in-law, a step daughter, 2 step sons and 3 grandchildren. For the last 6 years I have been in a band called the "*Driftless River Band*" and enjoy that very much.

Update on Town-Wide Map Amendments: La Crosse County has worked with a number of its 12 towns to do town wide map amendments so that landowners can be brought up to speed with the new Farmland Preservation Regulations. We have accomplished the towns of Hamilton, Holland, Farmington, Greenfield and Bangor. The towns of Burns and Campbell are not within County Zoning jurisdiction, and there are no farmland preservation parcels in the Town of Medary. With the October County Board meeting we will complete the Town of Washington. This leaves the towns of Shelby, Onalaska and Barre. We have had conversations with all three, but this implementation is on their schedule. Most landowners are very open and acceptable to this amendment, as it adds significant flexibility to their property.

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

2013 - Jan – Sept Permits Issued – 236		Value 2013 - \$ 24,061,738	
2014 - Jan- Sept Permits Issued – 294	Up 25%	Value 2014 - \$ 24,336,705	Up 1.1%

Charlie Handy
La Crosse County Planner

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Public Works & Infrastructure October 2014

Solid Waste

Xcel Operations:

Xcel provided their annual report on 2013 operations to the County Board. Currently the facility is shut down for approximately three weeks for planned maintenance. This has been coordinated with the opening of our new cell to allow a fluff lift to be placed across the base. No problems handling the additional trucks at the landfill and placing the waste in the new cell have occurred. With the shut down, tonnages are expected to be less than seventy-three thousand tons per year but because of the existing Memorandum of Understanding no penalties will occur.

Landfill Construction Activities 2014:

Construction for the Phase VIII Liner has been completed and approved by the DNR. The liner slope failure was resolved and also approved by the DNR. No problems with scheduling occurred allowing the facility to be open in time to accommodate the Xcel shut down. Costs associated with repairing the liner slope failure required a change order but are still below budgeted costs for 2014.

Construction activities continue on final cover but have been delayed for a total of twenty days due to rain events. The synthetic layers have been completed and the final placement of earth and topsoil should occur in the next 2-4 weeks. A dormant seeding will be utilized and a fixed retainage held until June of 2015 to insure proper vegetative growth.

Citizen Customer Usage

Citizen customer usage continues at a high level even with the change to a flat rate. Prior to the flat rate the cost per ton was approximately \$100. After the institution of a flat rate revenues fell to approximately \$88 dollars per ton. Therefore, citizens are receiving an appreciable savings. The projected annual loss in revenue is approximately \$24,000. For every ten compliments received one complaint regarding the change to the flat rate is being received. Some abuse of the system is occurring with people overloading pickups and trailers trying to minimize the cost of their payment. Scale waiting time has significantly diminished.

HHM (Household Hazardous Materials):

Utilization of HHM continues to grow. Both the number of participants and total weight of the waste have increased by over 9% this year. HHM staff continues to identify products that are in good condition for reuse by the public. Currently the amount of material distributed through the Reuse Room is 5% ahead of last year.

The DEA finally published the new rules regarding collection and disposal of controlled medications. Following are some of the effects these rules will have on La Crosse County:

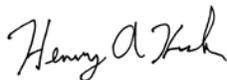
- The 9/27/14 Take Back Day will be the last one sponsored by the DEA; meaning that they will no longer be responsible for the cost of disposing of collected medications. Local law enforcement agencies that have medication collection boxes will need to find funding for disposal of collected medications.

- Law enforcement continues to have flexibility in collecting, storing and disposing of all medications including controlled medications. This flexibility may be crucial in helping to control costs.
- Since volunteers will no longer be allowed to handle any controlled medications, collection events will be more difficult to conduct.
- While disposal of controlled medications is expensive, the new rules created a business opportunity that several large disposal companies are looking to capitalize on. This should lead to more cost effective disposal methods for controlled medications. The question is how long it will take.

Sustainability August – September

- **Sustainable La Crosse Commission:** The commission has now been fully staffed and a survey of members decided to keep the fourth Thursday as the meeting time for the committee. The next meeting will take place on October 23rd. Agenda and location will be determined soon. If you'd like information on the meeting please let me know and I'll get you on the mailing list.
- **Presentations/Tours:** Nick gave a tour to the WisCorps crew working on the trails and Hank gave a tour to Bill Carter from Prairie Moon Nursery, Dan Jackson of the Audubon Society, Dave Lien Onalaska forester and Ritchie Brown from the Ho Chunk Nation. A Boy Scout "Survivor" event was held on the landfill property the weekend of the 19th of Sept. a dozen boys and leaders were on site camping along with Hank.
- **Mattress Recycling:** A container is being placed within the citizen's drop off area to collect mattresses the week of the 29th. This will be a pilot project to measure the feasibility of the program. Mattresses will be sent to Recycleall and cost \$15.00 apiece for up to eight weeks.
- **Bridge/Trails Projects:** The Bridge project has been completed and a ribbon cutting ceremony is being planned for mid October to recognize two Eagle Scouts and their projects on site. Brant Attleson has worked on the bridge and Joel Cunliffe has finished installing two benches and a handicapped accessible picnic table along the trail to the bridge. The first mile of trails in the community forest has been completed. Willie Bittner from WisCorps mentioned they are ahead of schedule and if construction continues this well, the project will only take four years instead of the projected five.
- **Bioblitz:** Dan Jackson received a tour of the landfill he is the State's leading expert on Dragonfly's and damsel fly's and Identified several species on the landfill site while on the tour. He will be coming back out to do a further survey next spring and summer.
- **Grants:** The facilities dept received a grant from the State Energy Office to assist in the lighting retrofit of the courthouse in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Respectfully submitted,



Henry A. Koch, P.E., Director

Highway Department

- CTH A and CTH AE are in the process of being paved and shouldered, so our October completion date should definitely be met.
- The Shop is in the process of harnessing up our winter maintenance fleet and all of our early fill road salt has been delivered.
- On the State system we are working on a shoulder project located on 162 by Bangor. Also we will be working on concrete repairs to 157 in the near future, this is a night work project that is expected to last 1 to 2 weeks. Over and above these projects we will be performing a culvert repair on STH 108 near the Jackson County line.
- The fall mowing is in progress on the County system and we are also performing various maintenance tasks on the County system as well as the season comes to a close.
- On the design side of the house we have design projects in progress on the following roads: CTH M (CTH B to CTH O), CTH SN (CTH S to Alpine Lane), CTH B (STH 16 to River Valley Drive), CTH XX over Halfway Creek Bridge, CTH M or Branch of Mormon Coulee Bridge and finally the exceptions to standards study on STH 108 in preparation for the jurisdictional transfer.

Respectfully Submitted

Ronald Chamberlain

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Judiciary & Law October 2014

Corporation Counsel Office

1. Claims Update.

- King v. Kramer and La Crosse County, Case No. 10-CV-00123-WNC. In the last report, I indicated that on July 10, 2014 the U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the trial court and remanded the case to the Federal District Court for a new trial. Attorneys for La Crosse County filed a petition for re-hearing regarding the decision of 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 so that La Crosse County would clearly be out of the case. On August 14, 2014, the Federal Circuit Court issued an amended decision that clarified that the decision regarding the 4th Amendment standard only applied to Sue Kramer and that the jury verdict in favor of La Crosse County was clearly affirmed. This means that La Crosse County is out of the case and no longer involved as a defendant.
- Ralph R. Jurjens v. La Crosse County, Case No. 13-CV-455. Ralph H. Jurjens, III had filed a claim against La Crosse County and a number of other individuals, including Health Professionals, Ltd. The claim alleged that La Crosse County Sheriff personnel were indifferent to his medical needs. The case has now settled. The contribution from La Crosse County was \$1,500. Given the amount of time involving the attorneys for La Crosse County hired by WMMIC and the amount of time that would be required to proceed with the case, this is a reasonable settlement.
- Fuselier v. La Crosse County, Case No. 13-CV-650. Fuselier has filed an action in federal court alleging that he fell in the jail shower due to the La Crosse County jail not providing a safe shower in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. WMMIC has provided a defense, and the County's attorney filed a motion for summary judgment. No response to the motion has been timely filed. If no response is made, it is likely the case will be dismissed. Corporation Counsel will report to the County Board when the case is closed.

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 purchase and lease back of Associated Bank property.
- Lot C – Weber Holdings - Our office will work on the sale of Lot C to Weber Holdings. Our office has also retained the services of Attorney George Peek of Crivello Carlson to assist with the purchase of Associated Bank and the sale of Lot C to Weber Holdings.

- Park Plaza – The amended Offer to Purchase provided certain deadlines which have not been met, which include a closing date of September 30, 2014, approval of plans for the City of La Crosse by August 15, 2014 and successful execution of a development agreement by June 24, 2014. None of those dates have been met, and the County will be providing notice that the agreement is terminated after September 30, 2014.
3. Ordinance Updates. Our office continues to work with a number of County departments in updating County ordinances.
- Chapter 24 Emergency Government – Final consideration occurred at the September 18, 2014 County Board meeting.
 - Chapter 23 Animal Manure Management Ordinance – Land Conservation has obtained public input and this will likely be introduced to the November committee and County Board meetings.
 - Our office has worked on updating Chapter 19-County Parks, Buildings and Grounds, Chapter 22 – Historic Sites Commission and Chapter 25 Construction of Ordinances. Updated Chapter 19 and Chapter 25 ordinances should be ready to be introduced soon.
 - We will continue to begin work on the remaining ordinances, which include Chapter 5 Records Management, Chapter 7 Traffic Code and Chapter 15 Solid Waste 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. – Work with personnel department involving different County departments. Work on several agreements involving County benefits for present and retired employees. One employment matter involves an ERD claim filed by a La Crosse County employee.
 - Solid Waste Dept – Corporation Counsel continues to work with the Solid Waste Department on several issues, including a potential agreement with Sjolander/Walz regarding the wells located on the property and contractual matters with Xcel Energy and other parties.
 - Highway Dept. – Our office continues to work with the Highway Department on several issues, including the Highway 108/CTH C jurisdiction issues and various ongoing issues regarding the CTH OA project, including a number of condemnation cases which are still pending in the Court system. There are three separate appeals of jurisdictional awards which are pending in the La Crosse County Circuit Courts.
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 as well as child support matters.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Lange
Corporation Counsel

Register Of Deeds Office

2013 statistics

	Birth Certificates	Death & Marriage Certificates	Real Estate Documents	Transfer Fees	Total Revenue	Running Total for Rev not including redaction
Jan.	491	1722	2074	\$ 77,208.00	\$ 57,672.14	
Feb.	548	1274	1780	\$ 44,708.40	\$ 53,067.07	\$110,739.21
Mar.	514	979	1663	\$ 72,020.40	\$ 45,323.40	\$156,062.61
Apr.	548	1277	1973	\$ 79,364.70	\$ 63,318.33	\$219,380.94
May	422	1402	1960	\$117,910.20	\$ 73,582.63	\$292,963.57
June	434	1295	1942	\$108,011.10	\$ 62,331.47	\$355,295.04
July	543	1300	2077	\$137,471.40	\$ 79,582.99	\$434,878.03
Aug.	569	1165	1896	\$107,123.40	\$ 62,258.91	\$497,136.94
Sept.	504	1111	1546	\$ 82,789.20	\$ 56,238.74	\$553,375.68
Oct.	493	1340	1674	\$ 96,133.50	\$ 74,390.57	\$627,766.25
Nov.	328	1074	1342	\$ 63,966.00	\$ 37,992.15	\$665,758.40
Dec.	294	1128	1277	\$161,524.20	\$ 74,698.01	\$740,456.41
TOTALS	5688	15,067	21,204	\$1,148,230.50	\$740,456.41	

2014 Statistics

Month	Birth	Death & Marriage	Real Estate Documents	Transfer Fees	Total Revenue	Running Total for Total Rev not including redaction
Jan.	513	1501	1144	\$ 90,611.10	\$ 40,641.97	
Feb.	365	1417	1036	\$ 68,906.10	\$ 48,034.34	\$88,676.31
Mar.	421	1241	1095	\$ 61,184.40	\$ 43,206.20	\$131,882.51
Apr.	461	1247	1300	\$ 71,760.00	\$ 52,856.43	\$184,738.94
May	395	1204	1343	\$102,284.70	\$ 52,560.60	\$237,299.54
June	412	1115	1508	\$140,514.00	\$ 63,723.91	\$301,023.45
July	436	1144	1575	\$204,915.90	\$ 82,447.65	\$383,471.10
Aug.	475	1294	1486	\$145,973.70	\$ 71,219.51	\$454,690.61
Sept.				\$	\$	
Oct.				\$	\$	
Nov.				\$	\$	
Dec.				\$	\$	
TOTALS	3478	10,163	10,487	\$886,149.90	\$454,663.61	

Due to the continuing increase to costs of providing online access through Laredo, we unfortunately need to face reality and pass the increase on to our customers. The La Crosse County Register of Deeds office will hopefully be implementing new Laredo Access Fees and increasing the print/maintenance fee associated with our Laredo on-line customers.

Per contracts we currently have with users it states: "COUNTY reserves the right to amend these fees upon 60 days written notice to PURCHASER." We will be sending out new contracts soon, which will need to be signed and approved before becoming effective January 1st, 2015. If no new contract is in place by that time for each company their Laredo access will be terminated.

The following are some of the reasons we want to raise those fees:

1. **Upgrades** – These fees pay for conversion projects, software, computers, scanners, servers, wages, maintenance contracts, technical support and other necessary upgrades to the on-line system. We are working on getting the last conversion (1934 back to 1851) done in 2015. La Crosse County should then have all real estate related documents available online!
2. **Available Data** - The per plan fee schedule has not increased since online access was implemented back in 2003. The access fee has been the same for 11 years, even though the available information has increased dramatically. We now have plats, csm's, tract indexes, grantor/grantee indexes, general indexes, corporation documents, filed documents, and real estate documents back to 1935.
3. **Customer Convenience** - The monthly Laredo access fee that we charge users is for the on-line access to the records only. Customers save time and money because they do not have to come into the office to search. Records are available 24/7 not just when the office is open. Customers will still be paying a reduced copy fee by printing on-line; copies made in the office are \$2 for the first page plus \$1 for each additional page which is the statutory fee. Users can receive 4 times the prints by using the reduced fee vs the statutory fee. The price for Laredo online/unofficial copies has not increased since 2009.

Cheryl McBride
Register of Deeds

Emergency Services

La Crosse County has decided to further study future radio options rather than signing a contract with Motorola Solutions for an updated radio system. The final proposal was for a six-site VHF simulcast system for \$1.8 to \$2.4 million for radio equipment, plus an additional \$1.9 million for site development, civil engineering, consulting and contingencies. In the end, any discount considerations by committing to a purchase now would not provide enough value from improved coverage for \$3.8 to \$4.5 million cost.

La Crosse County's current radio system is nearing the end of life; however our service provider indicates our system does not need to be replaced until sometime between 2017

and 2020. This allows for an extended time where La Crosse County can continue to look for options that use reliable portions of our present equipment, plus provide necessary coverage and reliability improvements.

La Crosse County ~~still~~ will be expected to contribute approximately \$550,000 towards the shared costs of the City of La Crosse Radio project which will include the radio consoles compatible both with the new City of La Crosse 800 megahertz system and any future county VHF system upgrade. Also included will be a newly developed tower site, shared with the City's system. In addition, the La Crosse County Highway Department will use the present public safety simulcast system to improve their coverage, and still can be considered for additional improvements with the future public safety radio system upgrade.

Public-Safety Communications

July

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,578 (average of 83 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 95.85%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.57%
Average Answer Time: 4 Seconds
**5 calls more than 30 seconds*

78% of 9-1-1 calls were from wireless phones.

Total Telephone Calls 25,491 (average of 822 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	10,412
Fire Fighting	198
Emergency Medical	630

August

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,485 (average of 80 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 97.02%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.48%
Average Answer Time: 4 Seconds
** 2 calls more than 30 seconds*

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

Total Telephone Calls 23,036 (average of 743 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	10,380
Fire Fighting	195
Emergency Medical	638

**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

- County EM continues to work with the Health Department, the Human Services Department, the Medical Examiner and local health care facilities to develop a comprehensive countywide Mass Fatality Plan. The planning team met on Aug 13 and September 17.
- County EM worked with the Finance Dept to adjust the 2014 budget to allow the purchase of a 2009 Ford Pickup truck from the Highway Dept which led to reductions in rental car and other transportation cost estimates for the 2015 budget. The vehicle is being equipped with radio and emergency equipment and will be used for routine and emergency response activities.
- County EM assisted with the Camp Ehawee "Camp Send A Kid" emergency vehicle presentation on August 19 by delivering one of the Mass Casualty Team trailers.
- County EM prepared and submitted two grant applications to support a cooperative exercise program with the Town of Farmington and Camp Ehawee in 2015. An exercise contractor will manage the exercises if the grants are approved.
- County EM interviewed a candidate for an AmeriCorps/READYWISCONSIN intern program that will provide part-time service for one year in support of the Medical Reserve Corps, Citizen Corps, Citizen Emergency Response Team and public disaster preparedness activities. Tentative approval of the candidate has been obtained and his internship is expected to begin in late September or early October.
- County EM has been working with multiple Federal agencies to develop and prepare a significant regional oil spill exercise to be held in La Crosse County in October. The scenario involves a spill of crude oil from a rail road derailment into the Mississippi River and features a full day of training, as well as on-the-water oil spill response training and practice as well as the examination of local, regional, state (MN and WI) and Federal emergency response plans. Over 75 people are expected to participate.
- County EM and Emergency Services Administrator have been working with radio system providers and radio system consultants to assist with the City of La Crosse radio system replacement project. This multi-year project includes efforts to combine City components with the County radio system upgrade that is planned in 2016-17 in order to reduce some costs.
- September is the Emergency Preparedness Month and County EM participated in interviews and provided information to local media to share with the public.
- County EM assisted Gundersen Health System with a rural emergency response exercise program held in the Town of Shelby on Saturday, September 20.
- County EM assists WI Dept of Health with their efforts to connect all hospital emergency departments with public safety radio systems and Dispatch Centers.

**Jay Loeffler, Administrator
Emergency Services**

Elements	Health Savings Accounts HSAs	Health Reimbursement Accounts HRAs	Flexible Spending Accounts FSA
Eligible Individuals/Groups	Individuals, any size group. Must have a QUALIFIED HDHP (High Deductible Health Plan) coverage, no non-HDHP or Medicare coverage (partners in a partnership/2% shareholders in S corp/members in LLC can participate with some limits on tax advantages)	Any size group (partners in a partnership/2% shareholders in S Corp/members in LLC may be able to participate but receive no tax advantage)	Any size group (partners in a partnership/2% shareholders in S corp/members in LLC can't participate)
Maximum Annual Contributions	\$3,300 (2014) \$6,550 (2014) "Catch-up" for age 55+ - \$1,000 (2014)	Employer-determined	Employer-determined (\$2,500 per calendar year starting January 1, 2013)
Eligible Contributors	Employers, employees and/or others	Employer only	Employer and/or employee
Income Taxes — Employer Contributions	Not subject to federal income tax; subject to state income tax in a AL, CA, NJ	Not subject to federal or state income tax	Not subject to federal or state income tax
Income Taxes — Employee Contributions	Pre-tax payroll deductions or deductible on federal income return; subject to state income tax in AL, CA, NJ	N/A (employer contributions only)	Pre-tax payroll deductions
Funding/Trust Required	Yes (must be held by bank, insurance company or IRS approved trustee)	Not required (self-administered or TPA)	Not required (self-administered or TPA)
Fund or Account Ownership	Employee	Employer	Employer
Rollover of Unused Funds at Year End	Yes	Yes - employer's option	Yes, up to \$500 (OR) (option of limited grace period)
Rollover of Funds from Other Accounts	Yes - from another HSA; one time rollover from IRA	No	No
Portable at Termination of Employment	Yes	No, other than COBRA	No, other than COBRA
Minimum Deductible	Single - \$1,250 (2014) Family - \$2,500 (2014) Aggregate Family Deductible	None	N/A
Out-of-Pocket Maximum	Single - \$6,350 (2014) Family - \$12,700 (2014)	None	N/A
Rx Copay/Office Visits, etc.; Allowed	No copay allowed - all Rx must be "true deductible", other than preventative care.	Yes	N/A
Withdrawals for Non-Qualified Medical Expenses	Yes - subject to income tax and 20% penalty. No penalty after age 65.	No	No
Other	Cannot use to pay health insurance premiums, with some exceptions	Can use to pay health insurance premiums other than employer's major medical plan	Cannot use to pay health insurance premiums