



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

County Administrative Center
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Memo To: La Crosse County Board of Supervisors
From: Steve O'Malley, County Administrator
Date: April 13, 2015

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”

Lakeview Groundbreaking – Wednesday April 22, 2015 11:00 a.m.

With the acceptance of bids for construction of the new Lakeview Health Care Center Campus earlier this year, the County will hold a brief groundbreaking ceremony to mark the occasion on Wednesday April 22, 2015 @ 11:00 am adjacent to the current Campus, just off of Garland St. in West Salem, WI.

Reminder: April County Board Meeting is TUESDAY April 21st, not Thursday

Just a reminder that the April County Board meeting is set by State Statute and occurs on the third Tuesday of the month, instead of our usual third Thursday.

*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 April 2015

County Surveyor

WEBSITE UPDATE: The new County Surveyor website is up and functional. I am thrilled with the new look and functionality of the site. All of the maps in the County Surveyor files are now available for viewing through the site. I have had some very nice compliments from a number of website users. Michelle Jensen and Jamie Hundt from the IT department worked diligently in assisting me to develop the site into an incredibly useful tool. The link to the new site is: <http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/countysurveyor/>

MAP REVIEW: 2015 continues to be a very busy year for Certified Survey Map review. We have had 16 maps submitted for review so far (there were only 10 submitted at this time in 2014). In addition, two subdivision plats have been submitted for review, both in the Town of Shelby.

PRESENTATIONS: I had the privilege of serving as a presenter at the Wisconsin Land Information Association annual conference at the KI Convention Center in Green Bay on February 19th. The session was titled "Statewide Parcel Map and County Boundaries – Some intricate assembly required." Brenda Hemstead from the State Cartographers Office and Mike Romportl from Oneida County contributed to the session. The presentation focused on the challenges of assembling a State Wide parcel map as called for in Act 20. The presentation appeared to be well received with lots of interaction following. I found out later that the session was voted the "Best Presentation" for the conference based on a popular vote. Here is the link to the announcement:

<http://www.wlia.org/2015/03/13/congratulations-to-bryan-meyer-winner-of-the-2015-best-presentation-award/> I have also been asked to serve as a presenter for the Wisconsin Real Property Listers Annual State meeting in September and at the Wisconsin Towns Association conference in October. I have agreed to present at both events.

GEOSPATIAL MEETING: GIS Mapping Specialist Dan Leis and I had the opportunity to take part in a conference titled "Aligning County Surveying & Parcel Mapping Efforts" on March 13 at UW Stevens Point. Eight individuals were asked to make 15 minute presentations regarding some aspect of geospatial data. I was one of the eight presenters, sharing the topic of the Public Lands Survey System corners and the importance of parcel mapping being built on this vital foundation. The meeting was attended by over 100 land records professionals and opened the door for some healthy discussion regarding the future of the State Wide Parcel Mapping efforts here in Wisconsin.

FIELD WORK: We are gearing up for outdoor work on County survey projects in the days and weeks ahead. We need to finalize a couple of projects from last year and begin work for some new projects for County departments making requests. Again this year, we will maintain the Section and Quarter corner monuments throughout the County with the goal of visiting 5% of La Crosse County's 1405 corners.

*Respectfully submitted,
Bryan Meyer, La Crosse County Surveyor*

Metropolitan Planning Organization Department

This month we are completing the *Grand River Transit Service Enhancement & Policy Plan 2015-2025*. This plan presents existing conditions, performance measures reporting and recommendations to the La Crosse Municipal Transit Utility (MTU), the area bus system which provides standard “fixed-route” service and complementary paratransit for disabled people in the La Crosse, Onalaska, French Island and La Crescent area. This system is owned and operated by the City of La Crosse and continues to provide well in excess of one million rides per year.

As you can see by the plan title, one of our recommendations is to re-brand the system as “Grand River Transit,” invoking a positive image for the City and incorporating the “Grand River” from the Grand River Station and “Grand River – Great City” logo.

This transit enhancement plan provides realistic short-range recommendations for MTU to implement that would increase ridership and improve service without a large increase in budget. It also presents several route concepts that range from relatively low-cost service improvements to high-cost investments for new service—the recommendation incorporating a phased approach for short-range, mid-range, and long-range investments.

There are two interesting new routes that we are recommending based on our intensive major employee, university and on-board surveys, and public outreach activities. One concept is an Express Route providing more direct and frequent connections between the Shelby Mall, Valley View Mall and the Woodmans / Department of Motor Vehicles Area. The other is a new City Circulator Route providing convenient access for students and others to destinations including UW-L, Western Technical College and Viterbo.

The plan also includes modifications to move and enhance stop locations with shelters and signs and to phase in quality of service improvements.

If you are interested in transit improvements, or transit service in general, please stop in at the LAPC office in Room 2300 and we will be happy to provide you with more than you will ever know.

Tom Faella

Executive Director, La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC)

Zoning, Planning and Land Information Department:

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:



Scott Custer, Land Use Specialist

Scott has been with the Department for a little over 2 years. Born in Stevens Point, WI, but lived and graduated from high school in 2007 in Faribault MN. Scott graduated from UW Stevens Point in 2012 with a degree in Soil and Land Management and a minor in Biology. After graduation worked at Fort McCoy for the summer and fall as a natural resource technician and then began working for La Crosse County on October 1, 2012 as a special waste technician. He then began working with the Zoning, Planning, and Land Information Department on January 21st 2012. As a Land Use Specialist he works with the public in issuing zoning occupancy permits and deals with land use issues in the unincorporated areas of the County. He also assists in taking in rezone, conditional use, special exception, and variance applications. He draws

and prepares maps for permits and public hearings. A big part of his job is assisting and informing land owners on land use issues on their land in regards to zoning, floodplain, and shoreland issues.

“The part of my job I enjoy the most, is knowing I am helping La Crosse County and its residents to grow and develop in a safe and planned manner. I work with a very talented group of people and am grateful for the wealth of knowledge I have gained from them.”

On a personal note, my girlfriend Whitney and I have been together for five years and we have lived in La Crosse for 3 years with our dog Bogey. I have a passion for the outdoors and natural resource conservation. I enjoy kayaking, fishing, hiking and wildlife photography. My area of expertise is herpetology, so anything reptile and amphibian related.

New Staff: The Department has recently hired April Ammann to fill the void left by Mike Harding moving to Colorado. April is a graduate of Saint Mary’s University in Winona MN, with a masters in Geographic Information Systems and Natural Resource Management. April is a graduate of Holmen High School and currently lives in Holmen. You will get to meet her if you visit the office. She will start April 6th, 2015.

Permits: - Zoning Permits Issued Through March 25th 2015 - La Crosse County Unincorporated

2014 - Jan – March 25th Permits Issued	– 21		Value 2014 - \$ 1,736,300	
2015 - Jan- March 25th Permits Issued	– 28	Up 25%	Value 2015 - \$ 2,587,702	Up 32.9%

*Charlie Handy
La Crosse County Planner*

Register of Deeds

<u>2014</u> <u>Statistics</u>	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Death &</u> <u>Marriage</u>	<u>Real Estate</u> <u>Documents</u>	<u>Transfer Fees</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Revenue</u>	<u>Running</u> <u>Total</u> <u>forTotal</u> <u>Rev</u>
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.	381	1453	1528	\$245,077.20	\$93,776.88	\$548,467.49
Oct.	440	1121	1467	\$90,693.90	\$50,055.77	\$598,523.26
Nov.	320	1057	1214	\$79,347.60	\$49,386.49	\$647,909.75
Dec.	335	1312	1402	\$81,589.20	\$55,666.79	\$703,576.54
TOTALS	4954	15106	16098	\$1,382,857.80	\$703,576.54	

<u>2015</u> <u>Statistics</u>	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Death &</u> <u>Marriage</u>	<u>Real Estate</u> <u>Documents</u>	<u>Transfer Fees</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Revenue</u>	<u>Running</u> <u>Total</u>
Jan.	424	1357	1202	\$60,921.90	\$50,839.67	\$50,839.67
Feb.	465	1075	1231	\$92,474.40	\$48,641.62	\$99,481.29
TOTALS	889	2432	2433	\$153,396.30	\$99,481.29	

Since the beginning of 2015 this office has 2 new clerks, a new deputy & a new assistant deputy. Everyone has been busy training in their new positions & it will take some time for the 2 newest clerks to be comfortable with their duties.

We have been working with our software vendor, Fidlar, to do an imaging project from 1934 back to 1851. Once we have completed that project, I would say that 98% of what we have in this office will be imaged. We then can work on what hasn't been scanned, what needs to be rescanned, what needs to be cleaned up. It will be so exciting to have all of our records in digital format. Redaction money that has been accumulating to be used specifically for this office, specifically for these types of projects will be used to pay for the project.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl A McBride

Department of Land Conservation

The Department of Land Conservation staff has just completed its annual nutrient management workshops for County farmers. The workshops assist farmers in balancing their crop nutrient needs with the available fertilizers such as animal manures or commercial fertilizers. The purpose of the nutrient management plans is to prevent the over-application of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. Although these nutrients are essential to plant growth, too much fertilization can cause nitrogen and phosphorus to leach through the soil and into groundwater or erode from the soil surface and into lakes and streams.

This year the workshops produced 18 farm operators who developed 2,277 acres of new nutrient management plans on 34 different farms. There were also 121 farm operators who completed an annual update to their nutrient management plans that covered 29,295 acres of cropland. As of today, there are 44,167 acres of cropland in La Crosse County that are being farmed under a nutrient management plan. This represents 59% of the County's 74,500 total cropland acres.

A new program that has been implemented by the Department of Land Conservation is a Soil Sampling Workshop. In 2014, the Department of Land Conservation received a two year grant from the UW-Extension to help farmers learn the proper techniques for soil sampling their cropland, which is a critical part of a nutrient management plan. A soil test report tells an operator the nutrient levels in the soil so they know how much, if any, fertilizers to apply to the field for a specific crop. In 2014 we had 25 farm operators attend our soil sampling workshops which included 652 soil samples covering 2,954 acres of cropland. A third soil sampling workshop has been scheduled for April 1st, 2015 with 13 farmer operators expected to be in attendance.

There has been two proposed subdivisions that were submitted for a preliminary plat review by the Planning, Resources and Development Committee in the month of March. The Department of Land Conservation is responsible for reviewing the Stormwater Management and Erosion Control Plans for the plats before they receive final approval to develop the subdivision. Currently the Department has been without an Urban Conservation Specialist since the retirement of Mary Jo Webster last December and we have been trying to manage the extra workload internally. We do have a new hire for the Urban Conservation Specialist and his name is Kurt Rasmussen. He is currently employed by the Department of Natural Resources in La Crosse and has served as their Stormwater Specialist for 5 years before becoming the Water Resource Management Specialist. Kurt will join the Department of Land Conservation on May 18th.

Gregg Stangl
Director of Land Conservation

La Crosse County UW-Extension

- Facilitated discussions to engage the Community Collaboration to identify what is needed in the "Accountability Factor" in building a structure for maintaining neighborhood-level trust and responsiveness, and to plan for what is needed for community education as we continue to plan for the La Crosse Area Family Collaborative. (MMS)

- Karie Johnson joined the La Crosse County UW-Extension team as the Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program Coordinator in February of 2015. Karie brings a wealth of knowledge with six years of experience as a Nutrition Educator within Walworth County UW-Extension, a Bachelor of Applied Science degree, and is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Community Health Education. (MMS)
- Steve Huntzicker, Agricultural Agent, was recruited by and accepted employment by an agency outside of UW-Extension. The proposed state budget, if approved, will result in structural changes within Cooperative Extension. A request has been made to refill the Agricultural Agent position; however, until the final determinations, the position is in a hold status. (MMS)
- Two Pesticide Applicator Trainings were offered for La Crosse County farmers who apply restricted use pesticides. Farmers are required to renew their state license every five years by taking this training and passing the exam. All 16 farmers attending this year passed the exam with a score of 70% or better. (SDH)
- Fifty participants attended the "Agriculture Rules of the Road" workshop for farmers, local law enforcement and town officials. Information presented and discussed included the new Implements of Husbandry and Agriculture Commercial Motor Vehicle law, as well as regulations and the permitting process. (SDH)
- La Crosse County 4-H was one of three counties in Wisconsin selected to participate in the Eat4-Health partnership grant initiative through the National 4-H Council and United Healthcare. Two local events focused on "Rethink Your Drink", an effort to make youth aware that what they drink is as important as what they eat. These events reached 134 middle school students as well as staff and 152 K-5th grade students and their families. (JH)
- 4-H Shooting Sports continues to be popular among youth in La Crosse County. In the Archery/Pellet Gun program, youth are taught safety and proper technique by certified volunteer instructors. This 6 week program offered January-March reached 175 youth. (JH)
- WNEP provided an interactive nutrition lesson on quick and easy meal preparation to teen moms at Hope Academy. An evaluation showed that 5/6 participants indicated they planned to make a one-dish meal at home and 6/6 said that the lesson was helpful or very helpful. All participants were able to list a new idea from the class they planned to try at home. (KJ)
- WNEP provided a series of nutrition lessons and food tastings to over 150 students at Hintgen (second and fourth grade) and Summit Elementary (fifth grade). A survey of second grade students showed that before participating in the lessons, 22% (13/59) children had tasted/liked rutabaga and 34% (20/59) tasted/liked hummus. After the lessons a significant increase was noted as 66% (39/59) children tasted/liked rutabaga and 92% (54/59) tasted/liked hummus. (KJ)
- Facilitated the Port of La Crosse Harbor Commission's development and application of a Wisconsin DOT Harbor Assistance Grant. This grant application is being applied for emergency maintenance adjacent to the Harold E. Craig Fleeting facility. (KG)
- Presented a session board on "How to Build a Rain Garden" and other La Crosse Urban Stormwater Public Education materials to the Washburn Neighborhood event titled, "Spring into Gardening". This public education effort helps nine La Crosse-based municipalities earn credit for public education efforts required under their individual NR 216 general storm water permits. (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

KJ – Karie Johnson, Nutrition Coordinator

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

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Public Works & Infrastructure April 2015

Solid Waste

Xcel Operations:

Operations in the first quarter of 2015 continue in a normal fashion. Both BTU values and quantities of waste have been reduced due to the single stream recycling programs implemented by the city of La Crosse and Onalaska. Discussions have commenced on the extension of the Xcel contract. A gant chart has been preliminary developed to guide the discussions over the next two years. Monthly reports are being provided to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee. Actual negotiations are not expected to commence until sometime in 2016.

Landfill Operations:

Winter operations are progressing as expected. With snow melt and spring conditions litter pickup, interim covering and other activities are starting to be commenced. All roads and unloading areas are in excellent shape and a phasing plan has been prepared to guide landfill operations throughout the year.

Evaluation of Internalizing Landfill Operations

In 2015 a specialized consultant was retained to reevaluate previous decisions regarding the internalization of landfill operations, a contract extension with St. Joseph Construction Company or rebidding of the landfill contract. St. Joe's through various bidding processes has maintained a contract to operate our landfill for approximately thirty years.

An evaluation independently prepared by our Finance Department suggested that there may be some cost savings associated with internalizing the landfill operations in the future. After the landfill contract was bid in 2013 and four of the six bids were returned with errors all bids were thrown out. An extension of the existing landfill contract was negotiated with St. Joe's until July of 2017. The Solid Waste Department is reevaluating the three available alternatives to provide future direction on this important consideration. The consultant performing this evaluation has a national reputation and will be at the June 19th Annual Meeting at the landfill to discuss their observations of the La Crosse County Landfill and to talk about applying continuous improvements to the landfill operations.

NRMP (Natural Resources Management Plan)

As a supporting document to the County Board approved Master Land Use Plan for the Landfill, the NRMP was sent out to over 120 different individuals and organizations. Responses were due to the Solid Waste Department by the 15th of March. Responses have trickled in and although the replies have been nominal the comments are very encouraging and complimentary. Mark Steingraeber a fishery biologist from the fish and wildlife service stated "I find the current Master Land Use Plan and Natural Resources Management Plan ecologically sound and well-reasoned."

Another comment. "Hank - I did get to briefly look through the "Draft Conceptual Natural Resource Management Plan & Trail & Recreation Master Plan" and "Ecological Monitoring Program" by Applied Ecological Services. I really am impressed that you are maximizing

the value and use of a landfill for both the human and natural environments." Gerald. L. DeMers, P. E. Environmental Engineer, WDNR

And from Alysa Remsburg UWL Environmental Studies Program: " Thank you for sharing copies of the Master Land Use Plan, Draft Natural Resource Management Plan, and Environmental Monitoring Plan documents. I congratulate your department on such conscientious visioning for a healthy, community-supported future of the property you manage."

So even though the responses may have been nominal, respected peers of the landfill are giving valuable and positive comment on the plan and wonderful suggestions on how to enhance the landfill and its impact on the regional environment. A citizens public meeting for comments on the NRMP will be held on June 19th from noon to 3 PM at the landfill, lunch will be provided.

Sustainability

The Sustainable La Crosse Commission Met in February and the focus of the meeting was the indicators report. Rob Tyser is taking the lead with gathering information and a meeting was held at the landfill conference room in March. There's a new contact at Xcel Energy and the meeting was an introduction of committee members working on the report, its function, and how Xcel can get us the information needed to conduct the comparison of information from year to year, e.g. Kilowatt's used, therms combusted, etc.

On another note there has been some discussions with local organizations on pursuing a community solar initiative within the La Crosse Area, similar to an effort completed in Vernon County, I will keep everyone updated as to any planning going on. Over 120 students and others have been on the HHM/Landfill tour so far this year. Randy and Nick gave the second Sustainability Merit Badge day presentation in February to 15 students and leaders, along with several presentations to UWL students. Two student interns attended the annual Waste Integrated Resource Management Conference in Oconomowoc with Hank and had a display of their work available to other attendees.



Outdoor Recreation Alliance Summit

The ORA Summit was held at the Stoney Creek Inn on the 25th of March, ORA's main focus for the region is to make the Driftless area a Mecca for sustainable recreation when it comes to silent sports. They work on trail building, advocacy and environmental preservation in order to attract business and people to the La Crosse area. The Solid Waste Department was a co-sponsor of this event and hosted a bus tour of the landfill and surrounding trails. Hank explained the long term vision of the

Department in preserving the landfill for future enjoyment of our citizens and trail development. Hank was also on the panel discussion explaining to over 130 attendees (in only 5 minutes) that same vision and hoping to recruit new collaborations with the landfill.

HHM

After a slow February, utilization of HHM has increased in March. Currently household participation is slightly ahead of last year at this time.

During April, in celebration of Earth Day, HHM will again emphasize safe handling and transport of household hazardous materials. A portion of this year's advertising budget will be used to emphasize this, including an on-site radio remote on April 2nd.

The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) announced that it is going to sponsor two pharmaceutical collections this year for law enforcement agencies. DOJ will provide publicity, lined boxes, disposal and transportation of the pharmaceuticals from six consolidation locations. This program will allow the law enforcement agencies in La Crosse County to, inexpensively, dispose of their collected pharmaceuticals in May and October.

While the proposed Governor's Budget contains provisions that will have a significant impact on recycling and other environmental programs, the Clean Sweep Grant funding remained intact so far. This grant currently provides nearly 25% of the HHM's funding and is extremely important to its continued operation.

HHM staff has identified a Milwaukee company that can use waste latex paint in a manufacturing process and is collecting liquid paint to trial in their recycling process. While unlikely to be much of a cost savings over the current disposal method, HHM staff is investigating this as a possible sustainable environmental improvement.

Special Waste

Landfill staff is working with generators of some alternative daily covers (ADC) to resolve issues with excessive dust. Dust emissions are both an environmental and an operator safety concern. If generators are not able to reduce the dust content to a satisfactory level, the waste will no longer be able to be accepted as ADC. This would increase the cost for the landfill and the generator.

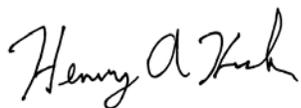
Important Upcoming Dates

Wednesday 4/15/2015 9:00 am to 3:30 pm Solid Waste Policy Board Meeting

Friday 6/19/2015 8:00 am to 1:00 pm Annual Stakeholders Meeting at the Landfill

Friday 6/19/2015 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm Citizen Informational Meeting on Landfill Master Plan at the Landfill.

Respectfully Submitted,



Henry A. Koch, P.E.

Highway Department

- We are currently repairing guardrails, brushing, pot hole patching and various other maintenance activities.
- This winter wasn't terrible, in fact our sheds are currently filled after taking our reserve quantities of road salt for this year. We purchased the reserve quantities available to us in order to avoid any increases in salt costs for the upcoming winter.
- As of today, the WisDOT has not yet responded to our submittal of the exceptions to standards report for STH 108 nor have they responded to a request for additional funds for the project. I still hope to bring answers to the Committee and Board in the April meeting cycle if at all possible.
- We have submitted a grant for safety improvements on CTH T between STH 108 and STH 53 under the High Risk Rural Roads Program. The estimated project costs for this grant is \$709,000 with 90% of the costs being reimbursed by the Federal Government.
- In conjunction with the Facilities/Parks Department, we have submitted a Federal Lands Access program grant for CTH GI and various improvements to the Goose Island Park. This Program is a Federal Highways grant program that up to 80% of the costs are reimbursed by Federal Highways. The estimated project cost submitted is \$3,609,355.

Thank you for your continued support for Highway operations, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

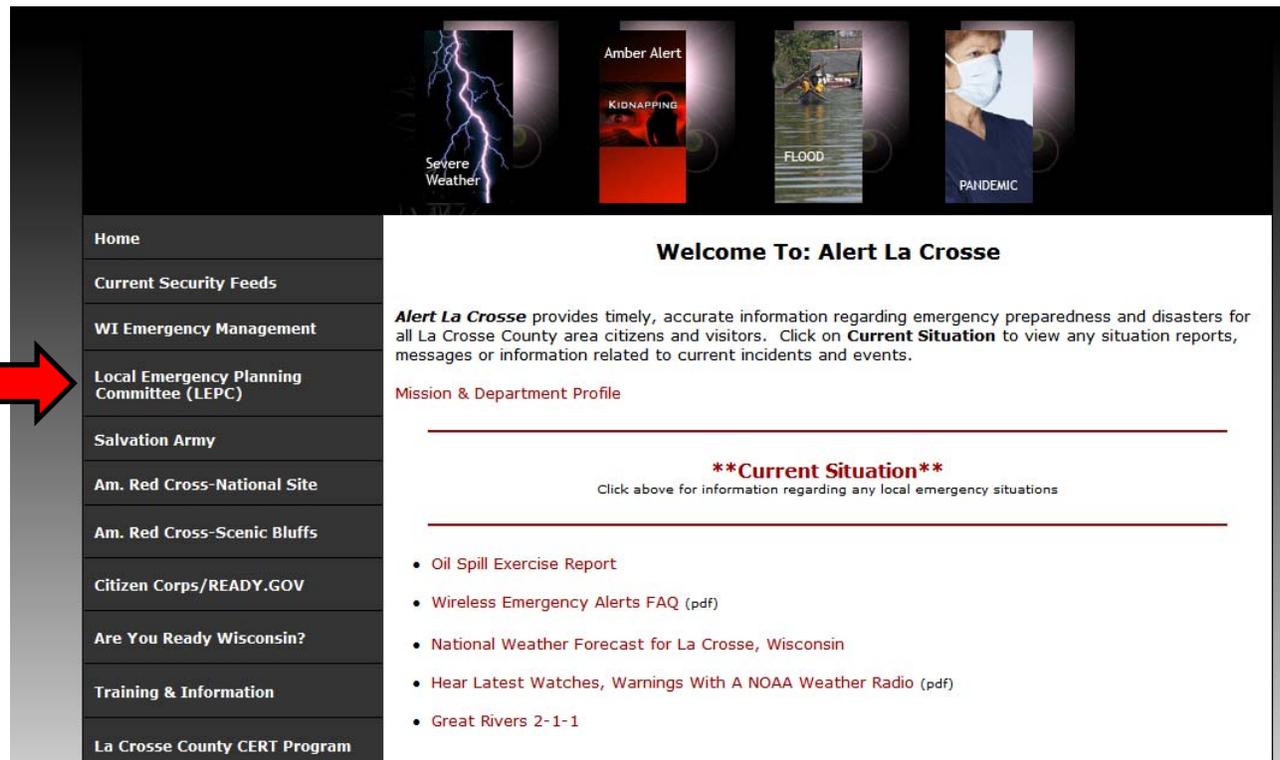
Respectfully Submitted,
Ronald Chamberlain

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Judiciary & Law April 2015

Emergency Services

One of the essential job functions in Emergency Management is to prepare off-site plans for facilities that house hazardous materials under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). Fifty of those plans are now available to the public on the "Alert La Crosse". Go to www.alertlacrosse.org and click on the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) link.



The screenshot shows the Alert La Crosse website. At the top, there are four emergency icons: Severe Weather (lightning bolt), Amber Alert (person in car), FLOOD (boat in water), and PANDEMIC (person with mask). Below these is a navigation sidebar with the following links: Home, Current Security Feeds, WI Emergency Management, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) (highlighted with a red arrow), Salvation Army, Am. Red Cross-National Site, Am. Red Cross-Scenic Bluffs, Citizen Corps/READY.GOV, Are You Ready Wisconsin?, Training & Information, and La Crosse County CERT Program. The main content area features a 'Welcome To: Alert La Crosse' heading, a paragraph about the service, a 'Mission & Department Profile' section, and a 'Current Situation' section with a list of links: Oil Spill Exercise Report, Wireless Emergency Alerts FAQ (pdf), National Weather Forecast for La Crosse, Wisconsin, Hear Latest Watches, Warnings With A NOAA Weather Radio (pdf), and Great Rivers 2-1-1.

Public-Safety Communications

January

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,262 (average of 73 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 97.30%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.91%
Average Answer Time: 4 seconds
**0 calls more than 30 seconds*

74% of 9-1-1 calls were from wireless phones.

Total Telephone Calls 21,070 (average of 680 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement 9,175

Fire Fighting	178
Emergency Medical	656

December

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls	1,958 (average of 70 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds:	97.04%
Answered within 20 seconds:	99.90%
Average Answer Time:	4 seconds
<i>* 0 calls more than 30 seconds</i>	

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

Total Telephone Calls 19,364 (average of 692 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	8,697
Fire Fighting	168
Emergency Medical	581

**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 Emergency Management (EM) participated in a regional climate change project (BRACE) on February 3.
- County EM participates in a regional Shelter-in-Place planning group to develop citizen, responder and mass media guidance for hazardous materials incidents.
- County EM has been appointed to an area WisDOT Technical Advisory Board for two La Crosse County transportation studies (regional and South Avenue). This work may coordinate somewhat with a County EM project to develop evacuation plans for communities along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad. EM attended WisDOT meetings on February 5, March 5 and March 24.
- The County Fire Officers Association met at the Holmen FD on February 9 and received a presentation regarding the Mississippi River Dam Pool 8 emergency plan and a report from the oil spill exercise held last October in La Crosse County.
- County EM met with UW-L Police to discuss radio interoperability with the new City of La Crosse system.
- County EM met with Airport officials on February 16 to discuss arrangements for their mandatory FAA tri-annual emergency plan exercise, which is scheduled to be conducted on May 7, 2015.
- County EM presented large project public safety planning information at the Ames Construction Company's annual Spring kick-off meeting in Burnsville, MN on February 24. The I-90 Bridge Project partners planning group will meet on April 6 to review high-angle rescue techniques and plans.
- County EM attended the Great Rivers 2-1-1 Advisory Board meeting on March 3.
- County EM attended the La Crosse VOAD Board meeting on March 9 and learned the Chair is moving to northern WI. The Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster group has been developing comprehensive resource and contacts lists to provide a coordinated response to any requests for disaster volunteer assistance.
- County EM, County AmeriCorps Disaster Preparedness Coordinator and one of the Health Department Educators attended the Governor's Conference on Emergency Management in Milwaukee on March 11 and 12. Two representatives from County IT

attended the cyber-terrorism training that preceded the conference on March 9 and 10.

- The LEPC met on March 18 and viewed another emergency notification system web presentation. County EM prepared a draft resolution to submit to the County Board to conduct a Request for Proposal and to allocate funds for a countywide emergency alerting system.
- County EM completed two Isolation and Quarantine planning courses in Onalaska on March 25.
- County EM obtained grant funding to examine Town of Farmington emergency plans with a focus on the Girl Scout Camp Ehawee. A tabletop (discussion-based) exercise was held on March 30.
- County EM is working with the Fitness Festival (Grandad Marathon) event planners to arrange for Medical Reserve Corps disaster medical tent support for the May 2 event.
- County EM is working with WI Emergency Management to help coordinate federal agency efforts to conduct a significant two-day oil spill exercise program in La Crosse County on June 10 and 11, 2015.

*Jay Loeffler, Administrator
Emergency Services*

Corporation Counsel Office

1. Claims Update.

- Liza Collins v. County of La Crosse, ERD Case No. CR201400387. This is a case where Liza Collins had filed a claim against La Crosse County claiming that the County of La Crosse discriminated against her because of sex and claiming retaliation by the County. On March 5, 2015, the Equal Rights Division made an initial determination of no probable cause. This means that after the initial investigation, the State Department of Workforce Development, Equal Rights Division, found no reason to hold a formal hearing on the complaint and dismissed the complaint. Liza Collins has 30 days to appeal the decision. If an appeal is filed, a hearing will be set before an administrative law judge. If no appeal is filed, the case will be closed.
- Joanne Fiers, Special Administrator for the Estate of Richard Bendel v. La Crosse County, d/b/a Lakeview Health Center and Mississippi Valley Health Services Commission. La Crosse County Circuit Court Case No. 15-CV-79, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, Case No. 15-CV-88. Joanne Fiers, Administrator for the Estate of Richard Bendel, has filed both an action in state court and in federal court on or about February 12, 2015. The complaints are the result of an incident where Richard Bendel left the Lakeview Health Center and then fell, sustaining serious injuries. Mr. Bendel died 4 days later at Gundersen hospital. The federal complaint claims that certain civil rights were violated under 42 USC Section 1983 and also alleges negligence, professional negligence and requests punitive damages. The state claim is based upon the same incident and alleges various claims of negligence against the defendants. West Bend Insurance Company, La Crosse County's insurance company for purposes of liability claims against Lakeview Health Center, has retained the law firm of Bassford Remele to defend and represent La Crosse County and the other defendants in the cases. The cases are in the initial stages of gathering information at this point in time. Our attorney has filed an answer on behalf of the defendants. I will keep the County Board informed of any developments in this case.

2. Ordinance Updates. Our office has worked on the following ordinance updates:
 - a. Change to grievance procedure under 3.09 of the Code of Ordinances.
 - b. Working on a Social Host Ordinance under Chapter 9 of the Code of Ordinances.
 - c. Will continue to work on updates to Chapter 5 Records Management, Chapter 7 Traffic Code, and Chapter 15 Solid Waste Management Code.

3. County Property Matters. Over the months of February and March, our office spent a substantial amount of time in working to complete the purchase and sale of properties involving Lot C – Weber Holdings, the purchase of Associated Bank, and also the sale to STIZO Development, LLC of the County Administrative Center. The closing on these transactions took place on February 26, 2015.

4. Department Assistance. Our office continues to work and assist various County departments regarding legal issues as they arise, which include the following:
 - Child Support Department – Our office has worked with Child Support Department by assisting in the hiring an additional child support specialist and the child support supervisor, as well as work on other miscellaneous issues.
 - Solid Waste Dept. – Continue to work on issues involving negotiations with Xcel Energy involving ash disposal and Xcel contract extension. Also work on issues involving the private wells located in the vicinity of the La Crosse County Landfill.
 - Highway Dept. – Continue to work with the Highway Department on several issues, including the OA condemnation appeals, Wanless site property acquisition, and other matters as they arise.
 - Personnel Dept. – Continue to work with the Personnel department involving County personnel issues, background checks and disciplinary matters as they arise. Also, work with personnel on County policies, such as a volunteer services policy and a furniture policy for County employees.
 - Human Services Dept. – Our office assisted the Human Services Economic Support Section in several appeals, including one dispute regarding a hearing on overpayment of benefits. In addition, our office continues to assist the Human Services Department with other miscellaneous issues involving contracts and issues such as the involvement of County staff regarding the impact of the recent proposed state budget on various County departments.

5. Court Activities. As I have stated in other reports to the County Board, our office does ongoing work on Human Service matters. Specifically, I would note that Megan DeVore, Deputy Corporation Counsel, will be working on a termination of parental rights jury trial which is scheduled for 4-5 days in La Crosse County Circuit Court and involves a substantial amount of time and preparation for the trial. Our office continues to work on child protection cases, mental commitment, guardianship and protective placement cases as they arise.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Lange
Corporation Counsel

Medical Examiner

We are off to a very busy beginning in 2015. As of the end of March, we have investigated 124 cases. We have had 42 scene investigations and 82 hospital investigations. We have had 7 suicides and 1 homicide so far this year. We have had 202 cremation permits issued so far in 2015. In all, we have investigated 251 cases to date. We have had 7 autopsies in 2015.

We will be implementing a new program sometime mid-summer called Psychological Autopsy. It involves bringing in family members who have lost loved ones to suicides. They come in and we go over an evaluation of their loved ones and compile information to a data base. This information will be shared with suicide prevention workers to help in warning signs of suicides. We will be one of the only counties in state offering this program. Tim Candahl has earned his certification in Nashville, Tennessee in February. Also note Robert Cooper Chief Deputy Medical Examiner has passed his American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigation Boards. LaCrosse County Medical Examiner's office now has two certified Medicolegal Death Investigators.

We will be in the process of hiring additional deputies in April. We have lost two deputies and we will be looking to hire three more in May.

Tim Candahl
La Crosse County Medical Examiner