



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

County Administrative Center
400 4th Street North • Room 3300 • La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601-3200
(608) 785-9700 • Fax (608) 789-4821
www.co.la-crosse.wi.us

Memo To: La Crosse County Board of Supervisors
From: Steve O'Malley, County Administrator
Date: December 3, 2015

Re: December Monthly Report to the County Board

Attached is the December 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”

December 7, 2015 Planning Meeting

We hope that the Board will find the reports at the next planning meeting interesting, since the topic is vital to the overall economic health of our region. County Planner Charlie Handy will set the stage with a Review of the Comprehensive Planning Process. Followed with a detailed update and review of the options being considered during the Coulee Region Transportation Study by Wisconsin Department of Transportation staff.

December 17, 2015 Regular Meeting

As is our yearly practice, I will provide the Annual Report of the:

- a. 2015 Year-End Highlights, La Crosse County Accomplishments and tax comparisons
- b. Analysis of County Tax Impact and apportionment 2015-2016

*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 December 2015

La Crosse County UW-Extension

- UW-Extension is finalizing the information gathering from other state Extension Services about what worked and didn't work as they underwent significant budget cuts. The framework of what the future UW-Extension structure will become is scheduled to be delivered to the Chancellor on December 18th. Implementation-planning work groups will put the details on the framework from January-June, 2016. The "Implementation of Models" will follow with final implementation not likely to happen until a future date, perhaps 2018. County partners will have a chance to provide input to the Work Groups during the first 6 months of 2016. (MMS)
- Served as an advisor to the Economic Security Workgroup of the La Crosse Area Family Policy Board as they plan for and test a data worksheet for gathering information programs available with in La Crosse County that assist individuals with finding and retaining employment. The data will include information from agencies that administer programs directly related to employment search and also agencies that provide services to assist individuals in addressing barriers to employment. (MMS)
- Financial Coaching has extended outreach to 16 additional county organizations. The financial coach continues to work in partnership with 40 clients including 10 new clients, all making progress towards their financial goals. Thirty-four sessions were held, with most clients continuing to work through a crisis and/or towards meeting their financial goals. Six clients expressed confidence in their ability to complete their financial goals and are in need of accountability with telephone check-ins instead of in person sessions. (MMS)
- Working with Teens at Risk Program Interns in reviewing evidence based prevention programs. This information will be used as UW-Extension plans for the restructuring of the summer and after-school at-risk programs. (MMS)
- 4-H adult volunteers participated in leadership training. The first training was designed for existing leaders and was delivered locally while incorporating a live webinar component. It addressed strategies for creating inclusive and accommodating environments for youth. The second was volunteer orientation and youth protection training for adults who have not previously held leadership positions with 4-H. There were six volunteers that attended this orientation and who are now certified to work with youth in our county. (SB)
- 4-H youth were recognized at the annual Achievement Celebration for their exceptional growth in outstanding project work, involvement in activities, and leadership displayed during the year. Gretchen Janvrin, La Crosse and Rachel Trautmann, Onalaska; received Legislative Citation Awards from State Representative Steve Doyle and State Senator Jennifer Schilling in honor of their commitment to citizenship, community and leadership. (JH)
- Planned and presented a review of the materials for the Rebuilding for Learning planning committee. The purpose of this meeting was to refocus attention on the materials and review potential directions for moving forward. It was decided greater impacts could be made by creating a shared funding model between the School District, County and City that focused on Rebuilding for Learning efforts. (KG)
- Continue working with Community Development organizations La Crosse Promise and La Crosse Neighborhood Development Corporation. Both of the groups are in critical phases of their organizations development. The LNDC is finalizing its strategic plan, while La Crosse Promise has rolled out its initial announcement of program funding for 30 new homes in specific City neighborhoods. While both organizations aim to improve neighborhoods, each works from a different approach and will complement the other. (KG)
- Nine women with young children participated in a 4 week series called Raising Healthy Eaters. Participants set personal individualized goals such as providing appropriate portion

sizes, eating meals as a family, setting positive examples, and replacing unhealthy snacks with more fruits and vegetables. (KJ)

- Eight senior individuals participated in a Cooking for One or Two class at the Onalaska Community Center. Following the class all participants who filled out a voluntary evaluation stated that they had learned something that would make it easier to make healthy meal selections. (KJ)

SB – Suzanna Barnhart, 4-H Youth Development Agent

JH – Jenny Holm, 4-H Youth Development Program Advisor

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

Metropolitan Planning Organization Department

At its November 18 meeting, the La Crosse Area Planning Committee reaffirmed its commitment to passenger rail service in La Crosse. Now that Amtrak has verified the viability of a second Empire Builder train, a number of partners have come together to complete a \$600,000 Environmental Study and Service Development Plan. The Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Transportation, Ramsey County (Minnesota), and the Minnesota High Speed Rail Commission have all committed funds for the study. The La Crosse Area Planning Committee has committed \$10,000 to retain a “seat at the table” to ensure that La Crosse is adequately considered in the planning process. With luck and a commitment from the two state governments, the new service could begin by 2018.

In other news, we remain committed to the success of the WisDOT Coulee Region Transportation Study. LAPC staff are working with WisDOT and the local municipalities to review and update the area traffic forecasting model so that the Study uses the most accurate data to predict traffic and properly size recommended transportation improvements. WisDOT has reduced the number of alternatives packages from 17 to about 6 based on input from area municipalities, agencies, citizens and advocacy groups. These alternatives will progress to a more detailed Environmental Study beginning in 2016. Any improvements recommended by this process would not begin construction until 2025, giving WisDOT adequate time to re-structure the projects based on changing conditions.

Tom Faella

Executive Director, La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC)

Land Conservation

The 2015 construction season for agricultural related conservation practice installation has come to a close. September 15th of each year signals the last day in which an agricultural construction site can safely be seeded and mulched which is needed to stabilize the site and protect it from future erosion. To do this any later in the growing season greatly increases the chances that the new seeding will “freeze out” or “winter kill” leaving the site vulnerable to erosion by wind and/or water. For urban construction sites, such as homes and commercial buildings, activity continues throughout the year.

Erosion control on these sites presents certain challenges. Seeding and mulching is a standard erosion control practice that works well from late April to early September but becomes nearly ineffective if done too late in the year. If grass seedlings have not put down a strong root system before the first “killing frost” of the year, they most likely will die and not provide the necessary ground cover needed to prevent soil erosion from melt water or storm water runoff.

For "over the winter" protection, practices need to be installed prior to the ground freezing. Erosion control mat is preferred over mulch since the mats are staked in to the ground and will remain there over the winter months and well into Spring. Grass seed can be sowed underneath the erosion control mat as a "dormant seeding" provided that the air temperatures will remain low enough so that the grass seeds do not germinate until after the winter thaw. Once the ground has frozen, other measures of soil protection must be initiated to prevent excessive erosion from occurring during snow melt runoff and rain storm events. The best erosion control practice for home builders to use this time of year is to only disturb the absolute minimum area needed to place the building's foundation and to place stock piles as far away from drainage areas as possible. Limiting exposure to the elements will protect soils from being eroded in late winter and spring when frost leaves the ground and soil becomes susceptible to water erosion.

The Department of Land Conservation has issued 35 more erosion control permits than it had at this time last year. There has been a surge in new home construction and home additions this year that we have not seen in the past 6 years. The Department also reviewed 4 subdivision plats this year. The Planning, Resources and Development Committee gave final approval to 3 of the subdivisions.

*Gregg Stangl, Director
Department of Land Conservation*

County Surveyor 2015 Year End Report

PETER FOLLANSBEE: The County Surveyor's Office suffered a huge loss on May 20, 2015 when my friend and colleague Peter Follansbee passed away unexpectedly at home. He was just 58 years old. Pete was an exceptionally detail oriented worker. He was meticulous, clear and concise. He also had a sharp wit and an amazingly clever sense of humor. He knew La Crosse County intimately due to all of the field work he had done throughout the county. He and previous County Surveyor Bill Jung reestablished the vast majority of the Section and Quarter corners in the 21½ years they worked together. In the six and ½ years I had the opportunity to work with Pete, his knowledge, experience and recollections were invaluable to me as a department head, other County Departments and to the residents of La Crosse County. On a personal note, I want you to know that I am a better land surveyor and a better human being because I had the opportunity to work with Peter Follansbee. Please know too that La Crosse County is a better place because Peter Follansbee worked here.

ASSISTANT COUNTY SURVEYOR: Following the loss of Pete, I worked with our Personnel Department to find a suitable replacement. Personnel did a fantastic job of helping me to upgrade the position and work through the reclassification, interview and hiring processes. I am pleased to report that we hired John Krage to serve as Assistant County Surveyor. John comes to La Crosse County after a nearly 30 year career in private land surveying, most of his work occurring in Buffalo and Trempealeau Counties. He began his duties here on September 8 and he hit the ground running, tackling assigned work with enthusiasm and a great attitude. He is also proving to be a good fit with coworkers in the Zoning, Planning and Land Information Department and the Land Conservation Department. We are indeed fortunate to have John as part of the department.

SCANNING AND DIGITAL INDEXES: One on the major projects John is currently working on this scanning the County Highway maps located in the County Surveyor office. This scanning project is a huge undertaking and John is working through it efficiently. Once scanned, these maps can be made available in our website. Many times, we receive requests for road right-of-way information and having this data on line will provide our customers with 24/7 access. John is also working to create a digital index for the highway maps and for the maps County Surveyor files.

FIELD WORK: 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 74 corners (5.3%) in 2015. This maintenance work allows a chance to check the condition and stability of the monument marking the corner, check the reference ties and set a sign when needed. As we accomplished necessary maintenance work, we also collected GPS coordinate values for many of these corners. These GPS values are then provided to our Land Information Office to aid in more accurate GIS mapping.

MAP REVIEW: As the department responsible for the efficient layout and division of land as called for in Chapter 18, we review Subdivision Plats and Certified Survey Maps (CSM). Review of land divisions in unincorporated areas of La Crosse County are subject to a review fee - \$300 for subdivision plats and \$100 for CSMs. For 2015 (through November 30), a total of 61 Certified Survey Maps were submitted to this office for review. Thirty of those maps are in unincorporated areas of La Crosse County and are subject to a \$100 review fee. By comparison, we had a total of 50 maps submitted for review in 2014. Certified Survey Maps in Cities and Villages are reviewed as well, but we do not receive a fee for those reviews. Along with the Certified Survey Maps, three subdivision plats were submitted for review in 2015. Willow Heights (Town of Shelby); The Quarry at Irish Hill (Town of Shelby) and Maple Ridge Addition (Town of Medary) were submitted during 2015. We also continue the intake, indexing, scanning and filing of all other incoming survey maps submitted for filing in the County Surveyor files. All of the maps in the County Surveyor files are available on the County Surveyor portion of the County website.

PRESENTATIONS: I had the honor of making four presentations during 2015. Those presentations are as follows:

- Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA) annual Conference February 12-13 in Green Bay;
- A State-wide forum titled "Aligning County Surveying and Parcel Mapping" forum in March in Stevens Point;
- Wisconsin Real Property Listers Association (WRPLA) at their annual State meeting on September 24, 2015 in Eau Claire.
- Wisconsin Towns Association (WTA) on October 26th at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

I truly appreciate the opportunity to present to these State-wide organizations and share with them the duties and responsibilities of the County Surveyor position and the importance of the Public Lands Survey System.

ONGOING RESPONSE: The County Surveyor's Office continually responds to our customers by assisting them with surveying and land ownership questions. These interactions take place via e-mail, telephone and face-to-face visits and can illustrate some very unique situations and raise some interesting and complex land ownership and title questions. For most people, a land transaction is a rare occurrence. Our office can often serve as a resource to help our customers understand how the land transaction process works and we are pleased to be able to assist them in this way.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan Meyer, La Crosse County Surveyor

Register of Deeds

2013 Statistics	Birth Certificates	Death & Marriage	Real Estate Documents	Transfer Fees	Total Revenue	Running Total for Total Rev
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	15067	21204	\$1,148,230.50	\$740,456.41	
2014 Statistics	Birth	Death & Marriage	Real Estate Documents	Transfer Fees	Total Revenue	Running Total forTotal Rev
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	
2015 Statistics	Birth	Death & Marriage	Real Estate Documents	Transfer Fees	Total Revenue	Running Total
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
Mar.	600	1404	1472	\$112,040.70	\$58,057.00	\$157,538.29
Apr.	471	1317	1471	\$91,679.40	\$59,192.83	\$216,731.12
May	421	1150	1531	\$134,194.20	\$62,438.57	\$279,169.69
June	398	1288	1919	\$157,791.30	\$79,838.18	\$359,007.87
July	516	1315	2002	\$158,394.90	\$74,349.56	\$433,357.43
Aug.	615	1144	1678	\$134,800.20	\$72,368.71	\$505,726.14
Sept.	505	1327	1640	\$107,868.90	\$72,690.77	\$578,416.91
Oct.	445	1311	1547	\$121,691.10	\$61,525.49	\$639,942.40
Nov.	412	1031	1337	86,118.30		\$639,942.40
Dec.						\$639,942.40
TOTALS	5272	13719	17030	\$1,257,975.30	\$639,942.40	

Cheryl McBride
Register of Deeds

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Public Works & Infrastructure December 2015

Solid Waste

Xcel Operations

Xcel operations continue in a normal fashion with waste tonnage expected to exceed minimum contract requirements for 2015. Of note, no outage has occurred in 2015 decreasing uptime. Conversion of waste into fuel (yield) is at an all-time record high. Problems with the receipt of oversized and bulky waste continue and Nick Nichols, Sustainability Coordinator, has been assigned to work with haulers and customers to try and minimize acceptance of such materials.

Landfill Operations

Landfill Operations continue in a normal fashion. The landfill has been prepared for winter operations with only minor cleanup to be completed in the next month or so. The processing pad has been completed and awaits installation of fencing. Proposals or RFI's for construction demolition recycling were due on Friday 11/20/15. No responses were received.

New Landfill Site Entrance

A meeting to coordinate activities with the city of La Crosse was conducted on October 7, 2015. Assistance has been requested from the county planner and administrator to help coordinate activities with the city regarding the site entrance.

Updated Solid Waste and Master Land Use Plans

Both of these plans have been updated and completed. Extensive stakeholder and citizen input was incorporated into both plans. It is anticipated that these updated plans will be brought to the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee and County Board for approval and adoption in December of 2015. The Solid Waste Policy Board and Sustainable La Crosse Commission has reviewed these plans and recommended their approval and adoption. Strong support has been received from various parties regarding both plans.

HHM

Since the Household Hazardous Materials Program began charging a fee to cover the rising cost of recycling TVs on July 1st, the number of TVs delivered to HHM has dropped in half. This decrease is one of the prime reasons that the program has seen a 10% drop in the number of users and a 20% drop in the total weight of waste collected. Delivery of other types of waste to the HHM program remains similar to last year.

HHM completed the final clean sweep of 2015. This year 1,660 users from eight counties dropped off 55,800 pounds of hazardous waste. The clean sweeps are funded, through a Wisconsin Clean Sweep grant from DATCP and by fees paid by users. In addition, Houston County received a grant from Minnesota to pay for disposal of pesticides and herbicides collected at that county's clean sweep events.

Sustainability

Eagle Scout Projects

The Boardwalk across the wetlands at the landfill was completed in early September and there was a ribbon cutting ceremony held on October 17th. This ribbon cutting also celebrated the completion of Eagle Scout candidate Grant Restel's Snake Hibernaculum. The Solid Waste Department received great press from this function from WXOW, WKBT, and the La Crosse Tribune. The story was picked up in the Wisconsin State Journal. Joah Strauss; another Eagle Scout candidate recently installed two of five scheduled bird houses. He's hoping to have the rest on the landfill by the end of the year. Brad Konsela; will be building several bat houses for the landfill that will help with pest control, these should be ready early in the spring. These projects follow the Solid Waste Department Master Land Use Plan for future development and enhancement of the landfill site.

Trails

WisCorps is currently putting together plans for next year's construction in the community forest, another mile will be completed sometime next summer. Nick will be meeting with the City of La Crosse Engineering Department to plan the trail connection to the boardwalk early next spring.

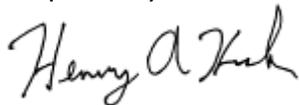
Other Events

Over 300 students and other members of the public enjoyed tours or presentations over October/November, this included 8 UWL classes, 5 Logan Middle School classes, several Lego League groups and the Mississippi Valley Conservancy and a statewide meeting of ASHRAE engineers. The landfill hosted a Jamboree on the air on top of the C&D site on October 17th. This Boy Scout event teaches scouts about Ham radio operation. In partnership with the Habitat ReStore a Choose to Reuse event was also held on the 17th, this program highlights reuse instead of disposal. Randy, Nick and Brian Kent (SEH) attended a demonstration of a leachate treatment system in Monroe County on November 11th. Nick presented the Master Land Use Plan at the Bluff Land Protection meeting on November 12th.

Sustainable La Crosse Commission

The Sustainable La Crosse Commission Meeting took place on Thursday November 19th. Nick along with the Facilities Department and Focus on Energy and the E3Coalition conducted an energy audit of the Law Enforcement Center and Hillview Nursing Home. A grant will be applied for that which will help with a lighting retrofit that has the potential to save over \$20,000.00 a year in energy.

Respectfully Submitted,



Henry A. Koch, P.E.

Highway Department

- During the month of November we successfully wrapped up our 2015 CTH U project. We placed the first 2 layers of asphalt this year and will be placing the final layer in the spring. This is being done in order to address possible settlement issues in the vicinity of culverts due to the late construction.
- The County highway fleet is completely harnessed for winter and our supplies of sand and salt are in very good shape as we start the winter season.
- The WisDOT has provided an extensive list of maintenance activities on the state system that will occupy most of our focus this fall and early winter.
- Additionally, WisDOT has provided several Local Force Account contracts for our services in brushing out upcoming STH projects, such as the rest area, STH 16, STH 33 and STH 35. This is being done to a recently discovered endangered species, the northern long eared bat. This bat resides in the area trees during the warm months and migrates in the winter to warmer locales, hence our contracts to brush during the winter.
- For our normal county winter work, in addition to winter roadway maintenance and the STH contracts we will be working on crack filling, brushing and shoulder maintenance.
- Looking forward to 2016 design projects, we will be conducting Public Information meetings on the CTH SN and CTH M projects in the February/March timeline as the design for those projects will have reached a point that we can give the residents a fairly detailed look at the proposed project that is coming in 2018.
- For our 2016 construction projects, it looks good for the CTH C/STH 108 transfer to occur sometime in the near future as the agreement language is currently being worked out. That means that we will finally be working on the new alignment of CTH C, primarily on the culvert replacement, replacing cable guard with guardrail and other miscellaneous items. It is then our intent to replace the existing pavement in 2018 as we are committed to projects in the Village of Holmen in 2017.

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 December 2015

Emergency Services

Public-Safety Communications

September

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,761 (average of 92 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 94.60%
Answered within 20 seconds: 98.99%
Average Answer Time: 5 seconds
**1 call more than 40 seconds*

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

Total Telephone Calls 25,458 (average of 849 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	10,342
Fire Fighting	197
Emergency Medical	609

October

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,655 (average of 86 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 96.08%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.70%
Average Answer Time: 4 seconds
** 0 calls more than 40 seconds*

80% of 9-1-1 calls were from wireless phones.

Total Telephone Calls 25,046 (average of 808 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	10,390
Fire Fighting	215
Emergency Medical	630

**National Emergency Number Association Standards:*

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

The City' of La Crosse's new 800 MHz system has been installed. In late November, testing was conducted to include a driving test for out-door coverage and an extensive indoor coverage test to include multiple locations in more than 100 buildings. The testing has been successful. In December, there will be a month-long, burn-in phase (live testing) with La Crosse's Municipal Transport Utility using the system.

The final cutover is planned for January with all city agencies using the system. This will include the new radio consoles in Public Safety Communications.

Emergency Management (Keith Butler, Coordinator)

- County Emergency Management (EM) provided a report to the Judiciary & Law Committee on October 6 that included a summary of the railroad incident evacuation plan project.
- County EM partnered with WI EM to host a Back to Business Workshop on October 7. Over 45 participants learned about business and organization disaster preparedness.
- County EM is participating in a statewide emergency responder credentialing project and prepared special ID badges for the Sheriff Department.
- The La Crosse County Fire Officers Association met in West Salem on October 12 and County EM provided a bi-monthly report. County Emergency Services is scheduled to host the next meeting on December 14.
- County EM attended the WI Emergency Management Association conference and the State EM Directors meeting in Oshkosh on October 14-15. The EM Director from West, Texas provided the keynote and afternoon presentations regarding the devastating fertilizer plant explosion that killed many responders on April 13, 2013. An afternoon breakout session was provided by the EM Director from Galena, Illinois regarding the crude oil railroad incident that occurred in March, 2015.
- A Canadian Pacific railroad engine caught fire in West Salem on October 20 and County EM obtained photographs of any evidence of fuel spill in West Salem and Bangor the next day. Photos were sent to the DNR. Minimal damage or environmental impact was noted.
- County EM participated in a WisDOT winter preparedness exercise held in Tomah on October 21.
- The County Highway Department is providing some vehicle maintenance service for the Communications & Command vehicle as well as the EM truck, which could result in some cost savings.
- County EM met with the County Board Chair on November 3 to discuss the conversion of the County Emergency Response Plan to a format that is consistent with State and Federal plans. A follow-up meeting has been scheduled on December 16.
- County EM is working with the Health Dept. and the Medical Examiner to complete a Mass Fatality Plan and some associated components, such as a Family Assistance Center plan. It is expected this planning process will be complete by the end of 2015.
- The Local Emergency Planning Committee met on November 18 and approved the request to seek funding for additional railroad incident evacuation planning for communities along the Canadian Pacific Railway (Bangor, West Salem, Onalaska and La Crosse).
- County EM participated in an agriculture disaster exercise held at the REACT training center at Volk Field on November 12.
- County EM attended a regional radio interoperability and emergency management monthly meeting in Whitehall on November 17 and received information regarding the Alma railroad incident.

*Jay Loeffler, Administrator
Emergency Services*

Medical Examiner

Happy Holidays from the Medical Examiner's Office!

News from the Medical Examiner's Office:

As we reported earlier, we continue to be very busy. It has been quiet the last year in drug-related deaths. That has changed in the last three months. We have confirmed three accidental overdoses. Two cases came back as methamphetamine overdoses. The third was a mixed drug toxicity, with methamphetamine, prescription meds, and heroin. We currently have two cases pending toxicology results. Suicide cases have slowed down the latter part of the year. We have had twenty-two suicide cases to date.

On a better note, we have reached an agreement with the La Crosse Catholic Diocese to secure their Diocese Building for a Mass Fatality Family Center. The building is located at 3710 Ease Avenue, in the City of La Crosse. In the event of a mass fatality in La Crosse County, we will have a command center in place which can meet the needs of the families who have lost loved ones. The center will host representatives from local hospitals, funeral homes, the Red Cross, and many other organizations, to assist families with necessary arrangements and tasks. A tour of the facility is tentatively set for some time in January, 2016. All Board Members are welcome to join us. Please contact our office if you would like to participate in the tour.

Lastly, we would like to inform you that we are moving! Our office will be relocating to the Law Enforcement Center Building, on Vine Street. We will be located on the second floor, next to the Child Support Agency. We anticipate our move to occur on Monday, December 21, 2015.

As always, you are welcome to stop by for a visit, or ride along to a call. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to stop by or call!

Timothy Candahl
Medical Examiner
Ph: 608-785-9638

Mediation and Family Court Services

It is with pleasure that I serve as Interim Director from October 19, 2015 until sometime after the first of the year (no later than January 13, 2016). A search for a director/mediator/child custody evaluator is now in progress by the Personnel Department. The goal is to move this along in a timely manner. I can report that we, at Mediation and Family Court Services, are providing families with services as our mission statement decrees. We are on track as much as possible. Because I am unable to serve on any Custody Assessment Teams because of my short term commitment, there has been an interruption in services in the Custody Assessment Teams (a 5 month process) and the custody evaluator role has had to be taken over by an outside source. This is an additional cost to the parents. This is unfortunate but cannot be helped. Hopefully this will affect only a case or two. There has been no interruption in providing services to the mediation cases or step parent adoptions.

The following are the raw data from January 1, 2015 to October 31, 2015 in regard to the number of mediation referrals, custody assessment teams ordered and step parent adoptions ordered.

Mediation Referrals

	<u>Ordered</u>	<u>Voluntary</u>	<u>Total Cases</u>	<u>Children Affected</u>
January	22		22	32
February	13	2	15	21
March	15	4	19	31
April	24	6	30	39
May	18	4	22	35
June	17	4	21	30
July	12	3	15	22
August	25	1	26	43
September	30	2	32	48
October	19	1	20	27
TOTALS	Ordered 220 (includes 27 voluntary referrals)			Children Affected = 328

Custody Assessment Team Referrals

15 Custody Assessment Teams were ordered in 2015, affecting 26 Children

- 4 in January
- 1 in February
- 3 in March
- 4 in April
- 2 in June
- 1 in October

21 Custody Assessment Teams were closed in 2015, affecting 35 Children
(some of these cases were carried over from 2014)

Step Parent Adoptions

3 Step-Parent Adoptions were ordered in 2015, affecting 3 Children:

- 2 in March
- 1 in July

Revenues January 1, 2015 to October 31, 2015

Client fees Mediation	\$5,240.00
Motion and New Case Fees	\$2,800.00
Step Parent Adoption Fees	\$1,050.00
Marriage License Fees	\$5,660.00
Post CAT Fees	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$14,750.00

Obviously this is not a complete financial report. November 17, 2015, Mr. Jonathan Edwards and Mr. Frank Baures of the Finance Department met with me to review the Mediation and Family Court Services budget and apprise me of how our department is doing and if we are on track financially. I was reassured and happy to report that we are well within our budget for 2015. If you have any questions, comments or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at 785-6162.

Respectfully Submitted

Bonnie Sacia, Interim Director

Corporation Counsel Office

1. Claims Update.

- Joanne Fiers, Special Administrator for the Estate of Richard Bendel v. La Crosse County, Case No. 15-CV-79. I have reported in the last several months regarding developments in this case. In the last report, our office had reported that the federal court had issued a decision dismissing the federal claims against the County, which left only state claims in La Crosse County Circuit Court. The County has now settled this case by payment of \$50,000 to the plaintiff. The County admits no liability as part of this settlement and the settlement releases the County from any claims regarding the incident that led to this case. Therefore, the claim against the County is dismissed as a result of the settlement and the case is closed.
- Dana Halverson v. La Crosse County. This is a complaint based upon a claim filed by Dana Halverson against the County for damage to her vehicle at the intersection of CTH B and Highway 16. Her vehicle collided with a County snowplow and Ms. Halverson alleges damages in the amount of \$3,349.49. She has filed a small claims action which was dismissed without prejudice. Ms. Halverson has brought this action again and the County's attorneys are contesting the merits of her complaint. I will keep the County informed of any developments.

2. Ordinance Updates. Our office continues to work on Chapter 5 Records Management and is evaluating the responses from various County departments regarding changes to the current County record retention ordinance.

3. 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 continues to work on providing legal assistance to the Child Support department as they arise and acting in court to represent the position of the Child Support office.
- Solid Waste Department – The primary work for the Solid Waste Department has been participation in negotiations with Northern States Power Company regarding extension of the Solid Waste Disposal Agreement with Northern States Power Company regarding the RDF facility on French Island. Hank Koch and I have met several times with representatives of Northern States Power Company and will continue to meet and negotiate a possible extension to the NSP contract. The contract expires in the year 2023.

- Highway Department -
 1. Continue to work on contractual matters involving the Highway Department, such as the transfer of jurisdiction between State Trunk Highway 108 and CTH C and other miscellaneous contracts.
 2. Continue to work with the Highway Department and Attorney Ben Southwick regarding litigation involving the County OA Highway project as follows:
 - a. As reported in the October report to the County Board, one of the condemnation matters had already been tried to a jury and the issue of legal expenses remains to be determined by the Court.
 - b. The second case involving Solberg v. La Crosse County has now been settled for payment of a sum of money in addition to the jurisdictional award paid by the County to the property owner.
 - c. A third case remains involving Schweir v. La Crosse County, which is set for a jury trial during the week of January 11 - 17, 2016.

Our office will continue to keep the County Board informed regarding the status of these various projects.

- Economic Development – Our office continues to work on behalf of the La Crosse County Economic Development Fund to assist with the required documentation and legal issues involving loans to 4 Sisters Catering and S&S Cycle.
- Facilities Department – Our office is currently working on the sale of County property to James Finch and also on various contractual matters involving the La Crosse County Facilities Department.

4. Miscellaneous Matters.

- a. Emergency Medical Services Contract. Our office has worked on a new contract between Emergency Medical Services Commission and Tri-State Ambulance by making changes as needed to the language in the expired contract.
- b. PACE – Our office has been involved in discussions regarding the possibility of La Crosse County involvement in the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. This is a program to help promote energy efficiency, renewable energy and water conservation upgrades for commercial and industrial buildings where the funding is secured partly by a special charge on County property. This particular program is authorized by state statute and our office has been involved in discussions with other corporation counsels and with WCA representatives regarding potential for La Crosse County participating in such a program.

5. Court Activities. I report every month on the fact that our office works on ongoing Human Service matters which involve child protection, mental commitment cases, and guardianship and protective placement cases. The number of hearings for these types

of matters has increased over the last several years. Our office also continues to represent the Child Support office twice a week in hearings and in other specific hearings when they are set before the Family Court Commissioner regarding establishment or modification of support orders.

6. Child Support Agency Report to the Board, December 2015.

The agency has been busy preparing for the move to the LEC which is scheduled for December 21st. Planning meetings were held with IT and Facilities to discuss and work out the details of the move. We have posted announcements of the move in various locations as well as online and we are inserting notices in all outgoing mail. The entire staff would like to express their gratitude to everyone involved in the planning and execution of the construction of this new space for our agency.

Starting in January we will be looking for ways to collaborate with the other departments located in the LEC to provide more efficient service delivery to the participants in our program.

Our newest team members are growing in their knowledge and experience as Child Support Specialists. We continue to look at various processes through the lens of the new staff to find more consistent and effective procedures within the agency.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Lange
Corporation Counsel