



*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: February 11, 2015

Re: February Monthly Report to the County Board

Attached is the February 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”

County Board meeting February 18, 2015: Lakeview Campus Bids

Next week's upcoming County Board meeting will consider approval of the re-bid of the Lakeview campus project. The final project will cost \$17.664 million with the alternates recommended by staff. Though this total amount is slightly over the original budget estimate of \$16.9 million, we believe the project is worthwhile and will contain all of the personal amenities that are important to our clients. The bids were very competitive during this time of year, and the cost will be able to be supported within our expected budget. We are very pleased that we were able to make important refinements to the design, while preserving sustainability as a high priority in construction

Also, for the board's information I will be taking a vacation out of the area starting Friday February 20 and returning on Monday March 9. During the time off I will be available by phone and limited e-mail for emergencies and agenda preparation for the March Cycle. If you need anything in my absence, Dave Lange will be available to make decisions in my absence.

*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 February 2015

La Crosse County UW-Extension

December 2014 - January 2015

- The second round of recruitment and interviews for the 4-H Youth Development Agent are on-going. The paper and preliminary screenings are completed, and final interviews scheduled. The first recruitment and interview process ended with a failed search. Robert Matysik retired after working with La Crosse County UW-Extension for 29 years. (MMS)
- The paper screening and preliminary interviews for the recruitment of a Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program Coordinator were completed in January, and final interviews have been scheduled. The previous Coordinator, Sheila Harding, resigned in August and relocated out of state. (MMS)
- The new Farm Bill signed in 2014 brought numerous changes for crop farmers. More than 125 farmers gathered at the Log Cabin in Bangor to hear more about the program and ask questions related to their situation. Since the program, many farmers have enrolled in the new programs or consulted with their local UW-Extension office to determine what options they might select. (SDH)
- The Ag Agent presented to a small group of dairy farmers in January on the topic of current dairy markets and related concerns for the dairy industry. He also partnered with Monroe County to host an Implements of Husbandry workshop for farmers, local law enforcement and town officials. (SDH)
- La Crosse County 4-H recognized three local organizations/businesses for their contribution in helping carryout 4-H education. Holmen American Legion Post 284, Holmen; Rainbow Ridge Farm, Onalaska and St. Patrick's Parish, Onalaska all were recognized as "Friends of 4-H" for all that they give to support 4-H Youth Development. (JH)
- 4-H Afterschool programming reached 60+ at-risk youth in the La Crosse School District on a weekly basis during October – December. The participants were engaged in hands-on science based lessons. Science is a focus of 4-H curriculum. Environmental education, robotics, aerospace, alternative energy, agri-science and engineering are just a few of the 4-H science programs offered. (JH)
- The WNEP Nutrition Educator gave in-school presentations on choosing healthy foods using MyPlate to 413 kindergarten, second and third grade students at Spence Elementary School. (MHL)
- WNEP staff shared information with parents at Gundersen Head Start about how to plan, shop and prepare healthy foods that stretch the food budget. Participants completed an evaluation at the conclusion of the class and it showed that 100% of parents heard at least one new way to get more for their food money that they planned to use in the next month. (MHL)
- Assisted the Grandview Emerson Neighborhood Association (GENA) neighborhood in the development of their neighborhood survey instrument. The purpose of the survey is educational in nature and will assist the neighborhood association in

understanding the population of their jurisdiction, as well as the needs and issues currently facing these residents. (KG)

- Presented the Challenging Trends in Housing in La Crosse program to the 7 Rivers Alliance Eco-DEVO Quarterly meeting. This program was attended by local officials and staff from around the region. This report was of particular interest to Winona, Minnesota; which is interested in this research since they struggle with their own neighborhood issues. (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

MHL – Mary Hoeft-Leithold, Nutrition Educator

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

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: Mike Harding: Land Use Specialist



Mike Harding has been with the Zoning, Planning and Land Information Department for 3 years. He was born in La Crosse and later moved to Stoddard, WI. Mike graduated from De Soto High School in 1984. Mike went on to graduate from UW La Crosse in 1989 with a degree in Geography and a minor in Anthropology. Mike was a teammate on the 1985 National Champion Football team for La Crosse. Mike worked at Solberg Geographics for 8 years before purchasing the business with a co-worker. The name was changed to Coulee Region Land Surveyors. He co-owned and operated a successful land surveying business for 14 years. He began his career as a Land Use Specialist for La Crosse County on January 3, 2012. He and his wife Angi have been married for 14 years and have four boys. They enjoy taking family vacations together to enjoy, hunting, fishing and camping. Mike also enjoys coaching baseball and playing volleyball in the summer.

Mike issues Zoning Occupancy Permits for construction projects throughout the County that meet the requirements under the Zoning, Shoreland, Floodplain and Tele-communication ordinances. If the proposed project would not meet the requirements of the ordinance, Mike would instruct the land owner the process needed to apply for a variance or a rezone of the property. He produces high quality maps for zoning permits and public hearings using ARC GIS. "I enjoy working for La Crosse County and helping the public to understand the various ordinances that pertain to their property. I strive to provide a high level of customer service to the land owner or contractor as if I were sitting in their chair. "

Update on Land Information: In 2014, as you may have seen in an earlier monthly report, the Land Information Side of the Department rolled out a new GIS web based application. We have been upgrading this site regularly with significant input. We have recently added 5 new apps to this site. We have also budgeted funding for a new 6" resolution aerial photo layer to be flown in early 2015. Ronald A. Roth GIS Specialist/Land Information Officer

Real Property Listing 2014: 2014 saw our office continues to be the liaison between the Department of Revenue and local government officials, including assessors, clerks and

treasurers. We strive on a daily basis to give the best public service available working with government officials, attorneys, title people, surveyors, assessors, realtors, the department of revenue and the general public to name a few.

The 2014 assessment and tax season ran very smooth using the new tax/assessment system that was developed by a collaboration of our office and our Information Technology Department. The amount of time and head ache that is saved using the new system after migrating off the AS400 is well worth the time and effort it took to produce this new system. Our new system is a constant work in progress as we strive to work smarter and make improvements to keep up with changing technology and to meet the requirements set by the department of revenue. Pamela K. Hollnagel, Real Property Lister

County Surveyor Year End Report 2014: *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 76 corners (5.4%) in 2014. As we accomplished necessary maintenance work, we also collected much needed 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.

Subdivision Ordinance Updated: The County Board approved our update to Chapter 18 entitled "Subdivision and Platting" at their July 2014 meeting.

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). We completed a review of a total of 50 Certified Survey Maps. Twenty-three of those maps are in unincorporated areas of La Crosse County. By comparison, we had 54 maps submitted for review in 2013. Certified Survey Maps in Cities and Villages are reviewed as well. We also continue the intake, indexing, scanning and filing of all other incoming survey maps submitted for filing in the County Surveyor files.

Assistance To Other Departments: We assisted the Highway Department on projects on County Roads A and AE, where we were able to locate and reference approximately 47 survey monuments which fell in the paved portions of these roads. We replaced most of the monuments on the portions of this project which have the final blacktop layer applied. We will complete the task in spring once a final layer of asphalt has been placed to the few remaining portions of the roads. The Land Conservation Department also requested our assistance to locate roadways/trails within Hoeth Forest. We also completed a four lot Certified Survey Map of County owned lands on and around the Lakeview Healthcare Facility. The map was recorded in the Register of Deeds office in early May.

Presentations: I had the honor and privilege of serving as a presenter at the 2014 Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors (WSLS) Annual Institute. At the request of La Crosse County Register of Deeds Cheri McBride, I also served as a presenter at the Wisconsin Register of Deeds (WROD) conference.

Ongoing Response: Senior Engineering Aide Pete Follansbee and I continually respond 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

Department Goal Setting: Each year, typically in January, the Zoning, Planning and Land Information office sets aside a couple of hours in a day to review the work completed in the previous year, and set goals for the year to come. We will be doing this process again on January 15th. In early 2014 we planned to accomplish an astonishing 28 projects that are typically not within our daily work routine. Of those 28, 24 are either completed, or significant work has been done so they can be quickly completed in 2015. This has all been completed while our overall permit numbers were up in 2014. It is also a certainty that many unplanned projects popped up and were accomplished. This Department Staff would like to thank the Administration and the County Board for their continued confidence in our staff, and for the important decisions that you make every month.

Nathan Sampson, Director

Update from Planning: In 2014 the Planning side of this department finalized, in cooperation with the La Crosse Area Planning Committee, an existing land use analysis for La Crosse County. We also utilized the 2010 and newer census data to update a significant amount of statistical analysis of La Crosse County Demographics for the upcoming update of the County's Comprehensive Plan. This side of the department also works on a number of projects with and for other departments and agencies, including a Bluffland Protection Planning effort, Significant Economic Development activities, Coulee Visions 2050 implementation, Town Wide Zoning map amendments, Farmland Preservation Agreements, Agricultural Enterprise Area Administration, CDBG Small Cities Housing administration, Contract administration for TIF 1 in West Salem, Contract admin for the 2015 Aerial Photo project, Administration of the Lakeview Business Park, and many more individual projects. Charlie Handy, County Planner

Update from Zoning: Permits: - Zoning Permits Issued 2013 vs. 2014 - La Crosse County Unincorporated

2013 - Permits Issued	-	293		Value 2013	-	\$ 30,180,713	
2014 - Permits Issued	-	340	Up 16.0%	Value 2014	-	\$ 29,432,847	Down 2.5%

County Surveyor

SINGLE FREQUENCY GPS EQUIPMENT SOLD: With the purchase of our new GPS equipment about three years ago, our old single frequency GPS equipment became unnecessary. We recently put that equipment up for sale on the County Auction site. We worked with Jim Becker from the Finance Department, not knowing where to start the initial bidding or what to expect in terms of final bids. I am pleased to report that we received a total of \$940 for the old GPS units. This amount is far more than I and Jim had anticipated and I am happy to know that the equipment will be utilized again.

MAP REVIEW: 2015 has started off as a busy year for Certified Survey Map review. We have had 6 maps submitted for review so far (there were only 4 submitted at this time in 2014). I am also aware of three possible subdivision plats that may be submitted in the near future although all three are at a very preliminary phase of the platting process.

PRESENTATIONS: On the heels of having served as a presenter twice in 2014, I have been asked to present to two additional organizations in 2015. First, I will serve as a presenter at the Wisconsin Land Information Association annual conference at the KI Convention Center in Green Bay on February 19th. The session is titled "*Statewide Parcel Map and County Boundaries – Some intricate assembly required.*" I will be co presenting with Brenda Hemstead from the State Cartographers Office and Mike Romportl from Oneida County. Our

presentation will focus on the challenges of assembling a State Wide parcel map as called for in Act 20. The second presentation will be to the Wisconsin Real Property Listers Association at their annual state meeting in September. I will be speaking to this group on the topic of Public Land Survey System corner monumentation. I've gotten to the point where I truly enjoy presenting to various groups, communicating the value of the County Surveyor as we work together with other organizations.

WEBSITE UPDATE: I have had a sneak peek at the updated County Surveyor portion of the County website and I am very pleased with what I see. Michelle Jensen and Jamie Hundt from the IT department have been assisting us with the update. There are a few details that need to be worked out, but the new site should be available to the public shortly.

COUNTY SURVEYOR FILES AND INDEX: Senior Engineering Aide Pete Follansbee continues to update the survey maps found in our files and work with our index. Many years ago the maps were filed by non surveyors so many were misfiled and incorrectly indexed. Pete is smoothing out those rough edges and clarifying those misfilings and improper indexing.

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

Metropolitan Planning Organization Department

In the long and seemingly never-ending saga of the "North-South Corridor," a new wrinkle has emerged – "The PEL."

On December 1, 2014 I attended a Wisconsin Transportation Projects Committee (TPC) meeting called to review and take action on new and existing WI Majors Program projects, including the US 53 La Crosse Corridor (the official name for the project fondly known as the "North-South Corridor").

Governor Walker opened the meeting by saying that since the local officials in the La Crosse area have reached consensus to continue studying the corridor, he would not be requesting TPC action. Governor Walker indicated that he would like to see significant progress toward a preferred solution within one year.

With the go-ahead to proceed, Joe Olson, WisDOT Southwest Region Director announced that WisDOT is conducting a *Planning and Environmental Linkages* (PEL) study that will identify the best possible solutions for the La Crosse area. The PEL study will be known as the *Coulee Region Transportation Study*. Possible solutions may or may not be eligible for major highway funding.

Jeff Gust, Southwest Region Planning Chief, kicked off the *Coulee Region Transportation Study* at the January 21, 2015 LAPC meeting with this background information:

- The *Coulee Region Transportation Study* will focus on identifying possible solutions to help resolve long-term transportation issues between I-90 and US 14/61. Objectives of the study, although not inclusive, will be to address existing and projected safety and congestion deficiencies, minimize environmental impacts, improve multimodal connections, improve livability and quality of life, and support economic development in the La Crosse area.
- The *Coulee Region Transportation Study* will employ extensive public involvement to develop comprehensive goals and objectives to address the transportation issues in the La Crosse area. The study will develop and test strategies that are specific to local community issues such as high congestion, above average crash rates, facility deterioration, natural resource constraints, multi-modal travel barriers and lack of continuous parallel and alternate routes within the La Crosse area.
- The *Coulee Region Transportation Study* is an opportunity to document and examine changes to the corridor parameters since the original environmental document of 1998. In addition, the study provides an opportunity to evaluate new alternatives such as Transportation Systems Management and Operations and multimodal solutions.
- The *Coulee Region Transportation Study* will evaluate existing “no-build” and future “no-build” alternatives as well as build alternatives that meet the study goals and objectives. In addition, the study will develop and test transportation system improvements that take into account and are compatible with the multimodal travel options (automobile, bus transit, bicycle, and pedestrian), and improvements that value and limit impacts to the La Crosse River, the marsh, bluffs, and neighborhoods.
- The goal of the PEL process is to develop a range of alternatives that would most likely meet the purpose and need, are likely to be locally acceptable, and carry them into the environmental process. The recommendations of a successful PEL study, as well as the economic, environmental, and social costs would be evaluated in great detail during the ensuing NEPA study phase.

Several groups are currently being formed to provide input to WisDOT including representatives of local municipalities, agencies, advocates and other interested parties. The LAPC will serve as the Policy Advisory Group.

Tom Faella

Executive Director, La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC)

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 for Total 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		
TOTALS	424	1357	1202	\$60,921.90	0	0

Cheryl McBride
Register of Deeds

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Public Works & Infrastructure February 2015

Highway Department

- CTH C/STH 108 Update – As you know we are waiting for the exceptions to standards report to be prepared in preparation for submittal to the WisDOT. Below is a paragraph from CBS2 explaining where they are in the process.

“A draft of the crash analysis is complete. The analysis consists of the entire corridor and select areas that had appeared to have concentrated crash areas recorded.

The existing horizontal and alignment are mostly complete. The existing surface model is going through changes and adjustments as needed along the route. Portions of a design corridor have been started with the C3 county design class templates.

Currently contemplating breaking the corridor into smaller sections as a 13 mile long corridor in Civil 3D can be unwieldy to say the least. I’ll consider that over the holidays. Once the corridor and surfaces are working together, the areas requiring beam guard can be determined and the formal Exception to Standards Report (ESR) can be completed.”

Once the final crash analysis is complete the Highway Department Staff will be reviewing what correcting the existing safety deficiencies will cost and bring that cost forward to the Administrator and Committee for consideration. At such time as the full Exception to Standards Report is complete we will submit that information to the WisDOT for consideration. Any exceptions that the WisDOT is not willing to grant will be analyzed for increases to projects costs and those costs will be brought back to the Administrator and the Committee for consideration.

As you can see, this transfer is a long way from complete.

On another note, the County Board Chair’s office has submitted another request to the WisDOT for consideration of a “Business 108” designation with copies of that request going to the Towns of Hamilton and Farmington as well as Senator Shilling and Representative Doyle.

Finally, the public outreach and aid will be considered when we know for certain that the transfer is going to be moving forward.

Please feel free to contact me with specific questions or concerns and please forward and that you hear.

- Under the leadership of Roger Ondeck, our Shop Superintendent, the Highway Department is the recipient of a 2014 Wisconsin Smart Fleet Program award from Wisconsin Clean Cities. Wisconsin Clean Cities is a designated U.S. Department of Energy’s Clean Cities coalition serving the state of Wisconsin.

- This winter is shaping up to be an average Wisconsin Winter. The budget is about where it should be at this point, salt and treated sand are in good shape and we are not aware of any shortages at this time.
- From an operational perspective, the crews are working on brushing, accident repairs, hauling in sand for next winter and various other road maintenance activities on the State and County Highways.

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

Respectfully Submitted
Ronald Chamberlain

Solid Waste

Xcel Operations:

2014 waste deliveries to Xcel were approximately eight thousand tons under the minimum required. However, a Memorandum of Understanding was in place and will avoid penalty payments. The decreased tonnage occurred since Xcel was down for major maintenance and waste had to be bypassed. A significant decrease of tonnage due to the single stream recycling program initiated in La Crosse and Onalaska also occurred in 2014. While tonnage was decreased the yield of RDF Fuel was increased by approximately eight percent and is approximately fourteen percent above minimum contract requirements. The diversion of plastics, paper and cardboard with the single stream recycling program has decreased BTU values of the RDF Fuel. This has reduced the energy credit by approximately fifty thousand dollars for 2014.

A plan to dispose of the Xcel Ash in a segregated area in the municipal solid waste site has been approved by the DNR and will allow capacity to the end of the Xcel contract in 2023. Discussions are occurring between Xcel and the County as to the implications of this approval. Xcel has received corporate approval to begin negotiations to extend two contracts at their RDF waste to energy facilities in Minnesota and has, on a corporate basis, approved an offer to negotiate with La Crosse County to extend operations at the French Island Plan until approximately 2030. A plan to initiate such negotiations is being developed for approval by the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee.

Such negotiations are not anticipated to be done in an urgent or hurried fashion and may take approximately two years to complete. The advantages of extending the Xcel contract from 2023 to approximately 2030 are: continued conservation of landfill airspace, providing sustainable energy for the community and operating under a contract without debt and interest payments after 2023.

Landfill Construction Activities 2014/2015:

Construction activities were completed under budget for 2014. However, because of weather conditions some work was not completed and the Solid Waste Department will be requesting carry over's so that this work can be completed in the Spring and early Summer of 2015. No major construction activities are planned in 2015 other than minor road improvements, processing pad improvements, some trail work etc. Until formal plans are developed for a frontage road it is not expected that any major construction work associated with a new entrance will occur in 2015.

Landfill Operations:

Normal Winter operations are progressing as expected. Frost depths and snowfall have not hindered operations. Filling in the new Phase VIIIA cell is progressing according to plan and alternative daily cover materials are being applied in the Winter. In the Spring interim cover will be applied to exterior side slopes as weather permits. An unusual power failure associated with the Gundersen gas to energy system resulted in some unknown damage to computer equipment in our gas to energy building. This did not prevent the continued flow of gas to their facility and little production time was lost. Gas flows were noticeably higher in October, November and December due to the 2014 construction of additional gas wells and a looped header in the landfill system.

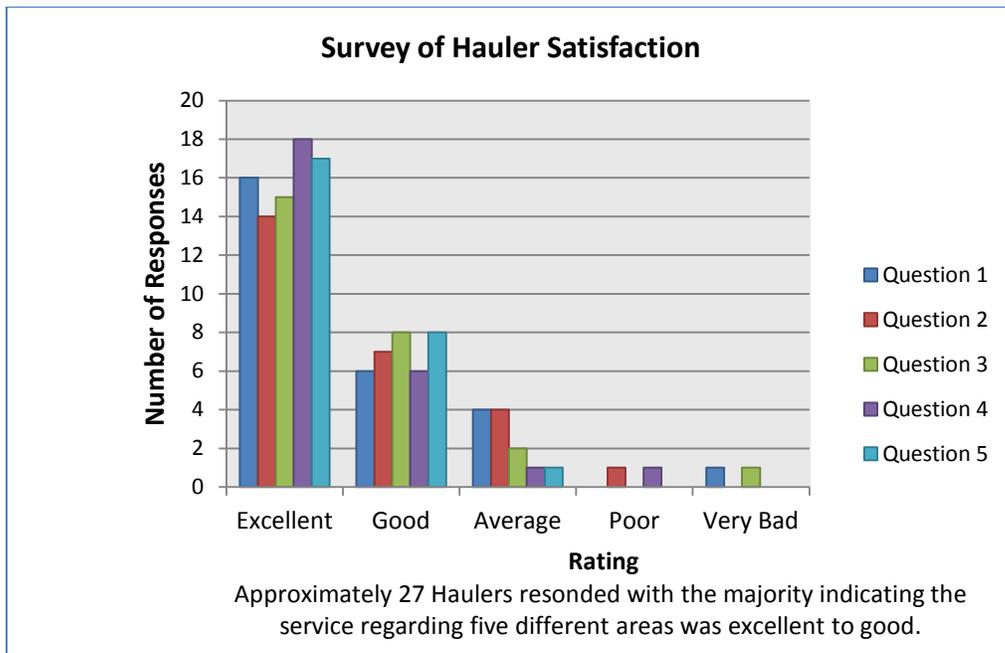
Engineering Consultant:

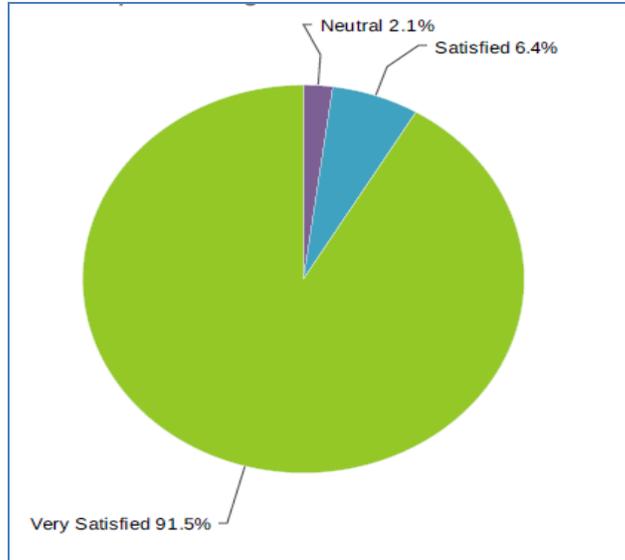
The five year contract for our engineering consultant SEH will expire at the beginning of 2016. Solid Waste Department has been satisfied with their services and the Purchasing Department has indicated that such contracts may be extended for a period up to five years. The Solid Waste Department will discuss this issue with the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee and provide a recommendation in March for an extension. The reason that this is being proposed early in 2015 is that in the event the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee would disagree with such an extension it would take approximately nine months to rebid this contract and would entail significant costs.

Customer Satisfaction

Throughout 2014 various questionnaires and surveys were performed of Haulers, users of the Citizen’s disposal area and Citizen’s using the HHM facility. Customer satisfaction was high in all areas.

One important findings of a survey was that approximately 25% of the users of the citizen drop-off area were not familiar with the HHM facility. This is an area where we can improve awareness and increase use of the HHM facility in 2015.

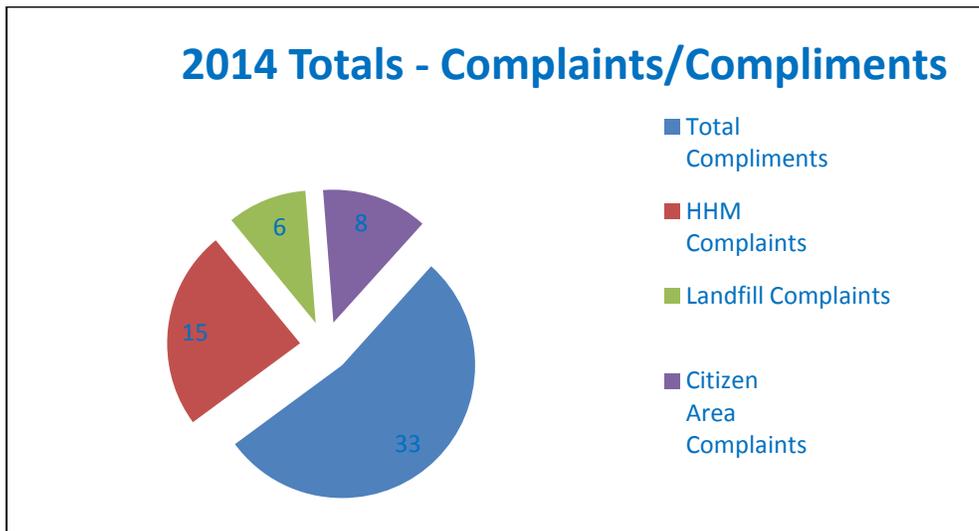




This Pie Chart shows that over 98% of the users of the HHM drop-off Program were very satisfied or satisfied

2014 Complaints/Compliments Log

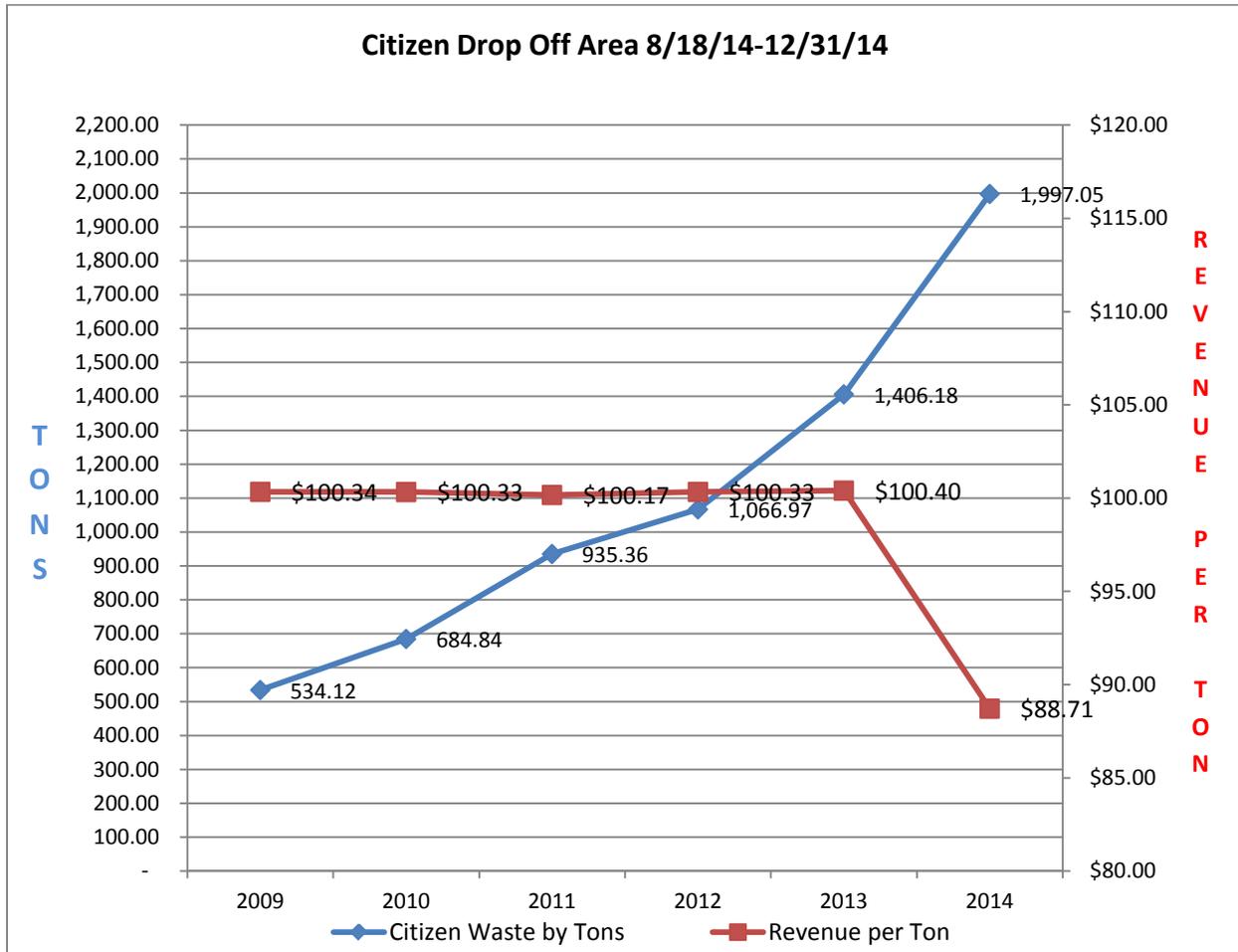
Complaints and Compliments are kept track of to improve quality of service throughout the Department. A total of 29 Complaints and 33 Compliments were received in 2014. A log of these Complaints are maintained and reviewed by Department Staff, Deputy Director and Director. The graph explains how the total Complaints and Compliments were divided amongst the different Solid Waste Department Profit Centers. By being attentive to Compliments and Complaints we believe that this attributes to the high level of satisfaction customers are expressing as indicated above.



Citizen Drop-off Area

New records for use of the Citizen’s drop-off area both in users and tonnage were achieved in 2014. The attached graphic shows the significant increase in user tonnage which was 42% over 2013. The graphic also shows that changing from a weight based system to a flat

rate system has decreased revenues by approximately twelve dollars per ton. This is being monitored carefully in the event that a price increase will be required in the future to manage this program within budget expectations.



Presentations and Tours

Almost 1600 individuals either took tours of the Household Hazardous materials site and the landfill or heard presentations by Hank, Randy and Nick. These included several hundred UWL and Viterbo students mostly in environmental studies programs. One presentation given by Hank was to the Wabasha County Board and one given by Nick was to the Houston County board, both partners in the Solid Waste system. Other presentations included UWL, Viterbo, and Western Technical classes along with numerous presentations on radio, television, and the La Crosse Tribune. Some tours and presentations may have been missed in our count but the numbers would have been nominal, along with being unable to count the numbers reached by media. It's safe to say a significant number of the local populace was reached in some way by the community outreach program.

HHM

For the second consecutive year HHM served over 10,000 residential customers. In 2014, 10,955 users dropped off 766,720 pounds of waste. This represents increases of 7% and 8% respectively. E-waste continues to increase, with over 480,000 pounds of e-waste being collected by the facility.

Collection of unwanted medications is changing, in La Crosse County. Recently seven local law enforcement agencies and Gundersen Health Systems have set up permanent, medication drop boxes. These drop boxes can collect both controlled and uncontrolled medications. Gundersen Health System has three drop boxes, located at their La Crosse and Onalaska campuses.

HHM will be holding a Medication drop off event on Saturday, February 21st from 9:00 – Noon. All medications will be accepted at this event. The DEA rule changes that made it easier to set up permanent drop boxes also made drop events more difficult to conduct. With 10 permanent drop boxes in La Crosse County, finding a way to dispose of unwanted medications is becoming more convenient for La Crosse County residents.

2015 Environmental Objectives and Targets

Each year the Solid Waste Department reviews its activities and their impact upon the environment. Based on that review the following Objectives and Targets were set:

OBJECTIVE: Reduce air emissions from the landfill operation.

TARGET: Operate the landfill below air emission standards set by WDNR.

TARGET: Continuously review special wastes and their handling procedures to minimize excessively dusty loads.

TARGET: Maintain landfill roads in a manner that minimizes fugitive dust.

OBJECTIVE: Reduce exposure to air emissions at the Household Hazardous Materials Facility.

TARGET: Maintain and operate facility ventilation systems according to manufactures' specifications.

OBJECTIVE: Increase the diversion rate of waste in the La Crosse Disposal System.

TARGET: Restore the diversion rate to calendar year 2012 levels.

OBJECTIVE: Reduce the risk of dangerous chemical reactions occurring in HHM operations.

TARGET: *Periodically review training and standard operating procedures to facilitate continuous improvement in the operation of HHM.*

TARGET: Implement a minimum of three community outreach initiatives to better inform the public how to safely package and transport hazardous materials to the facility.

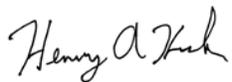
Sustainability

After a several month hiatus the Sustainable La Crosse Commission has been reconvened with new members and a fresh focus on engaging business in sustainability. A five year update of the annual indicators report was conducted and presented to the SLC in October and the results are impressive. Just a few examples are the Highway dept has saved a net of over 15,800 gallons of fuel, the I.T. Dept has saved over \$480,000.00 with paper and energy reduction programs. The Facilities dept has helped reduce energy costs by implementing LEED like standards into construction projects and other energy programs for over \$325,000.00 in savings, and the Solid Waste Dept. has brought in over \$394,000.00 in sales of methane gas to Gundersen Health System's Onalaska campus, making them the first health care institution nationwide to become energy independent. La Crosse County has much to be proud of and the examples above are only part of the story. Countless people

within the County both elected officials and employees have embraced sustainability and the result show in the County's bottom line.

A few of the other efforts and examples of sustainability within the program and Solid Waste Department for the last year include a community outreach program that resulted in over 1500 people taking tours or receiving presentations from Landfill staff, this also doesn't take into account the numerous radio, television and newspaper articles and programs that were accomplished or the Earth Fair with over 2000 attendees even with bad weather. Seven separate events took place with the Boy Scouts including an overnight campout during the winter in igloos, and a new event with the Civil Air Patrol launching rockets on two occasions from the closed landfill site. Trail development also was a great success in over ½ mile of construction completed in the community forest and the pedestrian bridge being completed. Collaboration continues to be a priority for the landfill with efforts to work with other organizations such as, UWL, Viterbo, and Western Technical College, the Habitat ReStore, the Children's museum and the EcoPark. 2015 looks to be another great year with planning and preparation into such programs as Mattress recycling, Bees at the landfill and the Outdoor Recreation Alliance annual summit in March. All of these programs and projects have extended the landfills capacity to engage the public and extend its sustainable capital. When people look for a shining example of what a sustainable and environmentally sensitive solid waste program should look like, they look to La Crosse County.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry A. Koch".

Henry A. Koch, P.E., Director

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Judiciary & Law February 2015

Emergency Services

Both Public Safety Communications and Emergency Management are coordinating with the City of La Crosse with their updated public safety radio system project. Part of the City's new system includes upgraded dispatch radio consoles that will be compatible with the City's Motorola 800-megahertz trunked radio system. Also, the City and County are working together on developing a radio tower site on top of the bluff above the intersection of County Road B and Highway 16 that will be mutually beneficial for both systems.

Each week Emergency Services participates via a conference call with the consultants, the civil engineers, City representatives and Motorola project managers to review the progress of the project. In December, Supervisor Coy Lynch traveled to the Motorola headquarters in Schaumburg, Ill to participate in the Factory Acceptance Test for the dispatch consoles. In January, Public Safety Communications and Emergency Management participated in a full week of fleet mapping, which determines what talk group channels are needed and assigning those talk groups to portable and mobile radios as well as the new dispatch radio consoles.

Work for the city project will continue with site preparations, followed by the installation of equipment. The radio system will be cutover in the last quarter of 2015, followed by testing. The actual "go-live" date is expected in spring of 2016.

Public-Safety Communications

November

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,185 (average of 73 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 97.72%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.82%
Average Answer Time: 4 seconds
**1 call more than 30 seconds*

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

Total Telephone Calls 21,559 (average of 719 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	8,484
Fire Fighting	177
Emergency Medical	579

December

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,300 (average of 74 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 97.39%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.65%
Average Answer Time: 4 seconds

** 0 calls more than 30 seconds*

75% of 9-1-1 calls were from wireless phones.

Total Telephone Calls 21,585 (average of 74 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	8,963
Fire Fighting	167
Emergency Medical	699

**National Emergency Number Association Standards:*

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

On Sunday, November 30th at 4:37 in the afternoon, the 10th million documented telephone call was handled at Public Safety Communications. The call was a routine non-emergency call from a citizen looking to talk with a La Crosse Police officer.

These are designated as documented calls because statistics began on January 1, 1984. The communications center, then known as the La Crosse Emergency Dispatch Center, opened on January 5, 1983. However, calls were not logged for that first year. Documented calls include 9-1-1 calls, non-emergency calls and out-going calls made by dispatchers. Of those 10 million calls, 759,348 have been 9-1-1 calls.

In 2014, there was 3% increase of total calls from 2013. This increase is after six straight years of decreases. 9-1-1 calls actually decreased by 1 percent from 2013, but the calls that generated a response from public safety agencies increased by 8% from last year.

Emergency Management (Keith Butler, Coordinator)

Events of note during this period

- The mandatory five-year update to the County Mitigation Plan was completed in 2014 and many of the 18 municipalities have submitted resolutions adopting the update. Participation in the Federal flood mitigation and post-disaster mitigation grant programs is contingent upon adopting the plan update.
- County EM met with Solid Waste officials on December 10 to conduct a tour of the landfill facility. Efforts are underway to develop and complete a comprehensive County Disaster Debris Plan which will coordinate with our efforts to convert the existing County Emergency Operations Plan to the new Emergency Support Function-centric Emergency Response Plan. The conversion project is anticipated to be completed in 2015.
- County EM continued collaborative efforts with the City/County/School District to prepare full-day safety presentations for front-line personnel who may encounter armed or aggressive persons. The School District personnel are scheduled to begin their training in January.
- Two US Dept of Transportation Hazard Mitigation Grant program grants were awarded to La Crosse County. The evacuation planning for communities/neighborhoods adjacent to railroads used to transport crude oil has begun and a separate project to assess emergency responder training needs for hazardous materials responses will begin soon. A companion project to conduct a commodity flow study with an emphasis on crude oil and other large quantities of hazardous materials will begin in early Spring of this year.

- County EM and County Health Dept officials have been working closely with community warming center staff to ensure adequate over-night accommodations for homeless persons or others with limited shelter from the severe cold. Efforts to provide additional warming centers were coordinated with the County VOAD group (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster). The additional centers have not been needed so far this winter.
- The final report for the major oil spill training and exercise program that was conducted in La Crosse last October was released on January 6 and that resulted in multiple area media interviews.
- Representatives from the County District Attorney's office were summoned to a fatality accident on I-90 last summer and it was noted they were lacking the required reflective vests for emergency personnel operating on roadways. County EM provided two new reflective vests for the DA's office recently.
- County EM will be working with other regional EM Directors to develop Shelter-in-Place guidance for the general public. The lack of guidance was noted following the November 19 tank explosion in La Crosse.

Jay Loeffler, Administrator
Emergency Services

Corporation Counsel Office

1. Claims Update.
 - Lueck v. LIRC and La Crosse County, La Crosse County Case No. 14-CV-799. I reported in the last report that the LIRC issued a decision on November 13, 2014 affirming the decision of the administrative law judge who found no probable cause to believe that the County retaliated against Mr. Lueck and who dismissed his complaint. Lueck has appealed that determination to the La Crosse County Circuit Court by filing a Petition for Judicial Review on December 18, 2014. This review before the Circuit Court is based on the record only and there will be no new hearing regarding his complaint. I will keep the County Board informed of any developments in this case.
 - Thomas Fuselier v. La Crosse County, Civil Action 13-CV-650. Thomas Fuselier had filed a federal action under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. Mr. Fuselier had slipped while taking a shower in the La Crosse County Jail and alleged that the shower was not safe and did not accommodate his handicap. On December 10, 2014, the Court granted a motion of La Crosse County for summary judgment and dismissed the case based upon the failure of Mr. Fuselier to exhaust his administrative remedies at the jail before filing suit. Therefore, this case can now be closed.
2. Open Records. Our office continues to assist various departments with open records requests as they arise.
3. Ordinance Updates. Chapter 22 – Historic Sites Commission will be available to present to the County Board within the next several months. We will continue to

work on amendments to Chapter 5 Records Management, Chapter 7 Traffic Code, and Chapter 15 Solid Waste.

4. County Property Matters. Our office has spent a substantial amount of time working on issues involving either the sale of county properties or the purchase of properties for the County. The following is an update regarding several of the properties:
 - Lot C – Weber Holdings - Our office continues to work on the sale of Lot C to Weber Holdings, including working on a temporary parking agreement prior to construction and also a long-term parking agreement for parking on Lot C and other property property to meet the needs of the County and the public.
 - Associated Bank – Our office worked on an amendment to the Associated Bank purchase agreement pursuant to the resolution passed by the La Crosse County Board in December, 2014.
 - STIZO Development – Our office worked on an amendment to the STIZO offer to purchase pursuant to the resolution passed by the La Crosse County Board in December, 2014.
 - Purchase of Schroeder Property – This purchase has now been concluded and the County purchased the Schroeder property on December 30, 2014. This is the property adjacent to the La Crosse County Landfill office abutting Highway 16.
 - Park Plaza Property – La Crosse County closed on selling the Park Plaza Property to Water Place One, LLC. on January 29, 2015. The net proceeds paid to La Crosse County totaled \$598,776.00.

5. Department Assistance. Our office continues to assist various County departments regarding legal issues as they arise, which include the following:
 - Solid Waste Dept. – Work on issues involving negotiations with Xcel Energy. These negotiations include ash disposal, Xcel contract extension and other contractual issues as they arise. Also work on other contractual matters such as rebate agreements with haulers and municipalities.
 - Highway Dept. – Our office has continued to work with the Highway Department on several issues, including the OA condemnation appeals, the County annual registration fee issue, Wanless site property acquisition, jurisdictional transfer matters and other contractual issues as they arise.
 - Personnel Dept. – Continue to work with the Personnel department involving different County departments, including matters involving employee discipline and several matters that involved employees with disabilities.

6. Court Activities. Our office continues to work on Human Service matters as they arise, including mental commitment, guardianship and protective placement cases, and children in need of protection or services. Megan DeVore, Deputy Corporation Counsel, has filed a number of petitions for termination of parental rights cases and has several jury trials pending. By the end of 2014, our office had filed 111 CHIPS petitions, 27 TPR petitions, and 24 CHIPS/Ch. 48 guardianship petitions. Our office also continues to work on child support matters, which includes assisting Debra Barnes and her staff with child support issues.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Lange
Corporation Counsel