



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

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Memo To: La Crosse County Board of Supervisors
From: Steve O'Malley, County Administrator
Date: October 1, 2015

Re: October Monthly Report to the County Board

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

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

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

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

January, March, May, July, September, November

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

“OF INTEREST”

October 5, 2015 Policy Planning Meeting agenda

The meeting agenda includes the following items:

- Overview of the County Administrator's 2016 Budget
- Awarding Bond Anticipation notes for the Lakeview Project
- Award Bond Sale for Highway work and the beginning of the Downtown Campus
- Executing an Escrow Agreement on the defeasance of Solid Waste Bonds
- Acceptance of Bids for Steel Material, Tile and Paving Work for the Downtown Campus Construction

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail.

County Administrator direct line: 785-9789, cell phone 608-385-3316

or e-mail steve.omalley@co.la-crosse.wi.us

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Planning, Resources & Development Committee October 2015

County Surveyor

ASSISTANT COUNTY SURVEYOR: I am pleased to report that we have 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 has 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.

FIELD WORK: With John on board, I have been able to turn more of my attention to Public Lands Survey System (PLSS) corner maintenance. Our department goal is to visit and maintain a minimum of 5% of La Crosse County's 1405 corner monuments (5% of 1405 is 71 corner locations). So far this year we have maintained 52 Section and Quarter corner monuments. Maintenance 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.

MAP REVIEW: 2015 continues to be a busy year for Certified Survey Map review. We have had 51 maps submitted for review so far (33 were submitted at this time in 2014). In addition, the final plat of Willow Heights (Town of Shelby) was just approved by the Planning Resources and Development Committee. Two more plats – The Quarry at Irish Hill (Town of Shelby) and Maple Ridge Addition (Town of Medary) have been submitted as preliminary plats.

PRESENTATIONS: I had the honor of presenting for the Wisconsin Real Property Listers Association (WRPLA) at their annual State meeting on September 24, 2015 in Eau Claire. I was invited to present by La Crosse County Real Property Lister Pam Hollnagel. The topic was "The Office of County Surveyor and Remonumentation" and appeared to be very well received. The group had some great questions at the end. I will be presenting again for the Wisconsin Towns Association (WTA) on October 26th at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells on the topic: "The Public Lands Survey System – A Dependable Network for Land Ownership". I truly appreciate the opportunity to present to these two great 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

La Crosse County UW-Extension

- Facilitated discussions with the Human Services Management Team on The 24 Carrot Manager. The training focused on how recognition and rewards improve the relationships employees have with their organizations and their leaders, resulting in retaining top performers and enhancing performance with all employees. (MMS)
- La Crosse County UW-Extension faculty assisted in facilitating two public listening sessions as a part of the UW System state-wide comprehensive strategic planning process. Over 120 healthcare professionals and general public looked at major issues impacting the healthcare industry, including health and wellness, major issues facing the State of Wisconsin, and what role the University of Wisconsin should play to help address the most critical challenges and opportunities. (MMS)
- Twenty-two youth participated in the summer program for at-risk teens. The program, based in experiential learning methodologies, offered a variety of activities that helped youth to build positive relationships with others and animals, increase their awareness of self and others, and increase their trust and respect of self and others. The summer program was offered in collaboration with Logan Middle School and La Crosse County Human Services. (MMS)
- Financial Coaching in La Crosse outreach has extended to 30 county organizations. The financial coach has worked in partnership with 30 clients seeking to achieve their financial goals. Sixty-five sessions have been held with 24 of the 30 clients working through a crisis and/or working towards their financial goals. Clients have expressed increased confidence in their ability to manage their finances; to reach their goals has and they have stated that they feel less stressed over their finances. (MMS)
- Forty 4-H youth, ranging in age from kindergarten to 11th grade, recently submitted 94 projects in yearly annual record books to be evaluated by adult leaders. Record books encourage youth to reflect on their past project year, set and achieve goals, and determine how they can learn from their experiences. (SB)
- The annual 4-H Horse Project Champ Show involved 95 youth participants from 19 Wisconsin Counties. Horse project members must have received a 1st or a 2nd in qualifying classes at their county fair to participate. The purpose is to provide opportunities for members to grow in their project, by promoting a positive atmosphere of learning and camaraderie, while focusing on safety and good sportsmanship. (JH)
- Presented the local research titled "Annual Cost of Home Ownership in La Crosse County" to the La Crosse Chamber of Commerce's Cracker-barrel program per request of the Chamber. This program was well attended and attendees learned about the variations in home ownership expenses related to location in various parts of La Crosse County. (KG)
- Assisted the La Crosse Promise towards their initial goal of raising \$1.5 million dollars to begin their Phase 2 Neighborhood Renovation Place-based scholarship programs. Through this and other efforts, the organization also was able to secure a partnership between 10 local banks and credit unions to create a lenders consortium for new and renovated homes located in the two neighborhoods initially focused on by the La Crosse promise program – Washburn, and the Powell-Poage-Hamilton neighborhoods. (KG)
- WNEP partnered with WAFER Food Pantry to provide nutrition education to pantry participants on freezing abundant pantry produce for use during months when less fresh produce is available. All participants stated that they were likely or very likely to use what they learned and that they were going to try to eat more vegetables each day. (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

Zoning, Planning and Land Information

The construction season for installing certain conservation practices has technically come to a close this year. Conservation practice installation that disturbs the soil and requires seeding and mulching to stabilize the site should be completed by September 15th to avoid a killing frost. Other practices that don't require seeding and mulching can continue through the winter although any projects that use concrete must be covered and kept between a minimum temperature of 40 degrees and a maximum of 80 degrees. This can add extensive costs to a project and therefore not recommended by our Department. Since the summer season has been extended for a few weeks due to the nice weather, construction is still ongoing on projects such as Subdivision Development, Dairy Farm Expansion and single family home building. The Department of Land Conservation plays an important role in all these situations so that soil erosion and runoff is completely controlled and does not pollute our surface waters or cause damage to neighboring properties. Department staff will be busy looking at potential conservation practice installation sites for 2016 over the next three months and sign cost share assistance agreements with participating landowners in preparation of next year's construction season.

Department staff have been involved with meetings and workgroups for the Friends of the Marsh organization and the Wisconsin River Alliance to develop solutions to problems of sedimentation in the La Crosse Marsh and the continuing threat of aquatic invasive species. Both organizations are partners with the Department to utilize our expertise in erosion control and land use management as well as our ability to tap into State and Federal Grants. We look forward to partnering with these folks in the future.

*Gregg Stangl, Director
Zoning, Planning & Land Information*

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:



Annette Kirchhoff: Real Property Lister Specialist

Annette has been with the Department since April of 2007. Born in Burlington, WI and moving to Bell Center, WI at the age of 5. She attended grade school, middle school and high school at North Crawford in Gays Mills, WI. Annette did many odd jobs, mostly factory, during the first few years out of high school. She went back to school to obtain an Associate Degree as a paralegal in 1992 at Southwest Technical College. After graduating she obtained employment for approximately 5 years working in the Title Insurance Industry as a licensed Title Insurance Agent. In 1999 Annette took a position with Vernon County as the Land Description Clerk, taking maternity leave in July of 2004. Annette returned to work in January of 2006 as a Paralegal for a local Real Estate Company, Secluded Land Company, in De Soto Wisconsin before applying for her current position with La Crosse County. As the Real Property Lister Specialist, she works with the Register of Deeds Office to obtain current real estate transactions and make the appropriate changes to the tax roll. She also updates the mailing

addresses; assists the public with their real estate transactions; works combinations and splits when land is subdivided and works directly with the Zoning and Surveying staff. Searching documents in the Register of Deeds office; working with local attorneys and Title Insurance Companies to assist them in obtaining current, reliable legal descriptions or correcting documents that have been recorded in error. Working with local assessors to make sure they have accurate information for the assessing process. "I very much enjoy my position with La Crosse County. With a lot of public contact and fantastic co-workers, there is never a dull moment and I look forward to coming to work. I love putting together the big "puzzle" when a complicated land division comes in and have always appreciated working with the public; the feeling of satisfaction sending someone on their way knowing I helped them understand the taxing and assessing process a little better always makes my day a little brighter." Annette has been married for 12 years and has two (2) daughters, 24 and 19 and two (2) sons, 11. Her husband grew up in Sumner IA, but has been a Wisconsinite for about 35 years. They own a small hobby farm in Crawford County, WI about 45 miles south of La Crosse. Annette's interests outside of work include, reading, camping, boating on the Mississippi, her children's sporting events and just enjoying her family and friends in general.

Department Notes: The Land Information Department is working with Ayers and Associates to receive 2015 aerial photos. These will be 6" resolution photos that will add to our geographic information package an up to date, accurate set of photography. We have significant requests for this information from internal departments, external professionals and the general public. We have done quality control review of the product and already have 2015 tiles. We expect to have the 2015 complete mosaic this month. The Committee has held a public hearing on the minor adjustments to the zoning ordinance and will recommend for consideration a first reading of the amendments to the current Zoning Ordinance. These recommended updates for Chapter 17 are mostly pertaining to receiving certification from DATCP as a Farmland Preservation certified ordinance. Expect to see at the October County Board Meeting.

Permits: - Zoning Permits Issued through July 31st 2015- La Crosse County Unincorporated

2014-Jan-Sept. 30th Permits Issued- 294

Value 2014- \$24,346,707

2015-Jan-July 31st Permits Issued- 278 Down 5.4%

Value 2015- \$27,818,926

Up 14.2%

*Submitted by
Charlie Handy
La Crosse County Planner*

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	\$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		\$505,726.14
Oct.						\$505,726.14
Nov.						\$505,726.14
Dec.						\$505,726.14
TOTALS	4415	11377	14146	\$1,050,165.90	\$505,726.14	

Respectfully submitted, Cheryl A McBride, Register of Deeds

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Public Works & Infrastructure October 2015

Solid Waste

Xcel Operations

Operations at Xcel continue in a normal fashion with the waste tonnage expected to exceed minimum contract requirements for 2015. Increased amounts of oversized and bulky waste (OBW) are being received. A Hauler's meeting was held on September 24th at Xcel to discuss ways of minimizing unacceptable and OBW waste from being received at Xcel. A meeting to discuss issues relevant to a contract extension with Xcel has been scheduled for October 13, 2015.

Landfill Operations

Landfill operations continue in a normal fashion. Increased tonnages of municipal solid waste and demolition have been received at the landfill which will result in exceeding budget revenue projections for 2015. Activities at the landfill are being conducted to prepare the site for winter operations.

New Landfill Site Entrance

Preliminary earthwork for a new site entrance on the landfill property will be initiated in October. A final design for the frontage road by the City of La Crosse has not been completed. Internal design considerations for the new site entrance are continuing to be developed by the Solid Waste Department. A meeting to coordinate activities has been scheduled with the City of La Crosse for October 7, 2015.

Updates to Solid Waste and Land Use Plans

Final input and drafts of the update to the Solid Waste Management Plan and update to the Master Landfill Land Use Plan have been received and are being completed. It is anticipated that both of these updated Plans will be brought through the Policy Board and Public Works Committee and approval requested of the County Board in December of 2015. Updates to these Plans were started in 2014 and an extensive process to gain public input was coordinated for both Plans. Numerous stakeholders including County officials were interviewed to provide specific input to these Plans. Throughout the public input process the issues and visions identified were well received by the public and strong support for the Solid Waste Management Plan and Land Use Plan was expressed.

Dirty Jobs – Take Your Supervisor to Work Day

La Crosse County Supervisors Tara, Ray, Ralph, and Maureen, along with Dave Niemi from the Sustainable La Crosse Commission attended the first annual Dirty Jobs event at the Landfill. They had an opportunity to see the scale operation, help a customer unload a very full pickup truck, separate out Household Hazardous Waste from several customers, observe the balancing of a methane gas well, and see the inside of the landfill during a random load inspection from a local hauler. This annual event helps supervisors to understand the intricacies and technical aspects of the landfill operation, and the Solid Waste Department would like to extend an invitation for all supervisors to "get into a dirty job" at the landfill. Thanks to those that attended, we appreciate your time and effort.



The amount of hazardous waste dropped off in less than ½ hour presents Tara Johnson with a daunting job to sort through.

HHM

Utilization of the HHM facility was slightly down in August and September as compared to last year. However, in August, HHM broke last year's record for total pounds of reusable materials available to La Crosse County residents. So far this year HHM has restocked the re-use room with over 45,000 pounds of usable products.

In August, La Crosse County Household Hazardous Materials (HHM) participated in a Clean Sweep in La Crescent, Minnesota. Almost 4,000 pounds of hazardous materials were collected from Houston County residents during the afternoon event. Also in August, HHM staff completed their annual Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) 8 hour training.

In September, HHM completed a Clean Sweep in Viroqua, Wisconsin. Over 6,000 pounds of hazardous materials were collected from 178 Vernon County residents during the two day event. On September 15, the Solid Waste Department hosted a "Dirty Jobs – Take Your Supervisor to Work Day" event. Three members of the La Crosse County Board and one member of the Sustainable La Crosse Commission were put to work at the HHM facility. Several large loads of hazardous materials were brought to the facility during the event giving the group a taste of the typical day at HHM. The HHM staff would like to thank those who participated at the event for all their help.

Important Upcoming Dates

Dedication for Wetlands Boardwalk – Saturday October 17, 2015

Policy Board Meeting – Wednesday October 21, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Sustainability
October, 2015

Eagle Scout Projects in process

The Boardwalk across the wetlands at the landfill was completed in early September and there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for the 17th of October. Other projects include. Grant Restel; Snake Hibernaculum, this is a snake house that will allow differing species of snakes to hibernate over the winter. Construction is tentatively scheduled for the 10th of October. Joah Strauss; will be building several bird houses for several species of birds including Screech Owl's and Kestrel's. Brad Konsela; will be building several bat houses for the landfill that will help with pest control. These projects follow the Solid Waste Dept. Master Land Use Plan for future development and enhancement of the landfill site.

Trails

WisCorps conducted a chain saw training exercise in the landfill community forest for their crews and staff. They did prep work for the trail construction for next year, a win for the department.

Bioblitz

As part of the S.W. Dept Master Land Use Plan the second annual landfill Bioblitz was held Saturday Sept 19th with over 20 volunteers helping identify species on the landfill along with having booths available for educating the public. WisCorps, the Boy Scouts, Western Technical College and the Mississippi Valley Conservancy had displays at the site. Species lists are still being compiled but several new species were identified and will be catalogued. This also supports the Landfill Master Land Use Plan.

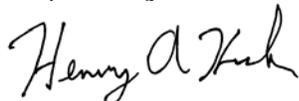
Sustainable La Crosse Commission

The Sustainable La Crosse Commission Met Thursday September 17th, the focus of the meeting was support for the Solid Waste Departments negotiations on the Xcel contract extension. Presentations were also given by Joyce Cieleki on the new biodiversity group and Mike Herro on Xcel's RFP on up to 3 Megawatts of solar electricity production.

Tomah VA Waste Sort

Nick was invited by the Tomah VA to do a waste sort. The effort was to identify materials that could be recycled or waste streams that could be reduced. The event was held on Sept 17th and several hundred pounds of material were reviewed. This included garbage and recycling along with food waste and some non-hazardous medical supplies. Preliminary estimates were that over 50% of the material examined could be recycled, with a majority of the remainder targeted for the Xcel Energy plant.

Respectfully Submitted,



Henry A. Koch, P.E.

Highway Department

- We are currently performing repairs on guardrail, brushing, pot hole patching and various other maintenance activities.
- CTH Z from STH 35 west to termini has just received an overlay that was partially funded by the Ho-Chunk Nation with Indian Reservation Roads funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. They provided \$250,000 toward a \$600,000 project.
- CTH U from CTH B east to CTH J is currently under construction. In this project we have replaced all culvert pipes, pulverized the black top for reuse, and added a base stabilization oil. The roadway is now in the process of curing out, after which we will be placing 2 of 3 lifts of asphalt on it this fall with the final lift being placed in the spring for a total of 5.5 inches of asphalt. The reason we are waiting is because we want to make sure the culverts are completely settled prior to paving the finish course. When complete there will be 12 foot driving lanes with 6-foot shoulders, 5-feet of which will be paved as well.
- Our fall mowing on the County system is being wrapped up.
- Road salt is ordered and we are going to be mixing salt/sand in the next month or so.
- As of today, we do not have the final agreement from WisDOT for the STH 108/CTH C though the process does seem to be moving slowly forward. Please contact me on this if you have question or concerns.
- Design on the CTH T High Risk Rural Roads Safety project has started, the construction for this project is scheduled for the 2016 construction season.
- In conjunction with the Facilities/Parks Department, we have been notified of a successful application for a Federal Lands Access program grant for CTH GI and various improvements within Goose Island Park. This Program is a Federal Highways grant program that up to 80% of the costs are reimbursed by Federal Highways. The grant award is approximately \$2.7 million. Design on this project is scheduled for 2016.

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 October 2015

Emergency Services

Much of the Emergency Management work during this reporting period concentrated on emergency evacuation planning for crude oil by rail incidents. Federal grants from the Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Emergency Planning grant program were used to determine the level of HazMat training that has been completed by area emergency responders and what additional training may be needed, a commodity flow study to determine what HazMat substances are being transported through La Crosse County, and a grant to prepare evacuation plans for communities along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad.

Results from these projects:

- Most responders received some HazMat awareness training during their initial employment, but most had not completed any refresher training. HazMat Technician or Operations level training has been completed by Fire Departments in La Crosse, Onalaska, and Shelby.
- New data was obtained to identify the types of HazMat products that are transported by barge.
- Several types of substances are transported through the County, but not off-loaded here.
- Differences between the State emergency management records and the County HazMat records were noted and efforts are underway to correct or merge those files.
- Evacuation plans for six distinct 'neighborhoods' were prepared and presented at public informational meetings: Brice Prairie, City of Onalaska, north La Crosse, the track expansion area, Mormon Coulee area and for the Goose Island Park neighborhood. Attendance at most of the meetings was less than 20. Several local elected officials attended some of the presentations. Few effective and immediate evacuation routes were found for any of the planning neighborhoods. Thousands of people may require evacuation assistance.

Public-Safety Communications

July

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,819 (average of 91 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 95.60%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.57%
Average Answer Time: 5 seconds
**1 call more than 40 seconds*

79% of 9-1-1 calls were from wireless phones.

Total Telephone Calls 27,221 (average of 878 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	10,822
Fire Fighting	238
Emergency Medical	709

August

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,842 (average of 92 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 94.86%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.12%
Average Answer Time: 5 seconds
** 5 calls more than 40 seconds*

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

Total Telephone Calls 24,583 (average of 819 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	10,298
Fire Fighting	245
Emergency Medical	655

**National Emergency Number Association Standards:*

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

\$600,000 was projected for the County's portion of the City of La Crosse radio system upgrade, which was 50% of the MVC site construction, radio dispatch consoles and contingencies. No contingencies occurred and the costs for the MVC site came in lower than projected. The County's cost were \$481,000 and was paid to the City in the third quarter of 2015.

Emergency Management (Keith Butler, Coordinator)

The FY14/15 emergency management grant program period ends on September 30 and all of the grant requirements were met. The final report and request for funding will be completed in early October.

September is Wisconsin Preparedness Month and County EM participated in several radio, television and newspaper interviews to help citizens be better prepared for any kind of emergency.

La Crosse County Emergency Management will host a Disaster Preparedness workshop for Businesses on Wednesday, October 7. The workshop runs from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and will be at the Cargill Room, 328 Front Street South, La Crosse. The free workshop will help small-to-medium-sized businesses, non-profit organizations and government offices to think about business continuity and disaster preparedness plans. It is provided by Wisconsin Emergency Management and the Department of Homeland Security. More information about the event and registration is at

The Local Emergency Planning Committee met on September 16 and decided to not pursue a request for funding a countywide emergency alert and notification system at this time. Efforts will focus on determining how to best use existing systems and methods as well as emerging (and somewhat dynamic) technologies, such as social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.).

*Jay Loeffler, Administrator
Emergency Services*

Medical Examiner

We are experiencing a large increase in cases for 2015. As of October 1st, we have investigated 361 cases. This is a 21% increase from last year. If this continues, we are looking at 480 cases for 2015. In 2014, we have investigated a total of 397 cases. As you can see, we are being overwhelmed in the office. In 2014, we set a record of 26 suicides. As of now, we are on another record pace at 21 suicides. Another area we are seeing an increase in is drug deaths. The last couple of years we experienced only 1 drug death. We are investigating 3 ongoing cases now, just waiting for toxicology results. It is looking like they will come back positive for drugs. Heroin may be a factor in 2 of the cases.

Cremation is becoming an even more popular choice for final disposition. Every cremation needs to be investigated also. Last year we investigated 794 cases. So far this year we have 600 cases. Cremation cases are income revenue for the County.

In 2015, we hired 4 more part-time deputies. One has resigned because of paramedic school. The other 3 are in the training process now. When all are completely trained, we will have 9 investigators. As you can see, our cases are at a steady climb. With an increase in staff we are hopeful to be able to accommodate the increase in our case volume.

We are currently working on a Mass Fatality Plan that needs to be completed and sent to the State. We are fortunate that I have been able to hopefully finalize a contract with the La Crosse Diocese on using their facility for an Operation Center for La Crosse County Mass Fatality Plan. I should have details finalized by the end of 2015. I will keep the Board updated with this plan and possibly take the Board on a tour of the facility, or present the plan at a Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Tim Candahl
La Crosse County Medical Examiner*

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. This claim was filed in February, 2015 alleging various claims against the County and County employees at Lakeview Health Center. One action was filed in federal court and another action was filed in state court.

The federal court issued a decision on September 17, 2015 dismissing all of the plaintiff's federal claims against the County. This is good news because the federal claims are not bound by the Wisconsin statutory limitations of liability which govern estate claims. The judge's order does not dismiss the state claims in La Crosse County Circuit Court, which include negligence claims, "professional negligence" claims against the County, MVHS Commission and certain employees and claims of punitive damages. However, the decision is good news because it removes specific federal claims, including a claim based upon the Federal Nursing Home Reform Act, which would have increased the potential exposure of the County.

- Jacquelyn Rieck v. County of La Crosse, ERD Case No. CR201500960. As I reported back in August 2015, the Equal Rights Officer for the State Department of Workforce Development had issued an initial determination finding no probable cause to believe that La Crosse County violated the Wisconsin Fair Employment Law by discriminating against the complainant. The complainant did not file an appeal within 30 days of that decision and, therefore, the case is closed.
2. Ordinance Updates. Our office has finished an update to Chapter 7 Traffic Code. This involved working closely with the Facilities department and also with Captain Michael Horstman from the County Sheriff's Department regarding changes to this section. Chapter 7 was in need of a revision because many of the sections had not been updated to meet current practice or statutes for a long period of time. Chapter 7 will be introduced to the County Board in October for a first reading. Our office will continue to work with the Solid Waste department on updating Chapter 15 Solid Waste Management Code and also with all of the County departments regarding updating Chapter 5 Records Management.
 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.
 - Solid Waste Department – Continue to work on various issues, including the following:
 1. Xcel Contract extension negotiations
 2. Chapter 15 ordinance update
 3. Retain Eric Sapir from the law firm of Hawkins Delafield to assist with negotiations with Northern States Power Company for contract extension. Attorney Sapir had assisted La Crosse County approximately 9 years ago when La Crosse County negotiated the \$10.9 million modification to the Northern States Power Company facility to accommodate requirements of the federal Clean Air Act, as well as a number of other issues with Northern States Power Company.
 4. Work on various contractual issues involving the Solid Waste department.
 - Personnel Department – Our office has worked closely with the Personnel department on several personnel issues involving discipline of County employees where appropriate.
 - Highway Department - Assist the Highway department with various matters including the following:
 1. Continue to work on contractual matters involving the transfer of jurisdiction between State Trunk Highway 108 and County Highway C
 2. Work on other contractual matters involving the County Highway department
 3. Work with the County Highway department and Attorney Ben Southwick regarding litigation involving the County OA Highway project. There are 3 cases pending in La Crosse County Circuit Court involving challenges to the compensation paid by La Crosse County for taking certain property as a result of the construction project.

There was a jury trial on one of the condemnation matters listed as Jean M. Klos, et al. vs. La Crosse County, Case No. 13-CV-108, which trial occurred on September 23 – 24, 2015. The jury entered a verdict determining total compensation to be paid to the plaintiffs of \$83,000. Because the verdict is over 15% of the amount paid by La Crosse County to the claimant, there is still the issue to be determined by the court of the amount of costs and attorney's fees to be paid by the County in accordance with state law. Our office and the County Highway Commissioner will continue to report to the Board regarding the status of these cases as they occur.

- Zoning Department – Our office continues to work with the Zoning, Planning and Land Information department on issues such as amendment to Chapter 17 Zoning Code, impacts of recent legislative changes to the La Crosse County Shoreland Zoning ordinance, and other issues as they arise.
4. Court Activities. Our office continues to work on ongoing Human Service matters, including civil mental commitment, guardianship and protective placement cases and child protection cases. Megan DeVore attended a 3-day conference at the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells on Children and Family issues. Our office continues to represent the Child Support office twice a week in standard hearings and also in other specific hearings before the Family Court Commissioner regarding establishment or modification of support orders and contempt and other enforcement actions.
 5. Child Support Agency Report to the Board, October 2015.

In the first 3 months of operation the call center received an average of 1,077 calls. Average hold time was 1min 67sec and average talk time was 3min 30sec for the same time period.

In September Deb Barnes and Jill Sherry went to Gundersen Lutheran and Mayo – Franciscan Skemp to meet with social workers and medical staff that assist unmarried parents who give birth in their facilities. The purpose of those meetings was to provide opportunity for hospital staff to ask questions about how the agency processes paternity cases and allow child support staff to learn about hospital protocol.

The agency has begun preparation for the move to the LEC which is slated for the end of December. We have been working on details that will help make a smooth transition to our new space. Staff is anxious to make this move so we can begin to seek ways to collaborate with other departments located within the LEC who serve the same population as the agency.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Lange
Corporation Counsel