



*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 4, 2016**

**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”**

February 8, 2016 Planning Meeting

We have a number of interesting reports to keep the Board up to date on the following:

- CJMC Evidence Based Decision Making – Judge Scott Horne & Dr. Lisa Kruse
- Associate Administrator progress report
- UW-Extension reorganizational proposal update
- Welcome Center plan overview
- Neighborhood Revitalization Program Proposal
- Construction Project Update: Lakeview and Downtown Campus

*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](mailto:steve.omalley@co.la-crosse.wi.us)*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Planning, Resources & Development Committee February 2016

### Zoning, Planning & Land Information



#### **2015 Annual report to County Board**

**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: April Amman: Land Use Specialist

April is a native of La Crosse County, an enthusiastic fan of good music, and a self-proclaimed nature lover. She most recently worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where she worked in fisheries and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). This and other fine opportunities introduced her to new people, regional concepts, and positive relationships that helped shape the person she is today. April has been with the Department for a little less than one year and has bloomed more in her understanding of land use concerns, issuing zoning occupancy permits, and assisting landowners with shoreland, floodplain, farmland preservation, and general zoning matters. "I greatly enjoy helping the public and very much appreciate the wonderful people I work with." While dedicated to the La Crosse area, April is not limited to the zoning beat; she was a river rat by the age of 4 and to her knowledge still holds the record for Coolest Exhibit at the Cheboygan, MI Youth Fishing Day (a tank full of sea lamprey). She can be found in the woods or on the water in her off time and at her workstation by day so you can meet her in person!

**Update on Land Information:** In 2015, the Land Information Side of the Department continued upgrading the 5 web-based application apps that were created in 2014. We have seen a significant amount of input (hits) on these apps and a decrease in phone calls because of them. We anticipate even more improvements and additional apps in 2016. We received the 6" resolution aerial photo layer in the fall of 2015 and it has impacted numerous departments that are currently using it as well as it will greatly improve our apps for our website. The Land Info Plan for La Crosse was completed in December of 2015 and was approved by WDOA. They also approved our \$50,000 Strategic Grant Request for continued modernization of our land records and the State-wide Parcel Layer that they are creating and maintaining. Ronald A. Roth GIS Specialist/Land Information Officer

**Real Property Listing 2015:** In 2015 our office continued to be the liaison between the Department of Revenue and local government officials. We strive on a daily basis to give the best public service available at all times. The assessment and tax season ran smoothly once again. In 2016 we have a lot on our plate completing the DOR required XML file along with the new tax bill requirement showing Voter-Approved Temporary Tax Increases due to referendums. Pamela K. Hollnagel, Real Property Lister

#### **County Surveyor summary 2015:**

*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 74 corners (5.3%) in 2015. 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.

*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 66 Certified Survey Maps.

*Presentations:* I had the honor and privilege of serving as a presenter at the following:

- 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 26<sup>th</sup> at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

**Department Goal Setting: Department Update and Goal Setting:** Each year, typically in January, the Zoning, Planning and Land Information, County Surveyor and the Metropolitan Planning Organization staff set 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 completed this process again on January 19<sup>th</sup>. A revised shoreland zoning ordinance is in the works for adoption later in 2016. We are continuing to make improvements to our permit recording system with the capable assistance of our IT Department. A big focus of the department for 2016 will be a seamless (as possible) move to the Associated Bank building with minimal interruption to our customers. Along with that goes sorting through years of outdated reference materials and records, and switching to digital processes in the interest of paper reduction.

**Update from Planning:** In 2015 the Planning side of this department worked 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 – 2015; La Crosse County Unincorporated**

<b>2013 - Permits Issued - 293</b>	<b>Value 2013 - \$ 30,180,713</b>
<b>2014 - Permits Issued - 340 Up 16.0%</b>	<b>Value 2014 - \$ 29,432,847 Down 2.5% from 2013</b>
<b>2015 - Permits Issued - 344 Up 1.2%</b>	<b>Value - \$ 36,027,169 Up 22.4% from 2014</b>

**Register of Deeds**

Even though it is winter, which is usually our slower time of the year, we have been very busy. In between doing our regular daily work & our back indexing we have been getting ready for our move to Associated Bank building.

Due to retention schedules there are several documents such as vitals applications, notice of removals, final dispositions, notary logs, requests for real estate documents, military discharge requests, credit card receipts, etc. that we have had to keep the paper document for at least 2 years, sometimes more. We have been working on scanning all of those documents that we had stored & I am happy to say we have completed the task.

Initially, we worked with IT's John Purvis to set up the folders labeled by year, then within that year we have subfolders broken down into the months for those scanned documents. We have no plans to index the documents as that would be far too time consuming, but hopefully since they are pretty much in order it should not be hard to look through them if necessary.

We have also been "cleaning house" & getting rid of items that we do not need. While tedious to do, it will help tremendously when we get ready to move. It also feels pretty good to get rid of some of the clutter & I am sure that the guys who will be moving us will appreciate it as well.

Here are our numbers from 2015:

<u>2015</u> <u>Statistics</u>	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Death &amp; Marriage</u>	<u>Real Estate Documents</u>	<u>Transfer Fees</u>	<u>Total Revenue</u>	<u>Running Total</u>
Jan.	424	1357	1202	\$ 60,921.90	\$50,839.67	\$50,839.67
Feb.	465	1075	1231	\$ 92,474.40	\$48,641.62	\$99,481.29
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	\$62,422.87	\$702,365.27
Dec.	440	1101	1313	\$ 117,029.10	\$48,493.95	\$750,859.22
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5712</b>	<b>14820</b>	<b>18343</b>	<b>\$1,375,004.40</b>	<b>\$750,859.22</b>	

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl A. McBride  
Register of Deeds

## **Metropolitan Planning Organization Department**

We finally have a long(ish) term federal surface transportation bill! On December 4, 2015 President Obama signed the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, authorizing \$305 billion for highway, transit and railway programs from 2016 - 2020. The last federal transportation bill, "MAP-21" expired in 2014, and has been continued with short-term extensions.

MPO staff has been researching the impacts of the FAST Act and presenting information to our affected partners. Of special interest, the two programs that are most used for local projects funding, Surface Transportation Program Urban and the Transportation Alternatives Program have now been combined and it's up to the states to determine how the combined funding will be distributed to the urban areas. Transit funding is increased by 18% over the 5 year period and for the first time, there is \$10 billion dedicated to passenger rail improvements. We will be working hard to capture some of that federal funding for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amtrak Empire Builder train and high(er) speed rail service from the Twin Cities to Milwaukee.

In other news, WisDOT has completed the Coulee Region Transportation Study alternatives development phase, resulting in 6 alternatives recommended for further detailed environmental study. The LAPC will be considering this study at March and May meetings and will consider

action supporting moving forward to retain the \$140 million Majors Project funding in the La Crosse area.

*Tom Faella*

Executive Director, La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC)

## **Land Conservation**

The Department of Land Conservation is currently holding its annual Nutrient Management Workshop for county farm owners and operators. The workshop is a teaching session where staff from the Department of Land Conservation and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service assist farmers to develop their own nutrient management plan. Many of the farmers who attend the workshop are veterans of nutrient management planning and need varying degrees of staff assistance. Some farmers are well versed in nutrient management planning and complete their own plans on an Excel spreadsheet and send it to the Department of Land Conservation at their convenience. Department staff will review their plans for compliance with the State's soil and water conservation requirements and to ensure the plan meets accepted standards for nutrient management planning.

Nutrient management planning is a process that helps farmers decide where and when to apply nutrients to the soil to meet the needs of their crops. Commercial fertilizers and animal manures contain nutrients that sustain plant growth. Knowing how much nutrients to apply to a particular crop is the purpose of the nutrient management plan. Too few nutrients in the soil and the crop struggles to grow and reach maturity often resulting in reduced yields. Too many nutrients can lead to excessive levels in the soil that is easily eroded away during rain events or leach into groundwater and contaminating drinking water supplies. These nutrients can pollute lakes, rivers and streams causing harmful algal blooms and oftentimes, fish kills. Nitrogen, a common nutrient essential for plant growth, is also very soluble in water. If more nitrogen is available than the crop can use, it becomes available to mix with rain water and snow melt runoff and eventually find its way to groundwater. In many situations, a farmer will find it economically beneficial to develop a nutrient management plan as the plan makes efficient use of available nutrients on the farm and reduce the purchase of excess commercial fertilizers.

The nutrient management workshops have been conducted annually since 1999. Today, there are over 140 La Crosse County farmers who are implementing a nutrient management plan on more than 34,000 cropland acres. This represents nearly 65% of the total cropland acres in the County.

*Gregg Stangl, Director*  
*Department of Land Conservation*

## **County Surveyor**

**FIELD WORK:** We are preparing for an active year of field work in 2016. We will again pursue our department goal of maintaining a minimum of 5% of La Crosse County's 1405 permanent Public Lands Survey System (PLSS) corners (71 corner locations per year). We will begin that task by referencing PLSS corners along State Trunk Highway 16 between Onalaska and West Salem. This stretch of road is scheduled to be upgraded early in 2016 and several corner locations will be impacted by the construction work. We will work closely with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation in protecting the monuments at these important corner locations. Additionally, the County Surveyor Department stands ready to provide assistance to other departments should field work be required in 2016.

**MAP REVIEW:** After reviewing a total of 66 Certified Survey Maps (CSMs) in 2015, we have already reviewed 5 CSMs in 2016. By comparison, we had 4 maps submitted by this time in 2015. New for 2016, I have assigned the CSM review duties to my colleague, Assistant County Surveyor John Krage. John is also responsible for the intake, indexing, scanning and filing of all other incoming survey maps (often referred to as Plats of Survey) submitted for filing in the County Surveyor files. He then adds the newly submitted maps (both hard copy and digital) to our existing County Surveyor files.

**PRESENTATIONS:** I am happy to report that I will have the honor of providing two presentations for the Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA) annual conference February 10-12, 2016 at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin. The two presentations are titled "PLSS Remonumentation – How Counties Can Get it Done" and "The Lost State Line and How We Hope to Find it Again". I am excited for this opportunity to share real world knowledge and experiences. I am also looking forward to growing as a professional by attending and learning at a number of other WLIA sessions myself. I along with a group of six others from the La Crosse County Land Information and Information Technology Departments will be attending the conference.

**ONGOING RESPONSE:** The County Surveyor's Office stands ready to assist customers by answering land surveying and land ownership questions. Our recently updated website has proven to be a true benefit to our customers as both surveyors and the general public can access information at any time.

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

## **La Crosse County UW-Extension**

- The nEXT Generation reorganization recommendations for UW-Extension were released early in January. The complete recommendations and background information are online at: <http://about.ces.uwex.edu/our-future/>. The Chancellor accepted feedback through January 29th, and will be releasing final planning decisions early in February. Implementation planning teams will be appointed to complete their tasks so that implementation can begin by July 1, with full implementation expected by January 1, 2017. As it appears, the face and staffing of UW-Extension across Wisconsin will be different. We will be doing less with less. (MMS)
- 4-H partnered with the Office of Multicultural Student Services at UW-L to provide enrichment curriculum and positive youth development training for their after-school program. Undergraduate students from diverse ethnic backgrounds delivered the STEM curriculum weekly to 72 youth in first through eighth grades. The program develops meaningful, trusting relationships through which the college students serve as positive role-models, and works to build life skills and motivate youth to take proactive roles in their own life choices. (SB)
- 4-H held its annual adult volunteer leader recognition night in December. They honored 26 volunteer leaders, who when the years are added together, gave 305 years of time to the 4-H program. They also recognized Hiram Custom Wood and Rep. Steve Doyle as 2015 Friends of 4-H, for their dedication to the youth involved in the La Crosse County program. (JH)
- WNEP staff taught 5 nutrition lessons to 47 fifth grade students at Summit Elementary. At the end of the session, a survey asked parents if they had noticed any changes at home. The survey showed that 83% of the students were eating more vegetables and/or fruits and 67% seemed more willing to taste new foods or foods that he or she usually doesn't eat. (KJ)
- Twenty-four senior individuals participated in a Slow Cooker class at the Holmen Community Center. Following the class 76% participants who filled out a voluntary

evaluation indicated that after what they had learned during the lesson, they were going to try to eat more vegetables each day. (KJ)

- Continued working with the Synergy Group of La Crosse economic development organizations. This group is developing work teams centered around improving cooperative marketing opportunities, organizational financing and organizational support functions that create greater efficiency with participating organizations. (KG)
- Assisted the Get Growing partnership (Hillview Urban Agricultural Center, Mayo Health System and Western Technical College) in their initial strategic planning efforts; including the development of a mission and vision. (KG)

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

KG – Karl Green, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Comm. Resource Dev., Community Resource Dev. Agent

KJ – Karie Johnson, Nutrition Coordinator

MMS – Mary Meehan-Strub, Prof., Dept. of Family Living, Family Living Agent / Dept. Head

SB – Suzanna Barnhart, 4-H Youth Development Agent

# **MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD**

## **Public Works & Infrastructure February 2016**

### **Solid Waste**

#### **Xcel Operations**

Operations of the Xcel facility were outstanding in 2015. A large volume of waste was processed, over 75,000 tons, at a very high yield of 81%. This resulted in a large amount of waste being turned into fuel. Only two days of down time (less than 300 tons of waste bypassed) were experienced for the whole year, which was exceptional. Plant operations, maintenance and performance were outstanding through the whole year.

Negotiations for a contract extension are continuing after a break for holidays and schedules.

#### **Landfill**

2015 was also an outstanding year for landfill operations. Waste volumes were up from 10% to 30% in various categories resulting in significantly increased revenues. The landfill received approximately 51,000 trucks and 15,000 citizens in 2015. A particular note is while citizen use was slightly down the tonnage brought in by citizens increased by nearly 50%. Increased tonnage reflected increased construction in the La Crosse area with demolition materials being brought to the landfill. Surveys of the landfill to determine airspace usage indicates that construction of the next cell may have to be moved up one year as a result of the increased volumes. Few complaints have been received on the mattress recycling program. Safety requirements have been put in place requiring all users of the landfill to wear colored safety vests. Weather conditions allowed the completion of the processing pad and other work with all projects being completed before the onset of winter.

#### **Landfill Operations**

Winter operations have been proceeding smoothly with a firm and stable roadway into the active area and adequate areas for vehicle turnaround and dumping. Adequate alternative daily cover materials and stripping of daily cover has occurred without any interference from winter weather. The contractor, St. Joseph Construction, has been attentive to all details associated with snowplowing, road maintenance, equipment operations and safety.

#### **Gas to Energy**

During 2015 the Gas to Energy system operated at a 87.67% runtime and produced 168.44 MMBTU/Day (\$589.55/day). This equated out to be just under 7% below our projected revenue target for 2015. Issues encountered were lower than expected gas production in 2015 and a decreased operating efficiency due to increased engine maintenance and leaking freon charge lines for the glycol chiller. The solid waste department is working on improving gas production in 2016 by doing the final connection of 2 horizontal STOC's that were installed with the fluff lift in 2015. Installation of these STOC's along with increased leachate recirculation in phase VIII (unable to do recirculation in 2015 due to waste height over liner) should result in higher production and gas collection in 2016.

## **Personnel**

For over one year no positions have been vacated at the landfill and all positions are currently filled. Morale is at a high level and work productivity has been excellent.

## **Environmental Management System**

One of the requirements for the Green Tier program is that the Solid Waste Department develop and maintain an environmental management systems to help ensure superior environmental performance. An important component of this is setting environmental objectives and targets. Following are the objectives and targets for 2016.

### **2016 Environmental Objectives and Targets La Crosse County Solid Waste Department**

**OBJECTIVE:** Improve vector control at the landfill.

**TARGET:** Implement programs that improve the mitigation and control of nuisance birds at the landfill.

**OBJECTIVE:** Manage entrance construction to improve traffic flow, safety and minimize environmental impacts.

**TARGET:** Manage all aspects of the entrance construction project to improve traffic flow, safety and minimize environmental impacts.

**TARGET:** No net increase in impermeable surfaces with the construction of the new site entrance.

**OBJECTIVE:** Continuously improve the diversion programs for waste generated in the La Crosse Disposal System.

**TARGET:** Seek opportunities to improve diversion programs; implement as practical.

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

**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.

**TARGET:** Investigate the feasibility of conducting an emergency response exercise at HHM.

## **HHM**

For the third straight year the Household Hazardous Waste program served over 10,000 residential customers. The La Crosse Tribune covered the event. If you would like to read more about the 10,000 customer celebration, an article covering this event can be found in the La Crosse Tribune.

[http://lacrossetribune.com/news/county-serves-th-customer-at-hazardous-material-facility/article\\_949d4628-6a4a-5659-82d0-51d3a6477f5b.html](http://lacrossetribune.com/news/county-serves-th-customer-at-hazardous-material-facility/article_949d4628-6a4a-5659-82d0-51d3a6477f5b.html)

For the year program utilization by household users dropped for the first time in since 2005.

<b><u>2015 La Crosse HHM Facility Utilization Summary (Household Users)</u></b>	
Total Household Users	<b>10,008</b>
Percent Change vs. 2013	<b>-8.6%</b>
Total Weight Collected	<b>639,039lbs</b>
Percent Change vs. 2013	<b>-16.7%</b>

Much of the reduction can be attributed to a 260% drop in televisions received after a disposal fee was reinstated on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Sustainability for the Year in Review**

### **Boy and Eagle Scout Projects**

Several scouting events happened at the landfill over the last year beginning with the second annual Scrap a thon. Although prices were down participation was up and it was another successful fundraiser. A cub scout clean up took place picking up litter especially around the trees where the Eagles like to congregate. You'll have to ask Hank what their "favorite food" was. Boardwalk across the wetlands at the landfill was completed in early September and there was a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for the 17<sup>th</sup> of October. This ribbon cutting also celebrated the completion of Eagle Scout candidate Grant Restel's Snake Hibernaculum. Joah Strauss; another Eagle Scout candidate recently installed two of five scheduled bird houses. During the ribbon cutting a scouting on the air event was held teaching scouts about ham radio communication.

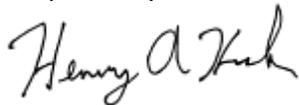
### **Trails**

WisCorps (Wisconsin Conservation Corps) constructed another 1 mile of trails in the community forest that provides an access point on the southern end of the active landfill. Although not officially open to the public several tours were given to individuals and groups. All were impressed with the construction and views of the forest and landfill site. The Boardwalk was also constructed by WisCorps and a "connecting walking trail" was mowed from the boardwalk to the pedestrian bridge, although not handicapped accessible yet this provided users an opportunity to see the progress being made on the trail system on the western side of the landfill.

### **Other Events**

Over 80 presentations and tours were given by the Solid Waste Department staff with almost 2000 attendees from the community, these included organizations like UWL classes, Logan Middle school classes, several Lego League groups, the Mississippi Valley Conservancy, a statewide meeting of ASHRAE engineers, The Boy Scouts the Outdoor Recreation Alliance Holmen elementary, the County Towns Association the Ho Chunk, Kwik Trip the Unitarian Church. This doesn't include the eighteen presentations on radio and television along with newspaper coverage that went statewide or national magazine coverage. There was also a partnership with the Habitat ReStore on diverting material from the landfill and we also partnered with WisCorps and the City of La Crosse on a wetland educational days that focused on proper disposal of hazardous waste that drew in several hundred La Crosse area students. Two interns attended the WIRM (Waste Integrated Resource Management) Conference, manned the solid waste department booth and spoke of their research to other SW professionals. The booth was also at the Wisconsin Counties Association where representatives from other Wisconsin Counties stopped by to see the innovative techniques used by the SW dept. in proper disposal

Respectfully Submitted,



Henry A. Koch, P.E.

## **Highway Department**

- The biggest news for our Department is that the STH 108/CTH C transfer is finally moving forward. Tara and Ginny have signed the agreement and it is at the WisDOT Secretary's office awaiting signature. Tara's office is pulling together the workgroup to help out the residents and businesses with changes of address, etc. as well as dealing with what the name changes mean internally, for Google, etc. In the meantime we will be commencing brushing operations shortly followed by the planned replacement of guardrail and culverts for this year. Next season our construction projects are in the Holmen area due to the jurisdictional transfer agreement in place for CTH HD and DH with Holmen. Then in 2018 we will be back paving on the new CTH C to wrap that project up. The only deviation from this schedule involves the area within Mindoro proper. In that area we are currently designing a let project for this season. This project will include all of the improvements to the area that the Town of Farmington decides to move forward. The Town improvements will be paid for by the Town.
- Next year is a big year for State Highway Construction again in La Crosse County and in support of that construction the County Highway Department will be engaging in brushing operations on STH 33 in advance of the project this winter. This brushing operation is being performed in advance in order to avoid impacting the Northern Long-eared Bat, which is an endangered species. The bat is migratory and so is not present during the cold weather months, hence the Highway Department performing this work.
- The winter has been light, when regarding from a total precipitation point of view, however there have been several small events this month that we have had to respond to. That said the winter budget is in good shape at this point in time as are our inventories of sand and salt.
- We are currently working though the consultant selection process for the CTH GI Federal Land Access Program grant that we were fortunate enough to receive. The design for CTH GI will commence sometime later this spring with construction scheduled for 2018.
- In addition to the GI and CTH C (Mindoro area) project we have design projects in the process for CTH SN, a County-wide Safety analysis and bridges on CTH V, CTH X, and CTH J. While the bridges are very early in the process, CTH SN has been ongoing for quite some time, and we are currently looking toward scheduling a Public Informational Meeting sometime later this spring. Also the County-wide safety analysis is in its second year and there will be 2 public input meetings later this year for that as well.
- Finally, the Department is currently working on various brushing projects, accident repairs and routine road maintenance.

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 February 2016

### Emergency Services

The new Motorola MCC7500 radio consoles have been installed and are running in the Public Safety Communications Center. Some fine tuning is still occurring, but overall the consoles are working well with both the new City of La Crosse 800 MHz system and the countywide VHF system. The new city system was cut over on January 5<sup>th</sup> and is working without issue.

### Public Safety Communications

#### November

##### Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,230 (average of 74 per day)  
Answered within 10 seconds: 96.73%  
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.78%  
Average Answer Time: 4 seconds  
*\*1 call more than 30 seconds*

84% of 9-1-1 calls were from wireless phones.

Total Telephone Calls 21,561 (average of 719 per day)

##### Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	8,583
Fire Fighting	166
Emergency Medical	557

#### December

##### Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,297 (average of 74 per day)  
Answered within 10 seconds: 96.65%  
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.43%  
Average Answer Time: 4 seconds  
*\* 4 calls more than 30 seconds*

81% of 9-1-1 calls were from wireless phones.

Total Telephone Calls 21,905 (average of 707 per day)

##### Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	9,155
Fire Fighting	162
Emergency Medical	551

*\*National Emergency Number Association Standards:*

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

2015 saw a six per cent increase in 9-1-1 calls in La Crosse County with 29,375 calls, or an average of 81 per day. The Dispatch Center continued to exceed standards by answering more than 96% of those calls in 10 seconds or less for the year. Only eight out of the nearly 30,000 calls had a ring time of more than 40 seconds.

Total calls (9-1-1, non-emergency and out-going calls) totaled 281,099, which is a two per cent increase over 2014. Calls for service increased for Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical Services, but decreased for Fire-fighting calls.

For the first time, La Crosse County is hitting the 80% mark for wireless vs. landline 9-1-1 calls. That figure is up from 60% just nine years ago. It is expected in 2016 that 50% of the households in the U.S. will rely on cell phones only. Wireless provide citizens with a quick and convenient way to call 9-1-1; however locating the caller is much more of a challenge.

### **Emergency Management (Keith Butler, Coordinator)**

- County Emergency Management (EM) attended the Great Rivers 2-1-1 Advisory Board meeting in December. The Jackson County EM Director will be assuming the regional EM representation beginning with the March GR-211 Advisory Board meeting.
- County EM provides maintenance service for a set of nine portable radios belonging to the Health Dept. and conducted a battery discharge/recharge conditioning in December.
- County EM initiated discussion with the Dept. of Homeland Security to conduct critical facility security assessments for County buildings. The Sheriff prefers to wait until after the move to the Associated Bank building, but we may proceed with a conference call to obtain further information regarding this training and assessment.
- County EM assisted UW- officials and local emergency response agencies during a bomb threat incident on campus on December 8.
- County EM attended the December La Crosse County Fire Officers Association meeting and provided information regarding Shelter-in-Place guidance, updates needed for the Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan following the complete radio system replacement for the City of La Crosse, a review of community emergency plan exercises, and some recent crude oil by rail legislation discussions.
- County EM attended the West Central Region Emergency Management monthly meeting in Eau Claire.
- Planning for the 2016 WI Academy for Rural Medicine (WARM) exercise program is occurring and County EM met with WARM staff during December and January. A tentative scenario involves testing area burn care capabilities following a simulated railroad incident.
- County EM is working with the regional health care coalition to support law enforcement initiatives to equip and train all police officers with emergency tourniquets. County EM purchased and delivered at least two tourniquets to most of the area Police Departments.
- County EM assisted with the City of La Crosse new radio system cutover during the first two weeks of January.
- County EM met with the County Board Chair, County Administrator and Corporation Counsel to prepare the final steps for the conversion of the County Emergency Response plan.
- County EM participated in a meeting with Holmen, Onalaska, and Town of Onalaska officials in January regarding changes to Fire Department and EMS response jurisdictions.
- County EM is assisting Viterbo officials in preparing an active threat exercise to be held in March.
- The Local Emergency Planning Committee met on January 20 and were introduced to a project to update the County Hazard Analysis during 2016.

*Jay Loeffler, Administrator  
Emergency Services*

## **Corporation Counsel Office**

### 1. Claims Update.

- Barbara Andres v. La Crosse County, ERD Case No. CR2015-1734. The Equal Rights Officer for the State Department of Workforce Development issued an initial determination finding no probable cause to believe that La Crosse County violated the Wisconsin Fair Employment Act by discriminating against Barbara Andres. Her complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of age is dismissed. The complainant does have a right to appeal within 30 days of the date of the decision. If no appeal is filed within that time frame, the case will be closed.
- Dana Halverson v. La Crosse County. This case was settled by WMMIC and its attorneys before the trial. The County settled for payment of one half of the total amount of damages claimed. If the matter had gone to trial, WMMIC and the County would have incurred additional attorney's fees.

### 2. Ordinance Updates. Our office will be meeting with Solid Waste staff soon to finish the update to Chapter 15. Our office will continue to work on 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 on issues as they arise and acting in court to represent the position of the Child Support office.
- Solid Waste Department – Continue to work on various issues, including the following:
  1. Xcel Contract Extension Negotiations. The next negotiations are scheduled for February 18, 2016.
  2. Work on Chapter 15 ordinance update.
  3. Work on various contractual issues involving the Solid Waste Department, including extension of SEH agreement, and follow up with the easement to the City of La Crosse for trail construction and maintenance.
- Highway Department - Continue to work on various issues including the following:
  1. Work on acquisition of additional property at the Wanlass tower site.
  2. Work on miscellaneous contractual issues
  3. Continue to work with the Highway Department and Attorney Ben Southwick regarding litigation involving the County OA Highway project. The trial in the matter of Schweir v. La Crosse County occurred in the week of January 11-17, 2016 and the jury verdict was received on January 14, 2016. The jury awarded damages in the amount \$67,085. The plaintiffs had asked for \$161,800 more than the County's position of \$28,700 at trial and the jury only awarded \$38,385 of the amount claimed. Unfortunately, because the amount of the verdict is more than 15% above the County's jurisdictional award to Schweir, Schweir can seek reimbursement from the County of litigation expenses and costs.

That matter will be determined by the circuit court after a separate hearing in the future.

4. Closed on the sale of excess highway property to Bluske Custom Builders.

- Facilities Department – Our office has worked on several matters with the Facilities Department, including conclusion of the sale of County property to James Finch, various contractual matters involving the Facilities department, and issues arising from construction work at the new Lakeview Health Center.
- Economic Development – Our office closed on the loan to 4 Sisters from Economic Development on December 4, 2015 and continues to work on documents necessary to close on the loan to S&S Cycle. It is anticipated that the closing of the loan to S&S Cycle will occur in February 2016.
- IT/Personnel/Finance – Work on contracts for the new ERP system involving the vendors Kronos and Tyler Technologies. Finalized discussions regarding the agreement with Tyler Technologies for the New World System.

4. Miscellaneous Matters.

Our office continues to be involved in discussions regarding the La Crosse County involvement in a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. The County has been involved in several discussions with other Corporation Counsels and WCA representatives regarding a possible County ordinance for participation in this program.

5. Court Activities. Our office works on an ongoing basis in Child Support and Human Services matters, which include child support hearings to establish or modify child support and enforcement actions. Our office is involved on a weekly basis involving child protection, mental commitment, and guardianship and protective placement cases.

6. Child Support Agency Report to the Board, February 2016.

The Child Support Agency has made the move to the Law Enforcement Center (LEC) and are settling in. Everyone appreciates the amazing space that we now have to work in. We are brainstorming 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 secretary has made the transition to retired status as of February 2, 2016. We will be advertising to refill this crucial position and hope to have the vacancy filled by April 1, 2016.

The two most recent staff members to join our team will be hitting their one year anniversary in March and April. They are doing a great job and are excellent additions to our agency.

Respectfully submitted,

*David L. Lange*  
*Corporation Counsel*