



*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: April 12, 2016**

**Re: April Monthly Report to the County Board**

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

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

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

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

January, March, May, July, September, November

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

**“OF INTEREST”**

April 11, 2016 Planning Meeting

The meeting provided the following reports, please let me know if you have additional questions. (An ordinance about the PACE program will be presented in May for your consideration.)

- Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program
- Update on the Integration of the Aging & Disability Resource Center and the Aging Unit
  - Including a status report on the changing of transportation vendors for the Mini-Bus

April 19, 2016 County Board Organizational Meeting 6:00 pm

Congratulations to all re-elected and newly elected County Board Supervisors! As is our tradition, we will hold an orientation session for the newly elected Supervisors at 4:30 in the County Board room and welcome any current members to join us if you are available. Then the election of officers and conducting of regular business will begin at 6:00.

*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 April 2016**

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

- Participated with the County Administrator and 4 other representatives from La Crosse County, in a meeting with UW-Extension Chancellor Cathy Sandeen, requesting that La Crosse be considered a stand-alone county in the multi-county restructure of UW-Extension. The revised plan, released in February, combined La Crosse County with 4 rural counties to the south: Monroe, Vernon, Richland, and Crawford. (MMS)
- Fifty-one financial coaching sessions were provided for 48 clients including 18 new clients. Fifteen clients expressed confidence in their ability to complete their financial goals and are in need of accountability with telephone check-ins instead of in person sessions. (MMS/ST)
- Thirty farmers updated their pesticide applicator certification. Farmers who use restricted use pesticides must renew their state certification every five years by taking a training and pass the exam with a score of 70% or better. The training focuses on proper application and handling techniques, drift, laws and regulation, and integrated pest management. Five additional farmers updated certification through self-study and exam. (MMS/VK)
- Seventy-six calls and/or office visits were received in February requesting Agriculture related information. Current Support Staff and Agents have provided the information and/or resources for obtaining the information. The position has been open since May of 2015. (MMS)
- A total of 108 youth, in grades 3-13, participated in the La Crosse County 4-H 2016 Archery & Pellet Gun Program that ran from January 2nd – March 12th. Forty-eight of the participating youth are registered for the 2016 Archery Invitational hosted by La Crosse County on April 1 and 2. (SB)
- 4-H S.T.E.M.(Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education) was a part of the Onalaska Middle Schools Healthy Hobby Day in February. Over 60 students participated and enjoyed learning some about hydrophilic and hydrophobic properties; many surprised by the results. (JH)
- A survey, completed and returned by 64 parents of second and third grade students in three La Crosse elementary schools, showed that 58% said their child seemed more willing to taste new foods or foods that usually are not eaten. Forty-two percent indicated that their child asked them to buy a fruit or vegetable that they usually do not buy, 69% had been eating more fruit and 56% had been washing his or her hands without being reminded. (KJ)
- Students in second and third grade were presented with a vegetable tasting of raw sweet potatoes. Students were evaluated and 90 % of students indicated that they would eat them again (KJ)
- Continue to work with the Synergy Steering Committee on developing recommendations for greater collaboration and interplay between the 5 economic development organizations (DMI, LADCO, 7-River Alliance, LCCVB and Chamber of Commerce). Three work teams have been convened revolving around integrated marketing, finance and organizational operations. A white paper is anticipated to be developed around June 2016 with implementation team convening following the approved white paper. (KG)
- Completed the Get Growing Strategic Plan for the Mayo Health System, Western Technical College and Hillview Urban Agriculture Center partnership. This group met

several times and developed a two year plan for moving the organization from an idea to an operational organization based on improving the La Crosse area food culture. (KG)

- Solicited and acquired an additional \$108,000 WDOT Harbor Assistance grant funding for anticipated cost exceedances at the Harold E. Craig Hintgen Island Fleeting Facility. Erosion on the island's western side threatens to impact the facilities use if it is not remedied in the very near future. Construction is anticipated to begin in early summer. (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

## **Metropolitan Planning Organization Department**

At its march 16 meeting the LAPC Policy Board voted to support moving the 6 strategy packages developed in the Coulee Region Transportation Study into a WisDOT National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) / Project Design phase. Such a study would take 3 – 4 years to determine a preferred alternative. There were about 35 community members in attendance, mostly advocating for protection of the La Crosse River March and the character of the City of La Crosse neighborhoods. The LAPC voted to include "Strategy H" as a standalone strategy to be studied in the NEPA phase. Strategy H would rely on travel demand reduction measures (such as bike/ped, transit, and land use policy changes) rather than new roadway construction to address congestion and safety issues. A decision whether to move ahead with the study will be made by the WisDOT Transportation Secretary.

### ***Tom Faella***

Executive Director, La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC)

## **County Surveyor**

**FIELD WORK:** We have begun our work to maintain 5% of the Section and Quarter corners of the Public Lands Survey System (PLSS) in La Crosse County. Our main focus for the year will be corners endangered by road construction work as well as corners that have yet to have accurate GPS coordinate values placed on them. Our Land Information Department has some areas that they have targeted for updated mapping and accurate coordinate values can assist them greatly in that endeavor.

**MAP REVIEW:** We have reviewed 14 Certified Survey Maps (CSM) so far in 2016. By comparison, we had 16 maps submitted by this time in 2015. As reported earlier, I have assigned the CSM review duties to 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. We are also in the process of reviewing a new proposed 42 lot subdivision "The Quarry at Irish Hill" in the Town of Shelby.

**SURVEY INDEX:** John Krage has taken on the tedious task of creating a digital index for all of the maps found in the County Surveyor files (our existing index consists of 3" x 5" cards). Although time consuming, having a digital index will be helpful in assisting to quickly finding a specific survey map. We also have the potential to tie this index to parcels in our Geographic Information System (GIS).

**PRESENTATION:** I had the privilege of providing a presentation for the Minnesota Department of Transportation at their 2016 Survey Technical Workshop on March 16<sup>th</sup>. The session was titled "Wisconsin/Minnesota State Line" and discussed how the state line between Minnesota and Wisconsin became clouded over the past 168 years and how we hope to get it re-established again. The session appeared to be well received and appreciated by those attending. Knowing the exact location is crucial to law enforcement and other government agencies. Users of the waters and islands of the Mississippi River have the right and responsibility to know which state they are in as they attempt to comply with boating, fishing and hunting laws. My hope is that this session can spark future discussion to resolve the matter once and for all.

**ONGOING RESPONSE:** As always, the County Surveyor's Office provides assistance and work for other county departments and regularly assists taxpayers 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*

## **Register of Deeds**

Waiting patiently for spring as are many others!

Since the beginning of 2016 real estate recordings are down as they usually are over the winter, however our vital record issuance numbers have been up. Lots of birth, death & marriage records going out the door.

In between doing our regular daily work & our back indexing we are still getting ready for our move to Associated Bank building. We had been working on scanning all of those documents that we had stored (other than our vital records and actual real estate documents) & now that we have completed that task we have been "cleaning house". Every week we try to clean some cabinet or area & throw something away. Consolidating is our new motto!

Effective Jan. 1, 2017 with the passing of **Act 157**, residents of La Crosse County may no longer have to contact other counties to obtain their vital records. This includes, birth, death, marriage, domestic partnership, and divorce certificates.

Currently, residents have to travel to the county in which the event occurred, order by mail, or order online with a credit card to receive their records. The ability to obtain some of these records will be easier than ever. With new technology and a state wide data base, this longtime vision of the Register of Deeds office will become a reality.

If the event occurred in the State of Wisconsin, residents may be able to walk into any Wisconsin Register of Deeds office to pick up their vital record(s). At the onset in 2017, there will be limitations since not all of the records will be in the state data base. Births from 1994, deaths from Sept. 1, 2013 & marriages from May 18, 2015 to present will be available statewide. Older records will become available as the State Vital Records Office completes back scanning & indexing projects.

I do want to emphasis that not all records will be available at the implementation of this service. It may take a few years for every vital record to be available state wide, but we are working hard towards that goal.

Other legislation that affects our office became effective Feb. 8, 2016 as **Act 142**. This legislation states that an uncertified photocopy of a vital record for an event occurring before October 1, 1907, other than a vital record held by the state registrar and any local registrar, shall be stamped "NOT FOR IDENTITY PURPOSES." It also allows that any person may copy or may make available electronically an uncertified copy of a vital record for an event occurring before October 1, 1907, that is issued under s. 69.21 (2) (b) or (d). While this is great for genealogists, it has potential to assist in identity fraud. We will be watching to see how this works out.

More legislation includes **Act 145** which also became effective February 8, 2016. This bill requires that a person who conveys certain real property to another, must file a real estate transfer return even if the conveyance is exempt from the fee.

The ONLY exception from this requirement is 77.25(1), conveyances made prior to October 1, 1969. If this exemption is used there must be a reference to this exemption of the face of the conveyance document.

The passage of this bill assists in standardizing the process; no longer will a person have to question whether a real estate transfer return is required. It will lead to consistency in the work flow process for both our business partners and the Register of Deeds office.

With the implementation of the mandated Statewide Parcel Mapping initiative this requirement will aide in an accurate, complete database. Many of our business partners depend on the data collected through the Department of Revenue's website to conduct their business.

This requirement will assist county and municipal assessors, treasurers, real property listers, and land information officers to better prepare appropriate assessments on all properties.

The Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association had 5 bills passed in this last year. The three I mentioned here & two clean up bills. Act 157 we continue to work on since it doesn't become effective until Jan. 1, 2017. Our WRDA vital records committee, of which I am a member of, continues to try to work out the obstacles in this legislation. We are working with the State Vitals office on the selection of the vendor who will do the back scanning & indexing of the older records that are not on the data base. We are also trying to figure out how counties are going to "deal with" records that are requested but not in the data base. Are we going to fax SVRO to have them put the record on there (they would have 72 counties faxing them all day every day) AND the customer would have to come back in an hour or two because they would not be getting it on the spot? Or, do we still refer them to the occurrence county which could take even longer & be just like we do now? These are some of the questions/processes that we are working on. Stay tuned.

2016 Statistics	Birth	Death & Marriage	Real Estate Documents	Transfer Fees	Total Revenue	Running Total Revenue
Jan.	485	1176	1178	\$116,235.00	\$37,378.57	\$37,378.57
Feb.	587	1138	1217	\$ 68,597.00	\$46,358.50	\$83,737.07
Mar.	589	1315	1232	\$76,014.60		
Apr.						

*Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl A. McBride  
Register of Deeds*

## **Zoning, Planning & Land Information**

**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: John Krage



John has been with the County Surveyor's Office since September of 2015. He was born in Winona, Minnesota. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1986, and was stationed at Hahn Air Base in Germany for the first two years of his four year enlistment. He also had temporary duty at Zaragoza Air Base in Spain, and Incirlik Air Base, and Murted Air Base in Turkey. Upon returning stateside his duty station was at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho. After he was honorably discharged from the military in 1990, he started working at a private survey firm in Winona, Minnesota. He attended Inver Hills Community College in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota while working there. In 1992 he went on a blind date set up by relatives which worked out well. A year later he married Amy, and he moved to Trempealeau, Wisconsin. In 1995 he became a Professional Land Surveyor in Wisconsin. In 1997 he started a sideline survey business, and also worked part-time at small survey firm in Fountain City, Wisconsin. That same year Amy and John welcomed daughter Hannah into their lives. In 2003 he received an offer to work for a large survey/engineering firm in Sacramento, California so he headed out there in search of the "gold" in California. While in California the family was able to enjoy travel to several areas of the beautiful west. While the weather was good in northern CA, the family missed their relatives back here in the midwest. So at the beginning of 2005 they came back to Wisconsin. Then it was back to surveying in the snow and cold once again for John. The family currently resides outside of Arcadia, WI. Hannah graduated from high school in 2015, and is enrolled at Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical in Winona, MN, and hopes to work in the medical field. Amy works at the import department at Ashley Furniture in Arcadia. John enjoys working with Bryan Meyer in the County Surveyor's Office. It is our goal to provide the best service to whoever needs it.

### **Department Notes:**

**Permits: - Zoning Permits Issued through March 31<sup>st</sup> 2016- La Crosse County Unincorporated**

<b>2015-Jan-March 31st Permits Issued-</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Value 2015- \$2,674,702</b>		
<b>2016-Jan-March 31<sup>st</sup> Permits Issued-</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>up 40%</b>	<b>Value 2016- \$5,877,754</b>	<b>up 120%</b>

# **MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD**

## **Public Works & Infrastructure April 2016**

### **Solid Waste**

#### **Xcel Operations**

Operations at the XCEL facility are receiving above average amounts of waste. The larger waste volumes appears to be directly related to improvement in the economy. Contract extension negotiations are continuing, but schedules with XCEL and Solid Waste staff have resulted in delays until May before the next meeting will be conducted. Nick Nichols involvement in addressing oversized bulky waste issues appears to be having some effects and the quantity of this material is being reduced.

In April, the two millionth ton of waste is expected to be delivered to the XCEL facility. This is quite an accomplishment and pictures of the truck delivering that waste and a press release will be issued. A plaque commemorating this achievement will be given to XCEL at the Annual Meeting on June 17, 2016, which all supervisors are invited to attend.

#### **Landfill**

Waste volumes at the landfill have also increased over previous years, reflecting an improvement in economic conditions. A minor leachate seep has occurred on the north slope of Phase VI. Repairs are being scheduled and the DNR has been contacted. New users of the citizen area continues at a rate of approximately 11.7%. The continued use of the citizen's area by residents who do not have an alternative is responsible for this continued growth. A few complaints regarding the mattress recycling program have been received. A discussion of the mattress recycling program will be conducted at the May 11, 2016 Solid Waste Policy Board meeting. Work continues with the City of La Crosse on designing a new front entrance for the landfill.

#### **Landfill Operations**

A slightly greater amount of litter is present on the landfill after the winter snows have melted. St. Joseph Construction Company has numerous paper pickers gathering this material. An event with the University of La Crosse to do a general site clean-up of litter and trash has been scheduled for April 16. Landfill roads and unloading areas are being maintained in acceptable and safe conditions.

Negotiations with St. Joseph Construction Company to determine if the contract can be extended under reasonable terms have been initiated.

#### **Gas to Energy**

The main variable speed electric motor powering the compressor to remove gas from the landfill is beginning to fail. A back-up motor has been obtained and will be installed when the main motor fails. Since the motor is in an explosive environment and is intrinsically safe, normal repairs cannot be made and the whole motor must be replaced. No significant down time is expected with this replacement.

#### **HHM (Household Hazardous Materials)**

Program utilization by household users is down slightly for the first two months of 2016 compared to last year.

**2016 La Crosse HHM Household Users Year to Date**

Percent Change in users vs. 2015	<b>-8%</b>
Percent Change in waste received (lbs.) vs. 2015	<b>-22%</b>

Best Buy recently began charging for Televisions. HHM is beginning to see an increase in the number of TVs brought to the facility. Currently there is no one in the community accepting TVs free of charge.

At the request of Administrator O'Malley, HHM staff is convening an ad hoc working group consisting of representatives for several municipalities in the county, to discuss the options for continued funding of the program after the current contract expires at the end of 2017. Staff will present the finding to the County Board.

**Sustainability**

**Eagle Scout Projects**

Brad Konsela; will be installing several bat houses for the landfill that will help with pest control, these should be going up in April. Erick Hunter is currently applying for his Eagle Scout project and if approved will be working on the prairie educational garden. This 600 sq. ft. plot will host a variety of plants and have signs that will describe the plant so visitors will know what they're seeing as they walk along the trails. These projects follow the Solid Waste Dept. Master Land Use Plan for future development and enhancement of the landfill property.

**Trails**

WisCorps is currently putting together plans for this year's construction in the community forest, where approximately one mile will be completed sometime in June or July. Willie Bittner has met with the City of La Crosse Engineering dept. to plan the trail connection from the pedestrian bridge to the boardwalk and construction should take place this summer.

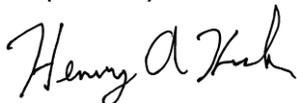
**Other Events**

Over 50 students and other members of the public enjoyed tours or presentations over Jan/Feb. this included 2 UWL classes, President Dr. Lee Rasch of Western Technical College, and a group of nursing students from Winona State. An intern (Jeff Meckstroth) has been working on an acceptable waste study at the landfill, trying to find out if waste that should be going to Xcel energy could be diverted there instead of being landfilled. Hank, Randy and Nick attended the Waste Integrated Resource Management (WIRM) Conference in Oconomowoc in February along with two interns. The Solid Waste Department hosted a booth along with the interns work being on display to recyclers and solid waste professionals from around the state. Finally the department had fantastic coverage by the La Crosse Tribune on two days with articles on the front page (and above the fold) of Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> and Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> of Feb.

**Sustainable La Crosse Commission**

The next Sustainable La Crosse Commission Meeting will take place on Thursday April 21<sup>st</sup> where a draft of the 2015 indicators report will be presented to the committee. Data is currently being gathered and will be compiled over the next several weeks.

Respectfully Submitted,



Henry A. Koch, P.E.

## **Highway Department**

- The CTH C/STH 108 documents are finalized and on file. Tara's office is putting together an outreach effort to help those residents that need help with changes of address, etc., and they are sending out a packet to facilitate that aid. 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. This project area will be bid in April with the award being considered by the PW&I committee at their May meeting. This project does 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.
- Just a reminder that this year is a big year for State Highway Construction again in La Crosse County. Attached to this report is the listing of contacts for each of those projects
- Also on the State Highway System, it looks like this will be another busy year for our forces. WisDOT is planning on having us perform another night time crack filling project on STH 16, a shouldering project on STH 33, and bridge maintenance on various structures throughout the County. All of these are in addition to the normal state trunk highway maintenance efforts that will be going on.
- On the County system we are gearing up for the work on the new alignment of CTH C where we will be focusing on culverts and guardrail upgrades. Our sealcoating program is under review right now pending how the winter has damaged our roadways. Crack filling is an ongoing maintenance operation and we are planning on a great deal of this type of work as it is good, effective preventative maintenance. And finally we are reviewing possible shouldering projects for completion with the additional funds the Board provided through the budget process for that purpose.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

*Ronald Chamberlain*

**La Crosse County**  
**2016 WisDOT Construction Project Quick Reference Contact List**

Project	Limits	Start / End Dates	Project Leader (1st Contact)	Project Manager (2nd Contact)	Emergency Traffic Control Contact
I 90 & STH 35	MN State Line - Theater Rd	Mar. 1st to Nov. 18th	Chris Dahl (608) 792-5809	Rob Winterton (608) 789-7879	Mega Rentals (715) 835-4040
STH 16	Landfill Rd - Vet's Park	Mar. 25th to Nov. 15th	Dale Merten (608) 386-3192	Dan Kleinertz (608) 792-1367	Central States Signing (608) 792-6839
STH 33	Kirshner Rd - Monroe Co Line	April 1st to Nov 15th	Jon Maxwell (608) 963-4539	Brian Meyer (608)789-5676	Central States Signing (608) 792-6839
STH 35	Onalaska - Holmen ( Poplar St - USH 53)	Mar. 14th to Oct 21st	Joel Goodenough (608) 769-1513	Todd Waldo (608) 785-9462	Mega Rentals (715) 835-4040
STH 162	Dutch Creek - STH 16 (Thru Bangor)	May 8th - August 15th	Lorie Peterson (608) 386-3907	Brian Meyer (608)789-5676	Central States Signing (608) 792-6839
Rest Area 31	Rest Area / Welcome Center WI State Line	April 11th - Nov. 8th	Ralph Liegel (608) 588-7484	Craig Fisher (608) 785-9946	Central States Signing (608) 723-7551
USH 14 & STH 35	La Crosse Co Line - Garner Pl. (South)	TBD	TBD	Todd Waldo (608) 785-9462	TBD

**Note: Please use this list as a reference for who to contact for information on the specific projects or when issues may arise.**

**\*\*When applicable, this includes maintenance of the roadway within the project limits\*\***

**For other non construction project related State Highway Maintenance Issues contact the Area Maintenance Coordinator: Joshua Blum at (608) 792-1868**

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Judiciary & Law April 2016

### Emergency Services

In the first quarter of 2016, the Town of Onalaska altered its fire and emergency medical service districts, to include more area and residents within the Holmen Area Fire District. This required a major alteration of the computer aided dispatch (CAD) program used by staff to determine responses, which was completed in March. This was the result of an updated agreement between the Town of Onalaska and the City of Onalaska Fire Department to provide fire and EMS responses to the southern part of the Township.

### Public Safety Communications

#### January

##### Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,142 (average of 69 per day)  
Answered within 10 seconds: 97.15%  
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.77%  
Average Answer Time: 4 seconds  
*\*2 calls more than 30 seconds*

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

Total Telephone Calls 20,955 (average of 676 per day)

##### Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	9,078
Fire Fighting	178
Emergency Medical	584

#### February

##### Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 1,977 (average of 68 per day)  
Answered within 10 seconds: 97.17%  
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.70%  
Average Answer Time: 4 seconds  
*\* 1 call more than 30 seconds*

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

Total Telephone Calls 20,314 (average of 726 per day)

##### Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	8,466
Fire Fighting	210
Emergency Medical	559

*\*National Emergency Number Association Standards:*

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

Three new staff members have been added to the Public Safety Communications staff:

- Maggie Skifton is in training as a telecommunicator. Maggie has a degree in criminal justice and has experience as a security route technician, in retail loss prevention, and as a balance audit specialist. She is originally from and currently lives in Onalaska. Maggie replaces an employee that resigned prior to completing probationary employment.
- Harley Link is in training as a telecommunicator. Harley has a criminal justice degree and was a reserve officer with La Crosse Police. She has experience as a manager of a local restaurant and as a direct support professional working with the cognitive and physically disabled. She is originally from Caledonia and currently lives in La Crosse. Harley replaces Brian Bartelt who resigned to work with a local radio group after serving here for five years.
- Bridget Thrower recently started as the Emergency Services Clerk. Bridget's education includes study as a paralegal assistant and has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. She has been working as a mental health crisis responder for La Crosse County, plus experience as a legal assistant for a local law office and the Olmsted County Attorney's office. She also has worked in criminal correctional and juvenile social services. Bridget has lived in the La Crosse area all her life and currently resides in the City of La Crosse. She replaces long-time clerk, Kim Williams who recently retired after nearly 22 years with La Crosse County.

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

- County EM has been preparing a Suggested Operating Guide for the EM office. Recent efforts include gathering information from State and Federal sources and linking duties and tasks lists with policy and strategic documents. It is anticipated the SOG will be completed in mid-2016.
- The County Fire Officers Association met at La Crosse Fire – Station One on February 8. County EM provides a report to the LCFOA and attends most of their meetings. The Fire Officers were advised that County EM would be reviewing sample post-incident reports and radio recordings to evaluate compliance with National Incident Management protocols.
- County EM has been working with WI EM and the County Highway Department to determine if mitigation grant funds can be used to pay for some of the County Road C repairs. The Highway Dept. may defer until 2017 to prepare and submit an application to the Federal Mitigation Grant program.
- County EM presented information to the newly formed Child Abduction Response Team program at the Holmen Police Department on February 11.
- The County Board approved the County Emergency Response Plan on February 18. Efforts are underway to incorporate the Emergency Support Function elements of the new plan with other emergency management plans and documents.
- County EM has been corresponding with the City of La Crosse Parks Department, La Crosse Fitness Festival medical staff, the County Health Department, and the La Crosse Fire Department regarding the deployment of a Medical Reserve Corps field medical tent for the May 7 Fitness Festival Half-marathon. The focus has been on reducing the dependency on County EM for this special event.
- County EM facilitated a meeting with WisDOT officials and local public safety responders regarding the State Road/Nathan Hill project.
- County EM attended the Governor's Conference in Appleton on March 9-10.
- The LEPC's application for Federal Department of Transportation – Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning grant was approved and the project began on March. The 2016 project will develop evacuation plans for communities along the Canadian Pacific Rail Road.

- County EM observed and evaluated the Viterbo University campus-wide Run, Hide, Fight functional exercise on March 16. All college staff and students were urged to find appropriate hiding places in each college building if the RUN option was not possible.
- County EM and the GIS Evacuation Planner visited Great Lakes Cheese on March 18 and observed how the facility manages the use of hazardous substances such as anhydrous ammonia and toured portions of the recent (2015) building expansion.
- County EM has been assisting the County Hazardous Materials Response Team with training and equipment grant applications. The Team was awarded two training grants and County EM is preparing an equipment and computer grant to obtain detection and monitoring equipment. Much of the Team's recent activities involve illegal drug situations that require specific detection and response gear and training.
- County EM met with the Joint City/County Harbor Committee on March 22 to explain the Federal Port Security Grant program. The Harbor Committee decided to wait until 2017 to apply for these funds after determining the most appropriate local needs.
- County EM facilitated a meeting with MnDOT officials and MN and WI emergency responders regarding the I-90/Mississippi River Bridge Project on March 29. It is anticipated this project will be completed by the end of November.
- SkyWarn (severe weather/storm/tornado spotting) training will be offered at the Mayo Clinic – Marycrest Auditorium on Tuesday, April 5 at 6:30. The annual Severe Weather Awareness Week (April 11-15) will have a new feature this year: TWO simulated tornado drills will occur on Thursday, April 14. One at 1:45 p.m. and a 2<sup>nd</sup> drill at 6:55 p.m. Citizens, organizations and businesses are urged to take advantage of the early evening drill to make sure they are prepared to receive storm warnings and to take the appropriate actions.

*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 had issued an initial determination finding no probable cause to believe that La Crosse County violated the Wisconsin Fair Employment Act in its dealings with Barbara Andres. Ms. Andres had a right to appeal within 30 days of the date of the decision and no appeal was filed during that time.

However, because Ms. Andres also filed with the Federal Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, the matter was still pending with that agency. On March 17, 2016 the EEOC issued an order adopting the findings of the State that investigated the charge, meaning that the federal agency also dismissed the complaint. The federal dismissal indicates that the complainant has a period of up to 90 days to file a civil suit. If such a suit is not filed, any right to sue based upon the allegations will be lost. Therefore, this matter will be monitored for a period of approximately 90 days and if no suit is filed, this case will be closed.

2. Ordinance Updates. After meeting with the Solid Waste Department, the update to Chapter 15 was finalized and presented to the County Board for a first reading in March, 2016. 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 Xcel contract extension negotiations and work on various contractual issues involving the Solid Waste Department. The next negotiations are scheduled to occur on May 3, 2016.
- Economic Development – Our office continues to work on various issues regarding Economic Development. The loan with S&S Cycle closed in February, 2016 and involved significant time in document preparation and negotiations. In addition, continue to work on issues as they arise, such as the second loan installment for Pearl Street Brewery.
- Treasurer/Facilities Departments – Our office worked on the sale of the Rockland properties, including negotiating an agreement with the Village of Rockland for the sale of the remaining properties owned by La Crosse County in the Meadow Park Estates Addition.
- Personnel office – Work on various miscellaneous employee issues, including a worker's compensation case.
- UW-Extension – Our office has worked closely with Karl Green from UW-Extension regarding the work required to stabilize Hintgen Island, including preparation of resolutions and processing of any contracts needed to accomplish the work and to utilize the state grants.

4. Miscellaneous Matters.

- Open Records Request - Our office continues to receive open records requests so referrals for assistance regarding open records requests to various departments.
- Our office has worked on preparing a proposed Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) ordinance and has also worked on an Intergovernmental Agreement for a PACE Commission to be utilized in the State of Wisconsin. It is anticipated that a model ordinance will be ready for introduction to the appropriate committee and the County Board soon. Several other counties are moving forward with a draft model PACE ordinance. The intent is to have a model ordinance and a commission in place that counties in Wisconsin can join to make the PACE financing available and easy to utilize.
- UW-Extension – Our office has been involved in researching the law regarding recent actions by the State regarding the UW-Extension program and the various legal alternatives available to La Crosse County.
- Mediation and Family Court Services – Lisa G. Stablier started as Director of Mediation and Family Court Services on March 14, 2016. Lisa has extensive experience in mediations and family assessments and will be a great addition to the office.

5. Court Activities. Our office continues to work on an ongoing basis in Human Services matters, which include child protection, termination of parental rights, mental commitments, and guardianship and protective placement cases. One contested termination of parental rights jury trial is scheduled within approximately 30 days, which requires a substantial amount of preparation.

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

Our vacant secretary position has been filled and the newest member of our team came onboard March 28<sup>th</sup>. She has superb qualifications and will be a great asset for the agency. We are working with other stakeholders in the child support enforcement process to analyze the success rate of our current enforcement practices. We will also be exploring what other alternatives may be available to both the agency and participants in our caseload to improve operations.

We have settled nicely into the new quarters at the LEC. Given the difficult tasks that we face while carrying out our duties, we are fortunate to have a pleasant space that allows us to be better organized and more efficient.

Respectfully submitted,

*David L. Lange*  
*Corporation Counsel*

## **Medical Examiner**

Greetings, Happy Spring. It has been a very busy spring so far. We are on pace to surpass 2015 in reportable cases. We finally have a couple of years under our belt so we can begin to see some trends in certain areas of our investigations that weren't being recorded in past years under old management practices. In 2014, we investigated 397 cases and in 2015 we had an increase of 471 reportable cases.

So far as of this report, we are at 140 cases through the first week in April. Cremation cases are also ahead of last year's pace at this point. So far this year, suicide rates are down a little. We have had 5 so far in county and 1 homicide. We have 2 deaths related to fire, and have 9 overdoses to this point. Of the overdoses, the majority are prescription overdoses, with 2 being Meth related and one Fentanyl death. This is far more than we have experienced in the past this early.

On a brighter note, we are in the process of having one more deputy achieving their Board Certification in Death Investigations. This process should be done in early May. We also still have 6 deputies who are still in training. Work is continuing on the Mass Fatality Plan for the County which is still in the works. Completion goal is late summer, early fall. It has been a very busy spring, hopefully things will slow down. Any questions, feel free to contact me, or stop by our new office in the LEC, Suite 1730.

Sincerely submitted,

*Tim Candahl*  
*Medical Examiner*