



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

County Administrative Center  
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[www.co.la-crosse.wi.us](http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us)

**Memo To: La Crosse County Board of Supervisors**  
**From: Steve O'Malley, County Administrator**  
**Date: June 8, 2016**

**Re: May and June Monthly Report to the County Board**

Attached is the May and June 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 should receive this report each month, the reports do not cover every department each time.

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

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

January, March, May, July, September, November

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

**“OF INTEREST”**

County Board Meeting June 16, 2016

Following my presentation at this month's Planning Meeting that provided an Overview of the Debt Service Plan for 2016, the County's Financial Advisor Joe Murray Springsted, Inc. will provide a detail review of the 2016 Financing Plan to prepare the County Board for the debt related resolutions that will be considered this month. The County Clerk will forward a memo provided by Mr. Murray that describes the specific details of the 2016 Plan.

*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

## Aging & Long Term Care May 2016

### Lakeview Health Center

#### **LAKEVIEW CAMPUS UPDATES**

As we begin to look ahead to our occupancy date of October 2016, a variety of planning activities have begun to manage the “move” day process. Resident moves, equipment moves, household set-up, staff training, transportation, & technology moves will require the most planning and personnel.

#### **LAKEVIEW RESIDENT RELOCATION PLANNING**

Census on 3/29/2016 is 67 in the Lakeview Health Center nursing home with licensed bed capacity. This census is consistent with the budget forecast completed late last year. Of the 10 residents identified for relocation to a community setting, 5 of these individuals will potentially be served in one of our assisted living settings.

#### **STAFFING TRANSITIONS**

All staff have been informed of their employment status in the replacement facility/campus. Of those identified for potential displacement, several are currently enrolled in a C.N.A. class which will assist them in filling positions within our campus. Several strategies have been utilized to assist staff with this process, including meetings with LaCrosse County Personnel about issues such as retirement, individualized consultation with Workforce Connections for employment assistance, and referrals to Employee Assistance for staff affected by this transition. We continue regular communication related to the staffing transitions through monthly Town Hall meetings, department meetings, manager “rounding”, and individual meetings with staff, as needed.

If you have questions or comments about this report, please email or call.

Submitted by:

*Wanda Plachecki, Administrator*

[wplachecki@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:wplachecki@lacrossecounty.org)

608-786-1400

*Lakeview Health Center*

### Veterans Services

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, the Veterans Service Office hosted its first Veterans Expo. The event was well attended by over 300 veterans and family members from three different states. The event hosted 60 vendors who assisted veterans and family members in some capacity. State and Federal Representatives from Minnesota and Wisconsin attended to show their support of veterans and answer questions and concerns of our local veterans. The

feedback from the veterans and the vendors were very positive which has encourage us to host another Veterans Expo in 2017.

Over the last 6 months, several veterans have won their appeal with the VA. While being awarded these appeals is nothing new for La Crosse County, the dollar value that some of these veterans and family members have received are. With just a handful of those who have received a benefit, La Crosse County has seen over \$750,000 in federal money come into the County. This is a positive benefit to those who have received it and La Crosse County. According to federal stats for 2015, La Crosse County receives just over \$54,000,000 in federal money provided to veterans, family members, education and health care benefits. This number has grown slightly since 2014 and we may see continued growth in 2016.

*Adam Flood*  
*La Crosse County Veterans Service Officer*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Health & Human Services May 2016

### Human Services Department

#### **INTEGRATED SUPPORT & RECOVERY SERVICES (ISRS)**

##### Crisis Program Exploration of Social Media

La Crosse, Monroe, and Jackson County Crisis Programs have been working with a diverse group of community stakeholders to explore if/how social media can be effectively utilized to provide support and/or prevent crisis situations. Multiple focus groups of area youth helped design posters of helpful social media tools that will be distributed to all school districts in the region.

##### Family Policy Board Mental Health/Substance Abuse Work Group

ISRS facilitates and participates in this work group that is working on how to help families navigate the system and exploring a non-clinician screening tool for behavioral health to promote across the community. Two action items related to this:

- A summary of what Great Rivers 211 has to offer was created and distributed to all school districts in La Crosse County. They were asked to try and include this information in any/all electronic or printed correspondence with families.
- A screening tool is being piloted within an ISRS service to help determine value prior to promoting use across the community.

#### **AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC)**

##### Family Care 2.0

The Family Care 2.0 Concept Paper was submitted by the Department of Health Services (DHS) to the Joint Finance Committee as required by April 1. The report lays out the ideas that will form the new model for Family Care that will transition our current MCO (Managed Care Organization) model to an IHA (Integrated Health Agency) that additionally covers primary, acute and behavioral healthcare. Since the prior draft of this document was available, changes have been made to strengthen consumer advocacy, better explain the level of self-direction allowed in services, set a limit to profits/losses by the IHAs, and establish service regions for the new IHAs (there will be 3 regions in the state). ADRCs maintain the function of eligibility/enrollment in the new system. The full report and frequently asked questions can be found at:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/familycareiris2/index.htm>

##### ADRC/Income Maintenance Integration Report

DHS submitted the required report to the Joint Finance Committee by April 1 regarding the feasibility of ADRC and Income Maintenance integrating. The report outcome was that DHS does not feel it is in the best interest to merge the programs, but that there would be improvements made by creating more efficiency/coordination in practices that the ADRC and Income Maintenance carry out together. The full report is available at the following link: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01241.pdf>

#### **ECONOMIC SUPPORT**

Expansion of Services Provided by WREA Call Center

The Western Region for Economic Assistance (WREA) Consortium continues to transition to providing one-touch services to applicants/recipients of Food Share, Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus and Child Care Assistance. Beginning in February, all customers that call WREA are provided immediate services by phone. WREA will process their application or review by phone if the customer calls during Call Center hours. To help accommodate the increased volume of work through the Call Center, WREA increased staff that are assigned to the Call Center. In addition, all staff are assigned shifts to work in the Call Center every day. To prepare for the expansion of on demand services, WREA spent the last couple of months cross training staff so they are knowledgeable of all programs WREA administers. While the call wait time has increased during the first month, WREA's Call Center performance has improved each day since the change. WREA also plans to further increase staff resources in its Call Center as the demand for appointments decreases and more needs are taken care of by phone.

#### MyWICChild Care Phase I Planning

The Western Region for Economic Assistance (WREA) Consortium continues to plan for implementation of Phase I of the MyWICChildCare Electronic Benefit Transaction (EBT) Project in October. MyWICChildCare (formerly Parent Pay) will replace the current payment process for Wisconsin Shares eligible families where providers directly bill the state after children attend the program. The new system will issue MyWICChildCare EBT cards to Wisconsin Shares families who will initiate payments to providers for child care provided to their children. In addition to making online training available for parents receiving Wisconsin Shares, WREA will host a parent outreach session on August 6, 2016 in La Crosse. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) has developed a website with more information about MyWICChildCare at <http://MyWICChildCare.wi.gov>

#### **JUSTICE SUPPORT SERVICES (JSS)**

##### Jail Programming Pod

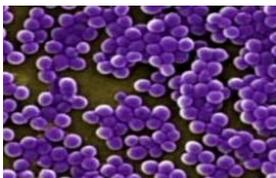
JSS is working in tandem with Western Technical College (WTC), the county jail, and the Department of Corrections to develop programming for individuals who are confined to the jail to help them gain skills and knowledge that will improve their functioning when they are back in the community. The programming will cover a range of topics, from cognitive behavioral interventions to education and employment. The target start date is Summer 2016.

*Jason Witt*

*Director of Human Services*

## **Health Department**

**Increased Support to Fight Elizabethkingia:** On April 8<sup>th</sup>, Governor Scott Walker announced that 9 project positions have been approved in the Department of Health

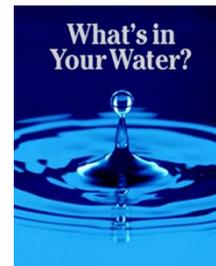


Services to assist in the response and investigation of Elizabethkingia Anophelis, especially in an effort to find the source of the outbreak. In addition, the positions will assist with preparation and response to other current public health risks including Zika and an increase in Tuberculosis (TB) cases. This is the largest outbreak of this strain of bacteria ever documented in the United States. There have been over 63 cases reported thus far in Wisconsin as well as one in Michigan. Most of those affected are over 65 years of age and all have had serious underlying health conditions; 19 have

died. For more information on Elizabethkingia, go to:  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/elizabethkingia.htm>.

**CDC Grant Received to Study Well Water in Rural Areas:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently awarded \$659,265 over 5 years to address human exposure to contaminants in drinking water. The grant will focus on private wells and small water systems in rural areas where residents can face risks from biological, chemical, and naturally occurring contaminants such as arsenic and lead. La Crosse is one of 14 states and 5 local health departments in the nation to receive the grant. Project goals include:

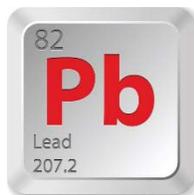
1. Increasing awareness among county residents using private well water or small water systems in the areas of how and when to test their drinking water, how to interpret lab results and identify contaminants of concern, and how to keep their wells and water safe; and
2. Developing interventions to address natural contaminants found in area groundwater.



**Community Health Assessment:** Since the fall of 2015, the Health Department has been assessing the county's health needs. An official Community Health Assessment (CHA) is required minimally every 5 years and must include high levels of engagement with the community we serve. The Executive Summary and data presentations are available on our website under featured topics: <http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/health/>.

On April 14, community partners met to receive this data and prioritize them into the top health concerns. The top 3 health priorities are: mental health, substance abuse, and social determinants of health. Social determinants of health are the conditions where we work, live, learn, and play such as housing availability and safe neighborhoods. The next step in the process is to develop action plans for each of these priority areas.

**Lead Poisoned Workers:** A ship yard in Superior, Wisconsin, has been the cause of occupational exposures to lead for many Minnesotans and Wisconsinites. In total, 56 of these live in Wisconsin and have tested high for lead levels above 5 micrograms per deciliter. Although the ship is not in our county, at least one La Crosse County resident was exposed while working on the ship and is being monitored locally. Workers can carry lead dust home on their clothing, shoes, hair, and skin which can subsequently expose their family.



The highest concern is exposure to pregnant women and children in the households of the exposed workers. Children under 6 years old and pregnant women or developing fetuses can experience particularly dangerous health effects from lead exposure.

**Annual Report:** A copy of the La Crosse County Health Department 2015 Annual Report is available at: <http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/health/docs/Administration/HD%20Reports/Annual%20Report.pdf>.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jennifer Rombalski*  
*Health Director*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Planning, Resources & Development Committee June 2016

### La Crosse County UW-Extension

- The La Crosse Association for Home and Community Education (LAHCE) and the Coulee Region Head Start program celebrated a milestone for the 19 year Wisconsin Bookworms™ Program giving the 750,000th book to a child in Wisconsin during the first week in May. In La Crosse County, LAHCE gave away the 23,896th book, since 2004, to at risk preschool children attending the Head Start Program. (MMS)
- Suzanna Barnhart, 4-H Youth Development Agent, resigned in May. A request has been made to refill the position, however the ability to do so will be determined by the nEXT Generation reorganization of UW-Extension. We have not been allowed to fill the Agricultural Agent position that has been open since May, 2015. (MMS)
- Interviews were completed for hiring two summer At-Risk Teen Program Interns. Quinton Maydaniuk and Megan Resler will begin their work on June 2. (MMS)
- The nEXT Generation Executive Sponsor Team announced the membership for nine of the UW-Extension restructure work groups. County partners to serve on these work groups have not been finalized. Karl Green, Community Resource Development Agent was chosen and has agreed to serve on the Community Resource Development Program work group. The next nine work groups are expected to be identified in June. (MMS)
- The 4-H Spring Trap program ran for 5 consecutive weeks at the Gunslick Trap Club in Holmen. Trap instructors are volunteers that have been certified through the Wisconsin 4-H Shooting Sports program. The 38 youth in this program received instruction on safety as well as learning the skills involved in shooting trap. (JH)
- The 4-H Horse Project held its annual Camp in May. During the event, youth take classes in a variety of horse subjects; breed recognition, caring, fitting, grooming, safety and many others. Safety certification tests are an important component of the event. All youth are required to safety certify with the horse(s) they plan to show. This is required to ensure the safety of both rider and horse. (JH)
- WNEP educators shared monthly nutrition lessons and food preparation demonstrations with teen moms enrolled at HOPE Academy. At the end of the series 71% indicated that they are going to eat more meals as a family; try to eat more vegetables, fruit and whole grains each day; and have made at least one of the recipes from the class at home. (KJ)
- A Family Nutrition Series program was offered to Northside Elementary School parents and their children. WNEP partnered with the La Crosse School District who provided groceries to prepare during the session as well as the ingredients to take home to replicate the recipes. Educational sessions focused on parents and children preparing healthy meals together and eating meals as a family. (KJ)
- Worked with La Crosse County Deputy Administrator Jane Klekamp on the development and facilitation of the public relations work committee. This committee is made up of department heads and La Crosse County board members and is tasked with increasing and cultivating public relations for key La Crosse County services. (KG)
- Continued developing the Synergy White Paper for developing recommendations for greater collaboration and interplay between five local economic development

organizations (LADCO, 7-River Alliance, DMI, LCCVB and Chamber of Commerce). The Paper is anticipated to be completed in June 2016 and presented to each of the five organization's boards. (KG)

- Presented a program entitled Taxes, Housing and Community to the Western Technical College M-Power sustainability program. This group of 20+ attendees learned the interplay between property taxes, cost of community services and poverty in the City of La Crosse. (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

## **Metropolitan Planning Organization Department**

Based on the two national transportation funding acts, (MAP-21 and FAST Act), the La Crosse Area Planning Committee has transitioned to a "performance-based" transportation planning process. A performance-based process relies on setting, monitoring and reporting on a series of measures to achieve desired performance outcomes. At the LAPC we have been tracking a series of measures since 2014 and will present an updated, FAST Act compliant report at the July 20 Policy board meeting.

Census data on demographic characteristics, home and work locations and journey to work travel flows are key inputs to performance tracking and contribute to our local transportation policy and planning efforts. They also support corridor and project studies, environmental analyses and emergency operations management.

Since 1990, the US states have pooled funds to support the development of special census products and data tabulations for transportation planning and decision making. These products are called the Census Transportation Planning Products (CTPP). In 2015, the states committed about \$6 million to a pooled fund to produce a 2012 – 2016 tabulation.

Determining the data that will be included in the 2012 – 2016 has been a unique challenge because the Census Bureau has indicated that this tabulation must be reduced (from a table size of about 1.3 trillion cells) by about 2/3 based on program reductions at the federal level. Tom Faella, the LAPC Executive Director, serves as a member of the national CTPP Oversight Board and since 2014 has served as Chairman of a Tables Specification Committee charged with specifying the 2012 – 2016 tabulation. Tom has worked with a team of transportation and data professionals to specify the data that will be generated using the states' pooled fund. The resulting proposal was finalized in May and will be forwarded to the Census Bureau for processing in June of 2016.

It is important to have quality data for transportation decisions that cost millions of dollars and last for decades. In planning for the Dresbach Bridge, for example, the LAPC traffic forecasting model was used to determine that a four-lane bridge would serve capacity needs for an expected 75 year lifespan. To expect quality data, it is important to participate in national efforts like the CTPP so that the data delivered not only is cost-effective and accurate at the local level but also serves all of our state, regional and national partners.

### ***Tom Faella***

Executive Director, La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC)

## **County Surveyor**

**HIGHWAY MAP SCANNING:** We are working in cooperation with IT Production to have our highway right-of-way maps scanned. The maps, some of which date back to the 1940s, show valuable information related to right-of-way locations and widths. This information is important to land surveyors, engineers, title people, attorneys, County and Township officials. Creating digital images of these maps is critical on two fronts. Number one – we want to archive these important maps in the event that the originals are ever damaged or lost in a disaster. Secondly, we want to make them available to the public on the County Surveyor website. We are meeting with IT staff to determine the best format in which to save these files and schedule the work which will need to be completed before we move out of the Administrative Center.

**WISCONSIN LAND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION:** I will be representing our Land Information Office by attending the spring regional for WLIA at the Mead Inn in Wisconsin Rapids on June 9 and 10. I am looking forward to a number of technical presentations including one by our own Jackie Eastwood regarding Environmental Justice in Transportation Planning.

**FIELD WORK:** We are well into our work to maintain 5% of the Section and Quarter corners of the Public Lands Survey System (PLSS) in La Crosse County. So far, we have maintained 34 PLSS corner monuments which represents 48% of our yearly goal. This maintenance is critical to assure the condition and stability of the PLSS corner markers which are used by surveyors on a regular basis in the course of field work.

**MAP REVIEW:** We have reviewed 29 Certified Survey Maps (CSM) so far in 2016. By coincidence, we had 29 CSMs submitted last year at this time. Assistant County Surveyor John Krage continues to take the lead on our CSM review. He 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. There are indications that we may be seeing more Subdivision Plats being submitted for review. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has been meeting with more frequency in recent months. The TAC brings together the developer and local officials in initial discussions of the proposed plat to help determine impacts on school districts, emergency services, the township and the County.

**WISCONSIN COUNTY SURVEYORS ASSOCIATION:** I have the honor of serving as the President of the Wisconsin County Surveyors Association (WCSA). Our organization meets 5 times per year (4 board of director's meetings and one membership meeting) to discuss current items impacting land surveying and administering land surveying laws and ordinances. We also have an educational component to our meetings as we have a liaison from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the National Geodetic Survey and the State Cartographer's Office at every meeting. These meetings have proven to be so informative and beneficial that many non-County Surveyors attend our meetings.

**WISCONSIN ADMINISTRATIVE CODE UPDATE:** A-E 7 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, which addresses minimum standards for property surveys in Wisconsin, has been updated. The final document was published on May 31, 2016 and took effect on June 1, 2016. This update has been years in the making and tightens some of the requirements that surveyors will need to follow in order to perform land surveying work. John and I will be incorporating the updated version as we review Certified Survey Maps, subdivision plats and other survey maps that come across our desks.

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

## **Register of Deeds**

Welcome to the new county supervisors. We invite you to come into the Register of Deeds Office for a tour and let us show you what we do here! Our office records all of the real estate documents for La Crosse County such as deeds, mortgages, easements, and plats. We have over 190 different document types that we record or file. We are the guardians of all of the birth, death, marriage, domestic partnership & termination of domestic partnership records in this office along with military discharges for events that occurred in La Crosse County.

Besides myself there are 4 other team members in the office. Chief Deputy Robin Kadrmaz, Asst Deputy Tammy Maybanks, Clerk Lorraine Johnson & Clerk Kayce Bader.

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	\$52,768.35	\$136,505.42
Apr.	434	1332	1546	\$110,563.80	\$64,905.15	\$201,410.57
May	402	1280	2289	\$171,842.40		

### **A TYPICAL DAY IN THE REGISTER OF DEEDS OFFICE**

#### **REAL ESTATE**

Throughout each day real estate documents are presented for recording. Prior to the slowed housing market, an average of 75 to 100 documents per day was a typical recorded document total. However, daily recorded documents have varied from 30 to 600 documents so organizational efficiency is critical. Documents are brought into the office via electronic recording (approximately 24% of our documents are now electronically recorded), title companies, legal offices, standard mail, and the general public. Prior to the recording process, one or two Register of Deeds (ROD) employees review the documents to ensure that they meet statutory recording requirements and have required fees.

Examples of these requirements include a standard document recording format, original signatures, return to name and address, drafted by persons name, a legal description, and notarized signatures. It is important to note that ROD office is solely a recording office and staff is required to record documents if they meet statutory recording requirements. ROD staff is not responsible to determine the validity, authenticity or legality of the documents.

Once the document is deemed recordable by ROD staff, the document is partially indexed and receipted into iDoc, which is the enhanced software system implemented in 2003. Information such as document number, date and time of recording, fees paid, transfer exemption if applicable, and page count are stamped electronically on the front of each document. The recorder also enters grantor/grantee (buyer/seller, mortgagor/mortgagee) information. As this information is indexed and receipted, outside customers are able to search document information on Laredo which is the general public computer searching tool. Although the scanned document is not viewable at this point, this process is an improvement from the old system, because customers were not able to view any document

information until after the indexing process. Once the recording process is completed, documents are ready to be scanned.

An ROD employee scans the documents as they become available after recording. Once scanned, documents are viewable to ROD staff and outside customers via computer. Another ROD staffer indexes document information, which includes legal description, address, parcel number, associated document number, and return document information. As this information is added to the database, customers have many alternative searching options not accessible in the past. Prior to the software enhancement, Grantor/Grantee names were the only searching choice.

As documents are indexed, ROD staff (with the assistance of the software & dual entry) verifies the indexed document information. This process ensures that indexed document data matches the recorded document such as spelling of names, legal descriptions, associated documents, and parcel numbers. Once receipting, scanning, indexing and verification have occurred, the documents are sent back to the designated recipient given on the document.

### **VITAL RECORDS**

Birth, non-marital birth, death, and marriage certificates are requested daily in the ROD office. Applications are accepted at our counter, by mail, or online with a credit card. Once required information is reviewed on applications by ROD staff the record is issued. The requirements are set by the State Vitals Office.

Currently, hospitals electronically send birth information to the state to generate a birth record. Death records begin with a funeral home entering information into the vitals online system, it is then sent to the doctor and then to us to be proofed and accepted. Marriage certificates are now a worksheet issued by the clerk's office that is then signed by all parties and brought into our office where we enter the information into the vitals online system. Death certificates are produced online by funeral homes and submitted to us to review. Once we review them we can either reject or approve. These procedures have changed a lot in the last 10 years. In addition, military discharges are also recorded with the authorization of the Veterans Service office. These documents are then scanned, indexed and verified in the same manner as the real estate records.

NOTE: military discharges and non-marital births are neither viewable nor searchable on the general public computer index. There is also limited access by customers.

### **CUSTOMER SERVICE**

ROD staff provides assistance to title companies, attorneys, hospitals, officiants, funeral homes, state offices, county employees, and the general public. Several hours each day are dedicated to customer service by ROD staff. These duties include real estate document searching, retrieving customer real estate document copies, issuing certified & uncertified copies of vital records, assisting genealogists, answering counter and telephone questions.

**The above described processes are performed daily and must be completed before any additional tasks are started.** Due to the need of document information accessibility and the importance of timely document recording for staff and customers, the real estate process is the main priority of ROD staff. The volume of real estate documents dictates the daily workflow of the ROD office.

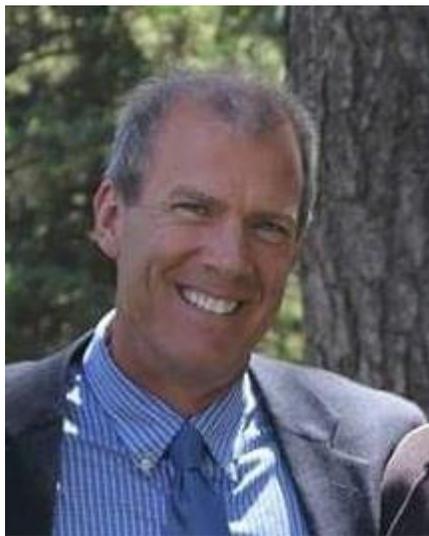
The Register of Deeds Office is an important constitutional office that takes great pride in helping to create legislation to protect the integrity of the records we maintain. The records we are charged to preserve are significant to both the community and its individual citizens; we maintain the history of real property and vital records within our county.

In our massive databases are records that help keep the county and its citizens supplied with the information needed to keep Wisconsin's economy running. Whether it be real property records to create tax rolls and obtain loans or vital records that are needed for identification reasons, the Register of Deeds office is dedicated to ensuring these records are protected properly and available to the public in a safe, secure and efficient manner. We invite you to come visit our office & see for yourselves how everything works and how the offices has evolved over the years.

*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: Bryan Meyer



Bryan has served as La Crosse County Surveyor since 2008. He was born and raised in rural Tomah and went to Tomah Public Schools - graduating in 1978. He has been involved in land surveying since 1976 when as a high school student, he went to work as a surveyor assistant for a local land surveying firm, during the summer months. He is a 1980 graduate of Nicolet Area Technical College in Rhinelander Wisconsin receiving an Associate's Degree in Land Surveying. Following graduation, Bryan went back to work for the same Tomah surveying firm and worked there for the next 28½ years. During his private practice career, Bryan performed surveying work in much of western Wisconsin primarily in Monroe, Juneau, Jackson, La Crosse, Trempealeau and Vernon Counties. During his private sector career, he also served as a part-time deputy County Surveyor in Monroe County from 1983 through 1998 and part-time County Surveyor in Juneau County from 1998 through 2008. Bryan is heavily involved in promoting the importance of land surveying in Wisconsin, frequently speaking and doing presentations to state organizations, County boards and committees regarding the importance of the Public Lands Survey System and land surveying in general. Bryan currently has the honor of serving as President of the Wisconsin County Surveyors Association (WCSA) and is a member of the National Association of County Surveyors.

Bryan has been married to his high school sweetheart and love of his life, Brenda for 35 years and together they have four grown children. They are both waiting (not so patiently) for grandchildren. Bryan's faith is an integral part of who he is and he is actively involved in his church, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church and School in Tomah where he teaches Sunday

school and serves as Chairman of the congregation. He also serves on the Planning Commission of the City of Tomah. For fun, Bryan enjoys working out and participating in the Masters Division of State and National track and field events. He is a gold medalist for his age group in the 100, 200 and 400 meter dashes at the 2015 *Wisconsin Senior Olympics*. Bryan also earned two bronze medals on a national stage at the 2015 *State Games of America* in the triple jump and 400 meter dash last summer in Lincoln, Nebraska.

**Department Notes:** Emily Johansen is a new addition to the Zoning, Planning & Land Information Department. Emily is a UW La Crosse graduate with a background in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Geography. Emily was hired in the Land Use Specialist – Property Listing position and will be working closely with our Property Lister Pam Hollnagel. Emily replaces Annette Kirchoff. We'd also like to welcome Supervisors Rick Cornforth and Jerome Gundersen Jr. as new members of the Planning, Resources and Development Committee.

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

**2015-Jan-May 31st Permits Issued- 112**

**Value 2015- \$ 9,995,830**

**2016-Jan-May 31<sup>st</sup> Permits Issued- 128 up 14.3%**

**Value 2016- \$ 14,188,767 up 41.9%**

*Nathan Sampson, Director  
Zoning, Planning & Land Information*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Public Works & Infrastructure June 2016

### Solid Waste

#### Xcel Operations

Operations at the Xcel facility are receiving above average amounts of waste due to the continued improvement in the economy. Contract extensions are continuing, but schedules with Xcel and Solid Waste Staff have resulted in some delays. Nick Nichols, continues to work with Xcel developing an educational program for our haulers to address oversized bulky waste issues.

#### Landfill

Waste volumes at the landfill continue to remain at elevated levels from 2015 reflecting improvement in economic conditions. A minor leachate seep occurring on the North Slope was repaired. A WDNR air permit renewal for the landfill has been submitted by our consultant. Use of the citizen areas continues to be at a high level. A discussion with our stakeholders regarding the mattress recycling program resulted in a consensus to continue the program and evaluate its performance at the end of 2016. Gerke Excavating and Chippewa Concrete have placed their concrete batch plant on the landfill processing pad. All work was done in accordance with department requests and has not disturbed operations at the landfill.

NASA, North American Squirrel Association has requested to do a handicapped hunt at the landfill in the fall of 2016. Deer are causing damage on the landfill associated with planted trees and rutting on slopes which is causing erosion. Providing a handicapped hunt to control deer populations was identified in the Master Land Use Plan.

#### Landfill Operations

The landfill is in excellent condition with litter being removed by a group of University students. Improved litter fencing has been installed by the landfill contractor. A recommendation to extend the landfill operations contract will be made to the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

A number of pump failures occurred on leachate extraction points and those pumps have been replaced.

#### Gas to Energy

The main variable speed electric motor powering the compressor to remove gas from the landfill failed. A back up motor was obtained prior to the failure and the gas to energy system was down for less than one day during its replacement.

#### HHM

For the year program utilization by household users is down slightly after the first four months of 2016 compared to last year. Staff believes that charging for TVs and road construction are contributing Factors to this decline.

<b>2016 La Crosse HHM Household Users Year to Date</b>	
Percent Change in users vs. 2015	<b>-16%</b>
Percent Change in waste received (lbs.) vs. 2015	<b>-12%</b>

At the request of Administrator O'Malley, HHM staff convened 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. Two meetings have occurred to date. To date the group has looked at numerous options for sustainable long-term funding of the program and is working on identifying which options would be the most feasible. A recommendation from the group is expected later this summer.

### **Visionary Award**

At its annual awards banquet in April the Boy Scouts recognized the La Crosse County Landfill with its Visionary Award. The inscription read as follows: "In Recognition of Outstanding Service to the Gateway Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America". The Solid Waste Department has an outstanding partnership with scouting and is proud to be recognized in this way.

## **Sustainability**

### **Eagle Scout Projects**

Brad Konsela has installed several bat houses at the landfill, these will help with pest control within the landfill and surrounding areas. Erick Hunter is currently applying for his Eagle Scout project and if approved will be working on the prairie grass educational garden. This 600 sq. ft. plot will host a variety of plants and have signs that will describe the plants so visitors will know what they're seeing as they walk along the trails. Max Gauger is currently applying for his Eagle Scout project, he's looking at putting up a handicapped accessible gazebo next to the Legacy trail between the boardwalk and the pedestrian bridge. These projects follow the Solid Waste Department Master Land Use Plan for future development and enhancement of the landfill site.

### **Trails**

WisCorps has put together plans for this year's construction in the community forest, at least another mile will be completed sometime in June or July. Willie and Hank have met with Scott Dunnum from the City of La Crosse Engineering dept. to plan the trail connection from the pedestrian bridge to the boardwalk. The connection is now marked by pink flags and construction should take place this summer.

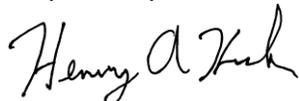
### **Other Events**

Over 600 students and other members of the public enjoyed tours and/or presentations over March/April. This included several UWL classes, Students for Sustainability, Ho Chunk youth, Holmen H.S., Brookwood H.S., Lincoln Middle School, the La Crosse Parks and Rec Dept. and the Women's Alliance of La Crosse. The Solid Waste Department hosted a booth at the Earth Fair on April 24<sup>th</sup> with over 3000 attendees participating in children's activities, farmers market, music, vendor booths, and family fun. The recycling fair collected almost 60,000 Lbs. of mostly televisions and other electronics that day.

### **Sustainable La Crosse Commission**

The next Sustainable La Crosse Commission Meeting will take place on Thursday June 16<sup>th</sup>. Jason Gilman from the City of La Crosse Planning Dept. will be giving the City Council an update on the 2014 indicators data on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June.

Respectfully Submitted,



Henry A. Koch, P.E.

## **Highway Department**

- CTH C/STH 108 -The transfer is complete and the first check for \$2,000,000 was received.  
The County Board Chair's office organized materials to be sent out to the addresses impacted explaining process and procedures for many of the concerns, changes of address, licenses, etc. Alice and Terri also had "office hours" in Mindoro to aid folks in completing the changes that were necessary as a result of the transfer. The entire project has been effectively split into 3 segments.
  - Within Mindoro
  - From the south intersection with 108 to Mindoro
  - From Mindoro north to the north intersection with STH 108The project within Mindoro has been let to Hegg contractors with a start date of June 13<sup>th</sup>. A last Public Information meeting was conducted on May 23<sup>rd</sup> to go over that portion of the project with the residents. The portions outside of Mindoro are being worked on as one project. Currently we are replacing culverts, those north of Mindoro are complete and we are working south of Mindoro currently. To keep the public informed of project status we are using email and message boards. Additionally local officials and dispatch are being informed via email.
- With the additional \$200,000 the County Board placed in the Highway budget for shouldering we performed maintenance shouldering projects on the following:
  - CTH YY (STH 14 to CTH M)
  - CTH I (CTH M to STH 33)
  - CTH II (CTH I to STH 162)
- Work on the State highway, in addition to all the construction is very busy for us right now. Currently we are pulling concrete for patch work on STH 16 in the area of West Salem, repairing accident damage, crack filing and we have an upcoming shoulder maintenance project. Additionally, this summer we will once again be crack filling on STH 16 during evening hours as well as concrete patching on STH 157, also evening hours, and a cooperative seal coat project on STH 131 in Vernon County.
- In addition to our efforts on CTH C, the County Crew has been busy with our first round of mowing, crack filling, dead deer pick-up and various other maintenance related tasks.
- CTH XX Bridge over Halfway Creek is to be replaced this season. This is a WisDOT let and is under WisDOT oversight funded via the Local Bridge Program. The contractor is supposed to be starting on June 20, 2016.
- La Crosse County has received State Municipal Agreements indicating the following grant projects have been funded under either the Local Bridge Program or the Surface Transportation Program rural component.
  - CTH J over Fish Creek Bridge - The actual construction is scheduled for 2019. Total project cost is estimated at \$520,906 with grant funding capped at \$403,295.
  - CTH B over Bostwick Creek Bridge -The project is scheduled for 2017. Total project cost is estimated at \$1,142,000 with grant funding capped at \$904,000.

- CTH SN Reconstruction – East Ave to Hanson Road – This SMA is for the 2018 reconstruction of CTH SN from 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave north to Hanson Road. The grant funding is capped at \$834,290 based on funds available to the La Crosse Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Total project cost is estimated to be \$1,627,875.

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 June 2016

### Emergency Services

As of the first part of May, an exchange between the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and La Crosse County occurred, where a portion of State Highway 108 was swapped for a portion of County Highway C. The highways are approximately 10-mile stretches of road between the Towns of Farmington and Hamilton. The highways changed designations between the two points where each intersect, but the range of addresses remained the same. This can lead to confusion if a caller uses the previous road designation.

With the transfer, Emergency Services has altered its Computer Aided Dispatch to account for the change of addresses. Automatic notices now flag dispatchers to verify addresses when responding to emergencies within this area. Ultimately, 9-1-1 Operators can only provide service based upon the information that is provided to them, so the caller knowing their actual location is the best result.

In the first month of the changed highway designation, there have been four emergency medical calls for service within this area. In all four cases, the callers were able to provide the correct road designation and there were no delays in the responses.

### Public Safety Communications

#### March

##### Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,469 (average of 80 per day)  
Answered within 10 seconds: 95.82%  
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.72%  
Average Answer Time: 5 seconds  
*\*1 call more than 30 seconds*

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

Total Telephone Calls 22,508 (average of 726 per day)

##### Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	10,231
Fire Fighting	234
Emergency Medical	606

#### April

##### Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,451 (average of 82 per day)  
Answered within 10 seconds: 96.41%  
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.43%

Average Answer Time: 4 seconds  
\* 3 calls more than 30 seconds

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

Total Telephone Calls 22,777 (average of 759 per day)

**Calls for Service**

Law Enforcement	9,874
Fire Fighting	232
Emergency Medical	553

*\*National Emergency Number Association Standards:*

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

On Saturday, May 21, a person used two phone devices to make 56 9-1-1 calls in less than two hours. The Communications Center averages just over 80 9-1-1 calls for a 24-hour period, so these calls accounted for what would be 69% of emergency calls for a typical day. Staff spent nearly 36 out of a 100-minute period on the phone with one person. It should be noted that 9-1-1 calls are roughly 10% of the total calls handled at Public Safety Communications and staff must still provide dispatching duties for eight law enforcement, nine fire and nine EMS agencies. Such an event created a burden on the public safety resources.

The majority of the calls were silent 9-1-1 calls, but others included requests to see an officer to file an unknown-type of report, disputes with a spouse, disturbance at a different location, a medical issue, incoherent dialogue and vulgar harassment of the 9-1-1 operators. Initially the subject was cited for disorderly conduct by phone, but the calls continued so the subject was arrested for False Emergency 9-1-1 Call and Resisting/obstructing an Officer.

The following weekend, this person was again arrested for False 9-1-1 calls and bail jumping after making five emergency calls within an hour.

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

- April began with four Presidential candidate campaign stops, which require some monitoring and review of local large gathering special event plans. Nothing significant occurred during any of the four events.
- SkyWarn (Storm Spotting) training was offered in La Crosse on April 5 and several of the area public safety agencies were able to send representatives.
- County EM met with Town of Holland officials on April 6 to review recent updates to the municipal emergency plan and to discuss a future tabletop exercise.
- County EM meets monthly with the Region 4 Wisconsin Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program to discuss recent and emerging public health concerns, including preparedness measures for unusual outbreaks such as Ebola or Zika.
- County EM participated in a STEP program presentation at Bangor Elementary School on April 11. The Student Tools for Emergency Preparedness program has been hosted by the Bangor schools for several years.
- The statewide tornado drill was held on April 14 and for the first time in Wisconsin an 2<sup>nd</sup>, early evening drill was held at 6:55. County EM participated in an Amateur Radio SkyWarn testing of emergency communication from various sites in La Crosse County.

- County EM participated in flood fighting training in Alma on April 19.
- County EM and the LEPC Chair participated in a Federal Government Accounting Office telephone interview on April 26, which was preceded by the completion and submission of a comprehensive questionnaire regarding the readiness of local HazMat and communities for a rail road disaster.
- The Lower Northside and Depot Neighborhood requested a presentation regarding rail road incident evacuation plans that was offered on April 26.
- County EM responded to a major gas line break in the City of La Crosse on May 2. Limited evacuation of nearby homes was needed, but Logan Middle School was able to remain occupied.
- County EM participated in a multi-county Fatality Management exercise program on May 5 and met with the Medical Examiner on May 24 to discuss future exercises.
- County EM assisted with the medical, communication, and incident management support for the Fitness Festival ½ Marathon on Saturday, May 7. County Mass Casualty Team trailers were deployed and crew were available throughout the event.
- County EM assisted with a County Public Radio System Users Group meeting held at the Onalaska Fire Department on May 12. Efforts are underway to determine the public safety radio needs for a potential radio system replacement or upgrade project in 2017-18.
- The statewide emergency communications exercise (SIMCOM) was held in Clark County on May 18 and 19. County EM participated on May 18 and tested radio equipment installed in the Emergency Management truck. The Communications & Command Vehicle was not deployed to SIMCOM this year.
- The evacuation planning project for communities along the Canadian Pacific railway is approaching the end of the project funding. Most of the planning for the Rockland, Bangor and West Salem areas is complete.
- County EM met with Airport and La Crosse FD officials on May 26 to discuss revisions to the Airport's emergency plan and to prepare for a full-scale exercise to be held in 2018.

*Jay Loeffler, Administrator  
Emergency Services*

## **Corporation Counsel Office**

### 1. Claims Update

*Collins v. County of La Crosse* ERD Case No. CR201400387

This is a case where employee Collins filed a complaint alleging sex discrimination and retaliation. Collins had appealed a finding of "no probable cause" and a hearing before an administrative law judge was to be scheduled.

WIMMIC provided insurance coverage for the claim and outside counsel was provided to defend the County.

This matter was settled prior to the hearing. The County admits no liability as a result of the settlement and Collins agrees to dismiss all claims. This case is now closed.

### 2. Ordinance Updates

- Updates to Chapter 15 (Solid Waste Management Code) were approved by the County Board at the April 2016 meeting.
- Our office continues to work on updates to Chapter 5 (Record Management)

### 3. Office Update

- Shelley Lovejoy left the office in mid-May and has relocated to Portland, Oregon. Shelley had been with the office since January of 1997 and her years of service are greatly appreciated. Shelley will be missed by many, both in our office and throughout the County.
- Amber Rasmussen was hired to replace Shelley and started on May 26, 2016. Amber is a paralegal with over ten years of experience at a local law office. She will be a great asset to the office.
- Following approval of an additional Assistant Corporation Counsel position, we are in the process of working with the Personnel Department on recruitment for that position.

### 4. Department Assistance Our office continues to provide legal counsel to various Departments as issues arise. Recent issues include:

- *Solid Waste Department* – Our office continues to work on contract negotiations related to the extension of the Xcel contract as well as various contractual agreements related to construction and container leases.
- *Child Support* – We continue to provide legal assistance as the need arises as well as providing representation of the agency at regularly scheduled court hearings.
- *Economic Development* – Recent work has included a second loan for Pearl Street Brewery; an intergovernmental agreement for International Business Park II and review of other miscellaneous agreements.
- *Treasurer/Facilities Department* – Our office completed the sale of the remaining lots in the Meadow Park Estates Addition to the Village of Rockland and worked on the sale of various tax foreclosure properties.
- *Personnel* – Our office continues to assist on various miscellaneous employee issues and labor matters.

### 5. Miscellaneous Matters

- Our office continues to respond to Open Records request as received.
- Our office continues to review and evaluate claims against the County as they are received.
- Our office continues to be involved in issues related to the downtown development (Associated Bank/Lot C)
- Our office continues to work on the sale of County owned parcels adjacent to Lake Neshonoc properties and closed on the sale of one parcel in the Shorewood Addition.

### 6. Court

Our office continues to represent the Human Services Department and the Child Support Agency at all court proceedings, including child protection cases, termination of parental rights, mental commitments, guardianships and protective placement,

paternity establishment, child support establishment and enforcement. Attorney Flottmeyer recently completed a three day TPR jury trial.

7. Child Support Agency Report to the Board, June 2016.

The purpose and mission of the child support program is derived from title IV-D (4-D) of the Social Security Act which is: *"To encourage responsible parenting, family self-sufficiency and child well-being, the national child support program provides assistance in locating parents, establishing paternity, establishing, modifying, and enforcing child support obligations, and obtaining child support for children."*

While the core mission of the child support program has not changed in the last 40 plus years, there has been a shift in how those services will be delivered in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Agency is looking to the future and the changing needs of today's family.

We are looking for strategies to partner with parents and use all available resources to address barriers that can prevent consistent child support payments. We are also examining the methods used for setting child support orders to ensure that they reflect the parents true ability to pay. Current policies and practices are being evaluated to determine if the evidence shows they are producing consistent child support payments for families.

One of our goals is to partner with other service agencies in the La Crosse area such as Workforce Connections. They offer many programs and resources that can help parents overcome barriers that prevent them from providing both financial and emotional support for their children.

The Agency continues to strive to provide the best service possible to the families that comprise the 5,395 cases we currently have open for IV-D services in La Crosse County.

8. Mediation and Family Court Services Report to the Board, April-May 2016.

On May 11, MFCS staff met with mental health professionals serving as Child Development Specialists on Custody Assessment Teams. This was a terrific way to clarify expectations and process this important service to families.

Dawn Bender, MFCS Mediator/Custody Evaluator, attended the Wisconsin Inter-Professional Committee on Divorce Annual Conference on April 15, 2016. This annual conference ensures professionals are up to date on trends and developments in family court services. This year's topic focused on the impact of domestic violence on parenting plans. Dawn and new MFCS Director Lisa Stablier also attended the La Crosse County Domestic Abuse/Sexual Assault Coordinated Community Response Meeting on May 12, 2016.

Lisa attended her first Family Law Roundtable meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. She was able to share information about her background and learn more about La Crosse.

Respectfully submitted,

*David L. Lange*  
*Corporation Counsel*

## **Medical Examiner**

Happenings in the Medical Examiner's Office

Good things to report in that things have slowed down a little in our office. We are still seeing a major increase in drug overdoses. We have had twelve so far this year, which is a huge increase compared to previous years. Of the twelve, at least half are related to accidental prescription medication overdoses. The rest are related to illegal drug overdoses. We cannot rule any death as just a heroin overdose because they typically have multiple drugs in their systems.

Suicides have slowed down as well, we are at 7 so far this year. Not on pace with last year's record number.

We continue to work on our Mass Fatality plan. We hope to have an active shooter drill next spring at a school, which will involve multiple government players. We will be focusing on Family Assistance center at this time. Hopefully this will never come into reality, but if it does we will have a plan in play.

We have lost a couple of deputies in recent weeks. We are in the process of hiring two replacements and hope to have them on board by July. It is very tough trying to find the right candidates. It takes a lot of time and training to get someone up to the level of an investigator. As in the past, any board member who wishes to schedule a ride along or visit the office, feel free to stop by.

Sincerely submitted,

*Tim Candahl*  
*Medical Examiner*

## **Clerk of Courts**

**Mandatory e-filing is coming to the State of Wisconsin court system. Attached is an article below published on [wicourts.gov](http://wicourts.gov) and also in the Third Branch Newsletter. La Crosse County will be one of the first 10 of the 72 counties in the state to implement. CCAP will be coming in June to coordinate the implementation. La Crosse County went on the voluntary e-filing system in 2010 but only had 8 cases e-filed. In 2015, the number of cases increased to 155. The current plan is to implement in La Crosse County in September and gradually bring all of the counties throughout the State on the system.**

On March 17, the Wisconsin Supreme Court approved a new rule that will result in the implementation of mandatory electronic filing (eFiling) statewide for all case types during the next several years. The Court approved, [as amended, Rule Petition 14-03](#) (Wis. Stat. § 801.18), which establishes procedures for court documents to be filed electronically. eFiling is rapidly gaining popularity as a more convenient and efficient alternative to paper filing for lawyers and parties in a case, as well as for circuit courts throughout the state. eFiling allows parties to file and access documents without a trip to the courthouse and reduces the need for physical storage space. Although the rule takes effect July 1, mandatory eFiling will be phased in according to a schedule to be set by the director of state courts on a county-by-county or case-type basis. Mandatory eFiling will be established first

in a small number of pilot counties that already offer voluntary eFiling in civil, family, small claims and paternity cases and then expand in those case types to other counties statewide by the end of 2017. Other case types will be added with a targeted completion date for mandatory eFiling in all case types statewide by December 31, 2019. The mandatory eFiling system will replace the current voluntary eFiling program, which is used for limited case types by [52 counties](#), said Jean Bousquet, chief information officer for the Wisconsin Court system. The rule established for voluntary eFiling will remain in effect until July 1, 2016, when the new rule will go into effect for all eFiling participants, Bousquet said. An electronic filing fee of \$20 per party per case will be established to pay for the program, said Director of State Courts J. Denis Moran. The fee will be waived for indigent parties and for governmental units, such as district attorneys, public defenders, child support agencies, the state Department of Justice, and county and municipal attorneys. The court system's Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP) staff will implement the program, with the help of contractors during the initial phases. Expenditures are projected at about \$2 million a year from 2017 through 2019, with revenue beginning to catch up with expenditures in 2018.

*Pamela Radtke*  
*Clerk of Courts*