



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

County Administrative Center  
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**Memo To: La Crosse County Board of Supervisors**  
**From: Steve O'Malley, County Administrator**  
**Date: August 2, 2016**

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

Attached is the August 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 Planning Meeting August 8, 2016

The Planning meeting will have several topics including:

- Report on Bluffland Protection Plan initiative
- Discussion and survey on Priorities from the Board Advance
- County Board IT priorities
- Review of the Budget process

County Board Meeting August 18, 2016

In addition to regular business from this month's committee meetings, we will have the annual Audit presentation by Baker Tiley Virchow Krause LLP our independent Auditors.

*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 August 2016

### County Surveyor

**FIELD WORK:** We have had an exceptionally productive year in our attempt to perform maintenance work on 71 of our Section and Quarter corner locations. We have already maintained 67 PLSS corner monuments which represents 94% of our yearly goal. Our primary focus this year is on many of the corners in the Cities of La Crosse and Onalaska. This maintenance is critical to assure the condition and stability of these vital corner markers which serve as "starting points" for retracing and creating legal descriptions of land.

**WISCONSIN LAND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION (WLIA):** At the 2016 WLIA Annual Conference in Elkhart Lake earlier this year, I had the honor of being named "Best Presenter" based on a vote of my peers. Instead of simply mailing the award, WLIA President Martin Goettl insisted on formally presenting the award to me at the July 21st County Board meeting. It was a humbling yet uplifting experience. As I indicated in accepting the award, it is easy to look like a good presenter when you have good subject matter, solid backing from your employer and strong support from co-workers and family. I was able to acknowledge my wife Brenda, my parents Harold and Joanne Meyer and my co-worker John Krage who were in attendance during that portion of the meeting.

**HIGHWAY MAP SCANNING:** We had been working in cooperation with IT Production to have our highway right-of-way maps scanned. We were off to a good start but the untimely passing of Mike McGuire has brought scanning project to a halt. Mike was a good friend to the County Surveyor Department and an absolutely wonderful co-worker. We will certainly exercise patience as the IT Production Department regroups and yield to their timing as to when the scanning project can resume.

**MAP REVIEW:** We have reviewed 43 Certified Survey Maps so far in 2016 which is slightly ahead of the 41 maps we had reviewed by this time last year. Assistant County Surveyor John Krage oversees this aspect of our work and continues to handle it well.

**MAGAZINE ARTICLES:** As President of the Wisconsin County Surveyors Association, I have taken the lead on writing a series of three articles for the Wisconsin Counties Association magazine regarding the Public Land Survey System (PLSS). The articles will cover the history, the importance and the future of the PLSS. The first article is in the hands of the editor. I will be working on the second and third articles as time allows.

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

### La Crosse County UW-Extension

- The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin has approved the promotion of Karl Green, Community, Natural Resources, Economic Development Agent, associate professor with tenure, to Professor in the Department of Community Development, effective July 1, 2016. (MMS)

- The nEXT Generation Executive Sponsor Team announced the membership for the remaining nine UW-Extension restructure work groups in the areas of programming, organizational structure and program development. This brings the total number of work groups to nineteen. Starting the first week of August, the nEXT Generation project communications committee will send an e-newsletter to county partners and external partners around the state. The newsletter will be emailed approximately every three weeks and include updates on the nEXT Generation project's progress and provide an additional venue for our valued partners to share questions and feedback. (MMS)
- Prefair 4-H judging activities were held at the end of June. Twelve 4-H Clothing Project members successfully exhibited 14 items and modeled them at the La Crosse Interstate Fair. Thea Ranis and Mora Markofski were selected to represent La Crosse County at this year's state fair Clothing Revue. Fourteen amazing 4-H cooks and cake decorators brought sixteen of their finest creations to be judged at the Favorite Foods Revue. (MMS)
- 4-H Youth Development and UnitedHealthcare held a Community Garden Party at the Kane Street Community Garden. Even through the rain 42 people from around the area participated. The participants were able to select fresh vegetables and rode the blender bike as part of learning about sugary drinks. (JH)
- Seven youth leaders represented La Crosse County at the Wisconsin 4-H & Youth Conference, held on the UW-Madison Campus. The delegates attended workshops and assemblies developed around the theme "Picturing Our Success" which highlighted encouragement to follow your ambitions, no matter what others say, to adapt to develop the confidence it takes to be a leader and make an impact by learning from role models to teach and inspire others. One of the delegates was a part of the overall conference leadership teams serving as a State 4-H Arts Team youth leader. (JH)
- Eighty contacts at the 2nd Annual Family Wellness Carnival on July 21st in collaboration with La Crosse Health Department, Children's Palace and The Parenting Place. Families received nutrition information, tried new foods, received produce, and were physically active while having fun in the obstacle course. (KJ)
- WNEP led an interactive educational session with 18 participants at Wafer Food Pantry on June 21st. Participants learned to utilize MyPlate to guide meal preparation, how to prepare stir fry vegetables, and were given the opportunity to taste delicious stir fry recipes. (KJ)
- Completed the Employer Sentiment Survey for the La Crosse-based Fiberglass molding company Advanced Fiber Products. This survey asked questions of employee needs and found where employee satisfaction best correlated with business actions. (KG)
- Worked with the La Crosse Health Science Consortium, La Crosse School District and La Crosse County Family Collaborative to determine an approach to improve community development by using Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant dollars to reduce student mobility. The data developed by this educator helped define the approach to reducing student mobility. (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

## Register of Deeds

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	\$89,005.17	\$290,415.74
June	522	1447	1703	\$186,314.70	\$78,575.25	\$368,990.99
July	451	1149	1638	\$167,217.90		

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

## Zoning, Planning & Land Information

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

### Zoning Permits Issued Jan 1st through July 31st 2016

2015-Jan-July 31st Permits Issued-198 Value 2015- \$ 17,225,876

2016-Jan-July 31st Permits Issued-212 **up 6.6%** Value 2016- \$ 19,771,767 **up 12.87%**

### Zoning Permits Issued June 1<sup>st</sup> through July 31st 2016

2015-June 1<sup>st</sup> - July 31st - 86 permits Value 2015- \$ 7,229,339

2016-June 1<sup>st</sup> - July 31st - 84 permits **down 2.32%** Value 2016- \$ 5,583,000 **down 22.77%**

*Charlie Handy, County Planner  
Zoning, Planning & Land Information*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Public Works & Infrastructure August 2016

### Solid Waste

#### Xcel

Operations at the Xcel Facility are continuing to receive above average amounts of waste due to the continued improvement in the economy. Contract extension negotiations are continuing but schedules with Xcel and Solid Waste staff have resulted in some delays. A brochure to assist customers and haulers to avoid oversized and bulky waste being sent to Xcel has been developed and will be distributed in the upcoming months. Acceptance of oversized bulky waste results in increased costs for the Solid Waste Department and it is the intent of this brochure to minimize waste of this type at Xcel. Due to the above average rains this year the waste being received at Xcel is quite wet and has the lowest ever BTU value for this time period.

#### Landfill

Waste volumes at the landfill continue to remain at significantly elevated levels from 2015 reflecting improvement in economic conditions. While the number of citizen users has diminished, the total tonnage received is remaining at 2015 levels. Work on Highway 16 has removed many trees that were providing a screening barrier to the landfill. Filling operations currently are highly visible from Highway 16.

The WDNR will be implementing new storm water pollution control regulations. This will require a separate permitting process for the facility and some additional monitoring. In addition, inspections will not be performed by the Solid Waste Inspector but by a specialist in surface water management. The department will have to prepare a SWPPP, which is a storm water pollution prevention plan and will have to manage the site to be in compliance with that plan. In a similar fashion, but at the federal level, regulations are changing regarding gas emissions from landfills. It is not expected that these changes will impact our facility.

#### Landfill Operations

The landfill is in excellent condition with new and increased litter control fencing and the development of a new tipping area. Some interior access roads are beginning to show signs of deterioration but work on those roads is being postponed until such work can be coordinated with the construction of the Phase VIIB area in 2017. A situation with a hostile customer was resolved with the assistance of Corporation Counsel's office. After providing appropriate documentation, Corporation Counsel sent a letter to the hostile customer indicating that any further violations of safety rules or misconduct at the landfill would result in revocation of their solid waste permit.

The first of two cuttings of grass on the landfill and surrounding property is underway in the month of July. It is expected that spraying for noxious weeds and trimming will be done in August.

In the evening of July 21<sup>st</sup> a lightning strike occurred at the landfill. Damage to communications, computers, and other systems occurred. The programmable logic controller for the leachate collection systems appears to have been destroyed. Staff found ways to manually override systems and continue operations so that the gas-to-energy, leachate and other systems were functioning. However, the scale system also suffered

damage and had to be run in a manual mode. Estimate cost of the damage is approximately \$20,000.

### **Special Waste Program**

The La Crosse County Solid Waste Department has a Special Waste Program to ensure proper management of wastes that differ from usual residential, commercial or construction and demolition waste streams. Special wastes could include industrial byproducts such as foundry sand or sandblasting sand, wastewater treatment sludge, street sweepings, or contaminated soils from remediation projects. While some special wastes are disposed in the landfill, most of these wastes can be beneficially used. An example would be foundry and sandblast sands, contaminated soil or street sweepings being used as an alternate daily cover or in the construction of a berm. Another would be using coal ash to help stabilize a road bed within the landfill. In both these cases a waste material is used instead of soil or aggregate. This helps conserve valuable airspace, saves the landfill and our contractor money and allows customers to manage high volume wastes at a reduced rate. Special waste accounts for 20% of the waste received at the landfill.

An important part of managing the Special Waste Program is working with customers to ensure that these wastes are properly classified and tested. The landfill's Plan of Operation contains a detailed profiling requirements and testing protocols to ensure no hazardous wastes are accepted. All special wastes must be approved prior to being delivered to the landfill. High volume industrial wastes must be reevaluated, at a minimum of every three years. Randy Nedrelo manages the Special Waste Program for La Crosse County.

### **Gas to Energy**

Gas to Energy continues to perform well, but the amount of gas being produced by the landfill is somewhat reduced. Leachate recirculation with leachate from Vernon County was initiated during the week of July 11<sup>th</sup>. It is hoped that over the long term, one to two years, this approach will enhance gas production. The lightning strikes on July 21, 2016 have damaged both our facility and the Gundersen facility. As of July 28, a restart date has not been determined.

### **Landfill Site Entrance**

Work continues with the City of La Crosse to develop a frontage road and a new landfill site entrance. Work is progressing at a slower than anticipated rate and may result in more work having to be shifted to 2017 versus 2016.

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

### **General Program**

For the year program utilization by household users continues to be below the record numbers of the last two years. There doesn't appear to be one specific reason for decreased participation this year.

<b><u>2016 La Crosse HHM Household Users Year to Date</u></b>	
Percent Change in users vs. 2015	<b>-14%</b>
Percent Change in waste received (lbs.) vs. 2015	<b>-11%</b>

The waste volumes and revenue from VSQGs (small businesses) remains steady. To cover increased costs for lead containing glass recycling, HHM will charge \$10 for all televisions beginning 8/15/16. Previously televisions that measured 21 inches or less were charged \$5.

HHM staff have been successful in reducing costs for disposal of hazardous wastes, which is about 25% below 2015, as of the end of June. Some initiatives include collaborating with

other programs in the state to find the lowest cost vendors for waste containers, working with the disposal contractors to control transportation and disposal costs and taking the time to more thoroughly screen materials for distribution through the reuse room. This means opening a lot of containers to determine what is still usable and what is not.

### **HHM Survey Results**

A UW-La Crosse student just completed a survey of 100 HHM users. The survey was conducted during the months of April, May and June. The results show a high level of satisfaction by users and a desire for a large portion of the program funding to remain on the tax bill.

- Value of the program
  - Absolutely Necessary: 75.76%
  - Necessary: 23.23%
- Satisfaction
  - Very Satisfied: 82%
  - Satisfied: 18%
- Preference for future funding
  - Tax Bill: 82%
  - Fee-based 18%
- Willing to pay for fee-based
  - <\$5: 3.03%
  - \$5-10: 11.11%
  - \$10-15: 3.03%
  - \$15-20: 2.02%

If you would like to see the complete survey, including a summary of comments email [nredrelo@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:nredrelo@lacrossecounty.org) or call 608-789-7857.

### **Future Funding of HHM**

As reported previously, HHM staff convened an ad hoc working group consisting of representatives for several municipalities within the county, to discuss the options for continued funding of the program after the current contract expires at the end of 2017. The group met three times to discuss the numerous options for sustainable long-term funding and to identify which options would be the most feasible.

The group unanimously felt that the fairest and most reasonable means to fund the program was to continue the per capita contribution by the municipalities, which is matched by the County. Discussion then focused on what would be a sustainable level of funding to ensure that the HHM program would continue provide services, meet growing demands without the funding deficit that it has experienced the last several years. The recommendation from the group was for the program to request an increase from \$1.00/ capita to \$1.50/ capita with the new contract starting in 2018. Because of the current funding deficit, the group felt that it would be appropriate for HHM to request an increase to \$1.25/ capita for the 2017 budget year, if the County is willing to match that level of contribution

### **Sustainability**

#### **Scout Projects**

Randy had the opportunity to present the Gateway Area Council a check in the amount of almost \$800.00. This money was raised for the scouts through the annual Scrap A Thon. Several Scouts and leaders were on hand Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup> to help customers unload their materials in the citizen's drop off area along with accepting any donations of metal or cash for the scouts. Any metal that comes into the landfill during the month of June is collected and sold to Runde Metal Recycling and then donated to the scouts.

### **Trails**

WisCorps has completed construction of at least another mile of trail in the community forest, and will be working on another extension this fall. The City of La Crosse Engineering dept. has awarded the trail connection project from the pedestrian bridge to the boardwalk and this section should be paved and completed sometime in August or September.

### **Other Events**

Over 180 students from Onalaska Middle School, and over 50 scouts from Missouri, Kansas, and Iowa took tours of the Solid Waste Department and the landfill. Nick also attended the regional Biodiversity summit which talked about the value of a rich and diverse biome within an urban setting.

### **Solar Equivalent**

The Solid Waste Department did some calculating on the amount of solar panels that would be needed to replace the energy produced by the Xcel Energy facility. Xcel produces enough electricity for 10,000 local homes. If solar panels were to be installed over 50 acres of land would be needed to provide an equivalent amount of locally produced energy.

### **Sustainable La Crosse Commission**

Jason Gilman from the City of La Crosse Planning Department, Jarred LaRue an intern from the Solid Waste Department and Nick gave an update on the Indicators report to the City Council. Lots of good comments on how sustainability is saving both the City and County thousands of Dollars every year. An update will be given to the County Board in the near future.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry A. Koch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "H" and "K".

Henry A. Koch, P.E.

## **Highway Department**

- CTH C/STH 108 -  
The project within Mindoro that is let to Hegg contractors, is currently on schedule. Black top has been removed, storm sewer laid in and the concrete work started 8/1/2016. It looks like this will be completed on time. Culvert replacement on the remainder of the roadway is about complete and we are currently working on ditching needs. Later this summer/early fall we will be working to upgrade all cable guard to guard rail.
- Seal coating is in progress right now. We have sealed CTH M (on the south side of the ridge), CTH F, CTH FA and CTH FO. In addition to our system we are working on projects for the City of Onalaska, the Town of Holland, Vernon County and a STH project on STH 131 in Vernon County. We will also be helping out Jackson County with their sealing.
- Work on the State highway, in addition to all the construction continues to be very busy for us. As we speak we are performing night work on STH 16. We have been involved on the STH 162 project, wrapping up some loose ends that the contractor and WisDOT could not come to agreement on and we are starting to focus on bridge work and a shouldering project on STH 33.
- 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 on schedule for completion so we should see CTH XX open to traffic early this fall.

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 August 2016

### Emergency Services

#### Public Safety Communications

##### May

###### Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,637 (average of 85 per day)  
Answered within 10 seconds: 95.83%  
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.62%  
Average Answer Time: 5 seconds  
*\*5 calls of more than 40 seconds*

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

Total Telephone Calls 24,288 (average of 782 per day)

###### Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	10,188
Fire Fighting	226
Emergency Medical	632

##### April

###### Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,680 (average of 89 per day)  
Answered within 10 seconds: 94.22%  
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.33%  
Average Answer Time: 5 seconds  
*\* 0 calls of more than 40 seconds*

82% of 9-1-1 calls were from wireless phones.

Total Telephone Calls 25,094 (average of 836 per day)

###### Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	10,042
Fire Fighting	249
Emergency Medical	685

*\*National Emergency Number Association Standards:*

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

Public Safety Communications has been meeting with the 9-1-1 directors of other area Counties as well as representatives of some of the telephone companies to discuss the

future of the 9-1-1 infrastructure. Currently La Crosse County shares its routing equipment with Trempealeau, Jackson and Monroe counties. This routing equipment is analog-based and cannot support the next generation of 9-1-1 with such digital features as text-to-9-1-1, pictures or video. As a comparison, Minnesota is expected to begin statewide text-to-911 by this fall.

The financial support of Minnesota's advancement is from fees generated from devices capable of calling 9-1-1. This fee is something the State of Wisconsin does not have. The Police and Fire Protection Fee assigned to cellular devices, actually goes into Wisconsin's shared revenue fund, but not directly to 9-1-1 funding. Local 9-1-1 agencies, the telephone companies and professional public safety telecommunications organizations such as the National Emergency Number Association will continue to promote the need of a fee that helps update the aging 9-1-1 infrastructure and assist local agencies with improving how 9-1-1 operates.

The maintenance period for the phone system used for both 9-1-1 and non-emergency public safety calls ends in 2017. The Business Communications Manager (BCM) that is the server for our phone system, will be unserviceable and needs to be replaced. This will include the individual console phone devices and software. This equipment provides us the ability to receive the calls from the 9-1-1 routers, as well as our public safety non-emergency telephone lines. Public Safety Communications is researching options for updating this phone system as part of the 2017 budget.

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

- County EM is assisting the La Crosse Airport by researching the exercise and response plans at several Wisconsin airports as they prepare for the mandatory FAA review of emergency plans and procedures in 2017.
- County EM participated in a major Wisconsin emergency preparedness and response exercise called Miles Paratus on June 6-8, 2016 by serving as the Monroe County Emergency Operations Center evaluator in Sparta, and the statewide Business Emergency Operations Center SIMCEL (simulated messages), and the Jackson County SIMCEL at Volk Field. Hundreds of emergency responders, community officials, and National Guard troops were involved in the various exercise activities that occurred at multiple sites in Wisconsin.
- County EM attending Family Assistance Center training held at the Onalaska Stoney Creek Inn on June 9. This training will assist the County Health Dept., Human Services Dept., and Emergency Management efforts to assist families and friends of persons seriously injured or killed during a local disaster.
- The Wisconsin School of Medicine – WI Academy for Rural Medicine (WARM) program conducted a community emergency exercise on June 14 at Central High School that involved over 50 simulated victims of an intentional explosion. The County Mass Casualty Team provided incident scene management and patient triage supplies and equipment. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year the WARM program has partnered with County EM to develop and conduct emergency exercises in La Crosse County.
- La Crosse County held an Emergency Operations Center workshop for local officials on June 20. Information obtained during the workshop may help with the transition from the current EOC facility to the NAC (new Administrative Center) later this year.
- The County Emergency Services Department assisted the City of Onalaska by deploying the County's Communication & Command Vehicle to the Omni Center area for use during the very hot Celebrate Onalaska festival on June 23 – 26. County EM was present in the mobile command post during the evening of June 25 as severe weather was approaching the site of the fireworks display.

- County EM participated in a Health Care Coalition EBOLA exercise held at the Stoney Creek Inn on June 29.
- County EM presented evacuation planning information to West Salem officials on July 18.
- County EM assisted the Health Dept. with preparations for response to the forecast dangerous heat wave during the week of July 18 - 22.
- The LEPC met on July 20 and determined to not proceed with efforts to obtain a countywide emergency notification system and to report their findings and recommendation to the Judiciary and Law Committee.

*Jay Loeffler, Administrator  
Emergency Services*

## **Corporation Counsel Office**

### 1. Claims Update

- *Barbara Andres v. County of La Crosse*, ERD Case No. CR2015-1734.

In this case the Equal Rights officer had determined no probable cause to believe that La Crosse County violated the Wisconsin Fair Employment Act. This matter was monitored for a period of 90 days from March 17, 2016, when the EEOC issued an order also dismissing a complaint but allowing Ms. Andres a period of 90 days to file a civil suit. No civil suit has been filed and, therefore, this case can now be closed.

- *Paul Heintz v. County of La Crosse*, ERD Case No. CR2016-1280.

On or about May 31, 2016 Paul Heintz filed a complaint against the County of La Crosse, La Crosse County Public Library Onalaska alleging discrimination based upon disability, involving the presence of his service animal. Mr. Heintz alleges he was illegally asked whether he had a license for his service animal, but he was not asked to leave the library premises. Counsel has been assigned to the case by WMMIC. La Crosse County denies the allegations in the complaint and denies any violation of his legal rights. The case is being investigated and is pending an initial determination.

- *Scot Alan Perket v. La Crosse County Police Department*, Case No. 16-C-362.

Scot Perket has filed a complaint in the Federal United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin. The complaint is against the La Crosse County Police Department and alleges a number of allegations involving an arrest sometime on a New Year's Eve date. It is difficult to determine the exact basis for the complaint but it alleges some incidents involving a breath test and some allegations during his time in the County jail. Mr. Perket requests \$6,890,000.00 in damages. Counsel has been assigned to the case by WMMIC. Motions to dismiss have been filed, and we are awaiting a decision on the motions. Our office will keep the County Board informed of any future developments in this case.

## 2. Ordinance Updates

- The amendments to Chapter 5 (Record Management) have been completed and submitted to the County Board for a 1<sup>st</sup> reading and the final reading will occur at the August, 2016 County Board meeting.

## 3. Office Update

- Interviews have been held for the hiring of a 4<sup>th</sup> attorney and a decision was made to hire Steve Woodward. Steve was the Law Clerk and Small Claims Mediator for almost 3 years for the La Crosse County Circuit Courts and is a welcome addition to our staff. He commences work on August 22, 2016.

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

- *Solid Waste Department* –
  - Contractual issues-extension of the Xcel contract-negotiations still continue.
  - Work on amendments to operations contracts with St. Joseph Construction Company.
- *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* – We recently prepared documents and closed on a loan to Lovechild restaurant. We have also worked on an intergovernmental agreement for International Business Park II.
- *Treasurer/Facilities Department* –Work with Facilities on easement issues and with the Treasurer's office on sale of various tax foreclosure properties.
- *Personnel* – Our office continues to assist on various miscellaneous employee issues and labor matters and also work with Jane Klekamp on development of administrative professionals classifications.
- *Highway Department-* Work with the Highway Commissioner on various highway policies and also on an ordinance on disposition of highway property.

## 5. Miscellaneous Matters

- Our office continues to respond to Open Records requests as received.
- Our office continues to be involved in issues related to the downtown development, specifically, issues regarding the Lease from STIZO Development of the Administrative Center and the termination of the Associated Bank Lease.

## 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, and child support establishment and enforcement.

## 7. Mediation and Family Court Services Report to the Board, June-July 2016.

On June 21, 2016, Dawn Bender, MFCS Mediator/Custody Evaluator, and Lisa Stablier, MFCS Director, attended the Supervised Visitation and Exchange Advisory Committee Meeting to discuss the status of community resources available to families impacted by domestic violence.

Lisa presented the MFCS Report to the Judiciary and Law Committee on July 12<sup>th</sup> during which she discussed services provided by MFCS and related statistics. On July 20<sup>th</sup>, MFCS staff met with mental health professionals serving as Child Development Specialists on Custody Assessment Teams to discuss practices and procedures.

Dawn attended the Vernon County Family Court Seminar on July 21, 2016. This year's topics focused on interviewing children, domestic violence, trauma informed care and Vernon County mediation and child support practices.

Respectfully submitted,

*David L. Lange*  
*Corporation Counsel*

## **Medical Examiner**

Summer greetings. With summer just flying by we are at the halfway point in our number of cases. We are steadily busy as usual, and our case numbers continue to climb. Last year for a total we had 471 case. To this date we are at 289 cases and climbing. I see no end to the increase in cases on the horizon. We have a severe mental health issue in La Crosse County and until we figure how to get a handle on this problem our caseload is not going to decrease. We are seeing increases in suicide and drug related deaths continue to rise at alarming numbers. All of these deaths go back to the number one problem of mental health issues.

With the needle exchange and narcan available as tools in the fight of drug deaths, it is helping. With the needle exchange program which is always up to debate, we have to look at the number of Hepatitis C case that we have in La Crosse. They are high and would be higher if we didn't have the needle exchange program in place. Rough estimate of Hepatitis cases in La Crosse County were around 45. With that number of cases the cost for medical help is staggering for these individuals. Estimated medical cost is in the hundreds of thousands of dollars in which all taxpayers share some of the cost burden of these cases. We all benefit from the needle exchange program. We are in the process of hiring 2 new deputies to replace the deputies that just recently left. We are still trying to work on some of our special projects but with the increase caseload we are a little behind. As always, any board member is always welcome to come over to our new office and welcome to go on a ride along. Feel free to contact us on any questions or concerns. Have a great rest of the summer! Thank you.

Sincerely submitted,

*Tim Candahl*  
*Chief Medical Examiner*