



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

County Administrative Center
400 4th Street North • Room 3300 • La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601-3200
(608) 785-9700 • Fax (608) 789-4821
www.co.la-crosse.wi.us

Memo To: La Crosse County Board of Supervisors
From: Steve O'Malley, County Administrator
Date: October 6, 2016

Re: October Monthly Report to the County Board

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

REMINDER Monthly Reporting by roughly half the organization every other month. While you will 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 October 10, 2016

The Planning meeting will have several topics including:

- 2017 Benefit required ACA announcement
- United Way Solicitation
- Cyber Security Month – Password Resetting Please Bring your laptops
- 2017 County Administrator’s Budget
 - Review of Budget Documents
 - Overview of Budget Recommendation
 - Public Safety Phone and Radio System Upgrade Plan
 - Matrix of Local Options for Increased Dedicated Highway Funding

*If you have any questions, feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail.
County Administrator direct line: 785-9789, cell phone 608-385-3316
or e-mail steve.omalley@co.la-crosse.wi.us*

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Planning, Resources & Development Committee October 2016

County Surveyor

NEW EQUIPMENT: We have purchased a new total station with grant funds from the Wisconsin Land Information Program. This instrument replaces our old total station which has been used by our department since 1995. We make use of this piece of equipment to perform conventional survey work in areas of heavy canopy (tree branches/leaves) where GPS equipment is more of a challenge to use.

WISCONSIN LAND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION (WLIA): I will be representing our Land Information Department by attending the WLIA Annual Fall Regional Conference in Trego, Wisconsin on October 20-21. These regional conferences offer attendees the opportunity to network with land records professionals from across the state. Sessions for this conference include: UAS Drone Capabilities (along with a demonstration), Parcel Fabric, Free and Open Public Geospatial Data, the role of Geographic Information Systems in Emergency Management and a session on the Wisconsin Land Information Plan Implementation.

FIELD WORK: With an eye toward our office move to the New Administrative Center, we made great strides to complete the majority of our field work for the year on an accelerated schedule. We were able to take advantage of wonderful spring and summer weather to accomplish a great deal of field work for the year. Our department goal is to perform maintenance on 5% of our 1405 Section and Quarter corner locations (5% is 71 corner locations). I am pleased to report that we have performed maintenance on 78 corner locations. As we move into fall, we will continue to visit additional corner locations as time allows.

HIGHWAY MAP SCANNING: Jeanne Smaby in IT Production has been working to scan our highway right-of-way maps. So far she has completed the Towns of Bangor, Barre and Burns. She is currently working on the Town of Farmington. We will likely not get the highway map scan project completed prior to our move to the new building, which is unfortunate since IT Production will be in a different building. But we will work together post-move on logistics to complete the project. I truly appreciate the care with which Jeanne exercises in handling these valuable documents and her efforts to extract the best quality images needed for this project. Eventually, these maps will be made available to the public on the County Surveyor website.

CERTIFIED SURVEY MAP REVIEW: We have reviewed 53 Certified Survey Maps so far in 2016. (51 at this time in 2015). This volume has been a good pace over the past two years and I believe is a good indication of a healthier economy. Assistant County Surveyor John Krage oversees this aspect of our work and continues to provide excellent service.

GOOSE ISLAND: We are assisting the Facilities Department in accurately locating over 300 camp site number posts in Goose Island Campground. The post locations will be used by Facilities personnel as a reference point for future work. This information will also be incorporated into a Facilities Geographic Information System (GIS) map.

WCA MAGAZINE ARTICLES: I have gotten some good feedback from a series of articles that I wrote for the *Wisconsin Counties Association* magazine regarding the Public Land

Survey System (PLSS). Non-surveyors, especially County Board Supervisors and Committee members were our target audience and I am hearing from colleagues that we were successful in reaching a number of those folks across the State.

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

Department of Land Conservation

On Saturday, October 1st, staff from the Department of Land Conservation assisted other conservation partners in conducting an Oak Woodland Management Workshop for woodland owners in La Crosse and Monroe Counties. The workshop was attended by more than 120 landowners who were offered 13 different classroom sessions on oak woodland management. The afternoon session was a tour of a local Wisconsin Tree Farm member who has been managing his woodland for oak as well as other tree species. Classroom subjects included; *Managing Deer and Turkey: Oak Matters, Song Birds in Your Woodlands, Financial and Technical Assistance for Landowners, Young Woodlands for Ruffed Grouse and Other Wildlife, Invasive Species of Oak Savannas and Woodlands, Insects and Diseases That Impact Oak Tree Health, Taking Care of Your Oak Savanna, Best Methods for Harvesting Oak Woodlands, Oak-Hickory Woodland Ecology, Oak Woodland Management, and Understanding Your Property Tax-MFL and Other Tax Options.* The Planning Committee for this event included employees from US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Aldo Leopold Foundation, Pheasants Forever, WDNR Forestry Division, UW Extension, Trout Unlimited, Ruffed Grouse Society, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Mississippi Valley Conservancy, WDNR Wildlife Division, Wisconsin Science Services, Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, the Monroe County Land Conservation Department and the La Crosse County Department of Land Conservation. The purpose of the workshop was to encourage woodland owners to actively engage themselves in managing their woodlands for oak trees which is a vital species in Western Wisconsin.

The construction season for installing conservation practices is coming to an end. The recent heavy rains has put most work on hold for now and hoping for dryer weather in the near future so that projects can be completed. Erosion control permits for one and two family home construction is still going strong and many building contractors have plenty of work to keep them busy through the winter and well into spring.

*Gregg Stangl
Director of Land Conservation*

Zoning, Planning & Land Information

Permits: - Zoning Permits Issued through August 31st 2016- La Crosse County Unincorporated

Zoning Permits Issued Jan 1st through July 31st 2016

2015-Jan-August 31st Permits Issued- 238

Value 2015- \$ 22,564,421

2016-Jan-August 31st Permits Issued- 242

up 1.65%

Value 2016- \$ 23,162,992

up 2.58%

Zoning Permits Issued Aug1st through Aug31st 2016

2015-Aug 1st - Aug 31st - 40 permits

Value 2015- \$ 5,338,545

2016-Aug 1st - Aug 31st - 30 permits **down 25%** Value 2016- \$ 3,418,475 **down 35.96%**

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

La Crosse County UW-Extension

- Twelve at-risk youth participated in the summer At-Risk Youth program. The program, based in experiential learning methodologies, offered a variety of activities that helped youth to build positive relationships with others and animals, increase their awareness, trust, and respect of self and others. Interns met with youth, referred through La Crosse County Human Services, three days a week for nine weeks. (MMS)
- Quinton Maydaniuk and Megan Resler ended their work as summer At-Risk Teen Program Interns at the end of August. (MMS)
- The 4-H Youth Development Educator position was opened and applications received. The paper and preliminary screenings have been held, with final interviews tentatively scheduled for November 4th. (MMS)
- Promotional materials seeking applications for the Youth Development clerical support position vacated in August are being finalized. Plans are to have this position filled early November. (MMS)
- Three La Crosse County Board Supervisors and the County Administrator attended and voiced their interest and concerns at the UW-Extension Chancellors Town Hall Meeting at UW-Eau Claire in August. Chancellor Sandeen has changed leadership within Cooperative Extension. Rick Klemme will be leaving the position as Dean and Director of Cooperative Extension, effective November 1, 2016. He will also leave his role as nEXT Generation co-executive sponsor, with the appointment of Karl Martin named as Interim Dean. (MMS)
- Forty youth, 5 teen counselors and 8 adult volunteers attended a 3-day Summer Camp at Upham Woods Environmental Education Center. The goal of the camp experience is to help children practice independence, grow self-confidence, develop social skills, and learn about nature. This is accomplished by outdoor activities such as swimming, orienteering, tree identification, raptor birds, campfires and creating friendships. (JH)
- More than 80 4-H youth were selected to participate in the 4-H Art Exhibit at the Pump House Regional Arts Center, August 30th – October 22nd. The art on display is selected from only the blue ribbon items at the fair. These exhibits are truly the best work of outstanding young artists. (JH)
- Sixteen individuals visiting the Salvation Army Food Pantry were educated on an “unfamiliar” pantry item of canned salmon. Participants were offered samples and provided ideas on how to utilize the salmon to increase the nutritional content of their meals. (KJ)
- Thirty energetic second graders at Hamilton Elementary received a series of five nutrition lessons which covered MyPlate food groups, making healthy choices, trying new foods, and increasing physical activity. During the interactive series the children

expressed excitement to taste trail mix, ground cherries, kale, cabbage and a turkey spinach wrap. (KJ)

- Worked with the La Crosse School District, La Crosse County Health & Human Service Departments, and City Planning to plan and implement the 6th Rebuilding for Learning conference here in La Crosse. Over 950 attendees, including the entire staff of La Crosse School District, were provided up and coming research and professional development opportunities for social service and school district staff. The evaluation developed by this educator indicated successful introduction of key concepts on children and trauma. (KG)
- Continued working with the Hintgen Island Fleeting Site engineer as we moved the site through the environmental permitting. Minnesota DNR required a mussel survey which indicated presence of mussel species. A mitigation fee will be negotiated between the MDNR and La Crosse County to help reduce this threat to the existing mussels. (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	\$80,546.29	\$449,537.28
Aug.	601	1391	1749	\$150,864.00	\$71,313.09	\$520,850.37
Sept.	379	1211	1936	\$141,468.30		
Oct.						

The Register of Deeds office continues with cleaning out the office & packing up items that we are able to pack. Just amazing what is kept with no possibility of ever using again!

Revenue wise, we are about \$20,000 over what we took in last year at this time. It has been a sellers market so lots of houses being sold, which is good news for our revenue.

Our office was chosen to be a pilot office for the new state wide vital records system that will go live Jan. 3, 2017. All birth records must be issued from the SVRIS online system. Hopefully some of the kinks we have been finding to the process will be worked out before the go live date and by us doing this now we will be more knowledgeable when that day comes.

Local death and marriage records will still be printed from our paper records if the record is not in SVRIS. Every single record needs to be checked in the online system prior to making

it for the customer. If it is in there we can print it from the online system, if it is not, then we have to find it and print from our paper record.

Beginning Jan. 3, 2017 we will also be able to print records from other Wisconsin counties. For marriage and death record where the event took place in other counties we will only be able to print the ones that are currently available on SVRIS. They will not be back loading those into the system, so all will not be available statewide. However, all birth certificates will be available. It is going to take longer for our office to process the requests for customers as we need to contact the state vital records office, they in turn will find the record requested & index it into the online system. They are estimating a 15 minute turnaround time for doing that process. Our customers will be waiting longer than usual, but they will have the ability to get their birth certificates here no matter where they were born in Wisconsin. They will not have to travel to their birth county nor will they have to apply through the mail or online to those counties. So even though it make take a few minutes longer when they come into our office, in the long run they will save time and money.

We will also begin issuing divorce certificates from this office. This is not something that we have ever done before and it will only be the ones from Jan. 2017 forward. These records will again not be back indexed by the state vitals office.

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

Metropolitan Planning Organization

The La Crosse Area Planning Committee conducts “performance based” transportation planning. This means that we identify a set of “performance measures” that are tracked over time to indicate the state of various attributes of our area, as well as to determine whether these attributes are improving. We have recently completed our 2016 performance measures report and you may find the indicators we are reporting very interesting. The following is just a snapshot of the full report that is [available here](#) on the LAPC website at www.LPAC.org.

LAPC TRANSPORTATION PERFORMANCE REPORT

Annual Progress Summary | September 2016



GOOD OR IMPROVING



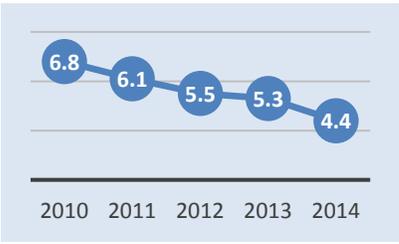
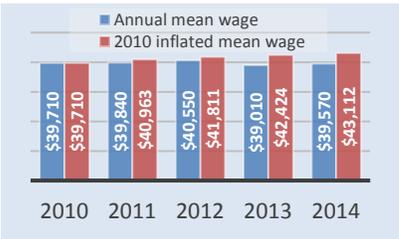
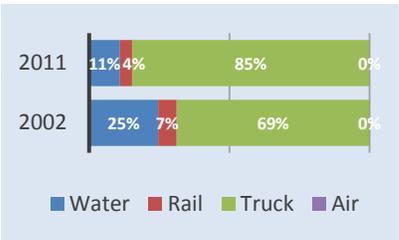
NO CHANGE



POOR OR WORSENING

THE SCORE RELATES TO HOW 2014 COMPARES TO 2013 AND THE 5-YEAR AVERAGE.

LAPC MEASURE	TARGET	RESULT	SCORE	MULTI-YEAR TREND	ANALYSIS
FREIGHT MOVEMENT & ECONOMIC VITALITY:					Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency; and Enhance travel and tourism.

<p>Unemployment Rate: Percentage of total workforce in the La Crosse-Onalaska WI-MN metropolitan statistical area (MSA) that is unemployed and looking for work.</p> <p>Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.</p>	<p>< national average (6.2)</p>	<p>4.4 (CY 2014) 5.6 (5-yr ave)</p>	<p>2013-2014 ▲ 5-yr ave ▲</p>		<p>The unemployment rate for the La Crosse WI-MN MSA has steadily declined over the 5-year period, with an annual average rate for 2014 of 4.4, which is below the rates for the nation (6.2) and Wisconsin (5.4), and slightly higher than the rate for Minnesota (4.2).</p>
<p>Annual Mean Wage: The annual mean wage for all occupations in the La Crosse-Onalaska WI-MN MSA.</p> <p>Source: Occupational Employment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics.</p>	<p>Tracking measure</p>	<p>\$39,570 (May 2014) \$39,736 (5-yr ave)</p>	<p>2013-2014 ▼ 5-yr ave ▼</p>		<p>While mean wages in annual dollars remained flat from 2010-2014, wages did not keep pace with inflation. The purchasing power of annual mean wages in 2014 was 8.2% less than it was in 2010, 0.2% less compared to 2013, and 0.4% less than the 5-year average.</p>
<p>Originating Freight Tons: Total tons of freight commodities originating in La Crosse County.</p> <p>Sources: Commodity Flow Surveys (CFS); Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT); Brennan Marine.</p>	<p>Tracking measure</p>	<p>3,499,188 (CY 2011)</p>	<p>N/A</p>		<p>Total tons of freight originating from La Crosse County declined by 36% from 5,502,433 tons in 2002 to 3,499,188 tons in 2011.</p>
<p>Freight Mode Share: Mode split of all commodity tons in and out of La Crosse County.</p> <p>Sources: CFS; WisDOT.</p>	<p>Tracking measure</p>	<p>85% truck (CY 2011)</p>	<p>N/A</p>		<p>The truck freight mode increased its mode share of all freight moved in and out of La Crosse County by 16 percentage points to 85%. Although the total tonnage for the air mode increased by 142% between 2002 and</p>

2011 from 1,883 tons to 4,554 tons, the mode share is negligible.

LAPC MEASURE	TARGET	RESULT	SCORE	MULTI-YEAR TREND	ANALYSIS												
SAFETY: Increase the safety and security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.																	
<p>Motor Vehicle Crashes: Total number of crashes in the LAPC metropolitan planning area (MPA) involving a motor vehicle (excludes parking lot crashes).</p> <p><i>Sources: WisTransPortal System, TOPS Lab, UW-Madison; Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT).</i></p>		<p>2,646 (CY 2014)</p> <p>2,595 (5-yr ave)</p>	<p>2013-2014</p> <p>▲</p> <p>5-yr ave</p> <p>▼</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Total Motor Vehicle Crashes (2010-2014)</caption> <tr><th>Year</th><td>2010</td><td>2011</td><td>2012</td><td>2013</td><td>2014</td></tr> <tr><th>Crashes</th><td>2,509</td><td>2,602</td><td>2,533</td><td>2,687</td><td>2,646</td></tr> </table>	Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Crashes	2,509	2,602	2,533	2,687	2,646	<p>Although total crashes declined by 1.5% from 2013 to 2014, the overall trend in crashes in the MPA is slightly rising. Crashes in 2014 were up 5.5% from 2010, and up 2.0% from the 5-yr average.</p>
Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014												
Crashes	2,509	2,602	2,533	2,687	2,646												
<p>Fatal Crashes: Total fatal crashes involving a motor vehicle in the LAPC MPA (excludes parking lot crashes).</p> <p><i>Sources: WisTransPortal System, TOPS Lab, UW-Madison; MnDOT.</i></p>		<p>5 (CY 2014)</p> <p>6.6 (5-yr ave)</p>	<p>2013-2014</p> <p>▼</p> <p>5-yr ave</p> <p>▲</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Total Fatal Crashes (2010-2014)</caption> <tr><th>Year</th><td>2010</td><td>2011</td><td>2012</td><td>2013</td><td>2014</td></tr> <tr><th>Crashes</th><td>5</td><td>12</td><td>7</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>	Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Crashes	5	12	7	4	5	<p>Fatal crashes in 2014 were up 25.0% from 2013, unchanged from 2010, down 58.3% from the 5-yr peak in 2011, and down 24.2% from the 5-yr average.</p>
Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014												
Crashes	5	12	7	4	5												
<p>Fatal Crash Rate: Number of fatal crashes per million vehicle miles traveled (MVMT) in La Crosse County.</p> <p><i>Sources: WisTransPortal System, TOPS Lab, UW-Madison.</i></p>		<p>0.007 (CY 2014)</p> <p>0.009 (5-yr ave)</p>	<p>2013-2014</p> <p>▼</p> <p>5-yr ave</p> <p>▲</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Fatal Crash Rate (2010-2014)</caption> <tr><th>Year</th><td>2010</td><td>2011</td><td>2012</td><td>2013</td><td>2014</td></tr> <tr><th>Rate</th><td>0.006</td><td>0.015</td><td>0.009</td><td>0.006</td><td>0.007</td></tr> </table>	Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Rate	0.006	0.015	0.009	0.006	0.007	<p>The fatal crash rate in 2014 for La Crosse County rose 16.7% from 2013, and declined 53.3% from the 5-yr high in 2011 and 18.6% from the 5-yr average. Over the five-year period, the fatal crash rate is trending down.</p>
Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014												
Rate	0.006	0.015	0.009	0.006	0.007												

<p>Serious-Injury Crashes: Total serious-injury (type “A”) crashes involving a motor vehicle in the LAPC MPA (excludes parking lot crashes).</p> <p>Sources: WisTransPortal System, TOPS Lab, UW-Madison; MnDOT.</p>		<p>47 (CY 2014)</p> <p>61.4 (5-yr ave)</p>	<p>2013-2014 ▲ 5-yr ave ▲</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Crashes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>57</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>47</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Crashes	2010	57	2011	60	2012	77	2013	66	2014	47	<p>Despite the spike in 2012, serious-injury crashes in the MPA are trending downward. The number of serious-injury crashes occurring in 2014 dropped in all comparisons—28.8% from 2013, 17.5% from 2010, 39.0% from the 5-yr peak, and 23.5% from the 5-yr average.</p>
Year	Crashes																
2010	57																
2011	60																
2012	77																
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2014	47																
<p>Serious-Injury Crash Rate: Number of serious-injury crashes per MVMT in La Crosse County.</p> <p>Sources: WisTransPortal System, TOPS Lab, UW-Madison.</p>		<p>0.052 (CY 2014)</p> <p>0.36 (5-yr ave)</p>	<p>2013-2014 ▲ 5-yr ave ▲</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Crash Rate</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>0.062</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>0.073</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>0.093</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>0.080</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>0.052</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Crash Rate	2010	0.062	2011	0.073	2012	0.093	2013	0.080	2014	0.052	<p>The serious-injury crash rate in 2014 for La Crosse County declined 35.0% from 2013, 44.1% from the 5-yr high in 2012, and 27.8% from the 5-yr average. Over the five-year period, the serious-injury crash rate is trending slightly downward.</p>
Year	Crash Rate																
2010	0.062																
2011	0.073																
2012	0.093																
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2014	0.052																

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Public Works & Infrastructure October 2016

Highway Department

- CTH C/STH 108 -
The project within Mindoro that is let to Hegg contractors is completed. All culverts have been replaced along the remainder of the roadway. Guardrail is next, but due to weather issues it has been delayed.
- Work on the State highway, in addition to all the construction continues to be very busy for us this year. We have completed several projects including crack filling STH 16, shouldering on STH 33, and a County-wide bridge maintenance project. Currently we again have a crew on night work performing bridge maintenance for this week.
- On the County we are wrapping up our final mowing for the season, picking up dead deer, patching, sign maintenance and repair, and other general maintenance issue.
- CTH XX Bridge over Halfway Creek is completed and fully open to traffic.
- Our largest recent focus has been to deal with the excessive water we have been receiving and the resulting damage. Current estimates total around \$200,000 to \$250,000 on the County Highway system. Most of the issues are related to mudslides and washouts, we did not lose any roadways or structures.
- In addition to the above mentioned activities, we have the following projects in design. CTH SN (CTH S to Alpine Lane), CTH M (CTH O to CTH B), County-wide Safety analysis, CTH T High Risk Rural Roads, CTH HD (STH 53 to CTH MH) and CTH PI (STH 162 to Vernon County Line). We also have the following bridges on the following roads under design CTH J, CTH V, CTH B, CTH X, CTH M, and Drogseth Road.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronald Chamberlain

Solid Waste Department

Landfill

Waste volumes at the landfill continue to remain at significantly elevated levels.

Phase VII B Bedrock Excavation bid was let in August with the Policy Board accepting the low bid from St. Joseph Construction. This work will primarily consist of excavation of unconsolidated overburden and sandstone bedrock to ten feet below future proposed clay liner elevations, along with stockpiling excess materials, compaction, storm water and erosion control. Work will begin in early October and is expected to last approximately 45 days. Completing this work in the fall of 2016 will facilitate the earliest possible start date for Phase VII cell construction in 2017.

The WDNR issued a letter stating that the landfill will be regulated in accordance with the Tier 2 General Storm water Discharge Permit. This identifies the conditions under which storm water can be discharged to surface waters, wetlands, etc. The next step will be for the landfill to submit its Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan by 1/27/2017.

Landfill Operations

The landfill was able to come through the large rain event with no impact to hauling operations. While some minor erosion occurred, all storm water and leachate systems operated as designed.

The Department underwent a Full Compliance Evaluation (FCE) of our Air program on August 24, 2016. This inspection was performed by members of the WDNR Air program and covered all areas of compliance. All aspects of the inspection went well and no issues were found.

All systems have been restored, following the July 21st a lightning strike, with the exception of 2 controllers that are on back order. These will be replaced as soon as they arrive. They are used mainly for automated data collection and information is being manually collected at this time.

Governor Walker declared a State of Emergency for 15 Wisconsin counties due to flooding and mudslides. When there is a State or Federal disaster declaration, the WDNR waves the state environmental of \$12.997/ton on waste generated because of the natural disaster for up to 60 days. The Solid Waste Department has notified the haulers of this. The Emergency Management Coordinator has been assisting in notifying municipalities and others that may benefit from the fee reductions.

Xcel

Oversized and bulky wastes continue to be addressed with the assistance of Xcel and the haulers. One Waste Management truck, that has an unusually high percentage of such waste, has been diverted from Xcel to the landfill. The most recent testing for fuel value showed much higher BTU values.

On August 19, representatives of La Crosse County and Xcel met to continue negotiations for a contract extension. The two significant issues remaining to be resolved relate to maintenance days and to an escalator clause for Amendment 8, the incentive payment. Xcel desires that the discussions be concluded by the end of the year and has requested that two meetings per month occur starting in October to expedite this process.

Gas to Energy

Gas to Energy experienced significant scheduled downtime in September due to engine overhaul maintenance. This work took approximately two weeks and was followed with stack testing on September 26th, 2016. Initial results on this testing were good.

The Solid Waste Department installed two additional horizontal STOC's, for gas collection, in the Phase VIII. Both STOC's have been connected into the gas collection system and are performing well.

Landfill Site Entrance

Work continues with the City of La Crosse to develop a frontage road and a new landfill site entrance. Agreement has been reached on the location of frontage road and final design plans are being completed. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2017, with the new scale building being operational in October or November.

Household Hazardous Materials (HHM)

General Program

Utilization of the HHM program has picked up the last two month, however for the year program utilization by household users continues to be below the record numbers of the last two years.

<u>2016 La Crosse HHM Household Users Year to Date</u>	
Percent Change in users vs. 2015	-8%
Percent Change in waste received (lbs.) vs. 2015	-3%

The waste volumes and revenue from VSQGs (small businesses) remains steady.

Future Funding of HHM

The County Board's approval of the resolution directing the County Administrator to include in his budget, an increase in the county's contribution to the HHM program to \$1.25/capita provided all the municipalities agreed to the same increase. Staff has contacted all 18 municipalities and requested they budget the same increase in support for the program. As of 9/30/2016, seven municipalities have responded in agreement to this request. Several others have stated that they are considering this at their October meeting.

WDNR Inspections

The WDNR conducted E-Waste handling inspection in August. HHM was found to be operating in compliance with all applicable requirements.

Sustainability

Trails

WisCorps has completed a weeks' worth of work cutting back on invasive species within the community forest. Invasive's such as buckthorn, honeysuckle barberry and garlic mustard were removed. The WisCorps crew used hand pulling, mechanical pulling and cutting and treating stumps with herbicide as methods to manage the invasive species. They spent the week camped out at the landfill while they worked and were given a tour of the landfill on their last day on site.

Other Events

Over two dozen scouts from camp Decorah toured the landfill over the summer and others from organizations like Prairie Moon Nursery, the Girl scouts, and students for sustainability. Oversize bulky waste brochures were created and distributed to all of the haulers in the area to try and reduce the amount of OBW going to the Xcel Energy plant.

NASA Hunt

The North American Squirrel Association (NASA) hosted a handicapped hunter program at the landfill over two weekends in September. On the 3rd and 4th and on the 10th and 11th of September, handicapped hunters came to the landfill to have a chance to hunt for deer. The landfill has had issues with deer over the years causing any number of problems; from being a general nuisance to degrading dozens of trees to the point of needing replacement. Ten hunters were trained in safety and treated to a dinner before heading out to blinds that had been positioned a week ahead of time. 16 deer were harvested off the landfill property with many more evacuating the premises, thus reducing the impact upon the landfill property. The event was well publicized on channel 8 and 19 along with a lengthy article in the La Crosse Tribune. Planning is underway to host another event next year.

Sustainable La Crosse Commission

The SLC has had several meetings including creating a working group to designate several goals that the commission will undertake over the next year. The focus has been to concentrate on four specific issues. Transportation, food, energy, and waste. Specifics of projects or efforts will be worked out over the coming weeks so that the commission will have more time to devote to specific areas of interests.

Respectfully Submitted,



MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Judiciary & Law October 2016

Corporation Counsel Office

1. Claims Update

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

On August 4, 2006 Equal Rights Division of the State of Wisconsin determined there was probable cause to believe that La Crosse County may have violated the Wisconsin Public Accommodations Law. The matter will be set for a formal evidentiary hearing. The determination indicated that there was a credibility determination to be made and that, therefore, a formal hearing would be appropriate.

- *Shelly K. Storsveen v. County of La Crosse*, ERD Case No. CR2016-02008.

On August 10, 2016 Shelly Storsveen filed an ERD Complaint against La Crosse County, alleging discrimination based upon disability due to her job related anxiety, degenerative joint disease and other physical issues. Storsveen left employment on November 20, 2015. La Crosse County asserts that she self-terminated and Storsveen asserts she was terminated due to her disability. The case is being investigated and is pending an initial determination.

- *Michelle M. Schulze v. County of La Crosse*, EEOC Case No. 443-2014-01442C.

On August 18, 2016 the EEOC issued an initial determination, determining that there was a reasonable cause to believe that a violation of Schultz's rights occurred based upon discrimination based upon sex and upon retaliation. If conciliation is not successful, the next standard step is referral to the Department of Justice for possible action or referral for private action in federal court. I will keep the Board updated regarding future status of this claim.

2. Ordinance Updates

- Our office recently worked on changes to Chapter 4 regarding disposition of surplus property and is currently working on a broader amendment to the purchasing procedures of Chapter 4. Also, our office is working on an amendment to Ordinances regarding weapons allowed on County property due to legislation in 2016 (2015 Wisconsin Act 149) that removes knife from the definition of weapon.

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

- *Solid Waste Department* –
 - Continue to work on Contractual issues involving the extension of the Xcel contract-negotiations are continuing. Several meetings are scheduled for the month of October, 2016 to attempt to finalize an agreement.
- *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. In addition, the Child Support has started e-filing documents and our office has been involved with the Child Support office in this change.
- *Economic Development* – We have been involved in several issues, including the following:
 - *Closing on the 2nd installment of \$75,000 loan to Pearl Street Brewery.*
 - *Closing on sale of property to DWM Properties, LLC in the Lakeview Business Park.*
 - *Continue to work on Intergovernmental Agreement for International Business Park II.*
- *Treasurer*- Continue to work with Treasurer's office on sale of various tax foreclosure properties.
- *Facilities Department* – Work with Facilities on easement issues near Lakeview and also the sale of the Lakeview building and surrounding property.
- *Personnel* – Our office continues to assist on various miscellaneous employee issues and labor matters.
- *Highway Department*- Work with the Highway Commissioner on various highway policies and legal issues, including remaining issues in the OA condemnation appeal cases.
- *UW-Extension*-Work with Karl Green on the Hintgen Island project-repair of fleeting site.
- *Zoning*-Gave presentation to Zoning Board of Adjustment on Open Meetings requirements and law/authority update.

4. 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, including beginning discussions regarding purchase of condominium parking spaces on Lot C and finalizing the terms of an easement granted to STIZO Development for access to parking adjacent to the administrative center.

5. 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.

6. Child Support Agency

At this time of year the weather makes the big change from summer to autumn. The child support agency has experienced some big changes as well.

Our legal secretary Kathy Brodbeck retired in August. We were very fortunate to hire Bridget McGinness who was the legal secretary in the Rock Co. child support agency for 15 years. Bridget was looking to relocate to La Crosse to be closer to her family so this was a win/win for both the agency and Bridget.

The child support agency also experienced a huge change on September 15th when La Crosse County Courts converted to mandatory eFiling for all paternity and family court actions. As with many things in this digital age, the agency will become more paperless as time goes on. Going forward the majority of court orders requiring a signature by the Court Commissioner or Judge will be signed and filed electronically. The agency has had to make numerous changes to the documents that we file with the Court to accommodate electronic signatures and eFiling. In order for documents to be signed electronically they must be in Microsoft Word format. All of our system generated documents are currently generated in PDF format. We now have software that is capable of converting PDF documents to MS Word.

We have been working with the Clerk of Courts office to modify each department's workflow to accommodate the electronic filing of our cases. While dramatic change is never easy, teamwork will always make transitions less difficult.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Lange
Corporation Counsel

Emergency Services

Public Safety Communications

There will be a presentation on the proposed county public safety communications radio system upgrade at the County Board Planning meeting on October 10. The current four-site VHF analog system is nearing the end of life and much of the equipment will need to be replaced.

In the 2016 budget, money was set aside to upgrade some of the current equipment, plus also add an additional site on a US Cellular tower in the Town of Greenfield. Plans are to replace equipment over the next few years in addition to adding additional sites to expand coverage. In 2017, we look to add equipment at the Mississippi Valley Consortium site that should improve coverage in the populated and commercial areas along I-90. This is a new tower site that the County will share with the City of La Crosse's radio system.

More detailed information will be provided during the October planning meeting, as well as future upgrade information brought forward in this County Board monthly report.

July

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,801 (average of 90 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 93.90%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.46%
Average Answer Time: 5 seconds
**2 calls of more than 40 seconds*

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

Total Telephone Calls 27,298 (average of 881 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	10,384
Fire Fighting	271
Emergency Medical	686

August

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,777 (average of 90 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 95.07%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.24%
Average Answer Time: 5 seconds
** 1 call of more than 40 seconds*

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

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

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	9,991
Fire Fighting	296
Emergency Medical	638

**National Emergency Number Association Standards:*

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

Public Safety Communications faced its busiest day in the summer on August 4 when straight-line winds and heavy rains created a surge of 9-1-1 calls. A typical summer day averages about 90 emergency calls, but on this Thursday, there were 72 within less than 100 minutes in late afternoon.

The National Weather Service reported winds as high as 60 miles per hour in the Holmen area, leading to more than 100-weather related calls for service. The calls consisted of downed trees and other debris in road ways, downed power lines, motorist assists, urban flooding, blown out man-hole coverings and other fire-fighting related responses.

Emergency Management (Keith Butler, Coordinator)

- County EM assisted Buffalo County on Monday, August 15 by conducting flood damage assessment service.
- County EM presented emergency preparedness information to the La Crosse Area Safety Council on August 22.
- Preparations are underway for the movement of the County Emergency Operations Center to the new building later this year. Several public safety and Amateur Radio antennas will need to be moved along with the radios and other EOC supplies and equipment.
- County EM attended an Airport emergency plan presentation on August 25.

- County EM and County Health Department collaborated to review the priority disaster shelter list for the American Red Cross. Most of the elementary schools were removed from the list.
- The Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Grant program to prepare evacuation plans for communities along the Canadian Pacific Railway concluded on August 31. Zone/area plans were prepared for the Bangor/Rockland area, West Salem, and City of La Crosse.
- County EM provided portable radios and vests for the annual rural EMS Drill Day held in the Town of Shelby on Saturday, September 10. All of the four drill 'stations' were observed and photographs obtained.
- The 2016 County Hazard and Vulnerability Assessment update was completed on September 14 and copies prepared for the LEPC. The number of entries increased from 20 to nearly 50. Details for each entry were researched and incorporated into the Assessment update.
- County EM attended a gas pipeline safety meeting at the Landfill on September 15.
- The FY15/16 Plan of Work period ends on September 30 and efforts are underway to complete the remaining tasks and reporting requirements. County EM met with the Regional Director on September 8 to prepare the FY16/17 POW plan.
- County EM responded to severe flooding in the Towns of Burns and Farmington on September 21. The LEPC meeting scheduled that morning will be postponed until early October. The Village of Bangor issued a disaster declaration due to the damages in the Village Park. The hydroelectric power plant in West Salem issued a Yellow Alert. Veterans Campground was notified and some campers were moved to higher ground. Damage assessments are ongoing with dozens of reports of road damages in numerous municipalities.

*Jay Loeffler, Administrator
Emergency Services*

Medical Examiner

Greeting from the Medical Examiner's Office,

Fall is on our doorstep. Where did the summer go? We are finally getting a little bit of a reprieve in the office. The suicide numbers have leveled off, but the drug overdose cases are skyrocketing. In the beginning of the year through July we were seeing a lot of prescription drug related overdoses. In the last couple of months we are seeing an increase in heroin and meth related cases with other drugs on board as well, which makes it hard for law enforcement to prosecute drug deaths.

As for the office happenings, we have added 2 new deputies for the 3 openings we had. Things are going very well with the new hires, and they should be able to respond to scenes by themselves by the end of the year.

As always, if you wish to ride along to a scene feel free to contact our office at 785-9638.

Sincerely submitted,

*Tim Candahl
Chief Medical Examiner*

Family Court Commissioner (“FCC”) Office

GENERAL: We are a two-person office. The Family Court maintains five-set calendars every week. They are as follows:

- Tuesdays: Domestic Abuse/Harassment Injunctions (morning)
Child Support (afternoon)
- Thursdays: Paternity (morning)
- Fridays: Default divorces (morning)
Domestic Abuse/Harassment Injunctions (morning)

The FCC Office assists a constant influx of attorneys and litigants with filings related to those five-set weekly calendars in addition to the matters appearing on the general calendar. Many litigants appear pro se—without legal counsel.

UPDATES:

1. Family Round Table: The Family Law Roundtable is a forum designed to address current family law issues and their impact on families and the community. Others who attend this forum include family law attorneys, child development professionals, mediation office personnel, the WTC paralegal program chair, Judges, DA Office, and the Child Support Agency. Family Roundtables are held on the first Tuesday of the month.

At the September meeting, the Family Round Table discussed changes at The Parenting Place. The Parenting Place has lost funding and will only be able to provide free visits/exchanges for families with current domestic violence issues. Previously, The Parenting Place also provided free, supervised exchanges/visits for families with issues such as high-conflict divorces, AODA problems, or a parent seeking reunification with his/her child. The FCC relies upon The Parenting Place's valuable services when determining the placement/visitation of children. This gap in services will have a significant impact on children and their ability to maintain relationships with both parents. We also discussed Continuing Legal Education credits for Guardian Ad Litem.

At the October meeting, Chris Peterson, “The Parenting Professor”, provided an overview of his “Love and Logic” classes. He discussed how his six-week course teaches parents to better handle the many challenges of parenting, and in turn, raise responsible and resilient children.

2. Court: The e-filing system started mid-September.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth Wright, Family Court Commissioner*