



**LA CROSSE COUNTY**  
Exceptional services. Extraordinary place.

County Administrator  
Steve O'Malley

**Memo To: La Crosse County Board of Supervisors**  
**From: Steve O'Malley, County Administrator**  
**Date: August 7, 2017**

**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  
Veterans, Aging & Long Term Care  
County Clerk, Finance, IT,  
Personnel, Treasurer

**"OF INTEREST"**

**County Board Planning Meeting Monday August 7, 2017**

The August 7, 2017 Planning meeting of the County Board including:

- 2016 Audit Presentation by Baker Tilly – Carla Gogin, Partner
- La Crosse County Criminal Justice Systems Using Research and Evidence to make Decisions- Mark Carey
- Jail Population Update – Sheriff Helgeson

***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 2017

#### County Surveyor

**HIGHWAY MAP SCANNING PROJECT:** I am happy to report that all of our highway right-of-way maps have been scanned! Jeanne Smaby was primarily responsible for the entire project and I cannot express my thanks enough to her for her gentle and thorough handling of these important documents. 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. Now that we have them in a digital format, we can move forward to make them available to the public on the County Surveyor website.

**WORK FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS:** We performed some title review work for the Facilities Department and developed a PowerPoint showing the Hillview area land. The PowerPoint shows the original 143 ± acres that were acquired by La Crosse County in 1895 (80 acres) and 1931 (63+ acres). It then shows lands that were sold off to various entities in the years since. The PowerPoint will be useful in assessing what La Crosse County still has and what the best use of that land might be. We were also approached by Charlie Handy requesting our assistance in surveying off a parcel of land for the Economic Development in the Village of West Salem along Industrial Drive. The Town of Campbell also requested assistance with an easement and we have begun the process of helping them as well.

**CORNER MAINTENANCE:** We have made maintenance visits to 24 Public Land Survey System corners so far in 2017. Our department goal is to perform maintenance visits on 5% of La Crosse County's 1405 Public Land Survey System (PLSS) corners (5% is 71 corners). In addition to checking the condition and stability of the corner monument, we check the ties (which give reference to the corner should the corner monument become disturbed or lost). When needed, we also collect GPS coordinates on these corner locations. These coordinates are then shared with the Land Information department to create more accurate mapping on our GIS website.

**CERTIFIED SURVEY MAP REVIEW:** We are again busy checking Certified Survey Maps (CSM). To date, we have reviewed a total of 42 maps. That compares to 43 map reviews in 2016 and 41 map reviews in 2015. Assistant County Surveyor Corey Hughes has primary responsibility for the reviews and does a great job.

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

## **Metropolitan Planning Organization Department**

The Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago Intercity Passenger Rail Service “Second Empire Builder Study,” partially funded by the La Crosse Area Planning Committee has reached a milestone with the Purpose and Need Statement now available. The LAPC will be hosting a Public Involvement Meeting for the proposed service here, at the County Administrative Center, from 5:00 – 7:00 on Wednesday, September 6.

The recently released *Purpose and Need Statement*, which defines the purpose of the project and the transportation needs addressed by the project is now available at : [www.dot.state.mn.us/passengerrail/tc-mil-chi/index.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/passengerrail/tc-mil-chi/index.html)

### **Statement focus**

The proposed TCMC service focuses on population increases and economic growth projected within the rail corridor by providing a second daily roundtrip between the Twin Cities and Chicago, in addition to the existing long-distance Amtrak Empire Builder service that operates between Portland, Seattle and Chicago.

This will provide flexibility and convenience, oriented towards shorter-distance, intercity travel within the TCMC corridor. The service will connect travelers in cities along the corridor with regional destinations and provide schedule choices for existing and future travelers.

### **Public involvement, environmental processes will now begin**

This also marks the beginning of the public involvement and environmental processes for the project and strengthens the partnership between Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois DOTs, as well as regional agencies and FRA. The report also identifies issues within the corridor and defines the service will benefit travelers.

The first public information meetings for the project are **Sept. 6** at the La Crosse County Administrative Center in Wisconsin and at St. Paul’s Union Depot on **Sept. 7**.

### **Next steps**

The next steps for the proposed project are to evaluate the alternatives for the project and necessary infrastructure upgrades.

### ***Tom Faella***

Executive Director, La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC)

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

- The 2017 La Crosse Interstate Fair was successfully completed in July. La Crosse County UW-Extension staff coordinated all of the junior and open class judging activities—pre-fair, as well as throughout fair week. This was a training year for the Fair Coordinator for the La Crosse Agricultural Society, as the individual serving in this role will assume the coordination of fair judging activities in 2018. There were 622 exhibitors and 12,978 exhibits entered. (MMS)
- The 2017 carcass evaluation night was held at Brock’s Butcher Block in July. UW-Extension in cooperation with the local locker plants provides this opportunity to exhibitors at the fair. Exhibitors learn what factors are important to producing a quality

livestock animal, where each meat cut originates, and how a livestock carcass is judged for quality. (MMS)

- 4-H Clothing and Foods Revues are pre-fair activities held in June. Sixteen members modeled 19 items they had constructed for themselves or other family members. Abbey Vick and Kelsey Fisk were selected to represent La Crosse County 4-H at the Wisconsin State Fair. Sixteen foods project members prepared a project level food item, developed a menu, prepared a table setting and presented their work for judging. All participants had their projects on display at the La Crosse Interstate Fair. (MMS)
- Updates to the UW-Extension publication B1442 "Family Estate Planning in Wisconsin" have been completed and are currently under peer review. This publication provides the legal ins and outs of distributing one's property during life and at death. Information on tools such as wills, trusts, and marital property agreements are included, as well as advance directives, reverse mortgages, and authorization for final disposition. The publication should be available from the UW-Extension Learning Store this fall. (MMS)
- Three La Crosse County youth participated in the 24-hour Tractor Safety Certification training offered by Bill Halfman, Monroe County UW-Extension Agricultural Agent in Sparta. This course satisfies the requirements of the Federal Hazardous Occupation Order for Youth under 16 and Wisconsin Law Act 455. The federal law applies to youth who are at least 14 years old but less than 16 and who intend to work on farms not owned or run by their parents. The state law applies to youth under age 16 operating tractors on public roads for their immediate family's farm. All youth under the age of 16 who intend to operate tractors on Wisconsin public roads must have this state certification. Youth must be at least 12 years old at the time of the course to attend. (MMS)
- Requests for Agriculture related subject matter information and assistance continues. During the past two months, there were 98 Ag contacts—73 telephone requests/responses and 25 walk-in requests. (MMS)
- Wisconsin 4-H & Youth conference is an annual leadership event held in Madison on the UW campus. This year, La Crosse County 4-H not only sent youth delegates and a state art team member, but we also had a 4-H adult leader that was an instructor. Jackie Thingvold taught "Connecting Generations" as a part of this four day event. (JH)
- Youth Leader, Summer Maricle of Trail Blazers 4-H, coordinated a "4-H Performing Arts Showcase" for the youth stage during the fair. The showcase consisted of 12 different performances involving 35 different youth participants. All of the performances had received Merit (Outstanding Blue Ribbon performances) recognition at the La Crosse County Communications Festival or the Music Festival, held this past winter/spring. (JH)
- The UW-Extension's FoodWise, the Dept. Health & Human Services, healthTIDE, and local retailers continue to promote FNV (fruits and vegetables). The FoodWise Coordinator Karie Johnson and a Cucumber appeared on WKBT to promote the Mascot Olympic race at the Logger Stadium in July encouraging people to eat more fruits and veggies. FNV reusable grocery bags were handed out at the gate as well as giving game goers the chance to take pictures with the fruit and veggie photo props. (KJ)
- FoodWise has provided multiple educational sessions at the Kane Street Community Garden to help community members better utilize the harvested produce at the peak of their ripeness. Demonstrated vegetable food preparation, shared simple easy recipes using fresh garden produce, and offered samples on bountiful kale, swiss chard, and zucchini. Participants were offered information on freezing vegetables and were able to share ideas on how they use garden produce. (KJ)
- Finalized Farmington Broadband Survey and presented results to the Farmington Town Board. Final participation rates indicated a 38% response rate for residence and 30% of all Farmington businesses. Results indicated over 70% of respondents paid for inadequate broadband service, 63% of all households had school age children (who needed internet for educational purposes) and 30% telecommute for their jobs. The

Farmington board stated they will utilize these results as they try to attract broadband providers to their township. (KG)

- Presented neighborhood housing data to the Wiegant Hogan Neighborhood organization. This program was originally presented to the La Crosse Neighborhood Revitalization Commission, and illustrates changes in the rates of owner occupancy between 2013 and 2016, based on lottery credit data accumulated by the UW-Extension Community Resource Development department. (KG)

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

KG – Karl Green, 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. Director

## **Facilities**

During the early hours of Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, in reaction to the 6-8" rainfall received approximately 2 days earlier, the Facilities Director had to order the evacuation of Veterans Memorial Campground. Because of the rising water on the La Crosse River system, flood evacuation measures had started a day earlier but all hoped that what we were preparing for would not become a reality. We have practiced our flood evacuation preparations a couple times in the past few years but never in the last 20+ years have we had to move to a total evacuation. Approximately 50 campers packed up and moved immediately out of the campground while staff secured the park/campground and placed road signs restricting access. Park shelter reservations for the weekend were cancelled by Facilities office staff. The condition of Lake Neshonoc became a safety concern also. Facilities Director then closed the lake in reaction to the already high water condition at the lake but also because of the continued severe impact of water entering the lake; the boat launches were barricaded.

Fortunately, Veterans Memorial and Lake Neshonoc were not closed for long. The lake was re-opened on Monday, July 24<sup>th</sup> with a caution to the public. The lake levels are lower than normal because the Neshonoc Dam did incur some damage to the flashboards. Veterans Memorial was reopened Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> and is fully functioning. We have some clean-up of the silt, sludge and sand left behind by the flooding waters but there was no damage to any buildings and everyone is okay.

*Mary Kaufmann*  
*Facilities*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Public Works & Infrastructure August 2017

### **Solid Waste Department**

#### **Landfill**

Construction of the liner for Phase VIIB has been completed, WDNR approval has been obtained, and refuse filling has commenced. The first four foot layer placed in the landfill is a fluff lift of clean garbage meant to protect the liner. This will take approximately three to six months to be completed.

Work continues on the excavation to remove bedrock for construction of Phase VIIB which will occur in 2018. The current site life of the landfill is approximately seventeen years.

#### **Xcel Waste-to-Energy**

Approximately 9% (3,000 tons) of additional waste has been received at Xcel above contract requirements at the end of June. No down time or bypass of materials has occurred in the first six months of 2017. Prices for recovery of the ferrous and nonferrous materials continues to moderately increase reflecting improvement in the economy. BTU values of the waste material remain at a depressed level.

#### **Gas-to-Energy**

For the first half of 2017 the gas to energy system is operating above budget targets producing an average of 5585 MMBTU per month. An annual inspection was performed by the Public Service Commission on June 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> focusing on operational procedures and equipment. All operations inspections went well. The only equipment issue was an external cut-off valve which needs to be replaced. This valve had exterior corrosion caused by condensate from the insulation and heat tape.

Lightning protection was added to the Gas-to-energy and flare system due to the large amount of low voltage circuitry and communication lines and the cost/issues caused by last year's lightning strike. The lightning protection system was designed, installed and certified by Thompson Lightning Protection (TLP) with installation support from Kish Electric. Lightning protection system consists of 14 air terminals with interconnecting conductors, bonds to all metal objects, PVC guards on down leads and 6 ground plates with bonds to all services entering the building. No damage occurred because of lightning from the recent July 19<sup>th</sup> storm.

#### **July 19, 2017 Storm Impacts**

The storm that impacted the landfill on the night of July 19, 2017 was one of the most significant rain events that occurred at the landfill. Rainfall in excess of eight inches occurred and water was noted flowing over the main entrance road on the landfill property which has never occurred in past history. All sedimentation basins were at maximum capacity and water was being discharged through emergency spillways. Significant lightning occurred with this storm, which was actually three separate events. No lightning damage occurred to the SCADA Data Management Systems, the Gas-to-Energy Systems or the Leachate Removal Systems. In the past, significant damage has occurred with these storms but the lightning protection devices installed in 2017 significantly mitigated such. In

addition, improvements to the office basement to collect and control water from storm events worked and no damage to the office basement, computer systems or records occurred.

Significant erosion occurred on the City of La Crosse's property associated with the development of the Industrial Business Park at the landfill entrance. Approximately one foot of sediment was deposited in front of the landfill scale on the road pavement and one foot of sediment was deposited in the landfill entrance way. Approximately four inches of sediment were deposited on New Berlin Road in front of Stansfield Vending and the ReStore Building. The city's contractor was ordered to clean up those materials as soon as possible. The storm event did not result in any closure of the Landfill, HHM Facilities or related activities and business as usual was conducted.

Governor Walker declared a State of Emergency because of widespread flooding for 17 counties including the following in our area: Buffalo, Crawford, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau, and Vernon. Under Wisconsin Statutes there is an exemption from state environmental fee (\$12.997/ton) for flood and debris waste materials generated within a municipality that was included in a disaster declaration. Haulers have been notified to identify loads containing flood debris, to ensure these are credited properly.

### **Landfill Site Entrance**

Construction of the scale house and related facilities has commenced. Work is well underway associated with the frontage road on the property sold to the City of La Crosse. Some disturbance to traffic patterns are expected in August and notifications and signs are in place. Installation of water service, wastewater sewers and storm sewers are largely completed. Design work to provide office remodeling and parking lot changes for the existing Solid Waste Department Office is underway and will be budgeted for construction in 2018.

### **Annual Meeting**

On June 23, 2017 the 28<sup>th</sup> Solid Waste Department Annual Meeting was convened. An overview of activities in 2016 was presented by the Department Director, followed by a presentation from Xcel on 2016 annual activities and compliance performance. A guest speaker from the WDNR provided an overview on Environmental Compliance associated with both the Solid Waste Department and the Xcel Facilities. A partnership award was jointly given to Kwik Trip, St. Joseph Construction, Weiser Brothers, SEH Consulting, and Braun Consulting by the

Solid Waste Department for the sustainable use of excavated soil materials. Following lunch a tour of the construction activities was convened, along with a separate tour for statewide erosion specialists. Approximately forty-five people attended the Annual Meeting. Copies of the Annual Report were distributed to County Board Supervisors and are available on the Solid Waste Department's website.

### **Price Increase for Wood Waste Materials**

After some unanticipated changes and price increases by the City of La Crosse at their wood waste processing facility, a significant amount of wood waste is being directed towards La Crosse County. This has increased costs for the Solid Waste Department and it is necessary to address revenues to cover such costs. The Solid Waste Department requested and received permission to do a price increase from the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee to address this evolving situation. Prior to doing the price increase, the Solid Waste Policy Board and Sustainable La Crosse Commission were consulted. Press coverage adequately addressed the situation and the Solid Waste Department has provided notice

and handouts to all customers that will be affected by the \$5 per ton price increase effective August 1, 2017. The Solid Waste Department will continue to work with the City of La Crosse and the Sustainable La Crosse Commission to find a more appropriate long term solution to this problem.

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

- **General Program**

Year-to-date utilization of HHM is slightly below 2016 at this time.

<b><u>2017 La Crosse HHM Household Users YTD</u></b>	
Percent Change in users vs. 2016	<b>-5%</b>
Percent Change in waste received (lbs.) vs. 2016	<b>-7%</b>

- **Household Hazardous Materials Program Contract Extension Update**

Since receiving direction from PW&I regarding ongoing funding of the HHM program, HHM staff have reached out to stakeholders and municipalities in several ways.

- Information regarding the funding formula was sent to the municipalities.
- The outline for funding of the HHM program was presented at the May 25<sup>th</sup> Town's Association meeting.
- Individual presentations were made to the Towns of Onalaska, Greenfield, Burns and Holland.
- A draft contract was developed with the assistance of Corporate Counsel and sent to the municipalities for comment. We have asked that comments be returned no later than 7/31/17.
- The contract extension is on the agenda for the August Town's Association Meeting.

So far the reception from municipal officials has been positive. Everyone that Randy has spoken to agrees that the County's plan is reasonable and have said that they are willing to support it. The Village of West Salem, Town of Campbell and the City of Onalaska have voted to accept the terms of the draft contract and have notified us that they intend to sign it when completed and approved by the County.

The next step in the process is to bring the contract extension to PW&I and the County Board in September for approval.

- **HHM Picric Acid Incident**

At about 3:30 PM on June 29, 2017, a woman delivered to HHM a container of powdered Picric Acid (12% water). Dry picric acid is potentially explosive. HHM staff immediately recognized the hazard, did not remove the container from the vehicle but positioned the vehicle away from the HHM building.

The La Crosse Hazardous Materials Team was contacted. They immediately directed us to set up a 150 foot perimeter around the vehicle and contacted the Dane County Sheriff's Department Bomb Squad. The La Crosse Fire Department responded and took control of the scene at approximately 4:00. At that time the HHM building was evacuated and the landfill facility was closed. The Fire Department established a 300 foot perimeter around the vehicle.

At 7:10 PM the Dane County Sheriff's Department Bomb Squad arrived. Technicians removed the container from the vehicle and moved it to a vacant area east of the HHM



facility. Using an explosive charge and gasoline they detonated the picric acid. The explosive charge and the gasoline assured that the material was completely destroyed. The landfill was open for business at 6:30 AM the next morning. The WDNR was notified. They are requiring no further follow up.

## **Sustainability**

### **Tours/Events/other**

Tours have slowed significantly as they usually do at this time of year. Hank gave a tour to 35 people from the Western Sustainability Institute's MPower program. This includes a diverse mix of local organizations including the Habitat ReStore, Dynamic Recycling and Empire printing among others. We also gave a tour to Sunshine Love from the City of La Crosse Parks and Recreation Department and two members of Pheasants Forever. They are looking for opportunities to use the landfill for an educational program about hunting and land preservation. Dynamic Recycling also sponsored and funded tree plantings along the landfill trails to celebrate their tenth anniversary. 8 Burr oaks now line the entry to the trails near the Solid Waste Department office.

### **Eagle Scouts**

Thomas Kujak is the latest perspective Eagle Scout to be working on a project at the landfill. His effort involves building several insect hotels. These hotels encourage "good bugs" to thrive in an area that will benefit the natural environment at the landfill, including helping pollinators reproduce and survive.

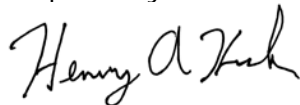
### **Indicators Report**

The annual sustainability indicators report was presented to the County of La Crosse Planning meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July by Rob Tyser (vice Chair of the Sustainable La Crosse Commission) and Nick Nichols. The indicators are the County's uses of energy, water, fuel etc. and these numbers have been tracked since 2007. The report gives valuable information on how the County is advancing in using less energy and resources. One of the highlights this year was the first time reporting on Co2 emissions. The report shows a 26% reduction in emissions since 2007.

### **Sustainable La Crosse Commission**

Hank made a presentation to the SLC at the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting on wood waste. Trees Today was also represented and there was much discussion about wood waste and how there is an excessive amount coming in to the landfill at this time.

Respectfully Submitted,



Henry A. Koch, P.E.

## **Highway Department**

- We have completed our rut fill and seal coat project on CTH M (CTH B to CTH O). This project improved the friction surface and eliminated the rutting which in turn aids by shedding water minimizing hydroplaning. As a side benefit it has improved the ride somewhat.
- The Department has also been busy with seal coating in the Town of Holland, City of Onalaska and working cooperatively with Vernon County.
- The Highway Department has been working on crack sealing on the STH system, the CTH system and in the Town of Holland.
- CTH HD has been a focus for us when the project is at a point that calls for paving. That project seems to be going well and will result in a great entrance to the Village of Holmen.
- Another project that the Highway Department has been working on is CTH V (CTH Q to the terminus). This is a reconditioning project and involves pavement recycling, base stabilization and repaving the highway.
- The designs on both CTH SN and CTH GI are proceeding well at this point.
- On the State Highway system we completed our yearly rural mowing, continue to work on urban mowing and taking care of other various maintenance activities.
- For the last 2 weeks and for the near future a great deal of our efforts will be in repairing the damage caused by the recent flooding. Below is a more detailed breakdown as to where the damage is:

### **Flooding Repair 7-25-17**

We have at least some minor shoulder and/or ditch erosion and culverts that need to be cleaned out on every County Trunk Highway (CTH). That said all CTHs are open to traffic at this time and we are working on repairing all of the damage. The areas below provide a list of the larger projects, specifically those projects that we believe may be eligible for either FEMA or FHWA funding. A tour with the FHWA has been set up, FEMA has not set up the "kick-off" meeting at this time.

### **Impacted County Bridges**

- CTH II over Bostwick Creek
- CTH JB over Dutch Creek
- CTH U over Fish Creek
- CTH XX over Halfway Creek
- All Federally recognized bridges within La Crosse County that could not be inspected because of high water will be re-inspected.
- All Federally recognized bridges within La Crosse County that could not be inspected because of water depth will have underwater dive inspections performed on them in August.
- None of the bridge damage has resulted in a need for bridge replacement. For the most part the damage is in the form of washed out bridge approaches, undercutting of abutments or rip-rap being washed away.

### **County Trunk Highways (CTHs)**

- CTH M - north of STH 33 - Shoulders
- CTH VV - north of CTH Q - Culvert
- CTH NN – Shoulders and culverts.
- CTH AE – Shoulders
- CTH G - Hill stabilization, shoulder work and culvert repairs.

- CTH OA - (CTH FO to STH 33) - Hill stabilization
- CTH Q - small structure near CTH C
- CTH ZN - Shoulders
- CTH A - Culverts and shoulders
- CTH C - in vicinity of CTH A - roadway damage
- CTH II - in vicinity of CTH I – roadway damage
- CTH B – (CTH O to STH 16) – slide outs.
- CTH I - Slide outs.
- CTH T - Culverts repairs
- CTH JJ – Shoulder repairs and slide outs.
- CTH JB – Shoulder repairs and slide outs.
- CTH FO – Shoulder repairs and slide outs.
- CTH H – Shoulder repairs and slide outs.

**State Trunk Highways (STHs)**

- STH 33 – Irish Hill - Shoulders, washouts, drains plugged, mudslides and rock falls.
- STH 162 – Dutch Creek - Shoulders and mudslides.
- STH 108 - Shoulders.
- STH 16 - Mudslides.
- STH 35 South – Radio tower bridge debris and sediment removal.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

*Ronald Chamberlain*  
*Highway Commissioner*

## MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

### Judiciary & Law August 2017

#### Register of Deeds

2017 Stats	Birth	Death & Marriage	Real Estate Documents	Transfer Fees
Jan.	400	1258	1446	\$96,678.30
Feb.	542	1400	1026	\$57,654.60
Mar.	566	1175	1248	\$89,562.30
Apr.	431	1250	1420	\$110,505.60
May	483	1318	1585	\$140,488.80
June	474	1465	1661	\$197,000.10
July				

If you have any questions regarding any item in this report, please give me a call and as always we invite everyone to come take a look at our office and see what it is we do here. We welcome you!

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Cheryl A. McBride  
Register of Deeds*

#### Emergency Services

There were a few severe weather events in the past two month's including major flooding on July 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. This event had a few "waves" occurring over a 12-hour period. The first wave was a thunderstorm in the evening that include heavy rains and high winds. There was a second wave of thunderstorms later that evening, then long persistent rains into the early morning hours.

This event generated more than 165 hazard checks, such as downed trees, debris in road, washouts or flooded intersections. There were also 42 reports of downed lines (power or other) and 63 motorists' assists, most often due to stalled vehicles in flooded intersections.

For the two days, there were 2,729 calls made to the Communications Center, including 347 9-1-1 calls. Although the days were very active, the phone calls and calls for service totals did not approach the record numbers from the 2007 flash flooding event.

Emergency Management began compiling totals from public sector damaged from the flooding, with early estimates exceeding \$5.7 million as of July 31<sup>st</sup>. These damages are

from debris cleanup, damage to roads, water control facilities, public buildings and equipment, public utility systems, recreational and protective measures. In addition, there were more than 100 private sector businesses and residences reporting flood-related damage. There will be a more detailed preliminary damage assessment in mid-August, which may determine if there is enough total damage in west central Wisconsin to garner a presidential disaster declaration.

## **Public Safety Communications**

### **May**

#### **Telephone Calls**

9-1-1 Calls 2,641 (average of 85 per day)  
Answered within 10 seconds: 95.38%  
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.39%  
Average Answer Time: 5 seconds  
*\*6 calls more than 30 seconds*

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

Total Telephone Calls 23,983 (average of 774 per day)

#### **Calls for Service**

Law Enforcement	10,326
Fire Fighting	206
Emergency Medical	654

### **June**

#### **Telephone Calls**

9-1-1 Calls 2,848 (average of 95 per day)  
Answered within 10 seconds: 95.37%  
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.54%  
Average Answer Time: 4 seconds  
*\*1 call of more than 30 seconds*

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

Total Telephone Calls 24,271 (average of 809 per day)

#### **Calls for Service**

Law Enforcement	10,326
Fire Fighting	238
Emergency Medical	654

*\*National Emergency Number Association Standards:*

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

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

- Copies of off-site plans were provided to each County Fire Department during the Fire Officers Association meeting on June 12, along with lists of known special facilities that may be subject to the new Center for Medicaid and Medicare Emergency Preparedness Rule, which goes into effect on November 16, 2017. Numerous organizations may be

required to prepare emergency plans, conduct risk assessments, develop a communications plan and conduct an annual full-scale exercise. These requirements may result in significant challenges for small community volunteer emergency responders.

- A solution to the emergency operating center (EOC) public safety radio equipment was found and a new desktop radio console was installed on June 14. None of the Amateur Radio equipment will be installed in the EOC, however.
- The WebEOC application is operational. Efforts are underway to establish log-on access for designated County personnel. A training session will be offered in September or October.
- The VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster) EOC Liaison position guidance has been prepared and the Medical Reserve Corps collaboration with preparations for a Volunteer Reception Center are nearly complete. Much information regarding community VRC's was gathered following the tornado in early May in Northern Wisconsin.
- County EM provided damage assessment mutual aid to Jackson County EM on May 17 following a flash flood incident and monitored SkyWarn activities during severe weather late that evening in La Crosse County.
- County EM assisted with a presentation during a Trauma Symposium on May 19.
- Several members of the LEPC conducted a site visit at the Kwik Trip Bakery on May 22 and learned of building expansion plans.
- County EM and the Mass Casualty Team participated in an active shooter exercise at the Airport on May 23 and County EM monitored river flooding concerns at the Pettibone Park RV campground.
- Numerous discussions have occurred with representatives from the RAVE alerting and notification system regarding a potential integration with the Western Technical College's use of that system. A proposal for a County-wide system is about \$15,000 annually.
- The HazMat Team was deployed to the County Landfill on June 29 involving a container of picric acid which had crystalized and became extremely hazardous. A Bomb Team from Dane County destroyed the item on-site after evacuating all personnel and landfill users.
- The County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan is due for the five-year update in June 2020. County EM will coordinate the grant application with the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission.

*Jay Loeffler, Administrator  
Emergency Services*

## Corporation Counsel Office

### 1. Updates re: Claims/Cases

- *Ross Knothe v. Steve Helgeson, et al*

This suit was filed in US District Court on February 21, 2017 and referenced in the April report. Mr. Knothe was an inmate in the jail from approximately September 4 to September 15 of 2015. He alleges that his medical needs (both physical and mental health) were not adequately addressed by jail staff. Mr. Knothe alleges that he had a "psychotic episode" during a withdrawal from needed medication and during this episode, which involved physical restraint by jail staff, he injured his elbow. The attorneys represented the County (through WMMIC) were here in June meeting with potential witness and will be back in late August for depositions.

- *River City Steel*

River City Steel has filed for bankruptcy and their bank, Associated, has filed a foreclosure action. The La County Economic Development Fund is named as a party in the foreclosure suit due to the loans and resulting liens against the property. An answer has been filed on behalf of LCEDF so that in the event that there are sufficient proceeds from any sales those proceeds can be distributed towards our unpaid loans.

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

- Work on the MOU with the La Crosse County Dive Team related to their use of the property on Kertzman Place.
- Working with various Departments on a review of our HIPAA policies and protocols to ensure compliance and consistent application.
- Working with the Personnel/HR Department on various employee issues and labor matters, including a recent administrative hearing related to an UC claim.
- Working with the Zoning and Land Information on related to zoning enforcement and appeals of BOA decisions.
- Working with the Health Department to review our contract with the Humane Society as it relates to animal control issues.

### 3. 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. Between the four attorneys on staff, our office attends 40-50 court hearings per week.

### 4. Staffing

Erin Klar has moved into our Admin Center office as our new Administrative Assistant. Erin has been working in our office as the Legal Secretary assigned to the Human Services Department/Children & Family Unit's cases. Michelle Ericksmoen, who just started on July 24<sup>th</sup>, will be taking over Erin's position in the Human Services Department building.

### 5. Child Support Agency

CSA Director, Deb Barnes, provided the following information:

The child support agency is continuing to seek opportunities to assist parents who are court ordered to pay child support. We have set up a public use computer station in our lobby which is available for use by case participants. The computer is available from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm and has been programmed to allow limited access to the internet for such things as submitting online job applications and printing pro se court forms. Job seekers are able to contact several temporary employment agencies, Workforce Connections and economic support using a limited access phone located at the computer station.

In June we conducted a six month review of our "Enforcement Redesign" Lean Value Stream Mapping (VSM) event held in November 2016. We discussed which of the changes to our enforcement process are working and how to improve the changes that aren't working as we'd hoped. Enforcement redesign is an ongoing project which will be reevaluated periodically over the next few months. We will also be exploring options for maximizing the use of technology for communicating with case participants in an effort to keep up with the changing trends in this area.

I am pleased to report that we are once again fully staffed and welcome Anna Hundt as our newest case specialist.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Barnes, Director  
La Crosse County CSA

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Megan L. DeVore  
Corporation Counsel*

## **Medical Examiner's Office**

Greetings!

Summer greetings from the Medical Examiner's Office! The summer is disappearing quickly, hope you have had time to enjoy some of it. The office has been very busy this summer. Recently we had a spike in suicides with an additional 4 just last week. Drug related deaths have slowed down a little but we've seen an increase in traffic related fatalities of late. Overall, our case load is above average from last year's numbers.

We have experienced a turnover in our deputies recently so we are presently looking to fill open positions. We are hoping to have them in place by September. We continue to work on our mass fatality plan. Plans are to have this finalized by early 2018.

Thanks to gracious donations of local businesses, we will be proceeding with proper burials of unclaimed remains. Interment will be at Hillview Health Care Cemetery sometime in October.

Life is a journey and the journey only lasts a moment. Enjoy the moment.

*Tim Candahl  
La Crosse County Medical Examiner*