



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

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**Memo To: La Crosse County Board of Supervisors**  
**From: Steve O'Malley, County Administrator**  
**Date: October 8, 2017**

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

**"OF INTEREST"**

**County Board Planning Meeting Monday October 9, 2017**

The October 8, 2017 Planning meeting of the County Board will include:

- Annual United Way Solicitation
- Cyber Security Update
- 2018 County Administrator Budget
- Closed session regarding litigation and personal matters in the Solid Waste Department

## MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

### Planning, Resources & Development Committee October 2017

#### County Surveyor

**TOWN OF CAMPBELL WORK:** Assistant County Surveyor Corey Hughes has taken on the challenge of amassing and analyzing the survey data in Sections 17, 18, 19 and 30 in the Town of Campbell. These Sections were originally surveyed in 1846 by the Original Government surveyors. Since the West side of these Sections join the Mississippi River, they do not contain what could be called a "normal" amount of land. The interior parcels of these Sections have Government Lots rather than "40s". Corey was able to find and measure to existing monuments from other survey work that has been completed in the years since the original survey. Armed with that information, Corey was able to reestablish a number of the Government Lot corners within these Sections. These "starting points" serve as a framework for surveyors to use for future surveys that will make private work in this area more efficient and therefore less costly.

**WORK FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS:** In addition to regular interaction with Zoning, Planning and Land Information and Land Conservation Departments, we were able to assist the Town of Holland regarding a town road name issue. We also completed our assistance to the Town of Campbell helping them to know where an easement was located within an existing plat. They hope to use this easement area for drainage. We also wrote access easement and drainage easement descriptions for our Facilities Department.

**WISCONSIN LAND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION (WLIA):** WLIA will be meeting at the Radisson in La Crosse on November 9 and 10. These regional conferences offer attendees the opportunity to network with land records professionals from across the state. I am excited to be doing a presentation on "The Lost State Line", a session on the State line between Wisconsin and Minnesota. Since the conference is here in La Crosse, a number of staff from Land Information Department will be attending this regional conference.

**CORNER MAINTENANCE:** We have made maintenance visits to 52 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). As fall weather settles in, leaves will continue to fall. This will allow for better GPS signal reception. We fully plan to meet our department goal by the end of the year.

**CERTIFIED SURVEY MAP REVIEW:** We are again busy checking Certified Survey Maps (CSM). To date, we have reviewed a total of 56 maps. That compares to 53 map reviews in 2016 and 51 map reviews in 2015. This appears to be more proof of a positive economy.

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

## **Metropolitan Planning Organization Department**

As I mentioned in my last report, public information meetings for the Twin Cities to Milwaukee and Chicago (TCMC) passenger rail project were held Sept. 6 at the La Crosse County Administrative Center in Wisconsin and at St. Paul's Union Depot on Sept. 7.

These meetings were very well attended, with overwhelming support for additional passenger rail service to La Crosse. About 100 people showed up for the meeting in La Crosse and over that in St. Paul. It was probably the biggest public meeting ever held, anywhere. It was hugely big.

The next steps for the proposed project are to determine necessary infrastructure upgrades, estimate capital and operating costs and complete a service development plan.

In a related effort, I am on the project team for the Midwest Regional Rail Planning Study, wherein the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is "exploring the potential for a high-performance, multi-state intercity passenger rail network in the Midwest region. The study will build on current rail planning efforts within the twelve states of Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Nebraska, Kansas, South Dakota, North Dakota, Indiana, and Minnesota and will explore the potential for a fully integrated passenger rail network linking communities throughout the region."

This project has been working with ridership models to develop a proposed Midwest network. It is the goal of myself and others on the TCMC project team to make sure the networks are compatible and the larger effort reflects the chosen Amtrak Empire Builder route through La Crosse.

### ***Tom Faella***

Executive Director, La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC)

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

- Prepared a fact sheet of La Crosse County's data provided through the United Way of Wisconsin's statewide 2016 ALICE Report showing the comparison of a Household Survival Budget and the Household Stability Budget with the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Developments' Self-Sufficiency Standard for Wisconsin 2016 report. The Survival and Self-Sufficiency Budgets show that a 4-person family—2 adults, 1 infant and 1 preschool child, would need a family income of \$13.70-\$14.05/hour/adult for full-time employment to meet basic needs plus taxes. The Stability Budget for the same family shows a family income of \$25.68/hour/adult for full-time employment is needed to sustain an economically viable household. (MMS)
- David Holtze, a member of the Planning, Resources and Development Committee was recognized for 5 years of service by the Wisconsin Associated County Extension Committee, Inc. (WACEC) at their annual meeting held in conjunction with the Wisconsin Counties Association annual meeting. (MMS)
- The UW-Extension team is preparing required documentation for the UWEX Civil Rights Review scheduled for November. Staff must present their intentional and reasonable efforts and activities (partnerships, relationship building, language access, marketing, increasing accessibility) to include and serve minorities, women, people with disabilities, veterans, those with limited English proficiency, adults over age 40, and other under-represented and underserved groups in programming, from the past 5 years. (MMS)

- Western Wisconsin Beef Producers and UW-Extension offices have developed and distributed a newsletter with timely tips for regional members. This is a pilot program to see what sort of interest there might be in a membership newsletter. (MMS)
- Requests for Agriculture related subject matter information and assistance continues. During the past two months, there were 90 Ag contacts—66 telephone requests/responses and 24 walk-in requests. (MMS)
- La Crosse County youth attended summer camp at Upham Woods Environmental Education Center in August. 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 canoeing, outdoor survival, hiking, challenge course, swimming, fishing, archery, crafts, campfires and creating friendships. (JH)
- More than 80 youth and over 150 projects are part of the 4-H Art Exhibit at the Pump House Regional Arts Center. The exhibit will be open October 4th-November 5th in the Balcony Gallery. 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)
- The FoodWise program offers nutrition education presentations monthly to individuals at two La Crosse high rise apartment buildings. Following the presentation participants were asked about their intentions regarding filling half their plates with fruits and vegetables. Fifty-five percent indicated they were going to try this. Fifteen percent indicated they will do this more often. Thirty percent indicated they usually do this already. (KJ)
- The FoodWise program offers a FitWise strength training class twice per week at Becker Plaza in La Crosse. End of session evaluations show that participants indicated they have better health, have become more active, feel physically stronger, have more energy, sleep better, have less painful joints, and improved balance following the ten-week series. The next ten-week session begins October 16, 2017. (KJ)
- Planned, attended and presented at the 7th Annual Rebuilding for Learning Conference. This conference, established by the City/County/School District partnership, had over 1,100 attendees from the school district, County, City, and local/regional non-profits working with student aged clientele and their families. (KG)
- Presented neighborhood housing data to the Washburn Neighborhood organization, illustrating the changes in rates of owner occupied between 2013 and 2016. Various neighborhood organizations have requested for this updated research to help illustrate current neighborhood conditions. (KG)
- Continued facilitating the Synergy Steering Committee as they began developing their RFP for an economic development plan. The plan was part of the recommendations developed in the Synergy white paper – presented to the Synergy Group in September 2016. (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

## Zoning, Planning and Land Information



**Meet our staff:** Our Department will introduce you to members of our staff in the following bi-monthly reports. In this report you will meet:

### **Mari Pietz: GIS Coordinator**

Mari was born in Milwaukee but grew up in Bloomer WI, half way between Eau Claire and Rice Lake. In her 20s and 30s she worked in manufacturing, working her way up from being on the line to being a supervisor. She also started and ran her own licensed specialty bakery for 16 years during this period. When her manufacturing job was eliminated in a sale that required major downsizing she utilized state and federal funds to complete her BS degree in Geography from UW Eau Claire and thus began her love of GIS. She is currently finishing her graduate research for her MS in GIS from Saint Mary's University, Minnesota.

After she graduated from UW Eau Claire, she worked for a private GIS consulting company, the state of WI and state of MN along with other miscellaneous jobs including being a substitute teacher.

Mari is married and between her and her husband their combined family includes 9 adult children and 7 grandkids. Her hobbies include arts and crafts, gardening; vegetables, flowers, fruit trees, traveling and genealogy. Favorite summer fun includes swimming, boating, canoeing, and kayaking.

	<b># ZO Permits Issued</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
<b>1/1/2016-8/31/2016</b>	242	\$23,166,492
<b>1/1/2017-8/31/2017</b>	262	\$37,655,868
<b>% Change</b>	<b>+8.26%</b>	<b>+62.54%</b>
	<b># ZO Permits Issued</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
<b>6/1/2016-8/31/2016</b>	114	\$8,974,225
<b>6/1/2017-8/31/2017</b>	113	\$22,329,915
<b>% Change</b>	<b>-0.87%</b>	<b>+148.82%</b>

*Respectfully submitted,  
Charlie Handy, County Planner*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Public Works & Infrastructure October 2017

### Highway Department

- As you are aware, the CTH HD (Holmen Drive) project is in progress. This is actually a Village of Holmen project as in June of 2016 the Village accepted a jurisdictional transfer. Part of the County's portion of the agreement involves paving the work with our forces. The Highway Department has been in and out of the project over the course of the summer as the Village has required our services and we will continue to do so. I would encourage everyone to take a look as this project finishes up, since it is really changing the way Holmen looks as you enter the Village.
- As to work on the State Highway System, we recently completed a crack filling project on STH 35, and continue to work repairing the flooding damage. Mowing, other than in the urban areas and safety issues is wrapped up until next year.
- Out winter salt supply is starting to arrive, including the Ice Slicer product that we are experimenting with this year in an effort to reduce chloride use.
- We have submitted a High Risk Rural Roads program for safety improvements along CTH XX. The grant is for \$66,250, and it would set things up well for improving CTH XX, currently in the CIP for overall design in 2021. The supporting documentation for this grant was identified under the recently completed County Wide Safety Study.
- The bridges on CTH B and CTH M were both recently completed and are open for traffic.
- WisDOT awarded the High Risk Rural Roads Program project on CTH T to Gerke Construction out of Tomah. That project is now starting up and will go quickly. The project is focused on safety improvements such as signing, marking, and the elimination of roadside hazards.
- Much like it was a year ago at this time, our largest recent focus has been to deal with the excessive water we have been receiving and the resulting damage. The majority of the repairs have been completed at this time. We will be paving the patches on bridge approaches in October and the retaining wall failure on CTH G is in the process for consultant selection. Our requests for reimbursement/eligibility approvals are into both the FHWA and FEMA and we are waiting to hear back.
- 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), CTH GI (STH 35 to Vernon County Line) and CTH PI (STH 162 to Vernon County Line). We also have bridges on the following roads under design CTH J, CTH V, CTH X, 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*  
*Highway Commissioner*

## **Solid Waste Department**

### **Landfill**

Final construction items are being completed by Integrity on Phase VIIB cell construction/Phase VIII bedrock removal project. Placement of the protective fluff lift layer into the new Phase VIIB cell is approximately 35% complete and future phasing (placement) will be focused on protection of the leachate collection system. Preliminary design meetings have started for 2018 construction including Phase VIIIB cell construction, final cover (3-4 acres) and expansion of the gas extraction system.

### **Replacement of Private Wells**

Installation of the Walz well has been successfully completed. The Sjolander well has also been installed and testing has been completed. Nelson Well Drilling has been instructed to move forward with connection of the new well and abandonment of the old well.

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

Approximately 7% (3,500 tons) of additional waste had been received at Xcel above contract requirements at the end of August. No down time or bypass of materials has occurred in the first eight months of 2017. However, Xcel is planning a maintenance day in October that will result in waste being diverted. 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. Wood waste continues to be a problem and we are managing the issue while continuing to provide this service to our customers.

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

During the annual inspection in June, performed by the Public Service Commission (PSC), it was noted that our main pipeline valve and pressure relief bypass valves would require replacement. Valves had external corrosion caused by condensate from insulation and heat tape. USDI, along with staff, excavated the pipeline and squeezed off the pipeline in order to replace the existing valves. Using this method prevented venting the pipeline to atmosphere and nitrogen purging/re-pressurizing of the 1.8 mile pipeline. PSC was notified of all activities and will perform an inspection of the new equipment in the fall of 2017. With the focus on organic stability and leachate recirculation taking place in Phase VIIIA, we are having issues with increased hydrogen sulfide levels within the gas collection system of this phase. We are looking into treatment options from localized on station treatment/cleaning to on station destruction (flare) of the affected gas stream. Productivity and revenue for the gas-to-energy system remains above budget target thru August 2017.

### **Landfill Site Entrance**

Work associated with the scale building, scales, processing pad and container storage are in the final stages. Delays are being experienced in the installation of utilities. The utility delays will require the projected opening of the new entrance to be pushed back two weeks from the original date of October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Work on the extension of Berlin Drive has caused congestion issues at the facility entrance. Staff continues to work on managing traffic and informing the public.

### **Landfill Operations**

Significant time and resources were required to remove precipitate and clogging in the leachate force main after the July rainfall event. Sections of the force main were opened to allow for jetting and hydro blasting of the lines. During these clean out activities it was determined that some pipes have settled and additional clean outs are needed to efficiently access lines. These improvements will be designed and constructed in 2018.

Precipitate that formed in the force main also formed in the sewer line outside of the landfill, owned by the City of La Crosse. As a result of that, a notice of non-compliance was issued to the Solid Waste Department and corrective actions are being investigated.

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

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>-4%</b>
Percent Change in waste received (lbs.) vs. 2016	<b>-6%</b>

So far this year, the HHM program has collected over 400,000 lbs. of hazardous and other materials from almost 7,000 La Crosse County users. Additionally, over 50,000 lbs. of usable product has been placed in our Re-use Room and given back to the community. In August, La Crosse County HHM participated in a record breaking Clean Sweep in La Crescent, Minnesota. Over 6,000 pounds of hazardous and other materials were collected from 70 Houston County residents during the afternoon event. Also in August, HHM staff completed their annual Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) 8 hour training.

In September, HHM completed a Clean Sweep in Viroqua, Wisconsin. Over 6,000 pounds of hazardous materials were collected from almost 200 Vernon County residents during the two day event.

### **Sustainability**

#### **Tours/Events/Other**

There was only one tour of significance over the last two months. Nick Nichols participated in a tour of Xcel Energy along with several regional representatives of Waste Management on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. They were brought in to see the Waste to Energy system and learn how the Solid Waste Department and Xcel work together in creating energy with refuse derived fuel and learn what is and is not acceptable at the energy plant. They can then relay that to their coworkers and constituents. The local WisCorps crew helped with restoring the boardwalk and wetland area that was damaged during the July 19<sup>th</sup> storm. WisCorps along with Les Manske and Sons excavated and removed rock, hay and other debris that was left along, on top of, and under the boardwalk after the 7 inches of rain. WisCorps is also spending two weeks on the landfill site expanding the community forest trails and removing invasive species from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September.



### **Eagle Scouts**

Liam Conzemius is the latest perspective Eagle Scout to be working on a project at the landfill. His effort involves constructing a bicycle rest area that would include a bench with a solar roof so people can charge their phones and/or laptops. Also, a bicycle repair station in case someone needs to do any onsite maintenance.

### **Burn Barrel Amnesty**

The Solid Waste Department is hosting a burn barrel amnesty program. County residents will be encouraged to bring in their old burn barrel and sign a pledge to not use burn barrels anymore to be eligible for a Visa gift card worth \$50 or \$100. Megan Muehlenbrach from the Health and Human Services Department presented this program to the Towns Association meeting in August. Megan also helped create a flyer explaining the program and Nick Nichols delivered flyers to all of the County Drop off sites for distribution to local residents.

### **Sustainable La Crosse Commission**

Hank Koch made a presentation to the SLC updating the Commission on the results of exploring Construction and Demolition (C&D) Recycling. Several local haulers have expressed interest but the amount of material available in the region is probably not enough to make a venture profitable. The Indicators report was presented in a public forum at the August meeting. Several local citizens showed up for the presentation and had praise for the commission's work and asked that they continue to show leadership in sustainability.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Jadd Stilwell*

*Solid Waste Operations Technician*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Judiciary & Law October 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	523	1392	1487	\$229,519.80
Aug	528	1618	1531	\$159,300.00
Sept.	394	1545	1423	\$148,441.20
Oct.				

Update: As a result of [2017 Wisconsin Act 59](#) signed into law on September 21, 2017, the Wisconsin Rental Weatherization program will sunset January 1, 2018. DSPS will continue to process requests until that time.

**Below is important information to be aware of as January 1, 2018 approaches:**

- Effective September 21, 2017, validations of stipulations and waivers in local Register of Deeds offices will be discontinued and are no longer required.
- Until the Department of Revenue can update the Electronic Real Estate Transfer Return for the Rental Weatherization information, we will allow W-11 with Program Elimination as the explanation.
- Satisfactions will continue to be processed. Requests going forward will be satisfied as Program Elimination.
- We will allow Certificates of Compliance to be recorded until the program sunset date of January 1, 2018.

By abolishing this program the Register of Deeds office will lose on average about \$8,000 per year in revenue. The loss is generated between the revenue we receive for selling stipulation and waiver stamps and recording fees for certificates of compliance.

Another Item in the budget affecting the Register of Deeds office is regarding Domestic Partnerships.

**Close Registration for Domestic Partnerships and Eliminate Certain Benefits Administered by ETF:** The budget eliminates the option for Wisconsin residents to register a domestic partnership under Chapter 770 beginning six months after the effective date of the budget. The delayed effective date will provide the necessary time for domestic partners to determine if they will obtain a marriage license to retain benefits. All current domestic partners will be able to retain their designation and rights established by law however, to retain healthcare benefits, domestic partners would have to become legally married. Health insurance for surviving domestic partners of deceased employees and deceased retired employees will be retained by the survivor. Also, the surviving spouse of a protective occupation participant would be eligible for duty disability survivorship benefits if the spouse was in a domestic partnership with the participant on the date the disability occurred.

We have been waiting over 2 years for our last imaging project of documents back to 1851 to be completed and the images loaded into our system. Over the past month I had been viewing some of the images and was not satisfied with the quality, so I sent them back. The problem occurred when converting the images from jpeg to tif in order to be imported into our system. Some of the documents were not the best quality for scanning in the first place, but I do expect them to be legible since they were imaged by a professional company and with the specialized equipment they use. Hopefully it will not take long for them to redo the conversion and get the documents back to us!

If you have any questions regarding any item in this report, please give me a call; 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**

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

A significant flash flood incident occurred on July 2017 which affected nearly all of the municipalities. (There was no reported infrastructure damage in the Village of Rockland or the Town of Campbell.) Almost 300 people have called 2-1-1 to report flood and storm damages to their homes and properties.

FEMA and WI Emergency Management staff conducted damage assessments in La Crosse County and La Crosse was included in the Governor's request for Public Assistance (infrastructure) as well as the request for Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster loan assistance for homeowners, renters and businesses affected by the flooding.

County Emergency Management provided information regarding the flood response to the County Board on August 17 and to the Towns Association during their August 24 meeting.

Other significant events for Emergency Management:

- County EM provided a noon presentation regarding the EM program to the Rotary East club during their monthly meeting on September 11.
- The Communication & Command Vehicle was deployed to an evening Law Enforcement Awareness presentation at the West Salem Elementary School on September 26. Although no longer equipped to function as a back-up Dispatch Center, the vehicle still provides service as an Incident Command Post for area emergency responders.
- September is the Wisconsin Preparedness Month and numerous media and public outreach activities are provided to encourage individuals, organizations and businesses to review basic emergency and disaster preparations, such as home and car/travel survival kits and developing a parent-child reunification plan.
- The Emergency Management Performance Grant and Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act fiscal year end on September 30 and the new FY Plan of Work grant deliverables agreement has been prepared. EPCRA funding has been reduced but the EMPG program has been sustained at nearly the same level as FY17.
- La Crosse County Emergency Management and County Health provide support for the annual rural EMS Disaster Drill day activities which occurred on Saturday, September 23. Area EMS teams participate with Physicians and other emergency medical providers at several unique scenarios scattered at a suburban farm to review specialized pre-hospital medical care in difficult surroundings.

## **Public Safety Communications**

### **July**

#### **Telephone Calls**

9-1-1 Calls 2,916 average of 94 per day)  
 Answered within 10 seconds: 96.60%  
 Answered within 20 seconds: 99.59%  
 Average Answer Time: 4 seconds  
*\*3 calls more than 30 seconds*

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

Total Telephone Calls 24,795 (average of 800 per day)

#### **Calls for Service**

Law Enforcement	10,412
Fire Fighting	330
Emergency Medical	642

### **August**

#### **Telephone Calls**

9-1-1 Calls 2,937(average of 95 per day)  
 Answered within 10 seconds: 95.85%  
 Answered within 20 seconds: 99.49%  
 Average Answer Time: 4 seconds  
*\*3 calls of more than 30 seconds*

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

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

## **Calls for Service**

Law Enforcement	10,130
Fire Fighting	227
Emergency Medical	686

*\*National Emergency Number Association Standards:*

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

The Public Safety Radio system upgrade continues. There were delays in obtaining equipment for the St. Joseph Site, commonly called the Hwy 14-61 Tower. The upgrade is behind schedule, but is expected to be in operation in October.

The project's attention will then be turned to adding the Mississippi Valley Consortium (MVC) tower site to the system. In addition in 2017, there will be preparation work at our present Wanlass Road (Town of Farmington) site, where plans are to build a new, taller tower in 2018.

*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. 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 depositions that were scheduled in August have been postponed and a mediation is set for November.

- *Schulze v. County of La Crosse*

This was original an EEOC claim. The EEOC had referred this case to the Department of Justice for review. On March 15, 2017, we received notice from the DOJ that they would not file suit on the alleged discrimination claim. The plaintiff filed a civil suit on June 22, 2017. The matter is set for a jury trial in August of 2018. Discovery and mediation are ongoing.

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

- Completion of MOU with the La Crosse County Dive Team
- Working on MOU with Outdoor Recreational Alliance
- Working with the Personnel/HR Department on various employee issues and labor matters
- 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.
- Closed on the Belle Square parking condominium unit

### 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.

Statistics for Child Protection Services cases as of 9.30.17

CHIPS petitions	76
TPR petitions	11
Juvenile guardianship	23

At the invitation of Representative Doyle, I also recently attended and testified at the Speaker's Task Force on Foster Care held on September 28th.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Megan L. DeVore*  
*Corporation Counsel*