



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

County Administrative Center  
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**Memo To: La Crosse County Board of Supervisors**  
**From: Steve O'Malley, County Administrator**  
**Date: August 6, 2015**

**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 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”**

August 10, 2015 Policy Planning Meeting agenda

The meeting agenda includes a number of interesting items:

- Xcel Energy French Island Environmental Report 2014
- County Role in addressing Challenging Trends in City of La Crosse
- Data and Studies describing Neighborhood Conditions in City of La Crosse
- Boundary Agreements and Revenue Sharing Discussions
- La Crosse Promise: Education as a tool for Economic Development

*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 2015

### County Surveyor

**ASSISTANT COUNTY SURVEYOR:** In June I reported the untimely passing of my co-worker, colleague and friend Peter Follansbee. Pete provided a great deal of stability in the County Surveyor office by handling day to day office functions allowing me time to perform necessary field work. The loss of Pete's steady hand, knowledge and ability is still being felt in our department on a daily basis - limiting the amount of field work that can be accomplished. We have begun to move forward from Pete's loss, however. The La Crosse County Personnel Department has worked closely with me in considering future department needs and updating the position and its description. The job is now being advertised and promoted in hopes of recruiting solid candidates. The deadline for applications is August 10. The Personnel Department is a wonderful resource and I am truly grateful for all the outstanding work they do.

**FIELD WORK:** I have been able to provide adequate field time for Section and Quarter corner maintenance work for 2015. Our department goal is to visit and maintain a minimum of 5% of La Crosse County's 1405 corner monuments (5% of 1405 is 71 corner locations). So far this year we have maintained 38 corner monuments. Maintenance allows a chance to check the condition and stability of the monument marking the corner and to check the reference ties. I believe reaching 5% again this year is still an achievable goal.

**MAP REVIEW:** 2015 continues to be a busy year for Certified Survey Map review. We have had 41 maps submitted for review so far (29 were submitted at this time in 2014). In addition, two preliminary subdivision plats have been submitted for review, both in the Town of Shelby. We have also reviewed two final subdivision plats (Barrewood and Wildwood Valley II).

**PRESENTATIONS:** I will have the honor of providing presentations for two state-wide organizations. I will be presenting for the Wisconsin Real Property Listers Association (WRPLA) on September 24, 2015 in Chippewa Falls. The topic will be "The Office of County Surveyor and Remonumentation". I will also be presenting for the Wisconsin Towns Association (WTA) on October 26<sup>th</sup> at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells on the topic: ""The Public Lands Survey System – A Dependable Network for Land Ownership". I am thrilled to be able to work cooperatively with these two associations and share with them the duties and responsibilities of the County Surveyor position and the importance of the Public Lands Survey System.

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

## Register of Deeds

2013 Statistics	Birth Certificates	Death & Marriage	Real Estate Documents	Transfer Fees	Total Revenue	Running Total for Total Rev
Jan.	491	1722	2074	\$77,208.00	\$57,672.14	
Feb.	548	1274	1780	\$44,708.40	\$53,067.07	\$110,739.21
Mar.	514	979	1663	\$72,020.40	\$45,323.40	\$156,062.61
Apr.	548	1277	1973	\$79,364.70	\$63,318.33	\$219,380.94
May	422	1402	1960	\$117,910.20	\$73,582.63	\$292,963.57
June	434	1295	1942	\$108,011.10	\$62,331.47	\$355,295.04
July	543	1300	2077	\$137,471.40	\$79,582.99	\$434,878.03
Aug.	569	1165	1896	\$107,123.40	\$62,258.91	\$497,136.94
Sept.	504	1111	1546	\$82,789.20	\$56,238.74	\$553,375.68
Oct.	493	1340	1674	\$96,133.50	\$74,390.57	\$627,766.25
Nov.	328	1074	1342	\$63,966.00	\$37,992.15	\$665,758.40
Dec.	294	1128	1277	\$161,524.20	\$74,698.01	\$740,456.41
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5688</b>	<b>15067</b>	<b>21204</b>	<b>\$1,148,230.50</b>	<b>\$740,456.41</b>	

2014 Statistics	Birth	Death & Marriage	Real Estate Documents	Transfer Fees	Total Revenue	Running Total for Total Rev
Jan.	513	1501	1144	\$90,611.10	\$40,641.97	
Feb.	365	1417	1036	\$68,906.10	\$48,034.34	\$88,676.31
Mar.	421	1241	1095	\$61,184.40	\$43,206.20	\$131,882.51
Apr.	461	1247	1300	\$71,760.00	\$52,856.43	\$184,738.94
May	395	1204	1343	\$102,284.70	\$52,560.60	\$237,299.54
June	412	1115	1508	\$140,514.00	\$63,723.91	\$301,023.45
July	436	1144	1575	\$204,915.90	\$82,447.65	\$383,471.10
Aug.	475	1294	1486	\$145,973.70	\$71,219.51	\$454,690.61
Sept.	381	1453	1528	\$245,077.20	\$93,776.88	\$548,467.49
Oct.	440	1121	1467	\$90,693.90	\$50,055.77	\$598,523.26
Nov.	320	1057	1214	\$79,347.60	\$49,386.49	\$647,909.75
Dec.	335	1312	1402	\$81,589.20	\$55,666.79	\$703,576.54
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4954</b>	<b>15106</b>	<b>16098</b>	<b>\$1,382,857.80</b>	<b>\$703,576.54</b>	

2015 Statistics	Birth	Death & Marriage	Real Estate Documents	Transfer Fees	Total Revenue	Running Total
Jan.	424	1357	1202	\$60,921.90	\$50,839.67	\$50,839.67
Feb.	465	1075	1231	\$92,474.40	\$48,641.62	\$99,481.29
Mar.	600	1404	1472	\$112,040.70	\$58,057.00	\$157,538.29
Apr.	471	1317	1471	\$91,679.40	\$59,192.83	\$216,731.12
May	421	1150	1531	\$134,194.20	\$62,438.57	\$279,169.69
June	398	1288	1919	\$157,791.30	\$79,838.18	\$359,007.87
July						\$359,007.87
Aug.						\$359,007.87
Sept.						\$359,007.87
Oct.						\$359,007.87
Nov.						\$359,007.87
Dec.						\$359,007.87
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2779</b>	<b>7591</b>	<b>8826</b>	<b>\$649,101.90</b>	<b>\$359,007.87</b>	

*Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl A McBride*

## **Metropolitan Planning Organization Department**

The La Crosse Area Planning Committee continues to work diligently for enhanced intercity passenger rail service as a member of the Minnesota Intercity Passenger Rail Transportation Forum, Minnesota High Speed Rail Commission and Twin Cities to Chicago Tier 1 EIS Technical Committee.

Joining with the leadership shown by our partners to the west, we are acting as a strong advocate for enhanced passenger service through the La Crosse area. I participated in the recently released "Feasibility Report on Proposed Amtrak Service - Chicago-Milwaukee-La Crosse-Twin Cities-(St. Cloud)" (Second Empire Builder Train Study) by providing data about ridership and station accommodations in La Crosse and as acting on the study steering committee. La Crosse County generously provided \$5000 in funding for this study. Thank you; you rock!

This study by Wisconsin, Minnesota and Amtrak found promise in adding a second daily round trip Amtrak passenger train between the Twin Cities and Chicago. Amtrak currently operates the Empire Builder train between the two metropolitan areas as part of the long-distance service from Chicago to Seattle and Portland. The study concluded that the route between St. Paul and Chicago is the most feasible for initial service with potential extensions to Minneapolis and St. Cloud.

Annual ridership on the additional daily train, with a morning departure from Chicago and a mid-day departure from St. Paul, is estimated at about 155,000 passengers. This is an increase over the current Empire Builder ridership of approximately 104,000 between St. Paul and Chicago. The study includes an assessment of schedules, ridership, revenue, infrastructure investments, operating costs, and equipment needs associated with the expanded service.

The study considered a number of service locations and options. The states of Minnesota and Wisconsin would be required to fund the ongoing operating subsidy of the additional service, estimated at \$5.6 - \$6.6 million per year. Next up is a more detailed environmental study of the proposed service. Wisconsin has pledged \$300,000 of funding, to be matched by Minnesota. Stay tuned!

The feasibility study [is available here](#).

Here's an image from the study showing the stations and routes considered:



*Tom Faella*

*Executive Director, La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC)*

## La Crosse County UW-Extension

- Suzanna Barnhart joined the La Crosse County UW-Extension team as the 4-H Youth Development Agent. She has a Bachelor's of Science degree from UW-La Crosse in Secondary Education - Broadfield Sciences and a Master's of Science in Science Education from Montana State University. Suzanna's previously was the Chemistry and Physical Science Teacher at La Crescent High School, and also has taught for Western Technical College and Melrose Mindoro High School. (MMS)
- Facilitated discussions for the ADRC and Aging Unit Coordination Committee as they review and prepare an analysis of three future organization structure options to further greater integration. The final report of the teams work was forwarded to the County Administrator in July. (MMS)
- Assisted the Chippewa County UW-Extension Family Living Agent in preparing for, coordinating, and facilitating panel discussions for the National Foundation for Women Legislators Spring Symposium for Women Policy Makers. The focus was on what it takes to work in legislative positions—elected or appointed. (MMS)
- The 2015 carcass evaluation night was held at Holmen Locker in July. Numerous youth and adults were in attendance to hear the results from the 2015 La Crosse Interstate Fair carcass show. UW-Extension in cooperation with the local locker plants provides this opportunity to exhibitors at the fair. Exhibitors learned 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)
- UW-Extension continues to receive and attempt to provide information and resources for Agriculture related questions. One-hundred-seventy-five telephone requests and 46 walk-in customers requested information or ag-related services. Fifty referrals were made to UW-Extension certified Master Gardeners to respond to plant, garden and lawn questions. Eight field and garden soil samples were sent in along with 4 plant identification samples. Twenty-seven youth completed the Meat Animal Quality Assurance trainings, required for participation in the La Crosse Interstate and Wisconsin state fairs. The trainings were presented by UW-Extension volunteers who have been certified to offer the program. (MMS)
- 518 youth exhibited at this year's Interstate Fair. This was a valuable component of the year-long learning projects 4-H members undertook when they enrolled in September. The fair gave exhibitors practice in using their communication and collaboration skills while they shared their in depth knowledge on a range of topics including photography, art, science, technology, clothing design and animal sciences. (SB)
- Over 55 youth attended Upham Woods summer camp with 15 youth leaders serving as counselors. This 4-day camp was for 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders interacting with nature through exciting, hands-on environmental education programs. They explored the sandstone ledges and caves of historic Blackhawk Island, and participated in a service-learning project teaching them the importance of "paying it forward." (JH)
- WNEP partnered with the Aging Department to provide food samples, nutrition education, and encouragement for seniors to try a new fruit or vegetable during their distribution of Farmers Market Vouchers. The program provides vouchers to lower-income senior to purchase these items at local Farmer's Markets. A total of 271 contacts were made at 10 different locations. (KJ)
- WNEP shared a presentation on ways to include healthy beverages to over 123 older adults at 8 senior meal sites. After tasting a fruit and yogurt based smoothie that had added kale and spinach, over 90% said that they couldn't taste the added vegetables. (KJ)

- Presented to the Synergy work group (leaders from LADCO, Chamber of Commerce, DMI, & Rivers Alliance and the LACVB) a review of forms of economic development partnerships other communities have enacted that have both worked, and not worked. As part of the discussion, the work group was also presented with a review of the various organizations strategic plans as a means to look for potential overlap or service duplication. (KG)
- Facilitated the La Crosse Area Dental Coalition in their stakeholders meeting to attempt to garner feedback for a future direction once the current Executive Director retires. Two ideas were brought forward by the group, one involving a potential partnership between the two local healthcare providers, St. Claire's Health Mission & Scenic Bluffs Healthcare; the other looking at the existing model of dentistry care to determine ways of developing more secure funding for the future. (KG)

SB – Suzanna Barnhart, 4-H Youth Development Agent

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

KG – Karl Green, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Comm. Resource Dev., Community Resource Dev. Agent

MMS – Mary Meehan-Strub, Prof., Dept. of Family Living, Family Living Agent / Dept. Head

KJ – Karie Johnson, Nutrition Coordinator

## 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:

### Dale Hewitt, Code Enforcement Specialist



Dale has been with the department for approximately 2 months. Born in Milwaukee, WI, moved to Stevens Point, WI at 1 year old, went to grade school, middle school, and high school in Stevens Point. Dale initially graduated from Mid-State Technical College in 1997 with an Associate's Degree in Civil Engineering. After graduation he worked as a Land Surveyor until 2004, when he returned to college. Dale then graduated in 2007 from UW-Stevens Point with a degree in Geography (Cartographic Option) and a minor in GIS and Spatial Analysis. He was again employed as a Land Surveyor, and due to changing times, also worked in a factory for several years. He then began working with the Zoning, Planning, and Land Information Department on June 8, 2015. As the Code Enforcement Specialist, he works with the public assisting them with any questions/concerns/issues they may have about parcels that are potentially in violation of the County of La

Crosse, Wisconsin, Code of Ordinances. Other aspects of his role include assisting and informing land owners on land use issues, for example: zoning, floodplain, and shore land issues, drawing and preparing maps for various uses, and the intake of rezone, conditional use, special exception, and variance applications.

"I have learned quickly that no two days are ever the same with my new career. I enjoy working with a wide variety of backgrounds and helping them with any questions/concerns/issues they may have with the many different aspects of the County of La Crosse, Wisconsin, Code of Ordinances. I like that I am able to use all of my previous schooling, and prior work experience to help La Crosse County."

Dale has been married for 14 years and has an 11 year old son. His wife grew up north of La Crosse and they have always wanted to move to the area. He enjoys fly fishing, tying flies, and ice fishing, and showing others how to tie flies because it is a very creative outlet.

**Department Notes:** The State Budget has provided some additional challenges as far as updating the County Shoreland Ordinance. We will work through those issues and update that ordinance quickly, along with some minor adjustments that we will recommend for consideration in the current Zoning Ordinance. These recommended updates for Chapter 17 are mostly pertaining to receiving certification from DATCP as a Farmland Preservation certified ordinance. Both ordinance updates should happen in 2015.

**Permits: - Zoning Permits Issued through July 31<sup>st</sup> 2015- La Crosse County Unincorporated**

**2014-Jan-July 31<sup>st</sup> Permits Issued- 220**

**Value 2014- \$19,953,414**

**2015-Jan-July 31<sup>st</sup> Permits Issued- 196**

**Down 10.9%**

**Value 2015- \$17,036,169**

**Down 14.6%**

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Public Works & Infrastructure August 2015

### Solid Waste

#### Xcel Operations

Operations at the beginning of the third quarter of 2015 continue in a normal fashion. Monthly reports on the contract extension are being submitted to the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee. The annual presentation by Xcel to the County Board on Environmental Performance will be given at the County Board Planning Meeting on August 10, 2015.

#### Landfill Operations

The annual stakeholders meeting was held on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at the landfill. While attendance was down, people appreciated the topics covered and particularly the discussion with Neil Bolton of Blue Ridge Services. All operations at the landfill are continuing in a normal fashion.

On July 30, 2015 a small fire occurred at the landfill in the citizen's trailer unloading area. The fire was noticed around approximately 5:00 am in the morning and was completely out and under control by 8:00 am. No damage to property, facilities, equipment or personnel occurred. The cause of the fire is suspected to be a hot load from an industrial customer. The Fire Marshall is visiting that customer to determine if that was the cause.

The Solid Waste Department successfully terminated the container rental program and received approximately \$3,000 more than expected on the sale of unneeded containers. During the later portion of June, the main compactor from St. Joe's Construction Company suffered a mechanical failure. Fortunately, they had a backup compactor on site and compaction of the waste materials was maintained.

#### Inspections and Reviews

The DNR inspected the landfill and found compliance with all activities and that the site was in very good shape. In July, the Public Service Commission audited the performance of the pipeline between the landfill and Gunderson's facility. The pipeline serves the gas to energy system for the transport of landfill gas. No compliance issues or problems were found during that inspection and review.

#### New Landfill Site Entrance

A conceptual design for the new site entrance was completed and submitted to the City of La Crosse. The City of La Crosse will now complete a design for the frontage road by the end of the year. Construction on the frontage road is expected to occur in 2016 and with construction of the new site entrance in 2017. Budget information has been prepared to identify costs with the new site entrance. The entrance will improve the esthetics of the landfill, improve safety and will allow for a more convenient handling of traffic.

#### 2016 Budget

At the end of July the Solid Waste Department has completed their submission of the 2016 budget. A modest price increase at Xcel and the Landfill are being proposed in line with discussions with the Administrator, the Policy Board, Stakeholders and Haulers. Projections are being developed to determine how the costs associated with the site entrance,

refinancing debt and capital improvements over the next five and ten years will affect the financial performance of the Solid Waste Department.

### **HHM**

The Household Hazardous Materials began charging for TVs on July 1<sup>st</sup>. This charge (\$5 or \$10/TV depending on the size) was instituted to offset the increasing cost of recycling of the leaded glass from many older TVs. There appears to be a slight decrease in the number of TVs delivered to HHM, however it is too soon to assess the full impact. The public has been generally understanding and accepting of this change.

Utilization of HHM down slightly in June and July as compared to last year. Even with this reduction, the number of users and the volume of waste is still ahead of last year's record pace.

## **Sustainability**

### **Eagle Scout Projects in Process**

There are four Boy Scouts working towards achieving their Eagle Scout rank right now on the landfill. As part of the Solid waste Departments Community Outreach program we work with various organizations and individuals to further that value to the community of the landfill. These current projects include: Grant Restel; Snake Hibernaculum, this is a snake house that will allow differing species of snakes to hibernate over the winter. Joah Strauss; will be building several bird houses for several species of birds including Screech Owl's and Kestrel's. Brad Konsela; will be building several bat houses for the landfill that will help with pest control. Zach Meyer; currently working with WisCorps to construct the Boardwalk in the southern part of the wetland on site.

### **Trails**

WisCorps was on the landfill site starting June 26<sup>th</sup> and completed another ½ mile of trail constructed within the community forest. Several views highlight this section of trail that offers an entry point in the south east corner of the landfill. If anyone is interested in seeing the new construction please contact Nick to set up a tour.

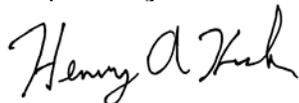
### **Xcel Solar Garden Program**

Xcel Energy recently extended an RFP for construction of up to 3 solar gardens in Wisconsin up to one MW each. The landfill was approached by Xcel to see if the Solid waste Department would be interested in hosting such a site. Several organizations have contacted the landfill and as of this writing it looks like the landfill site does not have the contiguous land available for a system of up to one MW.

### **Sustainable La Crosse Commission**

The Sustainable La Crosse Commission met Thursday July 16<sup>th</sup>, the focus of the meeting was a presentation by Hank on the Xcel contract extension and its implications. Brian Tippetts also gave a presentation on 7 Rivers recycling and their efforts to recycle mattresses. Along with a description of how they are working with the landfill to divert mattresses with a pilot project that is scheduled to run until October.

Respectfully Submitted,



Henry A. Koch, P.E.

## Highway Department

- The first thing I want to bring you up to speed on is the current status of the CTH C/STH 108 transfer. At this point the transfer is not complete because we do not have final determination on several items that are in the control of either the WisDOT or a combination of the WisDOT and the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO).
  - Third Business 108 Request – We are still waiting on a response for the third request we had made requesting a Business 108 identification for this route.
  - Agreement Revisions – We are waiting on revisions to the draft agreement, that the WisDOT provided for our review, we found to be necessary in order to comply with the agreed upon points of negotiation.
  - Payment – We have not yet received the payment.
  - SHPO Response on Historical Preservation easement concerns – At the last minute, someone in WisDOT found a little known requirement that states “if the WisDOT transfers a facility to another entity and that facility has a recognized historical site on it then the WisDOT must put in place a historical preservation easement and turn said easement over to the State Historical Preservation Office”. As we do not yet know what that easement will entail, nor do we know what we will be able to perform, with regards to roadway improvements, within that easement we are waiting for those details to be worked out.

Please feel free to contact me with any question or concerns you may have.

- Seal Coating of La Crosse County CTHs, City of Onalaska Streets and Town of Holland roads is currently in progress. In addition to these projects we are working with Vernon County to sealcoat 20 – 25 miles of their CTHs as well.
- On the STH system in La Crosse County we have been working on various maintenance projects including accident repairs, bridge washing, ditch cleaning, culvert repairs and miscellaneous other maintenance activities.
- On the CTH system, our first mowing of the year is complete and we will be mowing in the fall. The crew has completed a large number of miles of crack sealing and are moving into the urban area with that activity within the next two weeks. In addition to those activities we have been working on various other maintenance activities including pothole patching, shoulder maintenance and bridge maintenance.
- Currently we have grant applications in under various programs for the following projects:
  - CTH M (CTH B [west] south to CTH O)
  - CTH C (CTH DE north to STH 108) to address funding of this section of current CTH C in the event that the transfer is held up for an extended period of time.
  - CTH SN (Hanson Road south to East Avenue North)
  - CTH J Fish creek Bridge
  - CTH X Berg Coulee Creek Bridge
  - CTH V Long Coulee Creek Bridge
  - CTH B Bostwick Coulee Creek Bridge
  - CTH GI in its entirety along with some improvements to the park roads within Goose Island Park. This is a Federal Land Access Program grant.
- With the adoption of the State budget the WDNR will no longer be paying for car kill deer pick-up on local roads and CTHs. Instead the Counties and the local units of government now have that responsibility on those roadways under their respective jurisdictions. The Highway Department has set up a process and to handle that requirement on the CTHs within La Crosse County.

Thank you for your continued support of Highway Department operations.

Respectfully Submitted  
*Ronald Chamberlain*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Judiciary & Law August 2015

### Clerk of Courts

The Court system will have some changes in August. There will be a new Judge presiding in Circuit Court Branch 5. Current Family Court Commissioner, Gloria L. Doyle, will take over as the new judge as of August 3<sup>rd</sup> with an official ceremony on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Current Judge, Candice CM Tlustosch, official last day in office will be on Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. Along with a new judge, a new court reporter will also be hired.

Elizabeth A. Wright will take over the duties of Gloria Doyle as Family Court Commissioner on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Elizabeth Wright is a former public defender.

The Clerk of Courts office is losing a Clerk to retirement, Nola Anderson's last day was July 24<sup>th</sup>. Her replacement, Sara Peterson, will start on Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>.

The new video conferencing equipment will be installed the last week of July. All court related parties are looking forward to the installation and use of the new equipment.

Lots of changes!

*Pam Radtke*  
*Clerk of Courts*

### Corporation Counsel Office

#### 1. Claims Update.

- Joanne Fiers, Special Administrator for the Estate of Richard Bendel v. La Crosse County, Case No. 15-CV-79. This claim was filed back in February, 2015. Lately, a number of depositions were taken of County employees by the attorneys for the Plaintiff Joanne Fiers. The County has filed a motion to dismiss the claims based on a lack of grounds under federal law and to dismiss claims based on failure to comply with the Wisconsin Notice of Claim requirements. When the federal court has decided on the motion to dismiss, I will report the results back to the County Board.
- Jacquelyn Rieck v. County of La Crosse, ERD Case No. CR201500960. This is a discrimination complaint that was filed on April 27, 2015, alleging discrimination based upon conviction and arrest record. On July 23, 2015, Matthew White, the Equal Rights Officer for the State Department of Workforce Development, issued an initial determination finding no probable cause to believe that the County of La Crosse violated the Wisconsin fair employment law by discriminating against the complainant because of arrest or conviction record. Therefore, the complaint was dismissed. The complainant has 30 days to file an appeal of the determination to the Commission and request a hearing. If no appeal is filed within 30 days, then the matter will be closed.

- Barbara Andres v. County of La Crosse, ERD Case No. CR201501734. On June 27, 2015, Barbara Andres filed a complaint with the State of Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development alleging discrimination by La Crosse County on the basis of age. Ms. Andres claims that she was discriminated against based on age when she was not hired for a Site Manager position and also when she was not retained as a Site Manager/Driver substitute position with the La Crosse County Aging Department. La Crosse County is in the process of filing a response to the claim, which will deny the allegations. The claim is covered by WMMIC and Attorney Mary Nelson is retained to defend La Crosse County in this matter. Our office will continue to keep the County Board informed of any developments in this case.
2. Ordinance Updates. Our office is still working on ordinance updates to Chapter 5 Records Management, Chapter 7 Traffic Code, and Chapter 15 Solid Waste Management Code. An initial draft has been re-written for the Chapter 15 Solid Waste Management Code but needs to be reviewed again by the Solid Waste Department. There should be a first draft of Chapter 7 Traffic Code for the County Board in the near future.
  3. Department Assistance. Our office continues to work and assist various County departments regarding legal issues as they arise, which include the following:
    - Child Support Department – Our office continues to work on contractual issues as they arise. Corporation Counsel also provides daily assistance to the Child Support department regarding legal issues as they arise.
    - Solid Waste Dept. – Continue to work on various issues, including miscellaneous contractual matters, Xcel contract negotiations regarding extension of contract with Xcel Energy, Chapter 15 ordinance re-write, and other miscellaneous issues.
    - Health Dept. – Our office is working with the Health Department regarding potential changes to the smoking regulations within La Crosse County and as applicable to County employees. Also, our office continues to work on various contractual matters and enforcement matters regarding potential human health hazards.
    - Highway Dept. – Assist with various issues including working on the County OA court appeals in conjunction with our attorney who has been retained to represent the County in these matters, and work on several contractual issues.
    - Zoning Dept. – Our office has been working with Zoning and Planning on amendments to Chapter 17 Zoning Code, as well as questions which arise regarding various issues with the Property Lister regarding ownership of specific property and also issues involving changes to the state shoreland zoning laws.
  4. Court Activities. Our office continues to work on ongoing Human Service matters, including civil mental commitment, guardianship and protective placement cases and child protection cases. Recently, Amy Flottmeyer and Megan DeVore have resolved 2 cases involving termination of parental rights filed in court by voluntary agreement to termination of parental rights. This means that instead of a likely trial with a considerable amount of attorney and Human Services staff time involved and a likely appeal of trial disposition to the Court of Appeals, that the cases have been settled through a voluntary process. Our office continues to represent the Child Support office twice a week in standard hearings and also in other specific hearings before the Family Court Commissioner regarding establishment or modification of support orders and contempt and other enforcement actions.

5. Child Support Agency Report to the Board, August 2015.

The Agency case numbers remain steady at approximately 5500 cases. The customer service call center came onboard June 1, 2015. As of June 30<sup>th</sup> the call center had received 1,090 calls. The average hold time was 1 minute 34 seconds and the average talk time was 3 minutes and 34 seconds.

I am pleased to report that in the 2 months since going live with the call center, the staff has made great improvements keeping up with their daily casework along with assisting in the training of the 2 new staff members.

In August we plan to undertake an in-house Lean project that will examine our paternity establishment procedures. This process will help us achieve a more streamlined approach and provide for consistent best practices within the paternity establishment caseload.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Lange  
Corporation Counsel

## **Emergency Services**

With the changing of designations for State Highway 108 and County Road C, there may be some challenges with public safety responses. The addressing sequence will continue to be the same for both roads, so citizens will keep their address number, but the road name will change. If a citizen gives their address off their previous road name, it could create a delay with an emergency response.

The location information received by 9-1-1 emergency operators varies based on three types of phone service. Typically land-line telephone information is the most accurate, but less than 25% of 9-1-1 calls come from land-line phones. Calls from cellular telephone can provide different levels of location information based on such things as network provider, type of phone used, tower location, signal strength, network activity and other factors. Initially, the 9-1-1 call supplies the caller's number and location of the tower the signal hits. The 9-1-1 operators can rebid those calls and may obtain more detailed location information, but that information may still not be specific enough to pin-point a response. The third type is internet-based phone systems, commonly called Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP). Phones using the internet most often rely on the owner registering their phones with their service provider. If a person fails to register, or moves without updating their information with their provider, the location information sent with the 9-1-1 call will not be accurate. The point here, is that the best source of location information is from the caller.

To assist with this road-name transition, a 9-1-1 Tip Sheet will be included in a mailing to those affected residents. One of the tips is to have the affected residents check with their service provider to verify their address is correct. In addition, Public Safety Communications will include "flags" with their Computer Aided Dispatch software when there are calls to Highway 108 and County Road C. This will prompt call takers to verify the road name. 9-1-1 Operators do now verify locations with 9-1-1 callers, but some callers give inaccurate information during traumatic calls. Again, the best situation is for the caller to know their correct address/location.

## Public-Safety Communications

### May

#### Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,330 (average of 75 per day)  
Answered within 10 seconds: 96.48%  
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.57%  
Average Answer Time: 5 seconds  
*\*4 calls more than 30 seconds*

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

Total Telephone Calls 24,106 (average of 778 per day)

#### Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	10,960
Fire Fighting	195
Emergency Medical	603

### June

#### Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,730 (average of 91 per day)  
Answered within 10 seconds: 94.29%  
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.19%  
Average Answer Time: 5 seconds  
*\* 5 calls more than 30 seconds*

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

Total Telephone Calls 24,583 (average of 819 per day)

#### Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	10,968
Fire Fighting	220
Emergency Medical	629

*\*National Emergency Number Association Standards:*

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

A radio tower has been erected in a former quarry on top of the bluff in the Town of Medary on what is called the MVC Site (for Mississippi Valley Consortium). The 180-foot tower is above the Highway 16 and County Road B intersection and is co-owned by the City of La Crosse and La Crosse County. It will be one of three tower sites to be used for the City's new 800 megahertz trunked radio system. It also will be a key location as the County looks to update its public safety and highway radio systems.

Additionally as part of the City system upgrade, the dispatch radio consoles will be updated. The radio consoles will be installed late this year, followed by a testing period. Cutover for the city system is expected to happen in the first quarter of 2016, which will include the new consoles.

The maintenance period for the phone system used for both 9-1-1 and non-emergency public safety calls ends in 2017. Public Safety Communications is researching options for updating these phone systems with consideration to what is called the next generation of 9-1-1. Such systems would provide the internet protocol capability to receiving texts,

recordings, pictures and videos. Currently the 9-1-1 routing equipment at our telephone provider (CenturyLink) does not support Next Gen 9-1-1. This 9-1-1 routing equipment is currently shared with three other counties.

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

County Emergency Services personnel participated in the FEMA Operation Safe Delivery crude oil spill training and exercise program held at the Stoney Creek Inn on June 10-11. Numerous presenters offered information regarding Federal agency response and recovery programs as well as reports from actual incidents. The exercise scenario involved a train derailment near the Mormon Coulee Overhead, which aligned with our efforts to develop evacuation routes. New data sources were obtained, such as thermal and blast impact zone calculations, that may help enhance some of the evacuation planning.

Additional information has been provided regarding local community use of public alerting and notification systems. Federal legislation is pending regarding the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) which may alter local efforts to obtain independent, but not inter-connected, systems. Emergency Management's recommendation to the LEPC is to not pursue a countywide system until further information regarding Federal funding for IPAWS system applications is available.

All of the County Emergency Response Plan conversion from the former Annex version to the new Emergency Support Function version has been completed. Orientation, review and approval by the County Board Chair will need to be completed before the new plan becomes 'official' later this year. The new plan format includes specific evacuation planning (ESF 1), and oil and hazardous materials (ESF 10), which were lacking in the current emergency plan design.

Most of the off-site plans due for review and revision in FY15 have been completed and are awaiting review and approval by the facility managers. There are now over 60 off-site plans for facilities located in La Crosse County. Efforts are underway to update the public release versions found on the Alert La Crosse website.

County EM continues to work with a regional EM Shelter in Place workgroup. That group met with several area broadcast media partners in Black River Falls on July 10. Guidance for media partners, dispatch centers and incident commanders have been drafted. A public information statement page has been added to the Alert La Crosse website:

<http://alertlacrosse.org/>

*Jay Loeffler, Administrator  
Emergency Services*