



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

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Memo To: La Crosse County Board of Supervisors
From: Steve O'Malley, County Administrator
Date: October 2012

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 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”

Policy Planning Meeting October 8, 2012

The primary agenda item will be an overview of the 2013 County Administrator's recommended Budget, including a review of the Main Issues identified by Committee and an outline of the anticipated Board Decisions during budget adoption and during 2013.

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

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Planning, Resources & Development Committee October 2012

Zoning, Planning and Land Information:

Ordinance Updates: Zoning ordinance: The Towns of Holland, Washington and Farmington have adopted County-Wide Zoning and we will be meeting with the other 9 towns to discuss their options.

Staff: Jonathon Kaatz has accepted a position with the mining division of Mathy Construction. We wish Jonathon the best in his new position, and hope to refill that position soon.

Permits: Zoning permits are on the rise in 2012, see counts and value below.

1/1/11 – 9/26/11 - Totals: Permit Count 276 Estimated Value \$18,071,397

1/1/12 – 9/26/12 - Totals: Permit Count 291 Estimated Value \$26,298,935

5.4% increase in permit county 45.5% increase in permit value

Charlie Handy
County Planner

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Work continues on the *Coulee Vision 2050* project. The purpose of *Coulee Vision 2050* is to develop a vision for transportation and land use decisions in the La Crosse / La Crescent area, specifically as guidance in writing a long-range transportation plan due in 2015. "Without a vision, the people will perish."

We have been working with URS Corporation and MSA Associates on this project. The consultant team has reviewed and summarized the goals and objectives from the area comprehensive plans and prepared an online community survey and website at CouleeVision2050.com. We have hosted five focus groups and met with the planning commissions of all LAPC communities.

I have appeared on the WPR show "Newsmakers" and will have a Guest View in the Tribune next week to publicize the project and promote public meetings on October 11. Please see CouleeVision2050.com for more information and access to the community survey. As county board members your knowledge and willingness to work for a planned and brighter future will be excellent input for me through the survey and in other conversations.

Tom Faella
Executive Director, La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC)

UW-Extension

- Facilitated planning sessions for the La Crosse Area Family Policy Board as they reorganize around three work groups for 2012-2014. Prioritized areas for work groups are: Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Economic Security, and Safe & Healthy Environment. (MMS)
- Co-facilitated the Community Collaboration Committee in efforts to extend information and access to resources via community outreach sessions. The Committee works to decrease poverty by increasing self-sufficiency, assets and opportunities for individuals, neighborhoods, and communities through collaboration of faith based organizations, non-profits, private sector entities, and county Human Services. (MMS)
- Corn Fungicide trial plot ratings were taken at three locations this month and showed small amounts of leaf diseases (rust and northern corn leaf blight were the main two diseases found) were present in our local corn crop. Yields from one plot at harvest showed that the application of a corn fungicide resulted in no statistical yield difference than those that were untreated. The remaining plots will be harvested soon. (SDH)
- A new invasive fruit fly, the spotted winged drosophila, became a major concern for fall raspberry producers in the county. Traps were set up to determine numbers and concentration around the county and research based information was distributed to grower about control and management. More monitoring will be done in 2013 to determine if the pest overwinters in our area/climate. (SDH)
- Over one hundred youth represented La Crosse County at the Wisconsin State Fair and exhibited projects in a wide variety of areas including dairy, beef, sheep, goat, rabbits, woodworking, arts, clothing, demonstrations, music and drama. Participants in the State Fair are evaluated by certified judges and practice communication skills through interaction with the many people that visit the Fair. (JH)
- Over ninety youth attended 4-H camp this summer. Post-camp surveys indicated 100% of those surveyed enjoyed camp and learned things about the history and use of the Wisconsin River and other environmental education during the camp experience. A parent survey indicated the experience was positive and that their children gained skills in self-confidence, group dynamics and teamwork, new friendships, and gained independence. (RM)
- Salvation Army residents attended a session on how to stretch their food dollars, that was led by WNEP staff in collaboration with the program coordinator and director of social services. Topics including meal planning, using foods that you have on hand to make new dishes, and grocery shopping tips. At the end of the program, 81% knew at least one way to get more for their food money that they planned to use in the next month or so. (SH)
- The nutrition educator taught a "**Quick Meals for Busy Families**" class to residents of the New Horizon Women's Shelter where the lesson focused on the importance of planning, preparing by using what you have on hand, and easy healthy meals. The adults present indicated that 100% **are going to plan a one dish meal that they will prepare for their family.** (SH)
- The CNRED Educator worked with the Joint Board of Harbor Commissioners to improve the public informational process for No-wake zone ordinance changes. This included developing a public informational ad in the La Crosse Tribune, as well as contacting property owners directly affected by the proposed ordinance change. (KG)
- Presented updated housing program and Joint Housing Task Force recommendations to over 30 Valley View Rotarians following their request for the program. Of the evaluations respondents, 93% stated they valued the program and thought the City's housing stock needed to be addressed. Continued working with La Crosse Neighborhood Commission on addressing challenging issues affecting housing in the City of La Crosse. (KG)

JH – Jenny Holm, 4-H & Youth Assistant
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
RM – Robert Matysik, Prof., Dept. of Youth Dev., 4-H & Youth Agent
SH – Sheila Harding, Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program Coordinator
SDH – Steve Huntzicker, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Agriculture, Ag Agent

County Surveyor

GLOBAL POSITIONING SATELLITE (GPS) SYSTEM EQUIPMENT PURCHASE: We now have all of the components of the new GPS equipment and software and are using them on a fairly regular basis. Our vendor, Positioning Solutions, has been able to work with us and the manufacturing company Topcon through some difficult issues. Topcon had recently released new versions of the hardware and software so there were some “bugs” to work out. In the end, we know we will have a truly versatile product which will serve our department very well for years to come.

CERTIFIED SURVEY MAP, PRELIMINARY PLAT REVIEW AND MAP FILING: So far in 2012, we have had 42 Certified Survey Maps (CSMs) submitted for review. Of these 42 maps, 22 are subject to a review fee of \$50. A Certified Survey Map is required by the La Crosse County Subdivision Ordinance for any division of land 5 acres or less in size in the unincorporated areas of La Crosse County. A CSM may also be submitted for parcels larger than 5 acres if the landowner requests one from their surveyor. We also review CSMs in the cities and villages areas of the County prior to recording. The number of CSMs reviewed this year is on pace for the number we had in 2011. We regularly receive other types of survey maps from private survey firms submitted for filing in the County Surveyor files. Following a cursory review and indexing, the maps are incorporated into the County Surveyor files. We frequently go through several of the survey files to straighten and organize the existing maps in each file.

SCANNING PROJECT: Senior Engineering Aide Pete Follansbee continues to scan survey maps in the County Surveyor files. These digitized images of maps in the will eventually be made available on the County website. Recently, Pete finished the survey maps in the Village of Holmen and has turned his attention on the maps found in the Village of West Salem. Prior to scanning, Pete checks the condition of the maps and repairs and rehabilitates them as needed.

SECTION AND QUARTER CORNER MAINTENANCE: We are working to complete our corner maintenance visits for 2012. Corner maintenance allows us to check the condition of the corner monuments and the witness ties. Our purpose in this work is to protect these vital corner locations. Our department goal is to visit 5% of La Crosse County’s 1405 Section and Quarter corner monuments. Our primary focus this year is the Section and Quarter corners found in T18N, R7W (Towns of Holland, Farmington and a small portion of Onalaska). Much of this work goes hand in hand with our new GPS equipment as we acquire coordinate values on many of the corners we visit. The coordinate values are then provided to our Land Information mappers to assist with accurate mapping.

ONGOING RESPONSE: We are pleased to be able to respond to the public, other County Departments and other governmental agencies to assist them with surveying and land ownership questions. These interactions take place via e-mail, telephone and face-to-face visits.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan Meyer, La Crosse County Surveyor

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Public Works & Infrastructure October 2012

Solid Waste

Landfill Contractor – Qualifications from approximately nine landfill contractors were received and reviewed. Six contractors were invited to submit a proposal which is due October 26, 2012. Technical specifications for the landfill contractor's work and a draft service contract have been developed and reviewed with Corporation Counsel. Interviews and a final selection are scheduled for November, followed by Committee and County Board review and approval in December, 2012. The new contract is expected to be in place April 1, 2013.

Xcel Contract Amendment – Discussions have been initiated to prepare an amendment to the Xcel operating contract. This amendment will address issues such as ash disposal, increased processing performance, change in fees for over-sized and bulky waste handling, and an extension to the contract of approximately five years. It is expected that work on the proposed amendment will continue throughout 2012 with a final draft version brought to the Solid Waste Policy Board and Public Works and Infrastructure Committee in early 2013. After reviewing comments a final revision will be brought before County Board for final approval.

Customer Appreciation Event – On September 14, 2012, the Annual Customer Appreciation Day was held at the landfill shop. Approximately 70 people enjoyed a lunch of hot dogs and hamburgers. Customers are invited to stop and eat or to take a 'to go' box. Tours were provided to those that were interested.

Fall Landfill Inspection – An inspection of the landfill was performed on September 6, 2012, by Mary Jo Webster of the La Crosse County Land Conservation Department. No significant erosion problems were identified and minor issues will be corrected prior to winter.

Sustainability – Jim Dalton from Bigfoot Forestry has inspected, reviewed, and marked locations for the sustainable harvest of lumber within the landfill's community forest. Over 50,000 board feet has been identified and will be put up for auction in October. Jim is also working with Silent Sports to review the proposed logging roads and how they can be converted to walking and hiking trails once the harvest has been completed.

Solid Waste Evaluation – The evaluation committee met on September 11th at the landfill conference room. Discussion centered on the requirements of the Responsible Unit (RU) and how the City's could work together and whether the County should be requested to become the RU. John Katers from UW Green Bay, Anna Mc Cabe from the DNR, Anne Morse from Winona County and John Staats from Trempealeau County made presentations.

Wisconsin Counties Association Meeting – Hank and Nick attended the Wisconsin Counties Association Meeting with a display that highlighted the Household Hazardous Materials Program, the Solid Waste Department and the Sustainability program. Many visitors commented on the varied successes of the landfill and its reputation throughout the State.

Gas-To-Energy – The operation of the gas to energy (G2e) system and associated maintenance and quarterly inspections are proceeding as scheduled. Quarterly inspections were completed in July along with second maintenance on the compressor in September. Gundersen Lutheran completed the 2000 and 4000 hour maintenance on the engine and noticed slightly higher than expected siloxane build-up. Currently they are planning a 1-2 week shutdown at the end of October to replace engine components. System output from May 1 – September 24th has averaged 170.22 MMBTU/day or \$ 595.77/day with a 91.73% run time on entire system. Unscheduled downtimes associated with the compressor have been due to a Condensate High Level alarm from a failed actuating valve (valve replaced), Glycol Low Pressure Alarm (drained residual air in system from start-up and re-pressurized). Overall the compressor, chiller and pipeline have had minimal unscheduled mechanical failures accounting for less than 1% of the 8.27% lost run time.

Personnel – A second resignation has occurred in less than two months. Dean Ott resigned to take a position with the Sheriff’s Department with a significant increase in pay.

HHM – A recent incident showed the value of having qualified and properly trained technicians working at the facility. A woman arrived with a tote in the backseat next to her infant. While removing the chemicals from the tote the technician noticed that one of the containers was starting to leak and was giving off fumes. Acting quickly, he was able to remove the chemicals to a safe location and evacuate the vehicle until he had inspected the vehicle and was sure there was no remaining hazard. Later he tested the unknown chemical and found it to be a dilute pesticide that was reacting with zinc phosphate (a highly reactive chemical) causing the smoke. Although this type of incident is rare, they occasionally occur. Retaining such skilled people in the Special Waste Technician positions is a top priority of the Solid Waste Department.

HHM totals for August:

Users:	1,151 people a 47% increase over August last year.
Weight processed:	80,657 lbs a 68% increase over August last year.
Average weight per visit:	70 lbs

As of the end of August, HHM’s total for both users and waste collected has exceeded the totals for all of 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,



Henry A. Koch, P.E.

Highway Department

- Our CTH DE project (from CTH E to Balmer Road) is in the finishing stages, it is paved, shouldered marked and the guardrail will be going up shortly.

- In addition to the reconditioning along CTH DE we have completed the other large pavement project this year, our maintenance overlays. We placed maintenance overlays on CTH B (CTH M to CTH O) and on CTH B (West Salem to STH 162). Due to increases in the cost of materials as well as other projects that required immediate attention, those two were the only maintenance overlays we were able to complete this year.
- On CTH M just north of Sweden Coulee the small structure that was there had deteriorated to a point that it had to have weight limits posted and a speedy replacement. We completed that project in September and have opened up CTH M to full traffic.
- Under a Local Force Account (LFA) contract, we have been working on STH 16 from La Crosse St to West Salem. As part of this contract we reconstructed the bypass at Moos Road in an effort to prevent crashes at that location. The other item we are currently performing under that LFA is the concreted repair from this summer's pavement blow-ups.
- The real-estate acquisition on CTH OA (CTH O to CTH FO) is currently underway. All property owners that we are acquiring real-estate from will (or have) received information about their acquisition including offers, appraisals and a copy of a WisDOT pamphlet which explains the process and their rights under the law. There are 2 relocations involved in which we are purchasing houses and both of those seem to be going quite well with closing dates set. There have been 3 Public Information meetings over the course of the design, the most recent in June so residents have been provided many opportunities to be informed on the impacts of the project. This is a 2013 project with an early spring let. Please, if you have questions or concerns, contact me at your earliest possible convenience.
- We have had numerous vacancies due to retirements this year and we are currently in the process of hiring a Utility worker and 2 mechanics. In addition to this we will be carrying a current utility worker vacancy into 2013 as well as another vacancy that an employee has announced retirement.
- October is the time of year that we normally conduct our annual snow plow rodeo training day. This year will we have the training day on October 19th, but instead of a snow plow rodeo we will have a snow plow simulator in for training. Training is an important part of what we do to gear up for winter maintenance and this opportunity looks to be a good one. If your schedule permits please feel free to join us on the 19th.
- Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to again thank the County Board for your consideration as we wrestle with the roadway maintenance needs in La Crosse County. I would also like to take this opportunity to again extend the invitation for an in-depth tour and discussion of those needs with each of you individually. If you would desire to set something up please contact me at your convenience and we can make those arrangements.

Respectfully Submitted

Ronald Chamberlain

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Judiciary & Law October 2012

Emergency Services

The annual preparations are being made for one of the most active weeks of the year, La Crosse's Oktoberfest celebration. This special event is a traditionally challenging time for local public safety agencies, even in jurisdictions outside the City of La Crosse. Public Safety Communications is no different as incoming telephone calls (both 9-1-1 and non-emergency) increase substantially during this event. Last year, there were 882 9-1-1 calls during Oktoberfest week, including 187 on the Saturday of opening weekend.

As expected, the event brings in an increase of public safety calls for service and the Communications Center will fortify its staff during the most critical times by 60%.

Public-Safety Communications

July

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,696 (average of 87 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 95.96%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.59%
* 5 calls more than 30 seconds

Total Calls 25,209 (average of 813 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement 9,789
Fire Fighting 242
Emergency Medical 587

August

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,509 (average of 81 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 95.34%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.56%
* 3 calls more than 30 seconds

Total Calls 24,628 (average of 794 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement 9,614
Fire Fighting 212
Emergency Medical 549

**National Emergency Number Association Standards:*

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

2011 produced a record amount of 9-1-1 calls, but 2012 has been very different. Traditionally, July and August are the busiest months for emergency calls, but this summer experienced totals lower than summer months of recent memory. In fact, there has been a 9% drop so far in 2012 compared to this time last year. Although this summer has experienced some record-breaking heat, the lack of severe storms is a major factor in the drop.

Emergency Management (Keith Butler, Coordinator)

Events of Note

- The County volunteer Mass Casualty Team met at the Highway Dept shop in West Salem on Sunday, July 29 to conduct inventory and radio system training.
- Emergency Management participated in an after-action report preparation session on July 30 regarding the Lakeview bomb threat incident
- Emergency Management participated in the August 13 County Fire Officers meeting at Campbell FD and distributed the new 2012 HazMat guide books for each response vehicle.
- Emergency Management participated in a tabletop exercise for Monroe County held at Fort McCoy on August 15.
- La Crosse School District held an NIMS/ICS Integration Workshop at the Black River Beach Community Center on August 18. Emergency Management provided guidance and assisted with mini-exercises for school district administration.
- EM met with Rockland Village officials on August 23 to review existing Hazard Mitigation Plan and suggested potential plan update projects.
- EM led the evening Amateur Radio ARES/RACES team meeting on August 27 (the Team Leader was out of town).
- EM attended a Burlington Northern Rail Road exercise planning meeting on August 28 and conducted a site visit of the exercise venue for the HazMat exercise held on August 29.
- EM conducted a site visit to the Pepsi Cola facility with the GIS Specialist to update the facility HazMat plan. Much of the building site was changed following the May, 2011 tornado.
- EM met with RSVP officials on August 30 and with officials from the Scenic Rivers Area Health Education Center on September 21 to discuss potential assistance with public safety exercises and other projects.
- The 2011-2012 Wisconsin Emergency Management – Emergency Management Performance Grant period ends on September 30 and much work was done to complete and submit the Plan of Work documentation. It was discovered that all County employees declaring any EMPG grant participation must participate in EMPG exercises. That provision will include the Emergency Services Administrator and the EM Clerk. Efforts will be made in the 2012-2013 Plan of Work cycle to ensure compliance with this grant provision.
- Several planning sessions were held with County Facility, IT, and Emergency Services personnel regarding the removal and installation of electric power devices for the 9-1-1 Dispatch Center. Efforts are underway to prepare the Dispatch Center for all electric power disruptions and contingency planning has been completed. The Uninterruptable Power Supply will be replaced in October.
- Emergency Management prepared and provided 21 portable radios to the La Crosse Police Department for use during Oktoberfest.
- EM completed Volunteer Reception Center training held on Friday evening, September 21 and Saturday, September 22.

- The Hazard Mitigation Emergency Preparedness grant project was completed in September. This final GIS project provides printed and electronic maps designated transportation routes for hazardous substances throughout La Crosse County. Future HMEP grants prohibit funding for GIS enhancements. EM will attempt to meet with State and Federal officials to request that this ruling be reversed.

Jay Loeffler, Administrator
Emergency Services

Corporation Counsel Office

1. Claims.

- King v. La Crosse County, Case #10-CV-123.
 - This is an update of the case where the King family sued La Crosse County for alleged improper treatment of the inmate who died while in the custody of the La Crosse County Jail. The parties attempted mediation on July 30, 2012 which was not successful. The case is now set for trial on January 14, 2013. The case will take a significant amount of staff time from the Sheriff's Office and also a great deal of time in pretrial preparation and motions by counsel for La Crosse County. I will inform the Board of any future developments in this case.
- WE Energies v. La Crosse County Highway Dept., Case #11-CV-562.
 - This case has now been settled. This is a case where WE Energies believed that the County was negligent when the Highway Department crew members struck a gas line when digging near County Truck Highways M and C in 2010. In exchange for payment of \$3,000, WE Energies agreed to release La Crosse County and the La Crosse County Highway Department from any claims based on the complaint. The case was settled because of the cost of going through a trial and the potential liability if not settled.

2. Labor Case

- Trisha Stratman Arbitration Hearing.
 - This case was set for arbitration on August 23 and 24, 2012. The parties did not finish the arbitration on that date and the arbitration was completed on September 28, 2012. Briefs are due from the parties by December 21, 2012 and a response brief is due on January 13, 2013. The decision is expected to occur sometime in the year 2013. The arbitration is to settle the grievance that was filed by Trisha Stratman regarding her termination of employment by Sheriff Steve Helgeson. The termination was based on her actions surrounding the accident which occurred on July 18, 2010 at the intersections of STH 35 and CTH OT. I will keep the County Board apprised of the progress of this case.

3. **Solid Waste Issues.** Our office has been assisting the Solid Waste Department with various issues. One of the main issues has been working on a new Landfill Operating Agreement to be utilized for proposals for a landfill operator to take over the operations at the La Crosse County landfill site. Rather than use standard agreements in the past, La Crosse County has been working from scratch to develop an agreement which more closely reflects the work which is performed on the site. We have also worked on several easement agreements.
4. **Court Work.** Megan DeVore, Deputy Corporation Counsel, continues to work on CHIPS (Child in Need of Protections/Services) and TPRS (Termination of Parental Rights) cases. The statistics regarding the number of CHIPS cases show the volume has increased greatly in 2012. As of August 8, 2012, La Crosse County has filed 93 CHIPS cases. In 2011, the County filed 112 cases for the entire year. Amy Flottmeyer, Assistant Corporation Counsel, continues to work on Chapter 51 (mental health commitment) and 55 (guardianship and protective placement) cases and also child support cases. Several possible jury trials in Chapter 51 cases are scheduled in October.
5. **Ordinance Updates.** Our office will be working with County Departments on updating the La Crosse County Ordinances. This involves reviewing the ordinances to make sure the ordinances contain current language regarding legal references and also making sure that the regulations match the current organization of La Crosse County. Corporation Counsel Office will be asking Department Heads to review the ordinances under their jurisdiction and to make recommendations to our office so that updated ordinances can be presented to the appropriate Standing Committees.
6. **Department Assistance.** Our office has also been involved with issues with the Zoning Department regarding the status of the comprehensive revision to the La Crosse County Zoning Ordinances and questions as they arise. Corporation Counsel Office also has been working with the Health Department with a number of issues, including updating Chapter 11, 12, and 13 of the La Crosse County Code of Ordinances and working on contracts for various Health Department programs. Our office continues to assist other County Departments with legal issues as they arise.
7. **Employment issues.** Our office will continue to work in issues relating to Wisconsin Act 10, such as the impact to the County of legal challenges to Wisconsin Act 10 and the recent court case invalidating portions of Act 10.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Lange
Corporation Counsel