

# DEPARTMENT UPDATES

## BARRON COUNTY

### COUNTY CLERK

#### DeeAnn Cook, County Clerk

The fall elections cycle has begun and candidates have started filing the necessary documents and getting their signatures for nomination. Deadline for filing is July 13 in order to gain ballot access. Races on the ballot so far include Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, U.S. Senator, Representative in Congress, State Senators, Representatives to the Assembly, Sheriff and Clerk of Circuit Court. There have been inquiries regarding a couple school referenda's but none have been officially filed as of now. There will be a Primary Election on Sept. 14, 2010 and the General Election will be Nov. 2, 2010. All indications are that there will be a lot of interest in the elections this fall.



In order for the committee data in the printed directory to be accurate we had to hold off publishing until most committees met and elected their officers and representative to the Executive Committee. We gave the green light to print on June 9 and hope to have the printed directories before the County Board meeting.

We received some incentive funds from GAB for a new reporting method that must be spent on something that enhances the election process and is not budgeted. I did some research and found a vendor to manufacture re-usable canvass ballot bags at a very reasonable price. Several other counties are also interested so I am coordinating the purchase in order to get the best price. There are similar bags on the market for \$14 on up but we will be able to purchase these for \$4.85 each for regular and \$5.85 each for expandable with a quantity of 2,500. We'll have no trouble meeting that quantity price break due to our group effort. The vendor made and sent sample bags and I got them approved by GAB.

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#### JUNE 2010

\* Congratulations Mary Dexter! Recipient of the 2010 Crime Victim Service Award for outstanding victim advocacy.

### COUNTY OFFICIALS TO RECEIVE AWARDS

Congratulations to Supervisor Donna Cordes and Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald!

Donna Cordes was chosen to receive the Presidents Call to Service Award, also referred to as the Lifetime Achievement Award. This is awarded to individuals who have completed 4,000 or more hours of service over their

lifetime and to recognize exceptional coalition volunteers.

Chris is to be awarded the Wisconsin Prevention Award for the Outstanding Elected Official. This award is used to recognize an individual working at any level of government, who has made an outstanding contribution that

has advanced Wisconsin substance abuse prevention efforts.

The Prevention Awards Banquet will be Tuesday June 22, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

## SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



### Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald

On Fri May 28<sup>th</sup> Barron County's newest deputy Dixie was sworn in. Dixie was purchased from Menominee PD when there program was disbanded for the price of \$200.00. Dixie is a 3 ½ yr old Belgian Malinois shepherd and graduated with her handler Jason Hickok from the Ramsey Co K-9 Academy. The cost of the academy and travel and some minor equipment needed was paid for by the Law Enforcement Foundation

of Barron County. Dixie is a dual purpose dog that can be used for apprehension, searches and drugs. Congrats to Jason and Dixie on the graduation. This is Barron County second K-9 Unit with Sgt Tim Prytz and Shiloh make up our other team. Together they work to keep drugs out of our schools, off our streets and keep our deputies and citizens safe.

Congratulation also goes out to Det. Mary Dexter for receiving an award for her work she

does for victims in our county. Mary received a certificate from the WI Victim/Witness Professional Association and it was the 2010 Crime Victim Service Award for outstanding victim advocacy. Congrats to Mary.

We had a safe and successful graduation season across the county and thanks to all that made that safe.

As always buckle up, slow down and don't drink and drive.

## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

### Judy Demers, Director

Effective May 1, 2010, the Family Planning Waiver provides certain family planning services to men ages 15 through 44. The primary purpose of this plan is to prevent unplanned pregnancies so covered services are limited to family planning and related services such as the testing and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases/infections.(STDs/STIs)

Public Health had two active TB

cases in May. One consumer continues to be followed and is receiving daily medication therapy.

June 30, 2010, is the close of the fiscal year for sanitation. Public Health is on target to complete 90% of the required inspections for the 2009/2010 period. This is an increase from the 50% achieved for the 2008/2009 period.

On June 9, 2010, the Western Region Partnership for Public

Health Preparedness held a required on-site exercise evaluation at public health. This drill tested the knowledge of identified emergency response competencies which all public health staff are required to know. A scenario was presented to public health staff and they were to follow procedures as though it was an actual emergency. The drill was very successful.

A comprehensive review of the Behavioral Health system is

underway. It will include a review of internal and external systems. Findings will be provided upon completion.

Statewide, transportation services are under review. There is a trend toward more regionalization of transportation services. There are several meetings scheduled in June, July, and August in the Western Region to hold discussions and receive feedback regarding transportation issues.

## OFFICE ON AGING / AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

### Charlene Oftedahl, Director

More public transportation available throughout Barron County. The Office on Aging staff are collaborating with Sawyer County and Namekagon Transit to increase the availability of transportation throughout Barron County as part of a regional initiative. Beginning in mid-May Namekagon buses began offering door-to-door, shared-ride taxi service for one day per week in several communities during the hours of 9:00

a.m. to 2:00 p.m. During this time riders can run errands, visit friends, and keep appointments within their community or nearby. Namekagon Transit is also offering a route between cities and villages each week. This is public transit, available to persons of any age. Those under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$1.00 each way (per stop), with a 50% discount for elderly and persons with disabilities. Ride reservations are made by calling a toll free number that is answered by

a dispatcher located at the Namekagon Transit headquarters in Hayward. 1-866-295-9599 We are giving it a little time to make sure it is running smoothly before it is advertised more widely.

Another regional transportation service that is relatively new to Barron County is called Mobility Management. The Center of Independent Living of Western Wisconsin (headquartered in Menomonee) and Sawyer County DHHS both received federal

grants to provide the services of mobility managers who will personally assist individuals who are having problems using available transportation services. They will help people explore their options and help them make the right connections to meet their transportation needs. Besides individual trip planning and travel training, they will work with local transportation providers to increase the quality of existing services and to eliminate duplication.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### David Miller, Director

The Department will join with Administration, the County Clerk and the Register of Deeds in preparing a visual display for the Barron 150 Sesquicentennial Celebration the weekend of July 29-31. We are gathering together historical photos and artifacts to be displayed in the former location of BeckusAns on E. LaSalle Ave. If you know of historical photos or artifacts please contact any of the Committee members.

The Department is working to provide information for the upcoming "Veterans Supermarket of Benefits" event to be held over the July 29-30 weekend at the National Guard Armory in Rice Lake. This event is being directed by the County's Veterans Office and there could be as many as 5,000 Veterans moving through the two day event. I will be working the event both days, providing the "How to Start a Business" program information and related resources. I'll be combining our resource information with the folks from Workforce Resources and the DVR offices in Rice Lake.

There are three, always amazing, Airport Fly-In events scheduled in August. Please see the information located in the Barron County Economic Development Newsletter. See below for access to the Newsletter.

Our nine county ITBEC Tourism Committee just finished the latest addition to the NW Regional Video Clip Player, sponsored by Discover Media works. For view of all the videos produced by our Committee for the Region take a look

and a leisurely tour at the following: <http://video.discovermediaworks.com/nwitbec/player.htm>

Another successful video shoot plays tribute to our ITBEC Northwest Region and can be viewed on the new Discover Wisconsin "Online Travel Guide" at: <http://travel.discoverwisconsin.com> where you will find short, three minute samples of the many videos that showcase our county and our region.

An important Tourism Event: The Department participated in the planning of the recent Native American Tourism of Wisconsin Conference, recently held at the St. Croix Casino in Turtle Lake. This annual event is moved from tribal property to tribal property each year and is always a major tourism event for any county. The Conference brought in over 200 tourism professionals from the state, other counties, tribes and related businesses for four days of tourism and business related sessions. This was a major meeting event for Turtle Lake and the County.

The tourism expenditures for 2009 are in. With regard to the tourism in Barron County, we did very well in 2009. Although we were down about 4% from 2008, within the our NW ITBEC Tourism Region, its nine counties, and our 4 county St. Croix Area collaboration, we helped to rank **NUMBER TWO**, with \$103.92 million in tourism expenditures in the county, just behind Douglas County at 105.55 million. In our West Central Planning Commission Region, now as the expanded "Momentum West" Region, Barron County

was **NUMBER TWO**, with its \$103.92 million, out of 10 counties, led by Eau Claire at \$174 million.

Here is a brief recap across the sectors within the state:

The state took in \$12.092 billion dollars in tourism expenditures.

Travel Purpose: Pleasure travel accounted for \$8.6 billion; business travel for \$2.2 billion and meetings and conventions for \$1.2 billion.

Traveler Type: Hotel/Motel/Resort/B&B: \$6.175 billion

Campers: \$0.671 billion

Cabin/Cottage/Condo Guests: \$0.714 billion

No Lodging Expense as in day trippers, passing through, visiting relatives/friends: \$3.740 billion

Major Categories:

- Shopping: \$3.661 billion
- Food: \$3.242 billion
- Recreation: \$2.700 billion
- Lodging: \$1.517 billion
- Transportation: \$0.973 billion
- There are eleven sub-categories under Recreation and they are available upon request.

In 2009, tourism spending directly supported 3,210 jobs, over \$41.7 million in resident income and over \$5 million in local revenue in Barron County. Over the state, spending directly supported 186,283 full time jobs and generated \$3.83 billion in wages and salaries. Across the spectrum of

employment, if jobs indirectly reliant on tourism are included, the total climbs to 286,394 jobs and \$6.72 billion in payroll. Travel spending in Wisconsin generated a total impact of \$1.96 billion in taxes and other fees for local and state governments.

### **Here is the current project update:**

As of May 31, the Department has taken on 31 start-up reviews for feasibility and planning stages (130 total with 2009 rollovers); 3 educational and demographic requests for grant submissions, 5 marketing and PR events with our economic development collaborations and 10 expansions. This has become a season of "trains, planes, automobiles, food, and trash" as major project categories. I can't more specific right now, but it's become a welcomed diversion from the economic situation and such.

The current Economic Development Newsletter is now online for your review at: [www.barroncounty.com](http://www.barroncounty.com), click "BCEDC NEWS".

**Business Assistance:** If you know of a company in need of assistance, I always have room for more! But do ask them to call in advance, as there is no one to provide counseling if they drop in and I'm with other clients. All it takes is a phone call or an Email to me, as this process has worked extremely well over the years. If you want a glimpse of upcoming activities, be sure to review the current Economic Development Newsletter at [www.barroncounty.com](http://www.barroncounty.com) where all you need to do is click on "BCEDC News" and the PDF will open for you.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

**Rachael Richie, HR Director**

<u><b>New/Replacement Positions</b></u>				
<u><b>Position Title</b></u>	<u><b>Office/Department</b></u>	<u><b>Incumbent</b></u>	<u><b>Date Filled</b></u>	<u><b>New/Replacement</b></u>
Assistant Clerk of Court	Clerk of Court	Recruiting		Replacement
Mental Health Case Manager	Health/Human Services	Meghan Skaw	6/21/10	Replacement

- The Health Insurance Consultant provided informational sessions on 6/15/10 regarding updates on health care reform along with wellness topics.
- The County Board will be reviewing the 2010-2011 AFSCME, Local 522 contract, which is the final contract to be completed.
- A Weight Watchers at Work program will again be offered to Barron County employees. In order to obtain the needed numbers, the City of Barron and Barron Area School District employees were also invited to participate. An informational meeting will be scheduled for those interested in participating.
- The Annual Employee Recognition Picnic will be held August 5, 2010 at the Kiwanis Shelter/Kittelson Field (on the corner of Mill St and E Birch St). The picnic begins at 4:30pm. Please rsvp by 7/27/10 to Wendy Coleman .

## UW EXTENSION

**Tim Jergenson,  
Agricultural Agent**

**Commission on Agriculture  
Scholarship Winners Return  
to Barron County**

The Barron County Commission on Agriculture awarded \$4500 to six deserving candidates during May and June of this year. This brings to \$22,000 the Commission has awarded since it presented its first scholarships in 2003. Of the sixteen young people to receive scholarships between from 2003 to 2006, ten are currently engaged in farming or employed in agribusinesses, nearly all of which are in Barron County. The money invested into the education of these young people is creating economic opportunities and strengthening the rural communities in Barron County.

The Barron County Commission on Agriculture was formed in March 2002 by action of the Board of Supervisors. Funds used for the Barron County Commission on Agriculture Scholarship come from the proceeds of the sale of the Barron County Lime Quarry. The Commission encourages and accepts donations to the scholarship fund and other activities of the Commission that promote agriculture.

Scholarships awarded by the Commission are targeted to students currently enrolled in post high school education or to students planning to pursue post high school education. Preference may be given to students planning to study in agricultural and natural resources related majors and programs. Applicants whose families are engaged in agricultural businesses may also be

given preference in the selection process.

**Jergenson Recognized by UW-Extension**

Tim Jergenson, Barron County Agricultural Agent and Department Head has been awarded the Administrative Leadership Award by Epsilon Sigma Phi, the nation's honorary and educational fraternity for extension professionals. The award is given for noteworthy administrative performance over ten or more years of service.

In their citation, Epsilon Sigma Phi noted that Jergenson understands the importance of building respectful relationships with county partners, tackling the tough budget and personnel issues head-on, and working strategically to secure a positive future for UW-Extension Cooperative Extension in Barron

County. The award goes on to note that Jergenson has proven himself to be an exemplary administrative leader for the Barron County Extension Office and a role model to department head colleagues throughout the state.

## ADMINISTRATION / COMMITTEES

### Jeff French, Administrator

#### Property Committee:

Began meeting by having a public hearing on proposed changes to the fifteen year Forest Plan with approximately fifteen people providing testimony.

Elected Officers as follows:

Chair: Dr. Pannier  
Vice-Chair: Lee Romsos  
Executive Rep: Dale Heinecke

Museum and Forest Assoc. Rep: Paul Streif

Approved change to fifteen year forestry plan which, is included in the County Board Packet.

Approved changes to the County Highway map which incorporates modifications such as rules on ATV and snowmobile use, power loading and ash borer to mention a few.

Directed Administrator to proceed with agreement on Soil and Water building at Fair Grounds with change in yearly exhibition fee to be reduced to zero.

Approved resolution for County to assume maintenance of Dam in City of Cumberland on County Trunk Highway P and establishment of Special Revenue Fund to adequately account for dam assessments levied against property owners. This resolution is included with the County Board packet.

Directed Administrator to work with Corporation Counsel and Dam Coordinator to determine if County has the ability to levy a per parcel assessment in those areas with a County owned dam that do not have a lake association.

Approved resolution allowing Veterans service organizations use of County buildings to commemorate various holidays.

#### Staff Reports:

- Sale of Office Complex: pending until next month to allow Workforce Resource opportunity to form a coalition with the intent of leasing or purchasing building.
- Bidders Forum: Corporation Council is reviewing.
- ATV Route, Cameron to Rice Lake: Wis. DOT is reviewing information and will make a determination after purchase of rail line from Canadian National.
- County Board Meetings: Streaming to website, no action taken.
- MacCauley Avenue project, City of Rice Lake, Administrator provided information on new conceptual drawings by Cooper Engineering. WWRTA has postponed action on this until DOT reviews and approves new drawings.
- Martin Island Update: Restoration work on

either end of the island is substantially complete. To date we have not received the official report on the remains that were unearthed.

#### Executive:

##### May 18<sup>th</sup> budget meeting:

Reviewed benchmarking data for Income Maintenance, Veterans Service Officer and County Board.

##### June 2<sup>nd</sup> regular meeting:

Allowed Project Life Saver Carryover Account.

Approved WCA advisory referendum on Economic Development and forwarded to County Board for approval.

Discussed six different options for providing non-union personnel with benefits differing from those offered to union employees, two of these which pertain to additional education opportunities will be discussed in the future.

Approved final 2009 budget adjustment resolution, \$ 18,452.16 and forwarded to County Board for approval.

Discussed how municipalities within the County could allow the Humane Society to sell dog licenses for them. Decided this is an individual municipality issue and that County should not be directly involved.

Approved resolution on Veterans service organizations use of County buildings to commemorate various holidays with minor wording changes.

Approved continuation of Health Insurance Consultant Contract for the period 7-1-2010 to 6-30-2011 at a total cost of \$ 18,000.

Reviewed five year budget projections and budget objectives, no formal action taken.

#### Staff Reports/Updates:

- 2008 & 2009 Workers Comp Dividend totaled \$ 156,830. As I mentioned when I failed to carry the Liability Insurance forward when preparing the 2010 budget I knew these funds were coming I just didn't know when and in what amounts.
- Program Prioritization Update: Those programs with a composite score of 8800 and less have been updated. Those ranking above 8800 are in process for being updated and will be available at the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Committee Per Diem Vouchers: We are contemplating a change in how payroll processes Committee vouchers and I will present more information on this at the meeting.
- Transportation: There will be a special presentation of the transportation issue at

the June DHHS board meeting from two perspectives: the DHHS perspective and the non-mandated Medicare/Medicaid transportation coordinator and the Aging/ADRC/Namekagon perspective which charges a fee for their services. This information will be brought forward to this Committee in July.

- Finance Director and Assistant Corporation Counsel – hiring.  
F.D.: salary range \$ 65,931 to \$ 80,582; new hire \$ 73,500  
ACC: salary range \$ 58,605 to \$ 74,303; new hire \$ 59,191  
Note; starting salaries for both of these positions were reduced from what the former incumbents were earning. Both of these positions will receive percentage pay raises as outlined in the two year non-union personnel resolution.
- Sale of tax deed property and recommendations of selling price Vonnie will be providing information on this agenda item with recommendation on pricing of property at a future date.
- Farm Technology Days Executive Committee: Approved purchase of nice shirts for the FTD Days Executive Committee that has the Barron County logo on them. The total cost for this would be approximately \$500 dollars and would come from the Contingency Fund.

#### LCC/Extension:

Elected Officers as follows:

Chair: Don Horstman  
Vice-Chair: Mark Rogstad  
Executive Rep: Don Horstman  
Lake District Associations: No Changes

SWCD Fair Building Agreement with Fair Board – directed Administrator to proceed.

Farmland Preservation Program; discussed no formal action taken, as none is necessary.

Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association; directed Conservationist to explore other options as a result of the large increase in annual dues.

Conservation tours in June; discussed with no formal action taken as none is necessary.

Turtle Lake District Project; supported in-kind contribution towards lake improvement projects.

Supported Red Cedar Basin Coordinator position through Resource Conservation and Development.