

March, 2011

Barron County Department Updates



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County Clerk

DeeAnn Cook, County Clerk

Our February Primary was very successful. The voter turnout was around 6% which is actually a little higher than we anticipated it would be. The primary races for school board member in Cumberland and Cameron probably contributed to the turnout. We're gearing up for the April Spring Election now and have gotten all the contest and candidate information from municipalities and schools to our vendor for programming and entered into SVRS.

We were approached by DNR to become a vendor for snowmobile, ATV and boat registrations. After looking into where else the service is available within the county it appears that taking that

on would be a repeat of services and not very beneficial due to the hours of availability the vendors already performing that service have. So far DMV licensing hasn't proven to be very feasible and we might have to reconsider.

The Ad Hoc Committee on moving of the primary dates in order to become compliant with MOVE that I am participating met and came up with a draft calendar for the legislators. Our proposal will go before the GAB Board later this month. In a nutshell, our proposal moves the September Primary back into July and moves the spring primary back to the November General which would eliminate one election (the one with traditionally the lowest voter turnout) and save a tremendous amount of tax

payer dollars. The down side to that is the length of time there would be between filing nomination papers and the actual election.

Rhonda Sukys and Mark Netterlund from Land Information and I attended a meeting put on by WCA on redistricting. We all feel that we are well prepared to tackle the task once we receive the census numbers. The Redistricting Committee met and approved guidelines for the process. The goal is to present a few options to the committee for approval then present at a public hearing before seeking approval at county board in May. We have and will continue to encourage municipal input in the process.

Land Services

David Gifford, Director

Zoning Office

Final review of our digitized zoning maps is being completed. The digitized maps will be available to the public on the Barron County GIS website which will be upgraded in the near future. The availability of the zoning maps online will be a benefit to property owners, realtors, assessors and others.

Soil & Water Conservation

Tyler Gruetzmacher is drafting proposals for engineering on the Haugen and Mikana dams. Justin Everson and Ag Agent Tim Jergenson held two nutrient management workshops; they will be meeting with participants individually to assist them in writing their own plans. The Conservation Assistance Program sign-up started February 28 and will run through April 1. The tree sale once again proved to be a popular ser-

vice as we are almost sold out and there is still a foot of snow on the ground! Annual Farmland Preservation Program Certifications are still flowing in; many are hand delivered due to questions related to nutrient management and other program changes.

The Land Information Office

GIS - Rhonda Sukys prepared GIS files for the SWCD sign-up, an inset map for the Farm Technology Days brochure and 2010 FPP rezoning maps for DATCP.

Surveyor - One of the responsibilities of the County Surveyor, given by Statute 59.45, is to maintain the location of Government Land Corners (section and quarter corners) set by the original Government Surveyors in the 1850s. It has been fulfilled in Barron County since 1869 starting with then County Surveyor Washington Bird of Chetek. Government Land Corners are the basis of all

property descriptions in Barron County and thus affect all property ownership. One of the methods to maintain the location of these corners is getting their location using GPS technology. This allows the corner marker to be reset even if all local evidence is destroyed, which can happen during construction projects. Having an accurate location of these corners also allows Barron County to have a better mapping system which benefits the public as well as government. Last year due to the added assistance of Land Information Technician Ken Filter, we were able to make a significant increase in the number of Government Corners which had their location recorded using GPS technology. The previous four years about 75 corners a year were done. From the end of November 2009 through December 2010, 205 corners were done.

Health & Human Services

Judy Demers, Director

Discussions and negotiations with two prospective providers for the Crisis Stabilization Center in Chippewa Falls have come to no resolution. The main concern on the part of the prospective providers was the level of risk that they would be expected to assume. If no resolution can be reached, a RFP will need to be reissued.

Part of the new budget bill proposes to move Income Maintenance functions to the State by May, 2012. Counties are

just now learning of some of the details of this proposal. Eligibility for Medical Assistance and Foodshare would be determined through the Enrollment Services Center (ESC) in Madison, eliminating a local presence for this service. The ESC was originally set up to receive applications for BadgerCare Plus for Childless Adults starting in 2009. The ESC has encountered many issues with processing of applications, and consumers often contact the county Income Maintenance staff for assistance in maneuvering the system and help to obtain the benefits for which they are eligible.

Moving these functions to the State has serious fiscal implications for counties, as well.

Terry Holmstrom, Youth and Family Services Program Manager, has been selected to receive the “Caring for Kids” award through the Division of Families and Children. He is one of 4 recipients in the State. Terry was nominated by coworkers and community members. He will receive this award on March 23, in Madison.

Human Resources

<u>New/Replacement Positions</u>				
<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Office/Department</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>	<u>Date Filled</u>	<u>New/Replacement</u>
Clerk/Typist	HHS	Kathy Afdahl	2/14/11	Replacement
Parks Caretaker – Southworth Park	Maintenance	Recruiting		Replacement
Behavioral Health/Adult Protective Services Case Manager	HHS	Recruiting		Replacement
<u>Internal Changes</u>				
Jail Sergeant	Sheriff	Kelly Devine		Replacement
Civilian Correction Office	Sheriff	Linda Olson		Replacement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory sexual harassment training for employees was conducted in February. • The annual MSHA training for the Highway Department has been scheduled for 4/4/11. 				

Administration

Jeff French, Administrator

LCC/Extension:

- Set 2010 Wildlife Damage Crop Prices, \$4.51 for corn, \$10.78 for soybeans also approved six Wildlife Damage claims with a total loss of \$15,140.65, total payable, of \$10,992.33.
- Approved hearing date of March 28th, 4pm, for the Land & Water Resource Management Plan.

Property Committee:

- 2011 Annual Forest Plan was approved, subsequently approved by the full Board on February 28th.

- Agreed to allow transfer of ownership of artifacts recovered from Martin Island to the Barron County Museum.
- Supported staff’s recommendation to allow a 1.8 mile unimproved road so that access can be gained to Goose Lake.
- Authorized officer Moin to proceed with writing a grant for the purchase of land and bridge development for trail head at County Trunk Hwy D west of Chetek.
- Endorsed a Volunteer Release and Waiver of Liability Agreement for volunteer laborers working for Bar-

ron County.

- Staff reported that the existing restroom facilities at Pigeon Creek Landing and Mikana Dam will be removed and replaced with handicapped accessible portable restrooms.

Executive: **February 11th:**

- All items discussed at this meeting were forwarded to the full Board for consideration other than continuing negotiations with all Barron County Unions regarding Health Reimbursement Accounts.