



Department Updates

April 2019

Clerk of Courts

Sharon Millermon
Clerk of Courts

This time of year is a busy time for the Clerk of Circuit Court Office to prepare several required time intensive mandatory reports. The first one, Basic Jury System Evaluation Report, has been completed as of March 8, 2019. Annually it is due to the Director of State Courts and District Court Administrator on April 1st. This report is a breakdown of the various jury measurements/goals set by the Director of State Courts. Clerks of Court are to analysis the areas listed below:

- Representativeness and Inclusiveness – Compare the population, gender, age and race of Barron County’s population to the census year. If it is not within a few percentage points, an analysis must be provided. Some races (Hispanic and African/American) in Barron County’s jury year are not fair representations of the population of the race. My analysis concluded that several individuals of these races may be residents, but many are not citizens which disqualifies them to serve as a juror.
- Effective Qualification and Summoning – If a larger than acceptable percentage of jurors is not qualified at different stages, an explanation is required. Barron

County has several residents that move to a warmer location during the winter months. This affects the statistics of the report as that juror is noted as being unavailable at the time they are summoned to appear and postponed to a later month when they return to Barron County. This practice will continue and is unavoidable and explainable in the analysis.

- Responsiveness of Jurors – Are jurors completing their juror qualification questionnaires when received and appearing when summoned? If this is not within the goal, a clerk is to analysis the follow up that is being done and change procedures, if need be.
- Efficient Use of Jurors and Cost Effectiveness – An analysis to determine whether I, on behalf of Barron County, is not requesting too many citizens to complete a juror qualification questionnaire or summoning in too many jurors to report for jury duty.

Barron County’s jury evaluation concludes that we are doing well. The evaluation is meant to provide a tool for both the State and County to examine jury procedures and make changes, if feasible.

In This Issue:

Clerk of Courts	1
Register of Deeds	2
Forestry	2

Register of Deeds

Margo Katterhagen **Register of Deeds**

A new ordinance to establish policy and procedures for home burials was well received at the April Executive Committee meeting. With the help of Corporation Counsel, this ordinance (if passed at County Board in April) will assure that Barron County has knowledge that a home burial has taken place by recording an Affidavit of Burial with the Register of Deeds office.

On April 17th the State Vitals Records Office

out of Madison will be conducting an office audit for the first time. This in-office visit will observe how the staff handles the processing of vital records, our security and operating procedures.

We recently had our Military Discharge books scanned, so now we have a digital backup of these historical records also.

Forestry

John Cisek **County Forester**

The cold temperatures provided excellent conditions for timber harvesting. Nine sales were completed or partially completed this winter before spring break-up arrived. Estimated revenue is \$ 420,952.00, however a number of sales have invoices pending and/or wood to haul. Hauling will continue when road bans are lifted and conditions allow.

Barron County has received a Sustainable Forestry Grant in the amount of \$ 10,000.00 to conduct an invasive species survey and subsequent control program on approximately 6800 acres scheduled to be harvested within the next 10 years. The objective is to target stands with higher quality regeneration that are potentially threatened by invasive species (primarily buckthorn and garlic mustard). 4Control, a firm located in Menomonie, WI, specializing in vegetative control will conduct the inventory and control.

Barron County has contracted with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to control beaver on the water control structures situated on the county forest.