



Department Updates

February 2019

Veterans Service Office

Scott Bachowski
Veterans Service Officer

Scanning Project – The Veterans Service Office began scanning our veterans’ files in August 2017 and to date we have scanned approximately 2300 files of the 7500 paper files that we currently store in filing cabinets. We have a couple filing cabinets available; if interested, please let us know if you would like the cabinets. We estimate the project will take an additional 1 to 2 years to complete.

2018 Completed Work - In 2018, the Veterans Service Office processed 138 Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) Service-Connected disability claims, 10 DVA Non-Service Connected Disability Pension claims, 72 medical applications, 28 grave marker applications, and 14 burial reimbursement applications. We also registered 133 new county veterans into our database; this is an impressive number of new veterans being exposed to the benefits they have earned.

GDX Expenditure Report / 2017 Completed Work - The 2017 Geographic Distribution of Veteran Affairs Expenditures (GDX) statistics have been released by the Department of Veteran Affairs. The listing includes VA Compensation and Pension; and, Readjustment (Education) and Vocational Rehabilitation expenditures. The GDX also shows the estimated veteran population for each state and county. According to the 2017 statistics Barron

County has a population of 3,575 Veterans; those veterans are receiving \$12,509,000 in VA Compensation and Pension (C&P). As a comparison, in 2016; Barron County had 3,658 veterans and received \$12,500,000. With the number of veterans decreasing, we continue to maintain our disability compensation and pension dollars coming into the county.

Barron County Veterans received \$710,000 worth of Education and Vocational Rehabilitation benefits in 2017 down from \$895,000 in 2016. This benefit is educating our veterans and directly supporting our local Educational Institutions.

In This Issue:

Veterans Service Office	1
Waste to Energy	2 - 3
Forester	4
Health & Human	4
ADRC / Aging	5 - 8

Waste to Energy

Ray Zeman
Plant Manager

Financials

The waste to Energy financials for 2018 appear to be ending in another positive cash flow year. At date of update all 2018 financials have not been completely tabulated but early figures show another positive year. When discussing financials at the Waste to Energy Facility, other things that also need to be taken into consideration is the major plant upgrades and repairs that are currently taking place. In 2018 there was many upgrades / repairs that were undertaken, totaling in the amount of approaching 1 million dollars of reinvestment.

Plant operations and effects of recent cold weather

Comparing January of 2018 with 2019 you will see in the table below how the recent cold weather affected the incoming waste totals. During the first 24 days of 2018 vs. 2019 we had an additional 300 tons of waste in 2019, and comparing the entire month we only had an additional 90 tons. Our on line time has improved from the previous year with an additional 90 hours of on line time during January.

2018 hrs Jan							
168	168	168	168	96	1398.25	total	
168	168	168	30.25	96			
2018 tons							2.06 tons/hr
365.89	395.77	443.61	428.98	267.46	2874.73	total	
199.04	264.22	192.967	167.59	149.2			
2019 hrs Jan							
168	168	168	168	72	1488.00	total	
168	168	168	168	72			
2019 Tons							1.99 tons/hr
398.06	474.43	408.84	361.23	143.49	2956.95	total	
255.24	277.63	266.23	266.04	105.76			

New Stack

Our new stack that was installed during the fall of 2018 has proven to be a great asset. There has been a savings with our energy consumption due to the back pressure on our induced draft fans. We are currently looking into the power savings and hope to utilize a focus on energy grant. The stack was installed due to a change in our air permit that dictated the need for a 36 ft. higher stack. The additional height and diameter will also enable Barron County to increase the capacity of the Incinerator from 100 tons per day up to 150 tons per day.

Recent phone number change

The telephone number here at the Incinerator has been changed due to an upgraded phone system that has been intergraded with the rest of the county. The old number was 715-357-6566 and the new number is 715-637-6890.

New hires

We have had several new employees added recently to bring us up to full staffing. The Incinerator has operated for several years under staffed. With the addition of the newly hired staff the Incinerator will be able to increase efficiency and continue upgrading and completing major repairs. With the addition of new staff comes the task of additional training. We have recently obtained approval from the WDNR to have an approved course for operator certification training through the Barron County campus. This will give us the flexibility to train our staff within our schedule and at a reasonable rate.

Research into single sort recycling

Barron County is currently looking into the possibility of single sort recycling within their responsible unit. An RFI request for information has been recently performed and is awaiting the review of the solid waste board. If approved, the county will move forward with an RFP request for proposal. The recycling rules have changed due to the more stringent quality enforcement by China. Our recycling efforts will need to change so as to comply with new market changes. Staffing will continue to look into all options available to best accommodate these moving targets.

Barron County Clean Sweep

Barron County is currently looking into performing a Clean Sweep for HHW Household Hazardous Waste. The North West Regional Planning Commission located in Spooner is currently taking care of the Wisconsin N.W. 10 county area. Staffing is looking into possibly providing a spring, summer and fall HHW cleanup. This is in its early stages and there will be more to come on this topic.

Plant upgrades and major repairs

There are several plant upgrades and major repairs currently in progress. One repair in progress is the replacement of the number two incinerator ash sump. This piece of equipment was designed and rebuilt with in-house staff and has proven to enhance the incinerator operations. The number one incinerator ash sump was replaced last year and improved ash quality has been observed reducing the cost of ash disposal. Actual ash disposal cost in 2017 was \$645,720.00. We have budgeted for 2019 the amount of \$450,000.00.

The steam turbines have recently and are currently going through upgrades and repairs. Due to the repairs and maintenance performed on this equipment we are seeing a reduction in electrical power sales. Both turbines and generators should be up and running by the end of March.

We are currently looking into revising our CICOP Capital Improvement Capital Outlay Plan. Our philosophy is centered on priority of projects. Some projects will have a return in investment, and we are labeling these as a high priority. Other projects will enhance the long term safe and efficient operations. Our focus on repairs and or replacement of equipment is based on 25 – 30 years of operation.

Forester

John Cisek County Forester

The cold temperatures have allowed timber sale activities to resume on the county forest.

Timber Sale Activity

- The Butternut Lk. Sale- Harvest is complete, hauling continues.
- Powerline North Sale – Harvest is complete, hauling continues.
- Narrow Gauge Hardwood Sale- Recently opened, completion is expected this winter.

- Forgotten Sale – Recently opened, completion expected this winter.
- Bear Lake North Sale – Harvest will resume next week.
- Silver Cr. II – Harvesting continues. Completion expected by the end of the month.
- Fenceline II Sale is complete.

Barron County will be applying for a Sustainable Forestry Grant to conduct an Invasive Species Survey and subsequent control program on approximately 6800 acres scheduled to be harvested within the next 10 years.

Health & Human Services

Stacey Frolik Director

Winter has finally arrived with cold weather and snow. The Energy Assistance program is in full swing for this heating season. The program will continue to run through May 15, 2019. Those in need of heating/energy assistance can apply for the benefit at anytime within the program period. The program provides a one-time heat and electric benefit to eligible households and can also potentially assist with disconnection notices and unoperational furnace issues.

Two major programmatic transitions were finalized as of January 1, 2019. EMBRACE is now providing all victim advocacy services for Domestic Abuse and Barron County DHHS is now providing Comprehensive Community Support Services through the BEST Consortium.

There are ongoing measles outbreaks in Washington State, New York City and New York State, these outbreaks are all related to international travelers bringing the disease to the United States. Make sure you and your family are vaccinated against measles. CDC considers you protected from measles if you have written documentation (records) showing at least **one** of the

following:

You received **two** doses of measles-containing vaccine, and you are a(n)—

- school-aged child (grades K-12)
- adult who will be in a setting that poses a high risk for measles transmission, including students at post-high school education institutions, healthcare personnel, and international travelers.

You received **one** dose of measles-containing vaccine, and you are a(n)—

- preschool-aged child
- adult who will not be in a high-risk setting for measles transmission.
 - A laboratory confirmed that you had measles at some point in your life.
 - A laboratory confirmed that you are immune to measles.
 - You were born before 1957.

The Brighter Futures Initiative will be kicking off the Strengthening Families Program on February 19 in Barron with 11 families enrolled in the 7 week program. Additional programs will be offered throughout 2019 in Barron County. For more information contact Heidi Good at 715-537-6115.

ADRC / Aging Update

Jennifer Jako, Director

The Aging & Disability Resource Center's (ADRC) mission is to empower and support older adults, people with disabilities, and their families - to ask for help to achieve maximum independence and quality of life. ADRC staff serve and support our community in a variety of ways - by linking them with resources and/or providing services. Our customers cover a wide spectrum: older adults and adults with disabilities, their families, friends, caregivers, neighbors, and guardians. We assist physicians, discharge planners, social workers, care managers, and businesses/employers. In addition to linking customers with resources, the ADRC has a wide range of services including: home delivered wheels, specialized transportation, senior dining, adult day respite (DAYBREAK), benefits counseling, evidenced-based healthy aging workshops, caregiver support, and dementia care services. Most of these services have been around for 45 years.

Population projections indicate the aging population will continue to expand rapidly over the first half of this century; nearly 40% of Barron County residents will be 60 years old and older by year 2040. This has been termed the "Aging Wave." In addition, the issues of dementia, poverty, disabilities, affordable housing, mental health, AODA, social isolation, and transportation will have significant impacts on our community.

Although it is difficult to put all aspects of our work into one update, here are a few from our department:

ADRC/Veterans offices and waiting area modernized: Last month, we updated offices with new paint and flooring and moved our customer waiting area. Any time you remodel, it is a good chance to step back and look at work flow, confidentiality, and customer service. It also allows you to intensely go through files and drawers. If you stop by, the biggest change you will notice is that we relocated our reception area to be closer to the outside entry doors for easier access. We also moved the customer waiting area outside office areas to improve overall confidentiality. We would like to give a sincere "thank you" to Steve, Ken, Don, Lance, and Aaron from IT and maintenance departments; the update went as smoothly as possible and they were patient with each and every idea we brainstormed.

Dementia Care: Aging and Disability Networks continue to advocate for expansion of Dementia Care Specialist (DCS) services statewide. The number one risk factor for dementia is age, so as indicated earlier in this update, our county is aging with a projected 40% of the county 60 years of age or older by 2040. DCSs provide vital services to assist individuals with dementia to remain active and in their own homes and communities, support for caregivers of people with dementia, ongoing education to ADRC staff to help them to be better prepared to serve and support individuals and their families, and act as a catalyst for the creation of dementia-friendly

communities. The work our office does with customers and in the community overall is extremely important. We have many upcoming events or learning opportunities approaching:

- **Caregiver Boot Camp** – this boot camp will help you understand what memory loss, dementia and Alzheimer’s disease is and what it means and how to plan for the future. This is a free event, which includes lunch. It will be held Saturday, April 6, 9:00am-3:30pm at the Barron County Government Center. Limited to 20 people, call the Trisha Witham to reserve a spot.
- **Dementia Live™** – this innovative program will enlighten you with a deeper understanding and greater empathy for persons with memory loss. Free, 30 minute sessions will be offered on Wednesday, March 27, between 9:00am-5:00pm at Dove Healthcare in Rice Lake. You must call the ADRC to reserve a time slot.
- **“In the Garden” Play** – a one act memory care play that embodies the dementia crisis and its effects on not just the individual, but their loved ones and communities. This is a free event, and will be held Thursday, May 2 5:30pm-7:30pm at the Spooner High School. Seating is limited. Register with Trisha Witham.
- **Memory Screens** – you can get a memory screen at any time. A memory screen provides useful health information about your brain, just like a blood pressure test provides information about your heart. Anyone can get a free, confidential 10-15 minute memory screen, provided by trained and certified ADRC staff.
- **DAYBREAK** – our adult day respite service is available for people with memory loss. We have a daytime program specifically designed for those with memory loss, giving caregivers a much needed break. Contact Peg Schmidt at ex 6374 for more information.

For more information about any of these events, contact the ADRC at ex 6225.

Home Delivered Meals “March for Meals” campaign: Back in 1972, on March 22nd in fact, President Richard Nixon signed into law a measure that amended the Older Americans Act of 1965 and established a national nutrition program for seniors 60 years and older. The well-known home delivered meals program (aka Meals On Wheels) came from this law and has been providing seniors across the nation more than just a nutritious meal for over 40 years. The dedicated staff and volunteers who deliver these meals also provide the participant a daily safety check as well as a continued connection to the community. From our 2017 annual Nutrition Satisfaction Survey, 83% of home delivered meal participants stated that the meals help them continue to live independently and one in every three stated that the driver is the only person they see throughout the day.

This year, Barron County will be participating in the March for Meals Campaign that is spear-headed by Meals on Wheels of America, a non-profit organization the Barron County Senior Nutrition Program is a member of. We wanted to partake in this celebration this year because of the growing number of home delivered meals we provide every year.

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of MOW served in Barron County	48,062	50,438	53,915	55,197

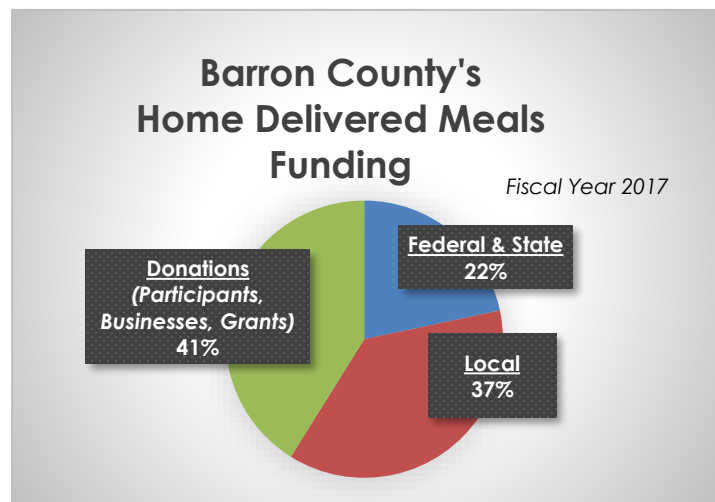
Table 1. Number of Meals on Wheels provided by Barron County's Senior Nutrition Program

We anticipate that the need for home delivered meals in Barron County will continue to raise as our county aging population grows.

With stagnant federal and state funding for the senior nutrition program, we hope this campaign will raise awareness about our home delivered meal program and how important it is to continue to provide this service to as many older adults as possible. Meals play a vital part in helping people age in place (in their own home) which costs much less compared to staying in a nursing home or a hospital. (See Table 2) Barron County's Home Delivered Meal program relies on donations from participants themselves, businesses, local organizations, and grants along with strong local support.

Cost of serving a senior Meals on Wheels for 1 year	\$2,180
Cost of 1 day in the Hospital	\$2,369
Cost of 10 days in a Nursing home	\$2,740

Table 2. Avg Costs of MOW vs. Institutions
Resource: Meals on Wheels of America



During the week of March 18-22, we will join Meals on Wheels programs across the country and celebrate this vital program. In order to raise awareness for the growing number of seniors that may be facing hunger and isolation which can impact the community, we have invited our legislators, local officials, local business leaders, and other prominent figures to help deliver meals and speak out for Barron County seniors during this community champion's week.

50+ Challenge to Live Well: Each year, the ADRC partners with Marshfield Medical Center – Rice Lake to host this event. The event will be held on Sunday, April 28 from noon to 3:00pm at the Cedar Mall in Rice Lake. Our goal is to challenge people, age 50 and older, to live well through an active life style, life-long learning, and awareness of our community resources. The event will offer health screenings, informational booths, speakers and entertainment. Big thank you to Sheriff Fitzgerald for agreeing to speak on senior safety, fraud and scams.

Health Promotions: Peg Schmidt continues to coordinate evidenced-based Healthy Aging workshops in our three county ADRC region. In 2018, we successfully ran 17 workshops. The

workshops we offer aim at decreasing risks of falling, improving diabetes or other chronic condition self-management, and taking care of yourself as a caregiver. We were successfully awarded a grant from the Wisconsin Institute of Healthy Aging to expand our Healthy Living with Diabetes workshops. As the recent Public Health Community Health Needs Assessment indicates, diabetes is a top health concern in our community. One of the proven ways to improve diabetes self-management is community based education. Our evidenced-based workshops are weekly 2 ½ hour classes for 6 weeks. The new grant will allow us to build on relationships with local healthcare agencies to increase referral systems and help recruit and get facilitators trained.

In 2019, we will continue our work and mission to help older adults, persons with disabilities, and their families to meet their goals. If you or anyone you know needs any information about our services or events, please call or email staff, check out our website at adrconnections.org, or like us on Facebook.