



Strategic Goals

1. Maintain financial strength and stability
2. Strengthen and expand the County's use of technology
3. Address infrastructure needs
4. Continue community engagement and access to information
5. Ensure that County is viewed as a fair and equitable employer
6. Expand the capabilities of the Board of Commissioners
7. Advance the health and quality of life of the region
8. Protect and preserve County's water resources, forests, natural areas and scenic beauty

Administration/Board of Commissioners (1, 2, 4)

- The Administrator contract was approved October 7.

Boardman River Dams Project (8)

- Joint meeting was held with the City Commission and Grand Traverse Band Tribal Council October 7.

Central Dispatch/911 (7)

- After 30 + years in the 911 profession, Director Jamel Anderson has retired from Grand Traverse County.
- Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) award - 7 members of the 911 dispatch staff have been included in an annual team award for their work during the August 2nd weather event, with a ceremony scheduled for October 22nd in Frankenmuth at the annual awards conference. Dispatch staff from Benzie, Leelanau, Kalkaska, Cheboygan, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Antrim Counties will also be recognized.
- The remodel of the 911 radio/server room is near completion. This will allow for the necessary space to accommodate the new NG911 technologies. The system design engineer is finalizing the plans for the installation of public safety grade fiber connectivity and the new NG911 telephone system should be online by the end of November.
- Work continues on the 800 MHz radio project. Public safety officials from all over the county are receiving training on the system from the MPSCS communications division and will work on template designs over the next few months. Installation of the new radio consoles and the programming of subscriber units is scheduled for February/March.

Commission on Aging

- It is with much sadness that I report that Commission on Aging board member, Harry Liebzeit, passed away September 25, 2015. A collection is being taken and will be sent to the charity of the family's choice.

- The Board of Commissioners approved moving forward with the Traverse City Senior Center renovation September 30, 2015. The next step will be to obtain City Commission approval to move forward with the project. This is necessary as the Senior Center is a City building.(3)
- In October, the Commission on Aging will be reviewing the In Home Services Sliding Fee Scale. Board members will be looking at adjusting fees to match actual costs and basing charges on a set formula. More to follow. (1)

County Drain Commissioner (3,7,8)

- Received notification from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Revolving Loan Section (MDEQ) that funding has become available for the Grand Traverse County SAW Grant project application submitted two years ago. We are working with the MDEQ on items now considered ineligible, and anticipate a formal Notice of Grant Application Approval in early November. In summary, the Drain Commissioner's proposed SAW Grant project for a Storm Water Asset Management Plan would create an accurate inventory of over 30 miles of drainage conveyance systems in the existing 13 County drainage system assets, with precise computer mapping of those infrastructure assets for incorporation into the County's public GIS interactive mapping system. Finally, an assessment and amendments proposed, to improve the quality of storm water entering, as well as leaving the drains before entering State waters, and to address water quality problems related to unpermitted storm water runoff and non-point sources of pollution.
- Completed the fieldwork, detailed Lidar survey work, and ordered the utilities locations to determine the proposed final drainage district boundaries for the improvements to the Cass Road Drainage District, which is now quite expansive due to the downstream bottlenecks on Miller Creek which is causing it to jump its' banks producing the upstream flooding. Drain Commissioner has coordinated to assist with computer modeling of the proposed drainage system for stakeholder's evaluation of design options. Possible types of improvements proposed are railroad crossing culverts replacement, closed storm sewer construction, open drain construction, and creek bank reinforcement.
- Due to citizen's demands, a request for bids was sent out to area excavating contractors relative to proposed improvements and maintenance of the Deepwater Point Drain located on Dock Road in Acme Township. The majority of the work proposed is to clean out and restore open ditches to their original elevations of 1987. There is a projected balance of \$33,000 currently held in the Drain Fund to pay for the work. The Drain Commissioner recently discussed the project with the Acme Township Board and received their resolution of approval to proceed with the project.
- An update on the proposed Cedar Hills Drainage District in Long Lake Township is that the Township requested alternative engineering private proposals to do a study of the drainage issue and come back to the Drain Commissioner with recommendations and alternatives. They had to re-bid it due to a lack of proposals the first time. They are planning to select the engineer on October 13, and expect a report early to mid-November. The Township's attorney, Peter Wendling will contact the Drain Commissioner's attorney to set up a meeting once the report is issued.

- An update on the proposed Logan Hills and Braemar Estates Drainage Districts in Peninsula Township is that although less formally, attorney Peter Wendling believes that Peninsula Township has asked their engineer to review the issue further and provide alternatives, but have not received back any information yet. The attorney will work on getting a more specific answer and we will follow up with him again in a couple of weeks.
- The Drain Commissioner worked with his consulting engineer to complete the mandated Duck Lake Dam triennial inspection report for submittal to the MDEQ Dam Safety Unit. He continues to work with the Prosecutor's Office in updating and establishing a special assessment district for Duck Lake by assisting and coordinating to assist with a Duck Lake - lake level control study of the proposed system for the Court's evaluation. A petition has been filed with the Court and we are awaiting a hearing date.
- Moreover, the Drain Commissioner worked to complete the mandated Silver Lake – Lake Level Control Structure triennial inspection report for submittal to the MDEQ Dam Safety Unit, and gave a PowerPoint presentation and answered riparian's questions at the Silver Lake Improvement Association annual meeting.
- Participated in the third annual Regional Stormwater Summit at Lawrence Technological University, where elected officials, government staff, industry leaders, engineers, environmentalists, and community members interested in sustainability, green infrastructure, keeping our waters clean, cutting edge projects and related environmental concerns networked and learned of new opportunities.

Equalization (1)

- On Friday, October 2nd, the Deputy Director of Equalization retired. Kathryn Wallace will be spending the winter at The Villages in Florida, improving her golf game and cocktail arm. Not only is she greatly missed for herself, her absence leaves Equalization rather understaffed and advertising for her position reveals the difficulty of attracting a diverse range of candidates.
- The Principle Residence Exemption audits continue apace, recapturing tax revenue for the County, our Townships and the State that would otherwise be lost to fraud.
- Equalization's East Bay Township contract is out and about gathering new revenue in that Township's healthy new construction sector.

GIS (4)

- Preparing to distribute "Letters of Agreement" among participants in the 2016 aerial imagery acquisition project.
- Began tax map review process with Garfield Township.
- Exploring on-line permitting process for new address requests.

Health Department (7)

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE DIVISION

- Budgets- Finalizing grant spending for FY 2015 as September 30th is the end of the grant fiscal year for many programs. Also preparing and submitting new grant FY 2015 budgets and contracts through the state eGrAMS grant tracking system; Finalizing the health department's county FY 2016 budget.
- State Conference Presentation- Health Officer and Community Health Director are presenting on the pertussis outbreak at the Michigan Premier Public Health Conference.
- Accreditation- Awaiting the final report and approval from the state on the Cycle 6 accreditation. A formal presentation will be made to the board once received with the excellent results!
- Academic Health Department- GTCHD is one of six academic health departments through the MSU school of human medicine. As part of this collaboration, GTCHD participated in two recent immunization lectures- one to the community and Great Start Collaborative members and another to area physicians at Munson's Grand Rounds. Additionally, our Medical Director is working with a MSU epidemiology student on additional immunization practices analysis masters project.
- Immunization Task Force- As a result of our response to the vaccine preventable disease outbreaks last year and progress with the regional Immunization Task Force, Health Officer Trute was selected to participate in a state round table discussion on how to improve vaccination rates in Michigan.
- Community Health Needs Assessment- In collaboration with Munson and McLaren Hospitals, area health departments and community partners, the next Community Health Needs Assessment cycle has begun.

MEDICAL EXAMINER DIVISION

- Finalizing Continuing Education Credits and registration for upcoming Medical Examiner Investigator training to be held the end of October. This training is essential for current and new EMS scene investigators in our three county area and has not been offered in many years.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & ANIMAL CONTROL DIVISION

- 2015 Beach Monitoring Wrap-up- The beach monitoring program for the 2015 swim season ended on September 4th. Our public beaches on East and West Grand Traverse Bays showed that 94% of the time, E.coli levels were at **"Level 1"** (no restrictions - E.coli levels met MDEQ swimming standards for full body contact). 3% of the time E.coli levels were at **"Level 2"** (E.coli levels met MDEQ standards for wading, fishing, and boating. Contact above the waist was not advised). 3% of the time, E.coli levels were at **"Level 3"** (E.coli levels exceeded MDEQ standards, no body contact was advised). Four inland lake public beaches were also tested for E.coli throughout the summer with these beaches testing at **"Level 1"** 100% of the time! For specific details on what beaches were sampled and individual sample results, you can go to the following link on our website at: <http://www.gtchd.org/814/Public-Beach-Monitoring>.

- Cold Weather and Proper Sheltering for your Pets- With summer behind us and frosty fall days in our future, here are some reminders on what is considered to be acceptable sheltering for your pets: According to section 333.18838 of the Michigan Penal Code, “Shelter” means adequate protection from the elements and weather conditions suitable for the age, species, and physical condition of the animal so as to maintain the animal in a state of good health. Shelter for a dog shall include the following: 1) The residence of the dog’s owner or other individual. 2) A dog house that is an enclosed structure with a roof and of appropriate dimensions for the breed and size of the dog. The dog house shall have dry bedding (IE. straw) when the outdoor temperature is or is predicted to drop below freezing.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS DIVISION

- Emergency Management - The month of September saw the continued clean up and recovery from the August 2 wind storm. The office has assisted 4 jurisdictions with State Disaster Relief grant applications (Section 19). Also working with all local jurisdictions in the adoption of the newly approved Natural Hazard Mitigation Grant. Gregg has been nominated for the Michigan Emergency Management Association’s Emergency Manager of the Year award for jurisdictions over 60,000 population. The winner will be announced during the MEMA Awards Luncheon on Thursday, Oct. 8.
- Emergency Preparedness - The office of Emergency Preparedness successfully hosted a Mass Antibiotic Dispensing course presented by the Centers for Diseases Control September 14th-15th. Public health staff from across the region and state were present in the course as this was the first time this course was brought to Northern Michigan. Following this course, the Preparedness Coordinator was invited to Lansing Michigan from September 16th-18th to take part in the first Train-the-Trainer course for the Mass Antibiotic Dispensing course that was held in Traverse City. The Preparedness Coordinator is now approved to teach these courses to the county and region through the Centers for Disease Control. The planning and coordination for a regional approach to emergency preparedness planning, exercising, and training continued through the month of September. This process begun mid-summer and continues to progress as presentations to county boards are prepared and information on the approach is prepared to be rolled out as significant advancements in the planning process have been made.

COMMUNITY HEALTH DIVISION

DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS:

- Communicable Disease Program- Followed up on 75 reportable communicable diseases in GT County. With the start of school, schools are now required to report communicable diseases to us. We have begun receiving weekly school reports, assessing for trends, and following up as appropriate to individual cases and noted trends. This year we are able to provide support and education to all GT County schools in an effort increase in mandatory weekly communicable disease reporting to the local health department by schools.
- Reproductive Health – We provided reproductive health services to 133 men and women in September.
- Adolescent Clinics - K-Town Youth Care opened its doors to the Head Start program to allow staff to perform vision and hearing screening as well as physicals. Clinic staff

attended the Grand Traverse Pavilions Staff Wellness Fair with outreach to approx. 200 staff members. Clinic staff attended both nights for the TBAISD Career Tech Center Orientation and provided clinic information to over 100 students. Clinic staff also attended Kingsley Middle and High School orientations.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS (MCH):

- Healthy Futures-The MCH program director and one public health nurse attended the annual Healthy Futures Operations meeting held at Munson with representatives from around the northern region.
- Children's Special Health Care Services-On Saturday, September 19, 2015, Rose Ann Davis and Jamie Beck represented the Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD) at the first Walmart Health Fair in Traverse City. It was held for all families in the area from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The GTCHD tabletop display was a "Baby Table" theme with information about babies from the Maternal & Child Health Services Programs of Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Healthy Futures, Lead Poisoning Prevention, Maternal Infant Support Program (MIHP), Hearing & Vision Screening, Immunizations and Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS). The GTCHD staff were visited by several past and present enrollees of WIC and CSHCS. The GTCHD staff also represented the Dental Clinics North.
- Immunizations- In collaboration with Traverse City Area Public Schools, the Grand Traverse Health Department held 4 immunization waiver education classes for those parents opting not to vaccinate their children as required by the State to issue a philosophical or religious exemption certified by the local public health department. Although we had over 120 parents attend the classes offered, we continue to see a slightly higher no-show rate for waiver education appointments at 23%. Comparatively, we experienced just under a 20% no show rate for our vaccination appointments. In September, in order to meet the community demand for vaccinations as parents attempted to meet the school requirements prior to the start of school, we held multiple double clinic days and late hours, serving 240 families for scheduled appointments and an additional 125 families as walk-in. The Immunization team of clinicians and clerical support put in additional time to serve this program need during a busy start of school. Their efforts to educate and administer vaccinations through this past month were impressive and indicative of the commitment and dedication to the mission of our Health Department, the County, and the health of our community.
- Head Start-Grand Traverse County Health Department hosted its 2nd annual Head Start clinic in collaboration and partnership with Head Start teachers for Fall 2015. This clinic serviced approximately 80 children and their parents with hearing and vision screenings, health assessments, including hemoglobin and blood lead testing as well as physicals and referrals to other health department programs, to meet the entry requirements for Head Start this Fall. Kudos to the team of nurses, coordinators, technicians, and clerical support to make this a successful clinic.
- WIC- We submitted our 2016 WIC Nutrition Services plan to the State this past month. The results of our outcome evaluation from the previous year's plan include some wonderful improvements amongst our clients served. Breastfeeding women experiencing low

hemoglobin dropped nearly 9%. Infants and children routinely using nursing bottles, cups or pacifiers improperly dropped 2% and 4% respectively. Pregnant women decreased smoking rate from 26.2% in 2014 to 23.8% in 2015. Postpartum women decreased smoking rate to from 23.2% in 2014 to 12.6% in 2015, a remarkably significant decrease, particularly considering the historic recidivism rate of this population to smoke again following the birth of their child if they had quit during pregnancy. Over this past year all Grand Traverse County maternal child health clinicians, including WIC clinic staff, maternal infant health program home visitors, and healthy futures home visitors, along with others, have invested a considerable effort to educate and work with moms on quit strategies. We are very proud of this year's accomplishment as we are of the moms who did it.

Human Resources (5)

- Currently recruiting for 21 positions County-wide with a total 90 requisitions posted County-wide for the year. This month there have been 7 separations from employment.
- Wellness Team has created walking maps and they are posted on the Wellness page. The maps are of the county buildings and shows the distance of 1 mile for the Boardman campus, MSU/COA, Law Enforcement Center, DPW/Health and the Civic Center. Yoga on Wednesdays have begun September 23rd for 6 weeks and more if employees want to continue.
- MIOSHA training was held on September 15th covering topics of PPE (Personal Protection Equipment), Hearing Conservation, Respirators and Confined Spaces Permit Required Training. Dave Humenick was the facilitator.
- Employee Recognition Team is preparing for the Making a Difference quarterly reception and have several nominees this quarter.
- The American Red Cross, the Traverse City Roller Derby Team and Grand Traverse County teamed up to host a Blood Drive on Friday, October 2, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at the Civic Center, home to the TCRD team. 26 people presented to donate and 23 were successful.

Information Technology (2)

- Surveillance cameras have been ordered for the Civic Center with installation to take place before winter. New cameras will replace the non-functioning cameras at the skateboard park, one will be added to the outside concession stand, and existing indoor cameras will be linked into the new recording system.
- Several servers have been created/upgraded to support the County/City infrastructure.
 - Two servers that perform name resolution (DNS), dynamic IP addressing (DHCP), and system directory services.
 - City Naviline server that provides the graphical interface for the City's utility billing application and also sends electronic billing notices to customers.
- Moved the Dispatch Smart911 server into the virtual server environment which provides redundancy and freed up the current hardware it was running on.

- Rich Pantano, IT Technician for the Health Department, assisted with the setup and implementation of a new required medical coding system (ICD 10/SNOMED) within the Health Department software. The new coding system is a major change and increases the number of diagnosis codes from approximately 17,000 to over 72,000 codes.
- The IT department is working with Construction Code to examine new permitting systems that will allow Internet access by customers to request permits and inspections, make online payments, and perform online inspections. A request for proposal will be created and advertised for vendor solutions. Approval of a system will be contingent upon monies being available for the purchase.
- IT is installing new Dell semi-rugged laptops for City Fire vehicles and upgrading several City Police Panasonic Toughbooks to new Dell semi-rugged laptops. The Sheriff's Department has been using the Dell semi-rugged laptops for several years at substantial savings over the Panasonic Toughbooks.

MSUE (4, 7, 8)

- Michigan State University seeks public input to sharpen research and outreach focus: Michigan State University Extension has long been a source of information and education for Michigan residents. Along with MSU AgBioResearch scientists, Extension professionals throughout the state are asking Michigan residents to help them determine where they should place their emphasis in the future.

"This organization belongs to the people we serve," said Ray Hammerschmidt, MSU Extension interim director. "We want to make sure that we are meeting their needs throughout the state by sharing research and education that will make a difference to them, their communities, their families, their business and their farms." To that end, MSU Extension has launched an online survey asking all Michigan residents about their needs and priorities.

The [MSU Extension and AgBioResearch Survey to Sharpen Our Focus](#) online survey will supplement 14 upcoming face-to-face meetings throughout the state that will engage nearly 500 residents. "We have designed a series of meetings that will bring together people from all over," said Maggie Bethel, the former MSU Extension director who is charged with overseeing the process. "But it is important that we don't limit ourselves to the people we see in person. The online survey gives everyone a chance to participate in the process."

As an added bonus, respondents who complete the survey will have the option of entering a drawing that includes two MSU men's basketball game tickets (date and time to be determined), a basket of Michigan-made agricultural products and a \$75 gift certificate to shop.msu.edu.

To participate, access the survey from the front page of msue.msu.edu or by visiting msue.msu.edu/focus. All information collected is anonymous.

- Safe Kids North Shore held a National Child Passenger Safety Technician Certification Course here in Traverse City Sept. 22nd-Sept. 25th. Grand Traverse Metro Fire served as

the training site. The course was made possible through a generous grant from the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning in an attempt to certify more technicians in Northern Lower Michigan, and was offered to such professionals as: law enforcement officers, nurses, firefighters and other public service personnel serving Northern Michigan counties. Twenty-one students enrolled in the class and 19 ended up completing and obtaining their certification. Nine of the final 19 participants service Grand Traverse County residents. The course trains on injury prevention, seat belt systems, supplemental restraint systems, seating positions, crash dynamics and crash testing standards, and only after those topics are understood does the course move into types of car seats, vehicle models, child sizes, LATCH system, etc. Students must pass three written tests, three skills tests and the final day students must participate in a community car seat check while being overseen by the instructors. Sixty-one car seats were checked at the class graduation event that took place on Sept. 25th.

- Michigan State University Extension Grand Traverse County is thrilled to be named a local FoodCorps service site as of September 1st, in partnership with the Groundwork Center (formerly the Michigan Land Use Institute). FoodCorps is a nationwide team of AmeriCorps leaders who collaborate with communities to make schools healthier place for kids to eat, learn, and grow. In the process, a new generation of leaders are trained and launched into lifelong careers of impact across the fields of food and health. Through her service with Grand Traverse County MSUE, new FoodCorps service member Mikaela Taylor seeks to build partnerships with food service workers, farmers, school administrators, teachers, parents and community members in order to grant students access to resources and support those who are invested in guiding them. She is eager to be a part of the process as students learn about their food, where it comes from, and how it contributes to their overall health and wellness.

Parks and Recreation (7)

- Deer Bow Hunting Permitted on Power Island In an effort to control the deer population on Power Island, Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation has opened the island again this year for deer hunting during the two bow seasons. As recommended by the DNR, deer on the island must be harvested to prevent attrition through starvation. Hunting is authorized during the DNR's established bow seasons, between October 1 and November 14, and December 1 through January 1. No permit fee is required, but every hunter is required to carry the appropriate deer license and to follow all DNR guidelines and laws related to hunting. Hunting antlerless deer is encouraged. County Parks and Recreation also will use the DNR's Deer Management Assistance (DMA) Program to harvest antlerless deer on the island. Venison from the DMA Program harvest will be processed and donated to Food Rescue of Northern Michigan and/or veterans in need. Questions related to this matter may be directed to the Parks and Recreation Department by calling 231-922-4818 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- American Red Cross Lessons at Easling Pool, Civic Center The fall session of American Red Cross lessons are underway at Easling Pool. There are still some openings for the eight-week session, and registration is open through the weekend of October 9. For more information, visit www.grandtraverse.org/parks, or call 231-922-4511.

Planning & Development (1, 3, 4, 7, 8)

- The 30th Annual Awards Banquet presented by the County Planning Commission and the Grand Traverse County Chapter of the Michigan Townships Association will be held Thursday, November 5 at Boone's Long Lake Inn. Contact the Department for registration.
- Department staff has been working with the Village of Kingsley in assessing brownfield sites. As part of the effort, US EPA's Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities (TAB) will be holding a visioning session on November 3 at 6:30 p.m. Location to be determined. MDEQ, MEDC, and MSHDA have also been engaged in the process.
- The Grand Traverse County Planning Commission hosted 37 local planning commissioners, zoning board of appeals members, and elected officials for a Planning & Zoning Essentials workshop on September 30. 12 of the 16 local communities were represented.

Prosecuting Attorney (7)

- Prosecution As the County's Chief Law Enforcement Officer, the Prosecuting Attorney is responsible for the prosecution of crimes including juvenile, misdemeanor and felony offenses, protection of abused and neglected children, and establishment of child support for needy children. For the month of September, we engaged in the following:
 - o Authorized 212 misdemeanor warrants
 - o Authorized 35 felony warrants
 - o Authorized 30 juvenile petitions
 - o Initiated 1 neglect/abuse case
 - o Handled the following matters in Family Court:
 - o 14 paternity cases
 - o 6 allegedly mentally ill cases
 - o Obtained 17 judgments of child support
- Contract Drafting and Review - As the County's civil counsel, we assist various County departments in reviewing and drafting contracts and other agreements. Our involvement ranges from reviewing a contract and approving it "as to form," to negotiating the terms and conditions of the contract with the other party. For the month of September, we reviewed six contracts for the following departments:
 - o Commission on Aging: one
 - o GIS: one
 - o Health: two
 - o Resource Recovery: one
 - o Finance: one
- FOIA Coordination - In 1997, the County Board of Commissioners designated the Prosecuting Attorney as the FOIA coordinator for Grand Traverse County. As the coordinator, we ensure that the various county departments are complying with Michigan's FOIA law including determining whether the requested information should be exempt from disclosure. For the month of September, we reviewed seventeen requests, and provided advice and consultation to the following departments:
 - o Human Resources: one

- o Sheriff: three
 - o Health: two
 - o Finance: three
 - o Prosecutor: two
 - o Construction Codes: two
 - o GIS: one
 - o Central Dispatch: three
- Board of Commissioners/Staff Questions - Part of our duties as Civil Counsel involves answering questions and/or preparing opinion memoranda for the Board of Commissioners and County staff related to a wide variety of issues, ranging from compliance with state and federal statutes to advising on exposure to liability. For the month of September, we answered questions/prepared memos for the Board of Commissioners and various departments including:
- o Health
 - o Commission on Aging
- Ordinance Drafting - As you know, under MCL 46.11, a county board of commissioners has the authority to adopt ordinances related to county affairs. One of our responsibilities is to prepare, amend or repeal ordinances when requested by the Board of Commissioners. For September, we did not prepare any ordinances.
- Litigation - We represent the County in civil actions filed in the Grand Traverse County District and Circuit Courts as well as the Federal District Courts. For the month of September, we represented the County in the following cases:
- o *Grand Traverse County v. John L. Desmond, IV, et al.* In September, we filed 7 separate inmate reimbursement lawsuits seeking \$17, 316.79 in total. As with the other lawsuits, we will seek to obtain multiple default judgments against those Defendants who fail to answer the complaints, and consent judgments for those Defendants who are willing to pay the outstanding debt.
 - o *Parcel 82 BIA Appeal* On August 1, 2013, we filed an appeal challenging the decision of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Midwest Regional Director placing 158 acres of property into trust owned by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. In November of 2011, the Grand Traverse Band filed an application with the Regional Director requesting 158 acres of property located in Acme Township near the Turtle Creek Casino and Hotel be placed into trust pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. On July 2, 2013, the Regional Director issued a decision to place the property into trust. We filed a notice of appeal challenging the decision of the Director. As we did in the Parcel 80 appeal, citing to the United States Supreme Court decision *Carcieri v. Salazar*, we have argued that the Director was without authority to place the property into trust because the Grand Traverse Band was not recognized by the Federal government in 1934 when the Indian Reorganization Act was adopted. The appeal is still pending with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Appeals Board. On December 30th, we filed our appellate brief with the Appeals Board. The Tribe, Secretary of Interior, and other interested parties will have the opportunity to file responsive briefs within the next 30 days. We expect the Appeals Board to take at least six months to decide our

appeal. On January 31st, we received notice from the Office of the Field Solicitor for the Secretary of the Interior that they are seeking an extension of time to file a response brief. The Field Solicitor is requesting that he be permitted to file a response brief on February 14th. On February 4th, the Field Solicitor filed a response brief. We continue to wait for an opinion from the appeals board. On September 25th, the Interior Board of Indian Appeals issued its decision upholding the decision of the Regional director placing parcel 82 in trust. Unless the Board of Commissioners directs us to file an appeal of the decision in Federal Court, this case is now closed.

o *Clous v County Drain Commissioner et al.* Plaintiff filed this action pursuant to Michigan's Land Division Act, in the Grand Traverse County Circuit Court seeking to vacate a private roadway and amend the Plat of subdivision in Garfield Township. Plaintiff has named over twenty individuals, businesses and other entities that may have an ownership interest located in the area of the plat to be amended. The Drain Commissioner is named as a party. He has no objections to vacating the roadway and amending the plat. We have filed an answer stating the same, and more than likely enter into a consent judgment with the Plaintiff.

- Board of Commissioners' Meetings - We attend every Board meeting, committee meeting and any special meetings. For the month of September, Chris Forsyth attended the public health and safety committee meeting and the ways and means committee meeting. Bob Cooney attended the resource management and administration committee meeting, and the regular board meeting.
- Miscellaneous - We are continuing to work with the Drain Commissioner in expanding the special assessment district for Duck Lake.

Resource Recovery (8)

- Keystone Brush Grinding Brush and wood grinding at the Keystone Brush Site was completed by Elmer's Crane & Dozer during the week of September 21 to 25. A total of 7,000 cubic yards of brush and wood material was ground. With the assistance of City of Traverse City staff, the site was reorganized for improved traffic routing and prepared for residents to bring their fall leaves and brush.
- Brush Passes Offered By Townships Acme Township is now joining Long Lake, Garfield and East Bay townships in offering their residents a no-charge brush pass for a one-time trip to the Keystone Brush Drop-Off at 2471 N. Keystone Rd. for loads of up to 3 cubic yards of brush, branches, leaves and yard clippings. Residents can obtain a pass at their respective township office, and passes may be used between October 20 and November 21 during normal brush site hours:

Tuesdays: Noon-7pm (during November, the brush site closes at dusk)

Thursdays and Saturdays: 9am to 3pm

Weather permitting, the final day of operation at the Keystone Brush Drop-Off will be Saturday, November 21.

- Household Hazardous Waste Collections The final Household Hazardous Waste Collection of 2015 will be held on October 10th in Kingsley. Resource Recovery would like to thank the Grand Traverse County Road Commission for again making available the Kingsley garage facility to host the event. American Waste was also a great partner at all four HHW events in 2015 - the recycling dumpsters provided allow Resource Recovery to recycle nearly all of the plastic and cardboard containers used by residents to transport their HHW to the events.

Resource Recovery will be planning several events for 2016 and information will be posted in early March about the first spring event.

- Fall Clean Up Green Up Event The Michigan Green Consortium will hold their Fall 2015 Clean Up Green Up event at the American Waste Material Recycling Facility located at 280 Hughes Drive in Traverse City on **Sunday, November 1, 2015** from 9:00am until 3:00 pm. A complete list of materials accepted can be viewed on the cleanupgreenup.com website.

Treasurer (1)

- Posted all forfeited properties with no major issues with our new software and no dog bites. Talked to many of the homeowners and explained the foreclosure process and payment plan options.
- September was passport awareness month "apply early" campaign. Held evening hours 9/21/15 with clerk to encourage early application for passports for the 2015/2016 holiday season had a good turnout. Total of 138 regular service and 13 expedited passports were processed in September. Due to the great success of the September evening processing hours, evening hours will be offered again Wednesday, October 28 from 5 to 7 p.m.
- Settled with both Fife Lake and Kingsley Villages. We are now collecting 2015 delinquent village taxes. Will deliver payment at October village meetings.

Veterans Affairs (7)

- VA contracting service out of Washington has published requests for "expressions of interest" for the Traverse City VA Medical Clinic expansion. They are looking for 25,000 square feet of convertible space &/or a minimum of 2.5 acres for building a new facility. We have gone on record with them that the county would be happy to discuss possible GTC sites if they again, (this is the second time they've done this), are unable to locate a suitable site/location.
- Opposition to State legislation that would fundamentally alter the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund at the detriment to veterans and the counties appears to have been heard. We have been assured by the Bill sponsor's that the proposed measures will not move any further until all stakeholders concerns and input can be incorporated into any changes; if any changes need be legislated at all.