



Administrator/Controller Report June 2014

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

Boardman River Dams Project (8)

- The Boardman and Sabin Dam Removals proposal has been awarded \$100,000 from the Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership through the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service.

Commission on Aging (7)

- **Deputy Director Hired**
We are pleased to announce that the Commission on Aging In-Home Services Division has hired Laura Green to fill the vacant Deputy Director position. Laura previously worked for Sylvan Learning in Traverse City (two years), and prior to that, worked for Bay Aging (Area Agency on Aging) in Urbanna, Virginia, doing very similar work to what she will be doing for the Commission on Aging. She brings with her a great deal of experience working with senior citizens and we are happy to have her on board.
- **Senior Center Renovation Project**
Senior Center staff met with the architect to discuss essential elements for the renovation. Drawings will be brought to the GTCOA Board, the City Commission, and County Board of Commissioners for approval. The Friends of the Senior Center group is still meeting. Their goal is to raise the remaining funds needed for the project. The group had originally recommended \$500,000 for the project; however, are now recommending \$1,000,000. The plan is to break ground in the spring of 2015. The architect is looking at bumping out one wall, perhaps towards the water. A great deal of infrastructure has to be addressed/updated. Engineers have done a walk through.
- **Hoarding Task Force**
A Hoarding Task Force has been formed in Grand Traverse County. The first meeting was held May 9, 2014. Inspector Darren Johnson, Orange County, and star of the television show "Hoarders," spoke to our group via video conference call. He shared history and his experiences in regard to hoarding. In Orange County, they categorize levels of hoarding (visual and written) and they meet monthly to address individual situations. They take a compassionate, service-oriented approach and have an 80%

success rate. Meredith Hawes, Grand Traverse Metro Fire, is heading up the task force. Hoarding has been a concern of the Commission on Aging for many years, and continues to be very difficult to address for a number of reasons. The Health Department and the Area Agency on Aging, among many other organizations, are also involved. The next meeting is June 13, 2014. More to follow.

Equalization (1)

- Assessed values, as county equalized, have now been state equalized at their preliminary meeting. Final state equalization is expected to occur with no change to the assessed values as county equalized.
- The Headlee millage roll back calculations are complete. Two townships, Long Lake and Mayfield, will receive a slight roll back, and all other jurisdictions will have no roll back in the millage collected.
- The new reporting of small business personal property loss is being implemented. The new sequence of reports have caused an additional burden to staff.

Facilities (3)

- The synagogue located adjacent to the courthouse is putting an addition on the building this summer. We have authorized them to adjoin to our existing sidewalk with their new entrance.
- We are meeting on June 10 with Ray Kendra to discuss his assistance with the five year capital improvements plan.

Finance (1)

- Audit fieldwork has been completed and we are waiting for a draft of our financial statements. One item that has delayed the completion of the audit was the need to do an OPEB valuation for post-employment benefits offered by the Grand Traverse Pavilions. This analysis has been received and we should be able to complete the audit and file it with the State by June 30, 2014.
- The internal department budget manual and related documents were updated during the month for departmental use as we start the 2015 Budget process.
- Met with a representative of Munson Healthcare to discuss a potential financing through the County Hospital Finance Authority.
- Attended a MERS training session on May 21 regarding their revised actuarial valuations. These valuations provide us with an annual update regarding our defined benefit pension plan. The revised format of these reports is intended to provide us with additional information regarding this pension plan. We anticipate that we will receive our December 31, 2013 valuation sometime in June.
- We have also received notice from John Axe that he has started the process to request a two-year extension of Public Act 329 of 2012. Proposed Senate Bill No. 922 would extend the sunset clause on the current legislation to December 31, 2016 and will also

permit the refunding of these bonds as the current law contains no provision permitting the issuance of refunding bonds after December 31, 2014.

Health Department & Emergency Management (7)

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE DIVISION

- Medical Examiner's Office
 - Met with area funeral homes to discuss cremation permits, waivers, transport fees for medical examiner autopsy cases and process for handling unclaimed bodies.
 - Coordinated with Ingham County's medical examiner staff to provide training for new deputy medical examiners, diener/office manager and medical examiner investigators (EMS from Northflight and Blair Township Fire).
 - Working on a new medical examiner pamphlet for families whose loved ones are considered medical examiner cases so they understand what to expect with the process.
 - Continuing to coordinate with Munson on morgue issues and possible expansion.
- Agroterrorism Full Scale Exercise
 - The Health Department participated in this exercise in order to learn and gain experience with incident command and new roles for management staff.
- Administration and Finance Director
 - The interview team completed the process for the second time and made an offer to an excellent candidate. Unfortunately, this candidate was also looking for a significantly higher wage rate.
- Northwest Michigan Water Safety Network
 - The health department hosted its first expanded meeting with at least 15 key agencies in attendance. We will be addressing all aspects of water safety via a collective impact model. The group will seek additional funding from grants and local organizations to tack the three main areas of outreach and education, water quality and beach safety signage/equipment and water safety classes. Each organization brings a unique perspective to the table and collectively will have more impact than each organization working on its own.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & ANIMAL CONTROL DIVISION

- EH hosted a meeting of the Beach Monitoring Stakeholders group to discuss the 2014 beach monitoring season. It was determined that the start date for monitoring our public beaches on East and West Grand Traverse Bays will begin on June 11 and continue for approximately 13 weeks.
- EH hosted and taught a one-day ServSafe Class for 29 area foodservice managers. The eight-hour class is taught by our food inspection staff, who are all certified instructors through the National Restaurant Association, Educational Foundation. At

the conclusion of the class, students are given an exam and must pass with at least a 75% to become a certified food manager.

➤ Animal Control

- Our Animal Control Officers are busy this month completing their 2014 annual dog kennel inspections and licensing. In Grand Traverse County, we have 24 licensed dog kennels.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & PREPAREDNESS DIVISION

➤ Emergency Management

- Participated in a two-day, full scale exercise dealing with an agroterrorism incident with several area public safety agencies as well as the National Guard 51st Civil Support Response Team. Exercise components included a live (simulated) chemical release, response and identification by area hazardous materials teams, large scale incident command, and an Emergency Operations Center activation.
- Severe Weather preparedness information including quick link QRS code for CodeRED app was distributed to area State Campgrounds. Each registering camper will receive an informative three-point process in order to prepare for severe weather notifications while visiting Grand Traverse County.
- Met with the Northwest Michigan Fair Board in order to assist their organization with an emergency operations and evacuation plan for events being held at the fairgrounds.
- Helped the Bayshore Marathon administration develop and implement an evacuation plan of the Peninsula area for their event during Memorial Day weekend.
- All Grand Traverse County Schools finished their spring lockdown exercises. Meeting with County school officials to prepare for legislative changes that have come into effect. All schools are now required to conduct three lockdown drills during the school year and the County's Emergency Management Coordinator is now responsible for reporting compliance of all drills to the state.

➤ Emergency Preparedness

- Organized and led the Health Department's participation in the Full Scale Exercise with the 51 Civil Support Team.
- Continue planning efforts with the USPS in advance of a full scale terrorism exercise at their Traverse City plant this summer.

COMMUNITY HEALTH DIVISION

DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS:

- Communicable Disease Program - There is an increased concern for vaccine preventable diseases such as measles and mumps with large outbreaks in neighboring States. We have communicated information to area physicians and the public. We have been following the Middle Eastern Coronavirus with the occurrence of a few cases in the

U.S and have communicated information to area physicians and the public. We did a press release about safe cooking and handling of meat related to the recent outbreak in Michigan and the large recall of ground beef from a Michigan Company.

- Adolescent Clinics - In the last stages of planning for “Go Live” implementation to Electronic Health Records (EHR) at our two sites. Held Community Advisory Meetings for both clinics. Satisfaction survey results reflect overall 98 % of students are “very satisfied” with our clinics and 100% reported they would recommend our clinics to a friend.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS:

- Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP)
 - The Michigan Department of Community Health conducted a certification review of MIHP April 24 and 25; successfully received full certification for the next 18 months. All program employees are to be commended for their efforts to correct all previous unmet indicators.
 - Challenges over the past month have been to continue the momentum of ongoing quality assurance activities to stay current and decrease documentation errors along with maintaining an overall monthly encounter goal of 300 visits with team average per day of 3.5.
- Healthy Futures
 - Began strategic planning with Health Department program staff to review Healthy Futures vision, mission, and values, which has lead us to conduct a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis so that we can identify gaps in care provision and initiatives to implement over this next year.
- Children’s Special Health Care Services (CSHCS)
 - Began analysis of program hours, identifying missed opportunities to provide case management and care coordination service and developing a strategic action plan to enhance the services to client population as qualified through the benefit program.
- Immunizations
 - Grand Traverse County currently ranks 4th in the State for Flu Vaccinations for ages 6 months through age 17 and is recognized by the State as a Top LHD implementing best practice activities.
 - More than four million Americans are living with chronic hepatitis and may not know it. In observation of May being Hepatitis Awareness Month and May 19 being National Hepatitis Awareness Day, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are encouraging families to protect themselves from Hepatitis by being informed. Hepatitis A and B vaccines are recommended for all children in Michigan. Both vaccines are also recommended for adults who are at risk of infection and for those who want to be

protected from getting Hepatitis A Virus and Hepatitis B Virus. Grand Traverse County rate for Hepatitis A in children runs 61% ranking 12th in the State.

Human Resources (5)

- General Fund positions approved by County Administrator/Controller (5)
 - Circuit Court Specialist - Circuit Court Administration 1 FTE
 - Correctional Officer - Sheriff's Office 1 FTE
 - Office Clerk- Family Court Volunteer Office 1 FTE
 - Detective – Sheriff's Office 1 FTE
 - Deputy – Sheriff's Office 1 FTE
 - Lifeguard WSI – Parks and Rec 1 FTE
 - County Clerk – Office Specialist 1 FTE

- City/County held a joint blood drive in memory of Sgt. Dennis Finch and it was a success! Total registered donors was 54, and 46 units were collected, which included 10 first-time donors! (7)

- Nationwide Rep Chris Minkin held a “Lunch and Learn” in May with a nice response. (7)

- Seasonal staff came on board this month for Facilities, Sheriff's Office, and interns at the Friend of the Court and IT. (5)

- ❖ The County Relay for Life Team has raised just over \$6,000, well in excess of their \$5000. Thank you to Laurie Johnston and Al Clifford for their fundraising efforts this month. Laurie organized a garage sale netting \$250 and Al organized a cake sale and chocolate chip cookie sale for Relay for Life team netting \$962!

- ❖ The Grand Traverse County Community Volunteer of the Year was selected and named at the April 30 Board meeting. Congratulations to Mike Reed from the IT department!

- ❖ Making a Difference quarterly winner was Deb Deering from the Health Department. Congrats Deb and enjoy four hours off with pay for going above and beyond and making a difference!

- ❖ Wellness Team - The City of Traverse City is joining Grand Traverse County in their 2014 efforts at the Wellness Expo this year!

Information Technology

- An online Help Desk has been implemented to allow departments to submit and track IT support requests. The online ticket system will allow IT to better manage support requests along with providing statistics for benchmarking. The system will also provide documentation for all enrollment changes which County auditors have been requesting. Rich Pantano (IT Technician) successfully implemented the online Help Desk for the Health Department which is now being expanded to all departments.

- The Senior Center has been setup with a permanent, secure connection to the County network allowing for easier sharing of information with the Commission on Aging and

other departments.

- All court video recording computers were replaced which provides better performance and an upgrade from Windows XP to Windows 7.
- Two new document imaging servers have been implemented and services are being migrated from the old servers. The new servers provide increased storage and performance and will support the upgrade of the document imaging software from OnBase 10 to OnBase 13.
- IT staff coordinated and managed the upgrade of the City's utility billing software with the City's vendor – HTE.
- The State of MI has provided 28 computers for the FOC and Prosecutor to replace aging XP computers used for accessing State systems.
- The City Police Dept. has purchased a network storage system (NAS) for backup storage of their videos from in-car cameras.

MSUE (7, 8)

- Senior Market FRESH began coupon distribution May 23 at the Traverse City Senior Center on East Front Street. MSU Extension provides nutrition information to participating seniors on the benefits of eating more fruits and vegetables, which can be purchased using their coupons at local farmers' markets. Project FRESH will begin coupon distribution June 24 at the Grand Traverse County Health Department. MSU Extension and WIC will be providing coupons and nutrition education to help increase WIC families' intake of fruits and vegetables while using their coupons at local farmers' markets.
- May was a busy month for local wine grape growers, trying to get caught up with pruning, a task that would normally have been done before the end of April. The persistent snow cover kept growers from starting at the usual time. It was also a difficult year for deciding how to prune grapes, as the high levels of bud mortality from the severely cold temperatures and in January and February called for modifications to the usual practices. Duke Elsner, MSU Extension Small Fruit Educator, spent several days in May applying different pruning strategies in the wine grape research and demonstration plots at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center. Growers will be able to observe the resulting vine growth patterns to see how particular pruning practices may help vineyards recover from severe cold injury.

Parks and Recreation (7)

- **PRN and Expo Update**
The GTRec Experience Expo was held on Sunday May 4, in Howe Arena. The event had approximately 300 members from the public and over 30 vendors. In addition to the expo in Howe Arena, there were demonstrations at Easling Pool on standup paddle boarding and yoga standup paddle boarding by SUP Michigan, sailing by Grand Traverse Area Community Sailing, and rescue swimming by United States Coast Guard Rescue Swimmers. An evaluation of the event has been sent to each of the vendors to

gather input for improving next year's event. This year's expo received fewer visitors, but had more vendors.

The Parks and Recreation Network thanks Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan for its sponsorship the GTRec Experience Expo and its interest in being involved again next year.

The Parks and Recreation Network, of which Grand Traverse Parks and Recreation is the backbone organization, continues to see an increase in new attendees during its last two meetings held on April 10 and April 15. A total of 12 new individuals, representing nine organizations have attended either last month or this month. At least two of the organizations have been authorized to pay to join the www.GTRec.org website.

➤ **Pitch, Hit, and Run**

Parks and Recreation Department was approached by Northern Broadcasting about becoming a partner for its Pitch, Hit, and Run Competition. This event is national and sponsored by Scotts, Pepsi, and Major League Baseball similar to the Punt, Pass, and Kick Program. During the planning process, the Parks and Recreation Department suggested that American Legion be included in the event. The event, held at the Civic Center on the same day as the GTRec Experience Expo on May 4, was sponsored locally by Northern Broadcasting, Play It Again Sports, Williams Chevrolet, American Legion, and Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation. Eight (8) children competed.

➤ **Carter's Kids and Kids Kove**

Carter's Kids (CK), a foundation founded by Carter Oosterhouse that creates community-built playgrounds, contacted the Parks and Recreation Department in early May about building a \$60,000 tot-lot at the Civic Center on August 9, the day after CK's annual golf outing. Because replacement of Kids Kove on the Civic Center property is identified in the Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Program and in the Civic Center Master Plan, the Parks and Recreation Department wishes to leverage the \$60,000 donation from CK and the \$9,000 winnings from the MI Big Green Gym challenge of last year to re-develop the entire playground.

CK specifically works on its playgrounds with Sinclair Recreation (a Michigan-based company). Sinclair has been contacted to come to the Civic Center and provide a quote for replacing the wooden structures at Kids Kove with a Universally Accessible playground.

The Parks and Recreation Director has asked the Parks and Recreation Commission for permission to focus his attention over the next 30 days on obtaining funding to leverage the \$69,000 to replace Kids Kove.

➤ **Skate Park Fence Update**

The Skate Park fence removal project is complete. SEEDS was the lowest bidder and selected by the Facilities Management Department to do the work, which began on May 6. It has been reported that, since the fence came down, the Skate Park appears more open and inviting to families.

➤ **E-cigarettes**

During its April 2014 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission made a motion to “direct staff to ask Prosecuting Attorney to put together verbiage that would add e-cigarettes to any location that currently bans cigarettes and tobacco, then revisit it from there if we have to expand it.”

Since April, the Parks and Recreation Department and Commissioner Grams have worked with Chris Forsyth at the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office to research how other states and counties are working to ban e-cigarettes. Forsyth has agreed to draft park rules language to prohibit the use of e-cigarettes on Civic Center property. The language to be developed will prohibit the use of the e-cigarettes, not the possession of e-cigarettes. According to the Forsyth, E-cigarettes may be used for legal substances, therefore they are not comparable to drug paraphernalia, so the outright ban of possession would be hard to defend in the event the rule were to be challenged.

During its May 2014 regular meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission passed a motion to encourage the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office to continue researching the appropriate language to prohibit the use of e-cigarettes at the Civic Center.

➤ **Facilities Management Capital Improvement Plan**

The Parks and Recreation Department was asked to submit any projects foreseen over the next five years to Facilities Management’s five-year capital improvement plan, which is submitted to the Board of Commissioners and used to plan for capital projects during its term. With approximately 24 hours of lead time for this project, Parks and Recreation submitted several items identified in the Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Program, the Civic Center Master Plan, and the Maple Bay Master Plan.

Facilities Management and Parks and Recreation departments discussed coordinating these projects in the specific years identified, and how they will fit sequentially for each property and with the other projects Facilities Management already identified throughout the County.

The report, as submitted to County Administration, fulfills the measurements designated within the 2014-2015 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan.

➤ **TCAPS Freshmen Water Safety Training**

On May 16, the last two sessions of TCAPS Freshmen Water Safety Training were held at the Civic Center, hosting T.C. West students. There was a morning session and an afternoon session. Fifteen (15) of the students in the morning session opted to come back for the afternoon session because they enjoyed the training so much. The total number of TCAPS students trained throughout the 2013-2014 school year is 323.

➤ **Pool Fees**

Because the County Board of Commissioners has suggested that the Parks and Recreation Commission consider raising Easling Pool fees, during its March 2014 regular meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission directed the Parks and Recreation Director to provide a plan for a new Easling Pool fee structure, to meet the following parameters:

1. Compare Civic Center fees to the new YMCA’s fees
2. Set County residents’ fees lower than those of the YMCA
3. Out-of-county residents would pay 30% more than residents

During its regular April 2014 meeting, the Director presented a table to the Parks and Recreation Commission comparing the fees for Easling Pool with those of the new YMCA pool. Easling Pool's current fees are significantly lower than those of the YMCA. The Director also compared Easling Pool prices to:

1. Cadillac YMCA
2. Charlevoix Pool
3. Hastings Area Schools Pool
4. Hamilton Area Schools Pool
5. Kalkaska Kaliseum

When factoring in the Cadillac YMCA, Easling Pool fees are below average. When the Cadillac YMCA is taken out of the average, Easling Pool fees are higher than average in all categories, with the exception of a six-month "Senior" membership and a six-month "Family" membership. However, Easling Pool fees are within \$10 and \$2, respectively.

As a starting point, during its regular May 2014 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Director gave commissioners a proposed fee structure including a five (5) percent and a ten (10) percent option with, as previously directed by the Commission, all out-of-county rates 30% higher than in-county rates. The proposed fees still are significantly lower than the new YMCA fees.

During its May 2014 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission passed a motion to refer the matter of raising pool fees to its Civic Center Grounds Fees Ad Hoc Committee.

➤ **Twin Lakes Rules Change**

Per the Parks and Recreation Commission's request during its April 2014 meeting, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office presented options in its April 28, 2014 memo for changing Rule 15 of the Parks and Recreation Park Rules from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction. The Parks and Recreation Commission passed a motion during its regular May 2014 meeting to pursue at the state legislative level, changing current park rules to civil, municipal infractions, and to direct the County to adopt an ordinance so that in the future, the Twin Lakes beach rule pertaining to only swimming in designated areas can be enforced as a civil infraction rather than as a misdemeanor.

The Parks and Recreation Director will pursue this endeavor with Howard Walker and Wayne Schmidt, and work with MRPA and MACPRO to make the change. The Parks and Recreation Director will ask the Prosecuting Attorney's office to also put something together for County Commission.

➤ **Twin Lakes Beach**

During its March 2014 regular meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission made a motion to "ask the Director to come back in April with additional safety measures that can be implemented at Twin Lakes, including beach design/location, location of docks/piers and other water access structures and improved signage." Clarifying discussion was held during the April 2014 regular Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and again during the agenda-setting meeting for May among the Director, the Parks and Recreation Commission President and Vice President.

During the Parks and Recreation Commission's regular May 2014 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Director provided to commissioners the best practices manual, *Water/Beach Safety Guidelines*, published by the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA), which has guided the decisions during the past several years for safety measures taken at Twin Lakes. The Parks and Recreation Commission is looking for greater expertise than can be found at the MMRMA or within the state regarding the beach design at Twin Lakes, and regarding the best safety practices associated with any new configuration of the beach/swim area.

During its regular May 2014 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission passed a motion for the Director to solicit proposals from national and regional experts on safe beach design/location, and locations of docks/piers and other water access structures and improved signage.

Planning/Brownfield/Economic Development/Housing (1, 3, 4, 7, 8)

- The Department has been assisting the County Treasurer by inspecting and evaluating the recently tax foreclosed properties. There were 27 properties foreclosed this year. Most of the parcels are vacant land.
- Department staff is taking proactive action to address the recent problems with the Homestretch portion of the Depot housing project in Traverse City. Staff is working on a solution to the funding issue to get the project back on track and to avoid problems associated with future housing projects. \
- Deputy Director Jean Derenzy spoke at the Michigan Women in Finance conference at the Grand Traverse Resort on May 16. Raymond Minervini joined Jean in presenting: "The Village at Grand Traverse Commons: A Community Endeavor."

Prosecuting Attorney

➤ **PROSECUTION**

- Authorized 149 misdemeanor warrants
- Authorized 50 felony warrants
- Authorized 20 juvenile warrants
- Initiated 16 neglect/abuse cases (Our office has 54 open neglect/abuse cases involving 88 children)
- Reviewed 22 referrals from the office of child support
- Handled the following matters in Family Court:
 - 6 paternity cases
 - 13 child support cases
 - Obtained 6 judgments of child support
 - 12 mentally ill commitment hearing

CIVIL COUNSEL

➤ ***Contract Drafting and Review***

- Jail Administration: One

- Central Dispatch: One
- Parks and Recreation: One
- Administration: One

➤ **FOIA Coordination**

- Central Dispatch: six
- Health Department: two

➤ **Board of Commissioners/ Staff Questions**

- Sheriff
- Health Department
- Commission on Aging
- Jail Administration
- Treasurer

➤ **Litigation**

- *Grand Traverse County v. Joseph J. King et al.* On May 7th, we filed with the Circuit Court a complaint seeking reimbursement from 12 current and former inmates housed in the County Jail. Under the Prisoner Reimbursement to the County Act, MCL 801.81 et. seq., a County is permitted to file a lawsuit in Circuit Court seeking reimbursement from inmates, who are obligated to pay housing, medical and other expenses during incarceration. In total, we are seeking \$25,505.21 in reimbursement. In the future, we will plan on filing a lawsuit a month seeking inmate reimbursement.
- *Parcel 80 BIA Appeal (12 acres).* We continue to await a decision from the Regional Director.
- *Parcel 82 BIA Appeal (158 acres).* We continue to wait for an opinion from the appeals board.

➤ **Miscellaneous**

- *Working with the Facilities Management Department in renegotiating an easement for use of the First Baptist Church Parking Lot. At issue is the county's*
- *Working with the Parks and Recreation Department to develop an e-cigarette ban at the Civic Center.*
- *Working with County staff and Garfield Township officials in developing a strategy to defend a tax appeal involving Grand Traverse Mall.*
- *Bob Cooney conducted OMA training for local elected and appointed board and commission members.*

Resource Recovery (8)

- The second Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event of 2014 took place on May 29 at the Grand Traverse County Department of Public Works Garage. All available appointments for the event were booked. The next collection event takes place in mid-August.
- Department staff attended the May meeting of the Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee on May 27. Members reviewed tracking software that would replace the current department system of tracking recycling and waste volumes and is the same system being considered at the state level for statewide tracking. Members were provided a review of activities occurring at the state level by a regional member who sits on the Governor's newly-appointed Michigan Recycling Council.
- Staff recently announced that the 2014 RecycleSmart Kid's Garage Sale will take place on Saturday, August 23, 2014. The event will be held at the Grand Traverse County Civic Center.

Legislative Update

- Gongwer reported on Friday that revenue sharing funds may be trimmed, although the article was rather vague. Rep. Earl Poleski said Friday that the revised revenue estimates from the May revenue estimating conference will affect what ultimately happens with statutory revenue sharing when the conference committee on the general government budget meets on June 9.