



Media Release

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**New County Department Leadership Appointed:
Highway Commissioner and Director of Information Technology**

Stevens Point, WI (**January 16, 2012**) – Portage County Executive Patty Dreier has appointed Brian Kelley to be Portage County's new Highway Commissioner. Mr. Kelley currently resides in Beldenville, WI, where he is a Construction Engineer for HDR, Inc. He is currently a Senior Roadway Inspector on a \$35 million freeway interchange project outside the Twin Cities. Mr. Kelley has a B.S. in Construction Management from UW-Stout, is a professional engineer, and is a certified bridge inspector. His first day will be January 23rd. Pending approval of the County Board tomorrow, there will be a brief overlap of up to 40 hours for Mr. Kelley to work with Interim Highway Commissioner Dale Petersen who will orient Brian to highway operations and future highway construction projects.

The Highway Commissioner's position is a two-year term by statute. Mr. Kelley will need to be reappointed every two years.

County Executive Patty Dreier also appointed Alan Hawker to be the new Director of Information Technology, filling the vacancy of Mr. Craig Flagel who retired in late December. Mr. Hawker currently resides in Marquette, MI, and works as Vice President of Information Technology for Lasco Development Corporation. He has over 20 years of experience working in city/county government in addition to private sector experience. Mr. Hawker has a B.S. in Computer Science. He will start on January 30th.

Both of the County Executive's appointments must still be confirmed by the Portage County Board of Supervisors, scheduled for tomorrow's County Board meeting.

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"Each of these appointments results from the work of teams of people on each search and screen committee. In addition to human resource staff, County Board and other department heads and staff participated in the screening process. For the Information Technology Director search, we also engaged the help of our UWSP colleagues to help us evaluate technology credentials. This was a team effort. Each new department head will also have two staff mentors to assist them in a strong transition," said County Executive Dreier.

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