



## Building for the Future: Prairie du Chien Memorial to purchase property for new hospital

Prairie du Chien, WI- December 20, 2011- On December 15, Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital received an acceptance to the offer to purchase land, in preparation for building a new hospital. The land under contract is located east of Hwy 18 and South Marquette Road, just south of Vineyard Coulee Road, across from the Prairie du Chien Municipal Airport.

Over the past six months, the hospital Board of Directors researched and considered more than 16 sites. The property under contract features adequate land for necessary future expansion and will also allow for easy access. Patients, med flight and other emergency vehicles will have easy entry and exit and the hospital will be clearly visible from Prairie du Chien's main corridor, Hwy 18.

"In the year to come, we will continue to share information about this project with our communities, as it becomes available. But, more importantly, as we focus on patient-centered care for the future, we want our patients, and the people of our communities to provide input to their new hospital. Forums will be scheduled so that we can receive that valuable input," explained Bill Sexton, Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital Chief Executive Officer. "We're dedicated to creating a state-of-the-art healthcare facility, offering superior privacy and infection control, increased emergency services with easy access and expanded services."

In September of this year, the Board of Directors of Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital voted to engage an architect in anticipation of building a new hospital. The decision was made after more than one year of careful consideration and extensive research. Paul Ginkel, hospital Board President said, "This is an exciting time for the community and the Board of Trustees. A new hospital offers us a unique opportunity, in our never-ending pursuit of excellence. The design of a new, modern hospital will positively affect patient safety and quality and improve the healthcare services throughout the region. It will also allow physicians and staff to do their jobs more efficiently." Ginkel added, "This project will also have a huge impact on the area economy. Our community has long been a destination for many. Our goal is to provide the services that residents and visitors need and to incorporate best practices and excellent value."

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was distributed to interested architecture firms in late November and more than 30 firms responded. Interviews are currently underway with the five finalists. "Very soon we will be able to announce the architect chosen to design the new hospital," said Sexton,. "The design firm we seek will have extensive LEED, or green building experience, and will have a working knowledge of Lean principles, ensuring a smart, sustainable, energy efficient hospital. Providing the best care, right here, will let others know that they don't have to leave the community for great care and good value."