



Intercounty Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 17, 2017

Jefferson County UW-Extension Building, 864 Collins Rd., Jefferson, Wisconsin

ICC Participants

Columbia County – Mary Cupery; Nancy Elsing; James Foley; Vern Gove; Kathleen Haas; Andy Ross; **Dodge County** – David Frohling; Russell Kottke; Jim Schaefer; Dan Schultz; **Green Lake County** – Harley Reabe; Cathy Schmit; ; **Jefferson County** – Joe Nehmer; Amy Rinard; **Marquette County** - Pat Kilby; Bob Miller; Keri Solis; Gary Sorenson; Mary Walters; **Sauk County** – Jennifer Erikson; Marty Krueger; **WCA** – Kyle Christenson; **State Legislators** – none; **Guest** – Dave Marcouiller; **UWEX AED** – Jay Dampier; Jeff Hoffman

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by ICC Chair Russell Kottke at 9:30 a.m.

Certification of Wisconsin Open Meetings Law Notice

The Secretary confirmed the requirements of the *WI Open Meetings Law* were met.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion by Marquette County, second by Green Lake, to approve the agenda – Approved.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion by Columbia County, second by Dodge County, to approve the minutes of the June 2017 meeting of the Intercounty Coordinating Committee -- Approved.

Reports from Visiting Legislators -- none

WCA Legislative Report – Kyle Christenson

- Assurity Bonds legislation has passed that allows counties to borrowed. If local unit of government (LUG) chooses not to float an assurity bond then LUG must pass an ordinance.
- Competitive bidding bill would allow county with projects costing over \$25 K to go thru the competitively bidding process, three bids, the new legislation allow LUG to allow project under to \$75K to bid directly.
- Dark Store Legislation: LUG are encountering new big box store (e.g., Walmart, Walgreens, etc.) to seek lower property taxes for new stores, using market data from area closed down near-by stores as basis for lower property taxes, sometimes up to half the assessed value of the new development/store. 150 people testified in support of the bill at hearing. The “dark store” bill is expected to pass in assembly, there may be challenges on Senate side.
- Next month’s WCA monthly magazine will feature the “dark store” issue.
- Joint Agency Statute: commission of government reform and efficiency – currently, state statute has not permitted units of government to work together. This bill allows for collaboration between units of government as long as a state agency is involved.

- State Budget: is a problematic, without having a state budget passed, the state is putting things on credit. GPR borrowing has been increased from \$500 million to \$850 million. Legislature still wants to see the transportation budget increased and identify an associated revenue source. Legislature and Executive branch are at a standstill. As of 7/1 the state is not allowed to bond future transportation projects.
- Governor is proposing reducing the lowest two income tax brackets at a cost to state of \$2 million. Senate opposes and is waiting to negotiate before passage of the state budget.

Open Discussion of County Issues

- Audit of WI DoT -- WI Dot was not accounting for inflation as it relates to multi-year projects. This will lead to requiring additional revenue sources dedicated to the transportation budget.
- ICC Chair asked member about how group should proceed given the restructuring of UW-Extension/nEXT Gen. An 8/2 @ 8:30 in Columbia County meeting has been scheduled with ICC county board chairs. Items for consideration include, how nEXT Generation will affect how ICC program coordination and the transfer administrative responsibilities.
- ICC program ideas shall be considered for 2017-2018 Program as part of the August ICC agenda, 8/21, in Sauk County, Program Topic: *Pro's & Con's of County Strategic and Leadership Models.*

Program – County Parks and Recreation: Opportunities for Economic Development Department (refer to powerpoint presentation)

Professor Dave Marcouiller, UW-Madison Department of Urban and Regional Planning

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ICC County Parks Directors or Coordinators (invited)

- **Columbia County:** city of Rio has a location on a bike trail that provides bike tools for public use.
- **Dan Schultz/Dodge Co**
- **Pat Kilby/Marquette Co.:** Currently the Co. LWD is partnering with the Co. Health Dept. to improve the county's health rankings; Marquette Co. also realizes the importance and contribution of how trails attract younger generations to area. Marquette county has appointed a county sub-committee that addresses parks and recreation opportunities and have included citizen advisors; Marquette co. has learned that the bike web page is the county's seconded most visited page; 98% of people that are shore fishing are from out-of-county; City of Packwaukee is looking to add a city park that accommodates shore fishing; also have found that the barn quilt trail is used by bicyclists and contributes to improving tourism in the county.
- **Joe Nehmer/Jefferson Co.:** City of Watertown received a \$100K grant to promote health and wellness using bike trails; P & R jobs in rural areas allows the recruitment and hiring of younger generations; Jefferson Co. recently received a \$1.1 million gift to maintain and operate land donation as future park site; Trails have been expanded and being connected thru out State; Over time, the perspective of providing bike trails has changed from negative to being an asset for local units of government; the county has held public feedback sessions examining the use of trails by motorized users/ATV users. This was done when Jefferson co. bought 172 acres of state land from WI DNR. Jefferson Co. agreed to operate the motorized trail for 5 years. After 5 years Jefferson co. held a public meetings to determine if 172 acres should remain ATV trail or become passive trail. Because of major opposition, Jefferson county has converted trail to passive trail.

- **Sauk County:** State purchased 2013 railroad line in Sauk co., Sauk co has converted rail to 3-segment trail; UWEX facilitated a public process to advise county on future use,; The Sauk county (e.g., *connecting pearls as part of a neckless*) trail will:
 - connect with Dane County's trail system;
 - Will build a recreation bridge over WI river,
 - Connect to converted Badgerland property
 - Connect to Devil's Lake State Park, and ,
 - Connect to Ice Age Trail and Elroy Sparta trail.

Open Discussion of County Issues -- none

Adjourn

Next Meeting

Next meeting: August 14, 2017 in Sauk Co. – Topic: Pro's & Con's of County Strategic and Leadership Models

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned after tour

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Haas
UW-Extension, Columbia County