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)

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ICC County Parks Directors or Coordinators (invited)
  o Columbia County: city of Rio has a location on a bike trail that provides bike tools for public use.
  o Dan Schultz/Dodge Co
  o 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.
  o 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) trial 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