

Minutes of the
Intercounty Coordinating Committee (ICC)
for February 20, 2012
at the Marquette County Service Center

ICC President Russell Kottke called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. All 6 counties were present with 28 people in attendance.

Marty Havlovic, CNRED Educator, Marquette County, verified that the meeting was posted and met the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

Moved by Green Lake County to approve the agenda as written; second by Jefferson County. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Moved by Columbia County to accept the minutes of the December 19, 2011 meeting; second by Green Lake County. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Wisconsin Senator Luther Olsen, District 14th, was present and addressed the group. He talked about the projected revenue estimate shortfall (1%) resulting in a \$200 million revenue cut needed. Ironically, the state is losing approximately \$55 million in tobacco tax due to “roll your own tobacco” shops in the state.

Senator Olsen talked about the mining bill and its progress in the legislature. He was not entirely pleased with the proposed bill and suggested he'd like to see the state keep the equipment tax money, etc. and give \$2 tonnage tax to the local governments.

AB303 bill on Comprehensive Planning was also discussed with possible changes being made to the comprehensive planning process. It was noted that most municipalities have already developed their plans.

Jon Hochkammer of WCA introduced himself and talked about major issues facing the state legislature that are of concern to the counties.

1. recall
2. job creation
3. mining
4. wetlands

Of the \$140 million received by the state from the Federal lawsuit settlement with major banks, Wisconsin is earmarking \$25 million towards budget shortfall.

Discussion on compensation for public constitutional officers is ongoing as such action needs to be taken before elections.

The issue with legal counsel expenses for civil indigent cases involving child custody, foreclosures, etc. is still being discussed. If the counties were forced to pick up this cost, it would be approximately \$50 million per year.

Drainage boards and their appointments was also discussed.

Jim Engle, Director of the Wisconsin Main Street Program and Bill Ryan, UWEX Community Business Development state specialist talked about what programs and efforts were available to small rural communities. A good discussion ensued with many wondering what was the future of small communities, what could or should be done to assist and help communities not only prosper but also survive.

Motion to adjourn by Dodge County; second by Marquette County. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Chair Russell Kottke adjourned the meeting at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Marty Havlovic, CNRED Educator, UWEX - Marquette County
March 1, 2012