

**Intercounty Coordinating Committee (ICC)**  
**December 18, 2006**  
**Dodge County Administration Building**

**Attendance:**

Judy Ashford, Sauk County; Karna Hanna, Sauk County Development Corp.; John Brennan, Green Lake County; Orrin Helmer, Green Lake County; Jeff Hoffman, Green Lake County UW-Extension; Dave Neuendorf, Dodge County UW Extension; Russell Kotthe, Dodge County; Sarah Diedrick -Kasdorf, WCA; John H. Tramburg, Columbia County; Susan Martin, Columbia County; Debra Wopat, Columbia County; Nancy Elsing, Columbia County EDC; Representative Jeff Fitzgerald; Steve Nass, Jefferson County; Steve Grabow, Jefferson County UW-Extension; Dennis Heling, Jefferson County Econ. Dev.; Nate Olson, Dodge Co. Land Resources & Parks Dept.; Dean Perlick, Dodge Co. Land Resources & Parks Dept.; and Andy Ross, Columbia County.

**1. Introductory Business**

Call to Order – Chair Steve Nass called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**2. Certification of Open Meeting Notice**

The Secretary confirmed that the requirements of the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law were met.

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

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

**4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Dodge County, second by Green Lake County to approve the minutes of the November 2006 meeting of the Intercounty Coordinating Committee with correction on page 2: *“Douglas and Winnebago also reduced their County Boards from 28 to 7 and from 38 to 36 respectively.”* Changed to read: *“Douglas County reduced its County Board from 28 to 7 and Winnebago County is scheduled to have a referendum in April.”* Approved.

**5. Reports from Visiting Legislative Officials**

- Representative Jeff Fitzgerald
  - Republicans lost 8 seats
  - Polls link votes to opposition to Iraq war
  - Items to be taken up by Assembly:
    - Ethics reform
      - Will merge Ethics and Election boards
      - Will use reserve judges
      - Local officials will not be required to meet same disclosure requirements as state officials
    - Open Meetings Law changes
      - Exclude local economic development organizations that receive money from government.

- Looking at changes that will allow local economic development organizations keep negotiations with businesses confidential.
- Biennial Budget
  - Waiting to see how Governor puts together the budget and if it includes any fund transfers or increases in fees.
  - Doesn't think gasoline tax indexing will be brought back.
  - Some sales tax reform may be considered
- Concern expressed about how development impact fee rules have been changed. It now includes park fees that used to be included under subdivision ordinances.
- Concern expressed about cross-border library funding/borrowing, and the strain it puts on county budgets.
- Question raised about development of a state health insurance program.
  - Governor has proposed an expansion of BadgerCare for children
  - Would like to see programs that are more consumer driven.

## 6. Report on Legislative Issues Affecting Counties

- Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf, WCA
  - WCA regional legislative meeting will be held in New Glarus on Jan. 8th.
  - Legislative agenda includes health care reform, court funding, and the "Working Lands Initiative".
  - WCA is supporting an increase in \$1 increase in the cigarette tax. Would raise \$200 million for health care.
  - The Joint Finance Committee has new co-chairs and members. Sees a lot of 8 to 8 votes. Looks like a long budget process.
  - The current Joint Finance Committee has allocated \$800,000 for meeting the federal government's requirement that citizenship be verified for participants in all federally supported programs. The money will be matched with federal dollars.

## 7. Open Discussion of County Issues

- None

## 8. PROGRAM: "Regional Economic Development: "Seeds of Workforce Change: A Regional Approach to Improving Our Economic Landscape in Southwest and South Central Wisconsin."

- Sigrid Peterson, Senior Associate, Center on Wisconsin Strategy.
  - Summarized a report that was completed for the Southwest and South Central Workforce Development Boards.
  - A copy of the executive report and the full report from their website: [http://www.cows.org/about\\_publications.asp](http://www.cows.org/about_publications.asp)
  - Recommendations:
    - Develop a "Leave No Worker Behind" campaign
    - Strengthen and expand Jobs With a Future (JWF) to take a more active, strategic, and forward-looking role in regional workforce issues.

- Invest in industry partnerships that connect with growing and emerging occupational opportunities and build pathways to career advancement.
  - Develop a Health Care Workforce Excellence Center as a strategic regional solution to current and projected industry workforce strategies.
  - Pilot new ways of coordinating regional economic and workforce development activities.
- Discussion Panel: Karna Hanna, Sauk County Economic Development Corp.; Nancy Elsing, Columbia County Economic Development Corp.; Dennis Heling, Jefferson County Economic Development; and Dean Perlick, Dodge County Land Resources & Parks Dept.
    - Regional coordination and collaboration between most of the ICC counties and other adjacent counties has been going on for a long time.
    - Regional efforts need to be organic and be based on real-world economics—not on political boundaries.
    - The Jefferson County food processing collaborative effort to provide training is a good example of collaboration between businesses, governments, and educational institutions.
    - Each county has a slightly different approach to countywide and regional economic development.
    - The counties surrounding Dane County are getting involved in several regional economic development efforts originating in Dane County: “Regional Economic Development Effort(REDE) and the “Capital Regional Coalition”.
    - An attempt will be made to have presentations about these efforts at a future meeting.

**9. Other Issues:** None.

**10. Next Meeting:** January 15, 2007 in Green Lake County

**11. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Columbia, seconded by Sauk. The ICC meeting was adjourned by Chair Nass at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Neuendorf  
 Community Development Educator  
 UW-Extension, Dodge County