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
     o Republicans lost 8 seats
     o Polls link votes to opposition to Iraq war
     o 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
    o Concern expressed about how development impact fee rules have been changed. It now includes park fees that used to be included under subdivision ordinances.
    o Concern expressed about cross-border library funding/borrowing, and the strain it puts on county budgets.
    o 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
  o WCA regional legislative meeting will be held in New Glarus on Jan. 8th.
  o Legislative agenda includes health care reform, court funding, and the “Working Lands Initiative”.
  o WCA is supporting an increase in $1 increase in the cigarette tax. Would raise $200 million for health care.
  o The Joint Finance Committee has new co-chairs and members. Sees a lot of 8 to 8 votes. Looks like a long budget process.
  o 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.
  o Summarized a report that was completed for the Southwest and South Central Workforce Development Boards.
  o A copy of the executive report and the full report from their website: http://www.cows.org/about_publications.asp
  o 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