

**Intercounty Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, February 20, 2006**  
**Green Lake County Courthouse**  
**Green Lake, Wisconsin**

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Orrin Helmer at 9:30 a.m.

**Attendance:**

See attached attendance sheet

**The requirements of the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law were met.**

**The agenda was approved** (motion 1<sup>st</sup> Dodge - 2<sup>nd</sup> Columbia)

**The minutes were approved** (motion 1<sup>st</sup> Sauk - 2<sup>nd</sup> Jefferson)

**Legislative Report**

Rep. Joan Ballweg told the Supervisors that AB 726, Municipal Gas Tax Refund bill, will not get out of Committee this session. Rep. Ballweg talked about the “Buggy Bill” she sponsored. The Bill currently had a public hearing, where Green Lake County’s Highway Commissioner spoke. She also answered question from the members.

Rep. Eugene Hahn talked about the frustrations of what is acceptable when Legislator’s have contact with lobbyist. Rep. Hahn also talked briefly about the current version of the “tax payers bill of rights”, he has concerns with the initiative but he feels that Wisconsin’s tax situation is hurting businesses.

Senator Luther Olsen talked about his concerns with the current “tax payers bill of rights”. He commented that it is ironic that reports state that the taxes are burying Wisconsinites but there aren’t corresponding outcomes that show unhappy people trying to unseat incumbents.

The Legislator’s took questions and listened to concerns from the Supervisor’s on the cost of jails in Wisconsin, the tax payer protection act, and the State dumping prisoners.

**Wisconsin Counties Association, WCA Report**

Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf representative from the WCA, discussed AB 129, grace period for the payment of property tax. She also talked briefly about WCA’s role at a public hearing about the Taxpayer’s Protection Act. She discussed the 1.4% increase in funding as part of SB 535, and AB 802 The County Nursing Home bill was signed into law. She then addressed questions from the members.

## **Program: County Law Enforcement**

Panel Report from each County's Sheriff's Department

### Green Lake County

Sheriff Mike Handel discussed that he is most concerned with the Department's difficulties finding quality employees, and the crowded conditions in the jail. He told the group that the County is using electronic monitoring, and just started using video conferencing. Special programs in the county include Triad, a senior citizen program and that Green Lake County now has an Officer specially trained to work with the Amish community.

### Dodge County

Chief Deputy, Blaine Lauersdorf told the group about the situation in Dodge County. The County built a new jail complex in 1997. The jail has a 460-inmate capacity, that uses "direct supervision". They use GPS to track some inmates. Dodge County has an updated communication center and the County dispatches all but the City of Beaver Dam's calls. Dodge has issues hiring quality employees, especially Hispanic speaking.

### Jefferson County

Kevin Stapleton from the Jefferson Sheriff's Department presented information about their Department. The jail has 214 beds and they do house inmates from other places, they did an expansion in the late 1980's. They feel they have sufficient space to address their jail and they do use electronic monitoring. Their Deputies can report to the jail or to patrol. They have a dive unit, SWAT team and snowmobile unit. They support local municipalities departments. They have concerns about the size of their communication center, it's too small. Support Services are the fastest growing unit in the department. The County uses dual fuel squads, which has been a good deal, especially with the increase in gas prices. They feel they need to be more creative when using their officers, as a way to address limited resources.

### Sauk County

Kathy Schauf, Interim Administrative Coordinator spoke for Sauk County. They are able to house out of county prisoners. They have issues retaining employees and recruiting qualified employees. The department has seen a 14% increase in calls and they feel the increase is due to new Condo developments. They are responsible for taking care of Ho-Chunk calls.

### Columbia County

Steve Rowe from the Columbia County Sheriff's Department spoke concerning Columbia County. They just built a new jail and Huber facility. They believe they have enough office space for the next 25 to 35 years; however, they already have over crowding in their Huber center. They have seen a 14% to 17% growth in inmates. Their calls for service have increased 78% from 2000 to 2005. They have achieved cost savings by using video equipment and privatizing the cooking services. They use electronic monitoring, however they have difficulties finding candidates for the technology. They use inmates to do work around the courthouse. They have started to buy used SUV's for the detectives. They see a cost savings and the vehicles hold up well. They use a volunteer dive team. They collaborate a great deal with the fire department in several ways that saves the County money. The jail staff is non-sworn employees.

**Open Discussion on County Issues:**

There was additional discussion about the prevalence of “Meth” labs in the region. None of the Counties indicated they had a problem to date, but believe that the labs are a problem they will need to deal with in the near future.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:45** (motion 1<sup>st</sup> Columbia 2<sup>nd</sup> Dodge)

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Hoffman  
UW-Extension, Green Lake County