Chair Russ Kottke called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. It was certified that a quorum was in attendance. A list of attendees follows these minutes.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Recording secretary Marty Havlovic gave notice that the meeting was posted according to open meeting laws.

Moved by Green Lake County to approve the agenda as presented, second by Columbia County. Motion passed on a voice vote.

State Representative Joan Ballweg of the 41st Assembly District announced her Spring Listening Sessions. She also distributed a fact sheet on the state budget and the state assembly initiative “Right the Rules”, in which the state is seeking input on rules and regulations that are no longer relevant or need to be reviewed and amended. She also talked about the concern of costs to local municipalities of conducting election recounts.

State Senator Luther Olsen of the 14th Senate District discussed the current listening sessions on the state budget. He said the big issues are the deficit, payroll, education funding and bonding for transportation. While he was supportive of the proposed budget he expressed caution regarding the choice/charter school program. Currently it represents 1% of the state budget funding but Senator Olsen sees it going up to 7% of the state budget. He also talked about the residency requirement for jobs that many local municipalities have and expressed his thoughts that this was largely coming from Milwaukee County.

Both Senator Olsen and Representative Ballweg did not think the “Tax-Free 2 Day Shopping” idea would go far in the legislative process. It isn’t scheduled for a public hearing. They thought that the tax-free shopping days would only shift the purchasing of school supplies to those days and would not stimulate the economy. And it would also be costly to administer as the merchants would have to reprogram their cash registers, etc.

Kyle Christiansen from WCA talked about the state budget. WCA will be holding Monday morning webinars on the budget to give counties updates and progress reports on various budget items of interest to the counties. The WCA is monitoring state legislation on the Milwaukee County board reform. This has to do with the legislative proposal to reduce by ½ the compensation paid to Milwaukee County board supervisors. The WCA has not taken a position on this.

Other budget items being watched are the $55 million state highway maintenance allocation and the proposed $30 million mental health of which $17 million would go to counties on a regional basis but what the regions are is yet to be determined.

There also will be a change in the budget on the disincentive to not levy to the max (tax to the max) that counties find themselves in order to not get penalized. This change is not being publicized.
Sand fracking was discussed by the group. The WCA is working on getting out best practice handbooks, etc. It was the thought of some county board supervisors to have the state set rules and policies rather than have each municipality set its own rules and regulations.

Matt Kures, GIS state specialist from the UWEX Center for Community and Economic Development and Marty Havlovic, CNRED Educator, Marquette County gave a presentation on demographic and economic changes and trends in the 6-county ICC area. Copies of this power-point presentation are available at request.

Chair Russ Kottke adjourned the meeting at 11:56 am.

Respectfully submitted on April 16, 2013 by Marty Havlovic, recording secretary.

ATTENDANCE

Columbia County
  Andy Ross
  Vern Gove
  Nancy Elsing, CCEDC Executive Director

Dodge County
  Russell Kottke
  Jeff Hoffman, UWEX

Green Lake County
  David Richter
  Joanne Guden
  Marge Bostelmann, County Clerk

Jefferson County
  John Molinaro
  Steve Grabow, UWEX

Marquette County
  Paul Wade
  Dan Klawitter
  Gary Sorensen, County Clerk
  Marty Havlovic, UWEX

Sauk County
  Marty Krueger

Guests
  Luther Olsen, State Senator 14th District
  Joan Ballweg, State Representative, 41st District
  Matt Kures, UWEX State Specialist