

Intercounty Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 16, 2009
Green Lake County Courthouse
Green Lake, Wisconsin

ICC Participants

Columbia County – Harlan Baumgartner, John Tramburg, Robert Westby, Debra Wopat; **Dodge County** – Russell Kottke, Ray Seaholm, Jeff Hoffman; **Green Lake County** – Marge Bostelmann, Orrin Helmer, Jason Kauffeld, Susan McConnell, Dan Priske; **Marquette** – Robert Miller, Howard Zellmer, Paul Wade; **Jefferson County** – Steve Grabow, Dennis Heling, Steven Nass; **Sauk County** – Paul Endres; **WCA** – David Callender; **State** – Representative Joan Ballweg, Senator Luther Olsen; **Wisconsin Taxpayer Alliance** – Penny Durham; **WCA** – David Callender

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Russell Kottke at 9:30 a.m.

The requirements of the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law were met.

The agenda was approved (motion 1st Jefferson - 2nd Green Lake)

The minutes were approved (motion 1st Green Lake - 2nd Dodge)

Legislative Report

Senator Olson

State budget will be done on time and signed, it is expected, by July 1. Believes the average family will pay \$2,000 more in taxes/fees. State exploring a \$1.25 billion bond issue plus spending tobacco one-time revenue before it is received to cover deficit. Mentioned he feels the need to raise Wisconsin's per capita income as the true way out of the deficit, and that the current justice/prison/probation system needs a hard look.

Representative Ballweg

Discussed policy items in the proposed state budget: statewide smoking ban, increased taxes on tobacco products, registry for domestic partners, clean sweep being eliminated, volunteers (in cases of natural disaster/emergency situations) being given state agency status thus increasing county liability. A statewide Wind Energy ordinance is being considered for siting rules.

Wisconsin Counties Association, WCA Report

E911 surcharge to modernize 911 system and budget issues were discussed. The question of prevailing wages taking effect only after the budget is signed was raised and answered.

Program: Trends in Room Taxes and Tourism

\$60 million in room taxes collected in Wisconsin in 2006

70% of room tax revenues MUST be spent on tourism

63 out of 72 counties had a least 1 area with a room tax

1%-9 is the range of rates being charged, with 5% most common

Questions/ discussions raised by the audience:

- Do second homes count as tourism?
- Can a county levy a room tax? Answer is 'no'

Open Discussion on County Issues:

- USDA flood damage conservation easement program – application deadline March 27
- Furloughs versus lay-offs in labor contracts
- Jefferson County in April will be discussing raising property taxes to keep county nursing home
- Medicaid loss of \$60/person/day in county nursing homes.
- Jefferson County is working with a 15-person steering committee to put together a strategic plan. Not looking at mandated versus non-mandated programs to start with, but rather what do citizens want
- Green Lake spoke about LEED certification and its new Justice Center, as well as about potential wind farm in the south of the county

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 (motion 1st Sauk 2nd Dodge)

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Kauffeld
UW-Extension, Green Lake County