

**Intercounty Coordinating Committee (ICC)**  
**June 19, 2006**  
**Columbia County Annex, 120 W. Conant**  
**Portage, Wisconsin**

**Introductory Business**

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

**Attendance:** See attached sheet

**Certification of Open Meeting Notice**

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

**Adoption of Agenda**

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

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Green Lake, second by Dodge County to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2006 meeting of the Intercounty Coordinating Committee. Approved.

**Reports from Visiting Legislative Officials**

**Repr. Hahn:**

- Sales tax
- Fund roads
- New power plants
- Quiet at the Capitol
- Impact fees

**Repr. Dr. Hinz:**

- Ethics
- TABOR
- Marcus Gumz passed away this past weekend

**Report on Legislative Issues Affecting Counties: Jayme Sellen, Wisconsin Counties Association.**

- Not much going on because legislature is not in session
- WCA will be sending a survey out to counties to get input
- Milwaukee Journal article about Red Prairie, WI business, considering moving from WI
- Tax exemption on pensions was another concern raised

**Open Discussion of County Issues**

Q: Gibraltar Rock Co. Park sale to DNR

A: Gibraltar Park can not be sold to DNR because of deed restrictions

Q: Budget outlook for 2006-2007

A: Doesn't look any better. Of great concern is funds to support WI's seniors

Q: ICC dues and method of paying for meeting expenses – tabled until July's meeting

**PROGRAM: “Creating A Supportive County Economic Environment”**  
***Creating and Supporting An Entrepreneurial Climate & Culture – Terry Wipple/Exec. Director of Juneau County Economic Development Corp.***

- Today's economy is based on the “Age of innovation and knowledge” and we are seeing more and more corporate down-sizing (producing more w/ less employees)
- During a Gov'r's focus group, young working folks were asked several questions about how many of were interested in entrepreneurial start-ups, many of the participants did not express any interest. WI needs to work on nurturing its entr. Culture. WI is ranked 47<sup>th</sup> State rated in ED.
- The entrp'ial “culture and climate” supports failure. Most entrp. ventures fail and failure produces great lessons.
- The “network” of an entrp club is one of the best attributes
- At each Club meeting, every individual is asked: your name; what help do you need; what do you have to give
- Juneau's Entrp. Club helps inventors explore ideas, find resources, establish a great network
- When the economy is bad there are more entrp. opportunities
- Entrp'ship is naturally contagious
- A person from a entrp'ial family is 50% more likely to have kids that become entrp
- An entrp. club is not about creating jobs or starting a business. It is place that is supportive and a place to get resources
- Inventors are passionate inventing but are not likely to be good business people. A club helps match partners (e.g., inventor w/ business manager)
- Growing entrp'ial ventures will help WI reduce the State's “brain drain”
- A club helps people get excited and support their passion
- Many entrp's are right brain thinkers
- The first two years of the Juneau Co. Club there was no club fees, last year there is a club fee
- Terry's role w/ the Club is matching folks and bringing energy to the club
- Bringing various industry sectors together is a key to WI's economic success (e.g., agriculture and tourism, etc.)
- WI is lacking IT services/support for home computers, a great chance for an entrp.
- Juneau Co. is becoming a hub of ED. Most of Terry's board members don't know 80% of what Terry does that's OK. It is very difficult to gauge/measure the ED impacts of Entrp'ial efforts. No boundaries, gives Terry the freedom to be a successful ED director.
- Juneau Co.'s banks are now more interested in working w/ entrp'ers
- The business plan is not the important end product it is the process of putting a business plan together that is important

***Columbia & Sauk County Entrepreneurial Club Barb Martin/Columbia Co. EDC***  
***Barb Martin passed out a handout on the Columbia/Sauk Entrp. Club***

- *Successes are gauged in steps*
- *Club meetings are exciting and full of energetic*
- *Club meeting topics include: identity theft; patent development; WEN*
- Wisconsin Entrepreneurial Network – Andy Ross/MATC

### **Andy showcased the WEN through the internet**

- Entrp'ship is ED
- Jefferson Co. hosts an Entrp. Club. It has been up and going for 2 years. Club meeting topics include: gov't contracting; business planning; patents; etc

### **Open Discussion of County Issues**

Q: How long did it take for the Tri-county ED corp. to become a 501c (3)

A: One and a half years

Q: County union negotiations?

A: Jefferson: 2.5% COL (not to exceed 3%); new construction was 3.1%; wages will remain the same; cut longevity pay

Dodge: are counties considering a two/three tier scale; no pension or healthcare upon retiring?; initiating long-term disability insurance

Green Lake: wage 11/2%; Union wants living wage for employees

**Next meeting tentatively scheduled for Monday, July 17th in Dodge County. The subject is "Get Out to Vote".**

### **Adjournment**

The ICC meeting was adjourned by Chair Nass at 11:43 am

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Haas  
Community Development Educator  
UW-Extension, Columbia County