

Intercounty Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 18, 2005
Dodge County Administration Building
Juneau, Wisconsin

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Daniel J. See at 9:30 a.m.

Attendance:

John Tramburg, Harlan Baumgartner, Sue Martin, Daniel See, and Kathleen Haas, Columbia County; Ray Seaholm, Russell Kottke, Garland Lichtenberg, and Dave Neuendorf, Dodge County; Orrin Helmer, Bernie Kaiserski, and Dan Priske, Green Lake County; Sharon Scheling and Steven J. Nass, Jefferson County; Bill Wenzel, Jenny Erickson, Gene Wiegand, and Halsey Sprecher, Sauk County. Also present were: Pat Ninman, Dodge County Sheriff's Department; Todd Lindert, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department; Pat Beghin, Columbia County Emergency Management; Jayne Sellen, Wisconsin Counties Association; and Timothy R. Stieve, Sauk County.

The requirements of the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law were met.

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

Approval of previous meeting minutes (none. Minutes not available)

Discussion of ICC dues A motion was made by Columbia County and seconded by Sauk County to assess dues in the amount of \$100 for 2005. Motion carried. An invoice for the 2005 dues will be sent to each ICC member county.

Legislative Report No legislators were present.

WCA Report

Jayne Sellen, representative from the WCA, discussed the status of the the State Budget. She indicated that the WCA has sent the Governor a letter outlining veto recommendations for the budget passed by the state legislature. She does not think the governor will veto the entire budget. He will probably approve some type of property tax freeze. He will also probably take out the utility aid distribution changes and remove debt service from the any property tax freeze formula. Jayne also reviewed some new proposed legislation. She urged people to look at AB86, sponsored by Gottlieb. There are also several bills affecting health care and labor negotiation issues (AB515 through AB519).

Open Discussion on County Issues

A discussion took place about whether counties could still pass borrowing resolutions to increase spending flexibility under a property tax freeze. It is uncertain whether the resolution had to be passed before July 1st. Other items discussed included possible language contained in property tax freeze legislation, and about elimination of Smart Growth funding from the budget bill.

Concerns were expressed about the difficulties counties will have developing their 2006 budgets. They will need to see the 2006 budget and any property tax freeze language very soon. There is concern about how they can meet even basic cost increases under the proposed property tax freeze.

Dodge County is concerned about maintaining human service programs. Sauk County said it will not replace lost state dollars with county dollars.

Program: 911 and Other Emergency Communication Issues

Presented by Leonard Koehnen, a wireless telecommunication systems and facilities consulting engineer.

Mr. Koehnen gave a detailed presentation on 911 and other emergency communication issues facing counties. A copy of his Powerpoint[®] presentation is available from the Dodge County UW-Extension office.

A representative from each county gave a brief summary of the status of their 911 emergency communication system. Sauk County has used Mr. Koehnen as a consultant to assess their system. They are now in the process of upgrading their system. A fiber optic network is being installed to replace their microwave system, and there are experimenting with 4.9 mhz equipment. They will be Phase II compliant after the upgrade.

Jefferson County is currently maintaining their old system. They are building new towers and hope to be Phase II compliant by the end of the year. Interoperability with adjacent counties is a problem.

Columbia County has a mix of old and new equipment. They would like to reduce the number of dispatch centers in the county. They currently have four. They are waiting to see what happens to the grant programs before they do any E911 upgrades.

Green Lake County has one dispatch center for the county. The City of Berlin and the county have their dispatchers co-located in this center. They have applied for grants to upgrade their system. The new system will cost \$3 million.

It is important to work with the county land information office for current maps for 911. It was asked whether WiFi will every be a feasible medium for emergency communication. Mr. Koehnen said no. It does not have the range to be practical. It was asked whether satellite communication might eventually replace communication towers. According to Mr. Koehnen, satellites are good for data communication (downlinking), but will never replace towners. He feels towers will always be needed for voice communication with squads, portable radios, etc.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be Monday August 15th in Sauk County. The topic will be “Bridges Out of Poverty.” Ideas for the 2006 program schedule will also be solicited.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 Noon (motion 1st Columbia 2nd Green Lake)

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Neuendorf
UW-Extension, Dodge County