

Intercounty Coordinating Committee (ICC)
October 16, 2006
UW-Extension, Jefferson County Office
Jefferson, Wisconsin

1. Introductory Business

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

Attendance

See attached sheet

2. Certification of Open Meeting Notice

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

3. Adoption of Agenda

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

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

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

5. Reports from Visiting Legislative Officials

- Senator Scott Fitzgerald
 - State Budget and Finances:
 - Budget cycle - agency requests are coming in from Departments
 - \$68 million deficit in transportation Fund.
 - Medical Assistance has a continuing deficit; State is lobbying.
 - K-12 Education spending has increased.
 - Corrections spending is up \$400 million.
 - Will be a difficult budget.
 - Bypasses are starting to get attention and are getting more scrutiny. Some legislators are calling for a transportation moratorium.

Q.: Supreme Court requesting \$25 million to be put into Counties to fund court costs.

A.: Shirley Abrahamson is very effective in getting what she wants so this may happen.

Q.: How do we operate nursing homes with cost challenges of Medical Assistance?

A.: Some increases in Medical Assistance have to be made.

Comment: Election Board seems ill-informed.

Response: Help American Vote Act (HAVA) has certain deadlines for improvement and creates many challenges for County Clerks

Comment: Challenges of levy limits. Asking that Library Systems (Act 420) be exempt from levy limit. It was exempt before.

Response: Senator Fitzgerald will look into it. Repeal rather than exemption is more straightforward.

6. **Report on Legislative Issues Affecting Counties** - No representatives from the Wisconsin Counties Association were in attendance.

7. **Open Discussion of County Issues**

- Topics for ICC – The proposed 2006-2007 ICC program schedule was presented. A motion to approve by Green Lake. Seconded by Sauk. Unanimously approved.
- County Issues
 - Budgets for 2007:
 - Green Lake - appear to be doing o.k. \$30,000 short to meeting mandate of “going to the top” of levy limit. Wanted to do this to avoid any problems with any unexpected new State law.
 - Columbia - Had to cut \$1.8 m; now \$30,000 under maximum. Still have problem.
 - Dodge - 2.7% growth and spent all of that. Tax rate down.
 - Jefferson - \$101,000 under cap. Lowest tax rate in 20 years. Supervisors can still bring in amendments. Projections for five years will be done by January. Have to absorb many special costs (care of disabled). Co-pay went up to 6% of premium which is \$55. Human Services Department will be audited.
 - Sauk - 3.85% was the allowable growth. Putting money in contingency. Sauk fortunate with growth. Downturn in housing permits. Analyzed percent of the pie eaten up by wages, health costs and other costs. Trying to get newspapers to cover County services and responsibilities. Important to make people aware of County programs.

8. **PROGRAM: “Overview of Electrical Transmission and Distribution Issues” presented by Patrick Walsh, UW-Extension Specialist and Co-Director of the Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center; UW-Madison, Chair Department of Biological System Engineering; Research Focus - Environmental and Energy Policy and Regulation.**

- Distributive Power – Digesters, wind farms; makes it more complicated
- Distribution/Transmission is only 7 or 8% of overall costs
- U.S. Network: 300 million people in U.S.; people are driving demand. Computer driven society has increased demand and we’re dealing with an aging system
- Major transmission bottlenecks. Wisconsin not the only area with problems
- Major blackouts - there have been several over the past ten years
- Wisconsin transmission system – Haven’t had blackouts or brownouts, but could; used to be the cheapest; now we’re the most expensive power
- Number of lines
 - Wisconsin: 4 (This puts us in jeopardy.)
 - Minnesota: 17
 - Illinois: 23
 - The more lines, the more flexible.
- Congestion analysis - Supply and demand affects costs; Wisconsin is paying much more during congestion because it has less supply.
- Conclusions of many – transmission line needs upgrading; make them more efficient and have more conservation
- ATC – Utilities formed this in 2001 for Wisconsin, Michigan and Illinois
 - 9,000 miles of transmission line
 - Assets of \$1.36 billion
 - Plan \$3 billion in transmission improvements during next ten years

- Developments planned by ATC
 - Load growth of 2%
 - 223 new projects
 - 23 new projects for service limitations
 - 28 new generating facilities (major generating plants – coal, natural gasses, nuclear)
 - System repair – 12 projects
- Siting process
 - Laws tilted against local government
 - PSC review; DNR review; real estate acquisition
 - PSC:
 - ◇ Large lines require certificate of convenience and necessity (CPCN)
 - ◇ Certificate of Authority (CA) needed for smaller projects
 - ◇ Applicant often submits two routes and the PSC chooses one
 - ◇ 2003 WI Act 89
 - Transmission line siting priority: Existing utility corridors; Highway and rail corridors
 - ◇ The filing records are huge. There’s probably enough records to support either option and come up with a rationale
 - ◇ Courts are supposed to give deference to the record and see if it is “reasonable”
 - DNR
 - ◇ Once a line is picked, must address DNR criteria
 - ◇ Decisions subject to judicial review
 - Real Estate Issues
 - ◇ Negotiate with land owners
 - ◇ They do have eminent domain powers
 - ◇ Eminent domain is not applied to public land
 - ◇ 2005 WI Act 24 requires municipality or county to convey land for transmission line
 - Opportunities to influence siting process
 - ◇ Get involved early
 - ◇ Consider judicial review (appeal deadlines are important)
 - ◇ Companies like ATC go the path of least resistance

Note: A PowerPoint of Professor Walsh’s presentation was distributed.

9. Other Issues: None.

10. Next Meeting: November 20, 2006 at Law Enforcement Center in Sauk County

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Columbia, seconded by Green Lake. The ICC meeting was adjourned by Chair Nass at 11:20 a.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Grabow
 Community Development Educator
 UW-Extension, Jefferson County

ICC Meeting
October 16, 2006
Jefferson County, UW Ext.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Matt Kuegel	Sauk Co.
Kathy Schant	Sauk Co.
Jen Erickson	Sauk Co. UWEX
Judy Ashford	Sauk Co.
Dale Fiske	Green Lake Co.
ORRIS Helmer	Green Lake Co.
John Brennan	Green Lake Co.
Dave Neumann	Dodge Co. UWEX
RAY SEARHOLM	Dodge Co.
Russell Kottke	Dodge Co.
Kathleen Haas	Col Co. UWEX
Nathan Ballinger	Col Co.
John Schumberg	Col Co.
Susan Martin	Columbia County
Sharon Schmeling	Jefferson Co.