Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by ICC Chair Russell Kottke at 9:30 a.m.

Certification of Wisconsin Open Meetings Law Notice
The Secretary confirmed the requirements of the WI Open Meetings Law were met.

Adoption of Agenda
Motion by Jefferson County, second by Green Lake County to approve the agenda – Approved.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
Motion by Jefferson County, second by Columbia County, to approve the minutes of the August 2009 meeting of the Intercounty Coordinating Committee. Approved.

Legislative Report
Tyler Petri’s office talked about the 2010 census, he stressed how important it is that we county everyone. He brought up FEMA flood plain mapping – Maps are supposed to be completed in some counties soon. Process not working as smooth as possible. He said the Congress is winding down, other than Healthcare debate. Healthcare Legislation – Congressman Petri is working of HR 3200, however, there are essentially, three different bills are simultaneously circulating. Senate is working on two versions of a bill. He stated Congressman Petri, would like to make progress in this session or next session of Congress. Tyler answered questions from the group.
**Wisconsin Counties Association Report**

David Callender – Talked about employer issued cell phone personal use and tax implications. WCA is working with a task force to develop a template or standardized set of policies counties can use or follow for records retention.

DOR issued new rules for Emergency Services clause. He talked about the Maintain of Effort monies and maintenance of levels in 2010. There are issues with the language of the amendment as to what monies would fall under this Statute. Only a portion of expenditures for Emergency Services come from shared revenues need be reported. DOR is considering all expenditures in the Maintenance of Effort. David talked about Wisconsin’s Drunk Driving Law - he said several bills are under consideration. WCA’s concern is who pays for what, WCA wants full reimbursement for all County costs. David answered questions from the group.

**Program - County Budget Decision-Making Process**

**Dodge County** -
They started by determining the end and worked backwards
The goal was fiscal stability and preserve services
Three percent levy increase
Limited additions to budget to wage and fringe and benefits
Followed the State budget process to determine affects on county budget
Used a budget summary working document throughout the process
Worked with Department Heads to develop the budget
Did not fund vacant positions – maintained positions, did not fund them
Used $1.5 million unreserved undesignated fund balance
Did increase contingency funds
Any vacant positions have to go through HR and Administrator to be filled

**Columbia County** -
Start in May with Finance, Executive, and HR committee discussions
Worked with Department Heads, committee chairs, and comptroller to set budget
Expectations for budget, no new hires, zero percent increase,
Budget does not include increases in wages and fringes.
Budgets needed by mid August
Applied a three percent levy increase
Most Departments came in at or below zero, a few higher
Capital outlay budget lowest in many years
Held budget hearings with CB Chair and Finance Committee
Budget finalized early October
Four days of furlough in 2010 --except Nursing, Sheriff and jail
Need $87,000 from fund balance to balance the budget
Toughest budget in memory
Worried equalized value has gone down, expect 2011-2012 to be very hard
Three percent is not large enough for budget
Highway, capital outlay not large enough
Nursing home needs repairs
Both cannot be done with current budget – would need bonding
May go to bonding to cover capital projects
One position retired one layoff
Holding open vacant positions
No union contracts settled
Offered one percent increase in wages

**Jefferson County** –
Starts budget process for 2009 in late 2008, it is a 12 month process
Developed a 5 year financial plan – consultant contract
Advisory referendum to exceed the levy limits – passed
Financial advisor projected a $3.5 million shortage in 2009
Budget excludes wages and benefits
2010 initiatives resulted in tax levy savings of $1.4 million
Voters did not approve a binding ref. – did not pass
Do to failed referendum - will sell nursing home
Asked Departments to make adjustments except
Looking at cost saving potentials on personnel costs
In 2009, switched to State health plan – result reduction in healthcare costs
Could not get furlough, or layoffs in contracts
$2.6 million from fund balance, sell nursing home to cover
Using a brokerage firm to sell the home

**Green Lake County** –
Started with a directive from Finance Committee
Ask Departments to make adjustments
Combined some positions
May not fill vacancies
Not looking at layoffs or furloughs
No increases in wages
Any contract wage increases with cause shortages
Reduced one code enforcement officer and one administrative staff
Departments are asked to consolidate positions with vacancies
Trying to avoid layoffs
Looked at funding early retirements – thought against it
Discussed building project costs, at this point not part of the levy
Will use $220,000 in fund balance
Believe the 2011-2012 budget will be very hard to stay under the levy limits
Bonded for radio / cell towers
Sauk County -  
Starts in January with a team, set budget calendar  
Evaluate previous year’s process  
New in 2010 budget – focus on budget prioritization, overview budgets -  
Building relations, analysis of Departments working together  
Looked more closely how to make cuts, working with aligning departments for potential restructuring Departments  
Will use 2010 Job position questionnaire  
Looking for combining and merging positions responsibilities  
Expectations of Managers are to reduce costs  
Looking at structural issues where position are not sustainable  
Reduced 14.9 positions in 2009 some on attrition, restructuring, or layoffs  
Increased the share of healthcare new employees pay  
Equalized value fell in the county  
Using the 3% tax levy increase  
Expect the budget in 2011 – 2012 really tough  
Want to continue provide service, concerned how to afford it  
Do not want to look at fund balance as a negotiation point  
Include strategic planning process into the budget process  
Slight increases on the wage side  
Worked with Department Heads to help with the restructuring

Marquette County -  
Started process in June  
Joint meeting of Executive and Finance Committee  
2009 - Zero percent increase  
Spend two days meetings with Department Heads to stratagize  
2009 will use four furlough days  
Negotiating contracts, furloughs are an option in 2010  
Looking at 3 percent increase to tax levy  
No COLA  
Not filling vacant or postponing filling positions  
Hiring freeze on many positions  
Sales tax down significantly  
On State Health Insurance plan – 8 percent increase  
$93,000 coming from fund balance

General discussion concerning Budgets  
Question about increases for non- represented employees if no increases  
Gap closes between management vs. represented  
Does the County have to be bankrupt to get allowances? Rhetorical question  
Last week State Attorney General said it is legal to create multi-jurisdictional nursing home districts, discussion on impact of AG decision
The ICC Programming Topics for 2009 - 2010

- The group decided to move the working lands initiative discussion from January to November and hold it in Columbia County, Portage
- There will not be a meeting in January.
- The ICC elections need to move from April to May
- The April topic will be decided at a future date
- The group adopted the rest of the schedule as shown with the changes above

Additional County Discussion
Per Diem adjustment resolution in Sauk County
Discussion on travel reimbursement amounts
Question of reducing number of county board meetings

Next Meeting
Next meeting: November 16, 2009 - Topic Working Land Initiative

Adjournment
Meeting adjourned by the Chair at 11:47

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeff Hoffman
UW-Extension, Dodge County