

**Intercounty Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday November 21, 2005
Community Room of the Sauk County Law Enforcement Building, Baraboo, Wisconsin**

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Orrin Helmer at 9:30am.

Attendance:

Jenny Erickson, Sauk County UW Extension; Halsey Sprecher, Sauk County; Dan Priske, Green Lake County; Orrin Helmer, Green Lake County; David Neuendorf, Dodge County UW Extension; Russell Kolthe, Dodge County; Jayme Sill, WCA; John H. Trambung, Columbia County; Susan Martin, Columbia County; Ray Seaholm, Dodge County; Bernie Kasierski, Green Lake County; Sharon Schmeling, Jefferson County; Kathy Schauf, Sauk County; Harley Baumgartner, Columbia County, Carol Gasser, Sauk County, Kathy Beghin, Sauk County, Jeff Hoffman, Green Lake County UWEX, Marge Bostilman, Green Lake County, Nate Olson, Dodge County, Dean Perlik, Dodge County, Michael King, Dane County, Todd Berry, WTA, Tom Jackson, Sen Schultz office

The requirements of the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law were met.

The agenda was approved. (Dodge/ Columbia)

The October 17, 2005 minutes were approved. (Columbia/Green Lake)

Moment of Silence for Dan See, Columbia County

Reports from Visiting Legislative

- Tom Jackson from Senator Dale Schultz's office stopped by to listen.

Update of County Issues – Jayme Sills, WCA

- AB802 A bill to spread 2.1million dollars among 42-44 county run nursing homes. Support is needed from Dodge and Jefferson counties.
- Wasserman's ideas on reducing the number of counties is not likely to happen
- SB4 A bill that would allow small groups of individuals to petition to reduce the county board size to as small as 1 county board member. WCA is against this bill.
- AB790 – Hearings on requiring funding to accompany bills that require mandates.

Open Discussion of County Issues

- Wednesday December 14th - Jail classification system that would separate prisoners based on type of crime and emotional and mental state of the prisoner. For more information contact Sue Martin.
- SB129 legislation on late payments for property taxes. Counties oppose, because it will result in a loss of revenue for the Treasurer's Department and it does not penalize those who pay late.
- Introduction of new Jefferson County Administrator, Gary Petre.

Taxes: Trends and Driving Forces – Todd Berry, President, Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance

- Wisconsin State budget passed with arguably a \$250 million deficit and a structural deficit of \$500 million.
- 1990s were good and the state experienced lots of growth. State made major commitments to fund schools (2/3) funding and for welfare reform. These expenses caught up with the state in the 2000s.
- Wisconsin cashed in one- time moneys to “paper over” the deficit in 2001 and 2003.
- 2004 economy is growing, so the problem isn’t revenue (5%-6% increase in revenue)
- 2005 \$1.6 billion deficit. State budget was balanced with one time moneys from the transportation fund to cover the deficit, accounting shifts moved \$150 million to next budget cycle, and a reduction in the fund balance.
- 1997 structural deficit has been carried over every year. Now an increase of 5% tax growth only covers what was spent last budget cycle, no new expenses.
- Property tax freeze – never really meant a “freeze”. Property owners may not expect increase in tax due to increase in property values.
- Demography – population trends in Wisconsin
 - Aging population
 - Reduction in school age kids = smaller work force in 20 years
- People with kids are moving into Wisconsin, people aged 20-30 and 55+ are moving out of the state.
- If the county boards decide to ask the state to fund courts and human services, the state might ask, what do we need counties for?

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45am. (Columbia/Green Lake)

Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Erickson
Sauk County UW-Extension