

ICC Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 23, 2010
Marquette County Service Center
Montello, WI 53949

Meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by Chair Russell Kottke.

Moved by Sauk County to approve the printed agenda, second by Dodge County. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Moved by Green Lake County to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2010 meeting, second by Columbia County. Motion passed on a voice vote.

David Callender of WCA updated the group on the Wisconsin State Legislature and county issues. He talked about the poor financial condition of the state budget with deficit projections from \$2.2 billion (Department Of Administration) to \$3.4 billion (Fiscal Bureau). Columbia, Winnebago and La Crosse Counties are all up against their levy limits and 13 other counties are in danger of reaching that limit in the next budget year.

There was discussion on counties settling union contracts now given Republicans have control of the legislative bodies and governorship. Some of the counties talked about negotiating 3 year contracts to stabilize or hold down costs.

County call tree (in case of foul weather) was circulated for updates.

Marty Havlovic, CNRED Educator, Marquette County, introduced the program "Broadband as an Economic Development Strategy for Counties". He reported on what Ontario County in New York state was doing to provide internet access throughout the county to all its businesses and citizens. This was an example where the county earmarked funds from ROW leases to finance a fiber optics grid in the county and manages the "blackwire" to provide maintenance and operational costs.

Franklin Cumberbatch of Granite Broadband presented the group with what it would take fiscally to provide wireless internet access to the 7 counties. He talked about using the existing communication towers as well as erecting additional ones to provide a seamless coverage to all residents at a cost that would be very competitive to existing private providers in the area.

Jerry Schneider, executive director of Marquette Adams Telephone Cooperative talked about the \$20 million federal economic stimulus grant his cooperative got to expand fiber-optics throughout his service area.

Discussion ensued as to the pros and cons of wireless vs. fiber optics. But consensus by counties was that access to internet has become a necessity for economic development and quality of life in rural communities.

Assembly District 42 Representative Fred Clark spoke to the group and said that it would be a tough budget year and that he could see some county concerns such as prevailing wage rates, and levy rates being reviewed and possibly changed or eliminated.

State Senator Luther Olsen, Senate District 14, is on the Joint Finance Committee and he also said it would be a tough budget year.

Comments from group were for the state legislature to communicate and work together to get Wisconsin out of this mess and NOT to play politics because in the end the people and counties suffer.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 20, 2010 in Green Lake.

Moved by Columbia County to adjourn, second by Dodge County.

Meeting adjourned at 12:13 pm by Chair Russell Kottke.

Respectfully submitted by
Marty Havlovic, recording secretary
Marquette County
December 6, 2010

ATTENDANCE

Bob Westby	Columbia County
John Tramberg	Columbia County
Andy Ross	Columbia County
Debbie Wopat	Columbia County
Russell Kottke	Dodge County
Dave Frohling	Dodge County
Jeff Hoffman	Dodge County UWEX
Dan Priske	Green Lake County
John Molinaro	Jefferson County
Steve Grabow	Jefferson County UWEX
Howard Zellmer	Marquette County
Frank Breitenbach	Marquette County
Brent Miller	Marquette County
Dean Alexander	Marquette County MCEDC
Larry Gohlke	Marquette County MCEDC
Ken Soda	Marquette County MCEDC
Paul Calamari	Marquette County MCEDC
Marty Havlovic	Marquette County UWEX
Bill Wenzel	Sauk County
Jen Ericksen	Sauk County UWEX

Barbara Petkovsek
David Callender
Frank Cumberbatch
Jerry Schneider
Fred Clark
Luther Olsen
Lyn Jerde

Adams County
WCA
Granite Broadband
Marquette-Adams Telephone Cooperative
42nd Assembly District
14th Senate District
Portage Daily Register