

Intercounty Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 19, 2009
Dodge County Administration Building
Juneau, Wisconsin

ICC Participants

Columbia County – John Tramburg, Bob Westby, Debra Wopat; **Dodge County** – Russell Kottke, Ray Seaholm, Jim Mielke, Julie Kolp, Jeff Hoffman, Nate Olsen, Dean Perlick; **Green Lake County** – Dan Priske, Orrin Helme, Marge Bostelmann, Jason Kauffeld; **Jefferson County** - Sharon Schmeling; Steve Grabow, Gary Petre, Steve Nass; **Sauk County** – Paul Endres, Jenny Erickson, Kathy Schauf; **Marquette County** - Paul Wade, Marty Havlovic; **WCA** – David Callender; **Congressman** – Representative for Tom Petri, Tyler Vorpapel ;

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 meet zero percent increase 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 strategize
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