

# AGENDA

## Administration & Rules Committee

Jefferson County Courthouse

320 S. Main Street

Jefferson, WI 53549

August 22, 2012

8:30 a.m. - Room 112

### Committee Members

Paul Babcock – James Braughler – Rick Kuhlman - Jim Mode – John Molinaro, Chair

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Certification of Compliance with Open Meeting Law Requirements
4. Review of Agenda
5. Public Comment
6. Approval of July 25, 2012 Administration & Rules Committee meeting minutes
7. Approval of August 13, 2012 County Board minutes
8. Communications
9. Discussion and possible action on the Strategic Plan
10. Discussion and possible action on determining fees for processing public records request and public records requests by elected officials
11. Status Report and review of policies for inclusion in the Codification project
12. Discussion and possible action on resolutions, letters or reports from other governmental agencies
13. County Administrator's monthly report
14. Convene in closed session pursuant to §19.85 (1)(c) to consider the County Administrator's performance evaluation data
15. Reconvene in open session to take possible action on items discussed in closed session
16. Tentative Future Meeting schedule and Agenda Items

2012	2013
September 26 <sup>th</sup>	January 30 <sup>th</sup>
October 31 <sup>st</sup>	February 27 <sup>th</sup>
November 28 <sup>th</sup>	March 27 <sup>th</sup>
December 26 <sup>th</sup>	April 24 <sup>th</sup>

17. Adjourn

The Committee may discuss and/or take action on any item specifically listed on the agenda

Individuals requiring special accommodations for attendance at the meeting should contact the County Administrator 24 hours prior to the meeting at 920-674-7101 so appropriate arrangements can be made.

**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD  
COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**July 25, 2012**

**Administration & Rules Committee**

**8:30 a.m.**

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Molinaro at 8:30 a.m.

**2. Roll Call**

**Administration and Rules Committee Members**

Members present: James Braughler, Jim Mode, John Molinaro, Paul Babcock, and Rick Kuhlman.

Others Present: Gary Petre – County Administrator; Connie Freeberg – Paralegal, Confidential; Tammie Jaeger – Administrative Assistant – Confidential.

**3. Certification of compliance with Open Meeting Law Requirements**

Gary Petre certified compliance with the open meeting law.

**4. Review of Agenda**

No changes were made

**5. Public Comment**

None

**6. Approval of June 26, 2012 Administration & Rules Committee meeting minutes**

Motion made by Supervisor Kuhlman; Second by Supervisor Babcock to approve the Administration & Rules Committee meeting minutes as printed. (Ayes-All) Motion carried.

**7. Approval of July 10, 2012 County Board minutes**

Motion by Supervisor Mode; Second by Supervisor Babcock to approve the July 10, 2012 County Board minutes as corrected. (Ayes-4) Motion carried. (Braughler – Abstained)

**8. Communications**

- Resolution – Request that the DHS adopt a new funding methodology that, better equalizes funding resources among consortia, rewards collaboration and drives regional IM systems to leverage the efficiencies intended by the Legislature

**9. Discussion and possible action on annual reports to the County Board by outside agencies**

There have been requests to present annual reports to the County Board by outside agencies. The committee discussed which annual reports should be given at the County Board meetings. The committee will follow the current annual report schedule for now and consider these requests on an individual basis. No action taken.

**10. Discussion and possible action on determining fees for processing public records request and public records requests by elected officials**

Information was provided for the committee to review The Attorney General sent out notification regarding redaction costs. Phil Ristow gave some background on the open records laws. It is acceptable to charge for labor, search time and copy machine costs, but not redaction time. Currently, charges vary throughout our county departments. The Committee discussed whether or not the County should produce custom records and what the charge should be. They also considered whether or not the elected officials should be charged the same as the public? The committee agreed that it would be beneficial to make charges consistent throughout county departments. Currently our ordinance states that we charge .25 per page. The committee would like more information from departments that currently provide custom records. Gary Petre will discuss this issue with the Department Heads to find

out what their current office policy is regarding custom records and what they charge. This will be discussed at the next meeting. No action taken.

**11. Status Report and review of policies for inclusion in the Codification project**

Phil Ristow explained that they are currently working on this project as time permits.

**12. Discussion and possible action on resolutions, letters or reports from other governmental agencies**

- Resolution – Request that the DHS adopt a new funding methodology that, better equalizes funding resources among consortia, rewards collaboration and drives regional IM systems to leverage the efficiencies intended by the Legislature

Jim Mode suggested that this resolution be forwarded to the Human Services Board for their review and recommendation. The Committee will discuss this resolution after they receive a recommendation from the Human Services Board. No action taken.

**13. County Administrator's monthly report**

Gary Petre reviewed his monthly report and addressed questions from the Committee.

**14. Update on meeting of County Board Committee Chairs**

John Molinaro gave the committee an update on the Committee Chair meeting.

**15. Tentative Future Agenda Items and Meeting Dates**

- Approval of July 25, 2012 Administration & Rules Committee meeting
- Correction and Approval of August 13, 2012 County Board meeting minutes
- Discussion and possible action on resolutions, letters or reports from other governmental agencies
- Update on meeting of County Board Committee Chairs
- Discussion and possible action on the Strategic Plan
- County Administrator's monthly report
- Status Report and review of policies for inclusion in the Codification project

**16. Adjourn**

Motion made by Supervisor Mode; Second by Supervisor Kuhlman to adjourn at 9:44 a.m. (Ayes-All) Motion carried.

**Future Tentative Meeting Date**

Wednesday, August 22, 2012

**CORRECTIONS TO BE MADE TO  
AUGUST 13, 2012, JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD MINUTES**

**Page 94:**

Line 32 – Align the \$ with the \$ signs below it in the column

Line 39 – Align the \$ with the \$ above it in the column; move the decimal point to align with other figures in the column

Line 43 – Align the \$ with the \$ signs above it in the column; move the decimal point to align with the other figures in the column

Line 44 – Align the \$ with the \$ signs above it in the column

**Page 95**

~~Line 10 – Align the \$ with the \$ signs above it in the column~~

Line 17 – Align the \$ with the \$ signs above it in the column

Line 45 – Insert the word Fair before the word Park Director so that it reads Fair Park Director David Diestler, . . .

**Page 98:**

Line 42 – Move the words of line 42 flush with the left hand margin (no paragraph indent)

**Page 99:**

Line 16 – Insert the letter d after an

**Page 100:**

Line 11 – Move the words of line 11 flush with the left hand margin (no paragraph indent)

Line 26 – Underline the comma at the end of the word random

**Page 101:**

Line 24 – Underline the comma at the end of the word random

**Page 104:**

Line 12 – Move the words of line 12 flush with the left hand margin (no paragraph indent)

Line 23 – Delete the semicolon and insert a comma

Line 45 – Move the words of line 45 flush with the left hand margin (no paragraph indent)

**Page 106:**

Lines 1 thru 9 – Align the words as on page 105, paragraph #1

2. A person who leases residential or business premises in the building.
3. A person if a firearm is in a vehicle driven or parked in the parking facility, or to any part of the building used as a parking facility.
4. A person using a knife or similar cutting implement in the normal course of business in a Fair Park structure outside of office areas.
5. A person using a knife or similar cutting implement in the normal course of employment as an employee or contractor for Jefferson County.

Line 13 – Underline the comma after fixtures

Line 20 - Move the words of line 20 flush with the left hand margin (no paragraph indent)

Line 25 – Underline the word used and place a strikethrough the words capable of use (Line 25 should read G. . . . or any device designed or used ~~capable of use~~ as a)

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**Page 108:**

Line 3 – Move the words of line 3 flush with the left hand margin (no paragraph indent)

***Jefferson County Government  
Strategic Plan***

**Monitoring and Assessment Report**

**Initial Observations By:**

Gary Petre, County Administrator

John Molinaro, County Board Chair

Steve Grabow, Community Development Educator

For:

Jefferson County Administration and Rules Committee  
(Oversight Policy Committee for Plan Implementation)

Prepared By:

Steve Grabow, Professor and Community Development Educator  
University of Wisconsin-Extension  
Jefferson County Office

Draft  
August 9, 2012

# Jefferson County Government Strategic Plan MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT REPORT

*This report is a first attempt at assessing progress and opportunities associated with the Jefferson County Government Strategic Plan which was approved by the County Board. This report takes excerpts from the County Government Strategic Plan's Executive Summary and provides observations on "progress" and "opportunities". Observations have been placed in "boxes" to document progress in the plan's implementation or to identify opportunities for action.*

## **Overall Progress**

- *A PowerPoint on the plan has been prepared. It is available on the Jefferson County and UW-Extension web sites.*
- *The plan was presented to County Board members at the Supervisor Orientation (2012)*
- *The plan was featured in an article in Wisconsin Counties Magazine (shared statewide)*
- *The plan was presented to the Intercounty Coordinating Committee (ICC) – 6 counties*
- *The plan has been a useful guide for leadership (County Board Chair)*
- *The plan is a recommended foundation for current personnel activities (per Carlson at ICC)*
- *This assessment report documents extensive progress on implementation of key strategies.*

## Strategic Planning Overview

Strategic planning is defined as "a disciplined effort to produce fundamental decisions and actions that shape and guide what an organization is, what it does and why it does it." The strategic planning process is a powerful approach for helping organizations figure out what is really important and what they should do about it. The strategic planning process helps organizations look at "the big picture", but also leads to specific, targeted actions.

A strategic plan focuses on organizational dynamics, and typically identifies two to four strategic issues (or fundamental challenges to organizational effectiveness). A strategic plan provides a strategy or action framework to address the specific strategic issues.

The strategic planning process used for the Jefferson County Government Strategic Plan is based on the approach developed by the University of Wisconsin-Extension Strategic Planning Team.

## **Section A - Values and Mission Statement**

### **Core Values:**

The Steering Committee generated a list of 37 "core values" in responding to these questions:

- What do we really care about in relating to key stakeholders?
- What is our philosophy as to how we would like to be viewed?
- What are the values that we should have that help indicate how Jefferson County wants to operate?

The Steering Committee identified three broad value categories and seven individual values that they would like to emphasize. These County government values are:

**Service:**

**Respect:** We respect others and people we come in contact with (including future generations); the “Golden Rule” extended over time.

**Transparency:** We need to abide by open meetings laws, welcome public input and be as open as possible.

**Honesty:** We will assess cost and value accurately, holistically and honestly

**Responsibility:** We have equal and binding responsibility for our many rights. We are responsible for ourselves, our nation, our world and future generations.

**Stewardship:**

**Trust and Stewardship:** We need to be wise stewards of what has been entrusted to us. (financial, timeliness, people resources, natural resources, etc.). We are stewards of things that are entrusted to us (such as buildings, facilities, equipment, land, vehicles, etc.)

**Accountability:** We have to be accountable for what we are striving to do; we should have explanations but not excuses.

**Skills:**

**Competence:** Exercise responsibility in doing my job and having the necessary skill-set.

**Professionalism and Efficiency:** When we deal with the public we handle it in both a professional and quick manner. We will get the answer right away or get them to the right place.

**Innovation:** We are willing to approach things differently than they have been done before; get beyond “that’s the way we have always done it.”

<p><b>Opportunity:</b> Incorporate values into the 2013 Budget presentation (to remind County Board members).</p>
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**Mission Statement:**

The Steering Committee also was asked to respond to these questions about County government’s purpose or mission:

- ❖ What is our fundamental purpose as a County government organization?
- ❖ What are we here to do?
- ❖ What are the basic social and community needs that we address?

This resulted in 17 potential Mission Statements. The Steering Committee went through several sessions and multiple exercises to refine its Mission Statement. Subsequently, a Mission Statement for Jefferson County government was approved.

***Jefferson County Mission Statement:***

***“To fulfill County government’s responsibilities to its citizens and advance the quality of life in Jefferson County.”***

There was interest in developing a shorter version of the mission for use in various County communication pieces. A Motto for Jefferson County government was approved.

**Jefferson County Motto:**

***“Jefferson County: Responsible government advancing quality of life.”***

**Progress:**

- County letterhead has the new motto at the top.
- Ball-point pens with the motto have been distributed by the County Board Chair.
- The mission and motto are prominent on the new County web site.

**Opportunities:**

- Incorporate into 2013 Budget (reminder of the two-part mission).
- The motto could be added to the banner in the County Board room (for cable TV viewers).
- The motto could be added to the “table skirt” used at the County Fair.

## **Section B - Issues and Vision**

The Steering Committee generated a list of 16 issues based on what they believed were some of the fundamental challenges facing Jefferson County. They initiated extensive dialogue sessions to help characterize the essence of the issue or dilemma. The Steering Committee members also provided “explanations” as to why they thought each issue was important to address. Subsequently, each issue was framed as an open-ended question with many ways of responding. Through consensus, the list of potential issues was narrowed to seven issues facing Jefferson County government.

### **Determining the Strategic Issues:**

The Steering Committee selected three strategic issues (representing the most important or fundamental of issues) based on a review of the results from a Decision Matrix tool, findings from a citizen opinion survey, and dialogue around the impacts of issues on the future of County government.

The Committee observed that addressing these three strategic issues would also help make progress on the other four issues because of interrelationships. The Committee did not want to rank these strategic issues separately but instead rated all three as the strategic issues to further address in the strategy formulation phase.

**Strategic Issue 1. Education and Communication: How can County government educate both the public and its own internal stakeholders about its mission and services?**

**Strategic Issue 2. Environmental/Economic/Cultural: How do we protect and preserve our environmental and cultural heritage, and become energy secure while encouraging and supporting sustainable economic activity?**

**Strategic Issue 3. Public Services/Quality: How do we decide what services we should provide and at what level while responding to quality, quantity and return on investment?**

**Opportunity:** See “Strategy Formulation” in Section C for progress.

**Vision:**

The consensus vision statements are based on the identification of opportunities and hopes for the future. A vision statement is a “description of a desired end-state” or a “description of what is desired to be in place at a future point in time”. The Final Plan contains a detailed vision of success for Jefferson County government. Shown below is a selection of five prominent vision statements that were tested in the citizen survey.

Jefferson County will:

- Be known for its strong agricultural economy and farmland preservation.
- Attract new businesses and grow existing businesses because it becomes known as a place with a high quality of life, attractive business sectors and high functioning County government.
- Be our “home place” of nice small towns with proximity to urban areas, but retain our rich and diverse base of assets.
- Maintain and improve our environment that supports a healthy lifestyle and healthy living.
- Become the center of the Glacial Heritage Area and be known for its recreational opportunities.

**Progress:** Shared as a handout at Supervisor orientation (2012).

**Opportunity:** To prepare a more polished version for distribution and web posting.

## **Section C - Strategy Formulation**

The purpose of this step is to create a set of strategies to address the three priority strategic issues that have been selected. A strategy is defined as a pattern of purposes, policies, programs, projects, or actions initiated by the organization. Strategies respond to the challenges and open-ended question from each strategic issue.

**Strategic Issue 1. Education and Communication: How can County government educate both the public and its own internal stakeholders about its mission and services?**

### **MAJOR STRATEGY INITIATIVES FOR EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION:**

1. Staff/Resources - Commit staff and resources to education and communication about County Government.

#### **Progress:**

- County Board Chair electronic newsletter is routinely prepared.
- County web site has been updated
- Speakers Bureau: Several County Supervisors and Department Heads have expressed interest in giving talks about County government.
- Completed a "Trust and Relationship Building" program (with some implementation).
- Orientation Team: Gary, Phil, Barb and Steve G. looked into what we could do this year to be responsive to ideas. Several changes were made to the orientation program.
- Stress the importance of having individual County Supervisors make appointments to visit County departments.
- Each department has provided a one or two-page summary of what it does.
- The handout was worked on by County Board Chair Molinaro and interns; and was completed. About 50 copies were distributed at the County Fair.

#### **Opportunities:**

- Continue distribution of County Department summaries.
- Individual departments should continue education about their departments. (Example: New Parks Poster Plan can be used extensively.)
- Other ideas: After election, suggest a "Committee Chair-Department Heads Joint Meeting". This would be a "forum" for Department Head questions and dialogue with Committee Chairs.

2. Education/Schools - Integrate County Government matters into existing school curriculum.

**Progress:**

- The new Solid Waste/Clean Sweep video is now on the County web site and will be distributed to schools and libraries (and other uses).
- We now have a good list of contacts for each school district.
- The National Association of Counties (NACO) has developed a government game for youth, and this has been placed on the County web site. This was announced to all school districts via e-mail.

**Opportunity:**

- Contact Jude Hartwick and/or other local teachers for a discussion on ways to reach out to schools.

3. County Government Strategic Plan – Communicate and educate about the content and direction of County Government based on the County Strategic Plan.

**Progress:** See “Overall Progress” on page 1.

4. Best Practice and Marketing Research - Use expertise of UW Whitewater faculty and/or others in developing a communication system that is based in sound practice and methods.

**Progress:**

- Three interns from UW-Whitewater have provided communication assistance in the County Board Chair’s office.
- An intern is currently conducting research on the history of Jefferson County government.

5. Media - Package a variety of multi-media communication methods such as films, videos, technology assisted mechanisms, web-site updates, print and other innovative methods.

**Progress:**

- In addition to #1 above, a County Facebook presence was established and has been enhanced in some County departments (Health, Fair, others?)

**Strategic Issue 2. Environmental/Economic/Cultural: How do we protect and preserve our environmental and cultural heritage, and become energy secure while encouraging and supporting sustainable economic activity?**

**MAJOR STRATEGY INITIATIVES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL:**

1. County and Community Projects - Integrate real County (and community projects) into implementation programs in order to demonstrate County commitment to this issue.

**Progress:**

- Implementation underway for Economic Development Plan, Farmland Preservation Plan, Glacial Heritage Area Plan, Conservation Easement Plan, Bike Plan, and Parks Plan.

2. Sustainability Task Force - Use the "charge" of the Sustainability Task Force as a way to move forward individual projects (see Major Strategy Initiative 1. above) and other ideas -- including the development of a "County Energy Plan".

**Progress:**

- The Sustainability Task Force has conducted surveys, workshops, educational programs, and has developed the framework for a County Sustainability Plan.
- Research on wind energy is being conducted at Fair Park
- Extensive work has been documented by many County departments on a wide variety of "green initiatives" (e.g. Fair Park, Zoning, Solid Waste, Central Services, Land and Water Conservation, Land information, Parks, and UW-Extension to name a few.)

3. Partnerships and Relationships - Build on relationships with our large employers and other communities/municipalities to advance this issue (including Trek, Fort Health Care, Standard Process, Custom Shop, Nestle's, Cities of Jefferson, Watertown, Waterloo, others).

**Progress:**

- Major partnership projects with Trek (Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) Trailhead Pavilion), Fort Health Care (Bike Map, Rock River Free Clinic, and other), Standard Process (Contributed \$5,000 to Parks Endowment), Waterloo and Watertown (GHA Trailhead Pavilion and New Bike Path Routes Study).

4. Other Vision Documents, Plans and Transportation Planning - Use the vision ideas from the Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan Update (with Economic Development Emphasis), and follow-up with a rigorous transportation plan.

**Progress:** See #1 above.

**Opportunities:**

- Determine the appropriate timing and scope for a new County Transportation Plan.
- Develop the appropriate budget approach (multi-year?) for this plan.
- Obtain initial cost estimates from consultants to determine the initial “ball-park” estimates for a County Transportation Plan.

5. Cultural Heritage - Build on our established cultural heritage and long term values.

**Progress:**

- New joint effort marketing study is identifying County “image and brand” based on culture/values.
- The County Historic Site Preservation Commission has completed two surveys for identifying and locating potential historic buildings that may be eligible for National Historic Site Registry.
- Additional surveys will be completed by 2014 for a comprehensive assessment of the entire County.

**Strategic Issue 3. Public Services/Quality: How do we decide what services we should provide and at what level while responding to quality, quantity and return on investment?**

**MAJOR STRATEGY INITIATIVES FOR PUBLIC SERVICES/QUALITY:**

1. Understanding about County Government - Determine and develop the foundational understanding about the importance and role of County government.
2. Mandates Interpretation and Public Good - Determine County services that are essential for quality of life, environmental stewardship, economic development and the public good, but are not necessarily formally mandated.
3. County Department and County Committees - Advance the response to service provision and quality through the work of individual County departments and policy committees.

**Opportunity:** To review strategy ideas and select areas for action.

## **Section D - Plan Management**

This section describes the Steering Committee's direction for the last step of a strategic planning process which is "Plan Reassessment". The purpose of this step is to periodically reassess the effectiveness of the strategies as they are being implemented. This involves periodic monitoring and oversight of the plan, strategy evaluation and consideration of timing for doing a new round of strategic planning. The County's Administration and Rules Committee will provide plan oversight and a plan update should be considered in two or three years.

### **Opportunity:**

- For a reconvening of the Steering Committee for a facilitated "plan monitoring workshop" to:
  - identify and lift up areas of progress.
  - consider areas of opportunity for action.
  - recommit to strategy areas in the plan.

(Facilitator – Grabow; Project Manager – Petre; Sponsor – Molinaro)

# 2012 Resolutions

of the

## Wisconsin Counties Association

Presented by the

2012 WCA Resolutions Committee

August 13, 2012

Sheraton Madison Hotel

Madison, Wisconsin

## 2012 WCA RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT:	Willie Johnson, Jr., Milwaukee County Rusty Clark, Racine County Dan Stoffel, Washington County
EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT:	Alice Connors, Calumet County Judy Goldsmith, Fond du Lac County
NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT:	Gary Wyman, Marathon County Phil Idsvoog, Portage County Jerry Erdmann, Shawano County
NORTHWEST DISTRICT:	Dee Kittleson, Bayfield County Hal Helwig, Sawyer County
WEST CENTRAL:	Jess Miller, Barron County Steve Rasmussen, Dunn County Colleen Bates, Eau Claire County
WESTERN DISTRICT:	Dennis Eberhardt, Jackson County Tara Johnson, La Crosse County
SOUTHERN DISTRICT:	John Tramburg, Columbia County Jeff Pertl, Dane County Russ Podzilni, Rock County Joan Fordham, Sauk County Marty Krueger, Sauk County(Committee Chair)

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2012 Conference Resolution 1

Offered for consideration this 24<sup>th</sup> Day of September, 2012 by

### Eau Claire County

Relating to

## Endorsing the American Bar Association Resolution Promoting Civil Public Discourse

WHEREAS, public discourse lies at the heart of American democracy and the key elements of civil public discourse include dialogue, respectful communication, and informed public decision-making; and

WHEREAS, in recent years public discourse has become more contentious with distortion coming before honest orderly debate, gamesmanship valued over statesmanship, extremism instead of commonality, and might being mistaken for right, all to the detriment of reaching reasoned long-term solutions to the challenges facing our communities, our state and our country; and

WHEREAS, words matter, how we treat each other matters, use of destructive discourse has negative consequences for society by fostering polarization instead of community, alienation instead of involvement, and contempt rather than understanding. We best address our worst problems through honest, open, rigorous but respectful debate following a timely yet well-researched review of the issues and broad-based input from active informed citizens. To do otherwise reduces the efficiency, effectiveness of and further erodes public faith in our government institutions; and

WHEREAS, the American Bar Association House of Delegates, at its 2011 annual meeting, adopted a resolution promoting civil public discourse, as shown in Attachment 1; and

WHEREAS, the American Bar Association resolution urges all government bodies and officials to strive for a more civil public discourse in the conduct of political activities and in the administration of the affairs of the government; and

WHEREAS, September is Civic Awareness Month.

2012 Conference Resolution 1

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby fully endorse the resolution recently adopted by the American Bar Association House of Delegates at its 2011 annual meeting, promoting civil public discourse and reaffirming the principle of civility as a foundation for democracy and the rule of law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association will itself as a collective body and as individual members demonstrate respect for opposing views, listen to others with an open mind, seek opportunities to build community through collaboration and principled compromise, and strive toward a more civil public discourse in the conduct of their official duties and in the administration of the affairs of government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association urges all government officials and employees, political parties, the media, advocacy organizations, and candidates for political office and their supporters to strive for a more civil public discourse in the conduct of political activities and the administration of the affairs of government.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:  
Indefinitely postpone.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by PODZILNI, second by CLARK, to indefinitely postpone. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Indefinitely postpone.

2012 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

County Organization and Personnel

**ADOPTED**

**AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION**

**SECTION OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

**SECTION OF ANTITRUST LAW**

**SECTION OF REAL PROPERTY, TRUST AND ESTATE LAW**

**SECTION OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW**

**JUDGE ADVOCATES ASSOCIATION**

**GENERAL PRACTICE, SOLO AND SMALL FIRM DIVISION**

**REPORT TO THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

**RESOLUTION**

- 1 RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association affirms the principle of civility as a foundation
- 2 for democracy and the rule of law and urges lawyers to set a high standard for civil discourse as
- 3 an example for others in resolving differences constructively and without disparagement of
- 4 others.
- 5
- 6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association urges all lawyers, ABA member
- 7 entities and other bar associations to take meaningful steps to enhance the constructive role of
- 8 lawyers in promoting a more civil and deliberative public discourse.
- 9
- 10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association urges all government officials and
- 11 employees, political parties, the media, advocacy organizations, and candidates for political
- 12 office and their supporters, to strive toward a more civil public discourse in the conduct of
- 13 political activities and in the administration of the affairs of government.
- 14
- 15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association supports governmental policies,
- 16 practices, and procedures that promote civility and civil public discourse consistent with federal
- 17 and state constitutional requirements.

## **ABA Section of Dispute Resolution**

### **Resolution Promoting Civil Public Discourse**

#### **FAQ Sheet**

#### **1. What is civil public discourse?**

It is a means of civic engagement that encourages people of all political persuasions to vigorously but responsibly debate the choices that face our communities and our country today. Key elements of civil public discourse include dialogue, respectful communication, and informed public decision-making.

Unfortunately, discourse today is all too often just divisive gamesmanship rather than meaningful consideration of important public issues. This leads to ineffective public decision making, citizen frustration and alienation, and even danger to participants. In the end, our democracy suffers.

#### **2. Why should the ABA be involved?**

As lawyers, we can help. Lawyers play an important role in shaping public debate in the advice to those who seek their counsel, as elected officials and other officers of government, and as leaders in their communities. Lawyers therefore have a special opportunity to help steer public discourse back to a more civil direction. As the country's largest and most important professional association of lawyers, the ABA has long been a leader in promoting civility, both among lawyers and in society as a whole, and therefore is uniquely poised to exercise this leadership role once again.

#### **3. Why is a resolution necessary?**

The House of Delegates sets ABA policy, and enacting a resolution is the most effective way for the ABA to exercise a leadership role on this issue. Moreover, many local, state, and national organizations are actively trying to overcome these problems. An ABA resolution will enable the ABA, and its constituent groups, to participate fully with those who seek to improve the civility of public discourse at the local, state and national levels.

#### **4. What does the resolution do?**

The resolution consists of four parts. The first part restates the importance of civil public discourse. The second part calls upon all ABA member entities, state/local/specialty bar associations, and individual lawyers to "take meaningful steps" to enhance the role of lawyers in promoting civil public discourse. It does not specify what those steps might be, leaving it open for variety and creativity. The third part appeals to political leaders, government officials, the media, and others to "strive toward a more civil public discourse." The fourth part authorizes ABA participation in the development of rules, policies, and practices that promote civil public discourse and are consistent with federal and state constitutional laws.

#### **5. What about the First Amendment?**

While recognizing the importance of civil public discourse, the Resolution also acknowledges that improving civil discourse should not be done at the expense of infringing upon free speech. Thus, while authorizing the ABA to participate in government policy formation on civil discourse, it explicitly assures that First Amendment and other federal and state constitutional rights will be protected in the process.

## Report

Lawyers play many roles in modern society. We serve as advocates for clients, as members of our community boards, and as judges sworn to uphold the rule of law. We are career public servants and elected officials, political advisors and media experts. We are even journalists, business leaders, and sports figures. In all these walks of life and more, lawyers are leaders in our society. This gives us a unique opportunity, and obligation, to make important contributions at important times.

Now is such a time. Contemporary political discourse continues to spiral to unprecedented levels of acrimony and venom, thereby endangering not only the quality of decision making about important public issues, but also the very lives and safety of public servants and citizens. A true and free democratic society cannot long endure in such a toxic environment. It is time for lawyers as leaders in our society, and the ABA as the leader of leaders, to stand and take action.

### **A. The Challenge and the Opportunity**

#### **1. The Current State of Public Discourse**

Public discourse lies at the heart of American democracy. People can and will have different views on matters of public concern, and it is the engagement of that diversity that is the political process.<sup>1</sup> Effective engagement is constructive in nature. It fosters greater understanding, public involvement, respect despite differences, and a sense of community. It leads to solutions that are responsive to citizen needs and fosters an environment of social trust. Increasingly today, this is called "civil public discourse," a means of civic engagement that encourages people of all political persuasions to vigorously but responsibly debate the choices that face our communities and our country today.<sup>2</sup> Key elements of civil public discourse include dialogue,<sup>3</sup> respectful communication<sup>4</sup> and informed public decision-making.<sup>5</sup>

But in recent years, public discourse has turned increasingly sour and contentious, and is getting worse. Reason and orderly debate all too often is giving way to invective, distortion, and gamesmanship. Once the art of compromise and statesmanship, political debate is now too commonly a battle between extremes, where power, not reason, prevails, and where closed minds simply seek to impose a point of view rather than listen respectfully to others and work with the legitimate issues they raise. This concern was echoed recently by a panel of experienced political observers in a discussion on civility in American politics at Emory University: "[P]roductive discourse on important but divisive political issues often devolves into

<sup>1</sup> See generally ROBERT A. DAHL, A PREFACE TO DEMOCRATIC THEORY (1956).

<sup>2</sup> The recently created National Institute for Civil Public Discourse at the University of Arizona, chaired by former Presidents Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush -- employs a similar definition. See National Institute for Civil Public Discourse, Questions and Answers, <http://nicd.arizona.edu/node/5> (last visited April 19, 2011).

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g. DANIEL YANKOLOVICH, THE MAGIC OF DIALOGUE (1999).

<sup>4</sup> See, e.g., Delores Foley, *The Method of Dialogue: Promoting Understanding Between Hawaiians and Non-Hawaiians*, in THE HANDBOOK OF CONFLICT MANAGEMENT (WILLIAM J. PAMMER & JERRI KILLIAN EDS., 2003).

<sup>5</sup> See, e.g., CAROLE PATEMAN, PARTICIPATION AND DEMOCRATIC THEORY (CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS 1970).

even more polarizing diatribe when public voices incite tension without encouraging reflection and unity.”

Such destructive discourse has negative consequences for society.<sup>6</sup> It fosters polarization rather than community, enmity and contempt rather than understanding and tolerance, alienation instead of involvement. It limits the potential for problem-solving, as fewer voices and ideas are heard and factored into decision-making. Thus, it is not surprising that many important issues facing our country remain unresolved. Christopher Moore, the author of the classic text, *The Mediation Process*, explained why negative communication interferes with reaching solutions. “Unproductive communication can lead to a breakdown of interaction between the parties or the inability to start negotiations at all.” Incivility leaves citizens frustrated, disillusioned, and reluctant to participate in democratic governance.

It is well-established that democracy cannot function effectively under these conditions.<sup>7</sup> Without a social structure that supports tolerance, a basic level of trust, and a spirit of community, political institutions become hollow.<sup>8</sup> Government becomes less efficient, effective, and responsive.<sup>9</sup> And where government is less responsive, citizens are more likely to respond to conflict with violence rather than rely on civil institutions and the rule of law.<sup>10</sup> Building civil discourse capacity in developing democracies is an important component of the ABA’s Rule of Law initiatives,<sup>11</sup> and it is no less important at home than it is abroad.<sup>12</sup>

Words matter. How we treat each other matters. In our public discourse, it is time to begin talking to each other with mutual respect, no matter how much we disagree.

## 2. Leadership by Lawyers and the American Bar Association

Lawyers are particularly well suited to help address this problem. We are leaders throughout our society, and as such have a unique capacity to influence the character of public discourse. We set the tone for the debate with the advice that we give to clients, friends, political allies, and others who seek it. We have the gravitas, and often the platform, to be heard.

<sup>6</sup> See, e.g. MORTON DEUTSCH, *THE RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT: CONSTRUCTIVE AND DESTRUCTIVE PROCESSES* (1973); LEWIS KRIESBERG, *CONSTRUCTIVE CONFLICTS: FROM ESCALATION TO RESOLUTION* (1998); DEAN G. PRUITT & SUNG HEE KIM, *SOCIAL CONFLICT: ESCALATION, STALEMATE, AND SETTLEMENT* (3<sup>RD</sup> ED. 2004).

<sup>7</sup> See, e.g., ROBERT D. PUTNAM, *BOWLING ALONE: THE COLLAPSE AND REVIVAL OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY* (2001); Michael Woolcock & Deepa Narayan, *Social Capital: Implications for Development Theory, Research and Policy*, 15 *WORLD BANK RESEARCH OBS.* 225 (2000).

<sup>8</sup> See, e.g., ROBERT D. PUTNAM, *MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK: CIVIC TRADITIONS IN ITALY* (1993); BRIAN O’DONNELL, *CIVIL SOCIETY: THE UNDERPINNINGS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY* (1999) (applying civil society principles to American democracy).

<sup>9</sup> See, e.g., Susan Rose-Ackerman, *Corruption: Greed, Culture and the State*, 120 *YALE L.J. ONLINE* 125 (2009); Larry J. Diamond, *Three Paradoxes of Democracy*, 1 *J. DEM.* 3 (1990).

<sup>10</sup> See, e.g., MARY KALDOR, *GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY: THE ANSWER TO WAR* (2003).

<sup>11</sup> <http://apps.americanbar.org/rol/programs/anti-corruption.html>.

<sup>12</sup> Roderick P. Hart & Bartholomew H. Sparrow, *Politics, Discourse, and American Society: New Agendas* 11 (2001).

Just as we have a voice, lawyers also have a choice: We can encourage a destructive tone that results in rancor, divisiveness, and public decision-making by power rather than reason. Or we can encourage the use of language and tone that is less divisive and more conducive to substantive discussion and rational decision-making. By encouraging more constructive civil discourse, we honor the profession's most noble call, to statesmanship.

The ABA has answered this call to leadership many times. In 1983 the House of Delegates adopted the Model Rules of Professional Conduct, which have been adopted by nearly all states and serve as a beacon for attorney ethics internationally. At their origin, and as they have evolved, these rules recognize the "influential role [of lawyers] in the formation and implementation of public policy ... [as well as] ... persistent concerns about lawyer honesty, candor, and civility."<sup>13</sup>

The House of Delegates also has supported numerous resolutions similarly aimed at fostering lawyer civility. In 1991, for example, the House of Delegates passed Resolution 104 encouraging greater discussion of professionalism and ethics in law schools and Continuing Legal Education Programs.<sup>14</sup> In 1995, the House of Delegates passed Resolution 113 encouraging federal, state, territorial, and local bar associations, and courts, to adopt standards of "civility, courtesy, and conduct," in recognition that "a lawyer owes the profession adherence to a higher level of conduct than observance of the rules of professional conduct."<sup>15</sup>

Just this year, American Bar Association President Stephen N. Zack led association efforts to restore and reinvigorate civics education through the ABA Commission on Civic Education in the Nation's Schools.<sup>16</sup> Filling the glaring void in education today, the initiative seeks to provide youth with the understanding and the skills necessary to be effective citizens in the democracy they will inherit through workshops on such vital topics as civic participation, rights and responsibilities, and identity and pluralism. These are difficult issues, and it is civility in discourse that makes addressing them possible.

This resolution builds on such efforts in seeking once again to answer the call for leadership.

## B. The Resolution

The resolution is composed of four parts: a statement of principle, a call to action for the legal profession, an appeal to those who work with government and the political process, and an authorization for ABA participation in the development of legal standards and practices that promote civil public discourse. Each merits further discussion.

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<sup>13</sup> *Chair's Introduction*, Commission on Evaluation of the Rules of Professional Conduct ("Ethics 2000") in ABA MODEL RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT, 2010 EDITION.

<sup>14</sup> RESOLUTION 104, AUGUST 1991.

<sup>15</sup> Seth Rosner, ABA Standing Committee on Professionalism, Report with Recommendation to the House of Delegates (August 1995).

<sup>16</sup> See Commission on Civic Education in the Nation's Schools.

[http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public\\_education/civics.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/civics.html) (last visited April 19, 2011)

## 1. The Statement of Principle

This statement reflects many of the ideas described in the preceding discussion. In particular, it recognizes the importance of civility and civil public discourse as a key component of democratic governance and the rule of law. It also focuses on the unique role that lawyers play in this process, and the corresponding obligation that lawyers therefore have to society at large. Its aspiration is clear: lawyers should set a high standard for others to follow in engaging in civil discourse.

The statement of principle further acknowledges that disagreement can be handled in a way that is destructive or constructive, and makes clear that constructive resolution of such conflict is most desirable. Finally, by discouraging the “disparagement” of others during the course of civil discourse, the first statement of principle explicitly acknowledges the divisiveness of contemporary discourse and calls instead for disagreement with respect. Nothing in the resolution contemplates restrictions on speech or the promulgation of codes that might be interpreted to regulate speech.

## 2. The Call to Action for the Legal Profession

The second part of the resolution puts the first and fundamental principle into effect by issuing a call to action – specifically urging “all lawyers, ABA member entities, other bar associations, and government officials and employees, to take meaningful steps to enhance the constructive role of lawyers in promoting a more civil public discourse and a more deliberative American democracy.”

### a. Scope

Significantly, this call to action takes place at several different levels. It begins with “all lawyers,” which recognizes that the duty to affect civil public discourse is first and foremost a personal obligation of any lawyer, regardless of practice or profession. It’s how we conduct ourselves day in and day out as we engage with our clients and communities that matters most, and this point is as important as it is, often overlooked.

But the call to action goes further by asking for bar associations to take a leadership role as crucial legal institutions in our society. In this regard, the call to action begins at home, by asking all sections, divisions, forums, commissions, and other “ABA member entities” to take “meaningful steps” (discussed further below) with respect to encouraging a constructive role for lawyers in fostering civil public discourse. Yet this section also acknowledges that the ABA does not represent the full universe of the organized bar and so it also asks all other bars – including state and local bars, territorial bars, and specialty bars – to take similar meaningful steps to promote the lawyer’s role in civil public discourse. In this way, the resolution seeks to engage the legal professional as whole in the effort to uplift the level of our local, state, and national political discourse.

b. "Meaningful Steps"

The call to action is the heart of the resolution, and its most creative component. It is phrased in terms of "meaningful steps" to allow for all parties who fall within its scope to do what they can do, what they want to do, to further the constructive role of lawyers in the process of public civil discourse. Rather than being overly directive, the resolution anticipates that a thousand flowers will bloom, unleashing the creative potential of American lawyers at their best.

The resolution anticipates that resources, opportunity, and commitment will vary greatly among lawyers and the organized bar. It therefore asks only that lawyers take "meaningful steps," recognizing that some may want to take larger steps while others may only prefer to take smaller steps. The resolution welcomes any and all of these steps, as long as some action is taken and it is meaningful.

At the individual level, this can be as simple as changing one's own tone or stance as one participates in public discourse, if only for a day on an experimental basis. Such a minimal effort, undertaken by lawyers all over the country, would by itself have a profound effect on civil discourse when taken as a whole. Or an individual lawyer can go further, by getting involved in one of the many civil discourse efforts taking place all over the country as a volunteer or board member,<sup>17</sup> or simply by suggesting that a collaborative process be used to address an issue of public concern, or helping to fund or promote one underway. These civil discourse efforts are a part of a larger movement to integrate consensual conflict management methods into public decision-making, often called "collaborative governance"<sup>18</sup> or "public engagement."<sup>19</sup>

ABA entities and other bar associations can fulfill this call to action in a myriad of ways. At the smaller end of the scale, setting civil public discourse as an agenda item for a meeting of the entity's council or leadership, to consider how it engages in public civil discourse and what it might do to make a more purposive contribution, would be a simple but very meaningful step.

<sup>17</sup> See, e.g., Arizona's Project Public Civil Discourse, an initiative of the Arizona Humanities Council working in collaboration with organizations from around the state, provides opportunities for the public to participate in trainings, forums, and special events that share, model and provide insight on collaborative problem-solving skills on such issues as growth, education, healthcare, religion, race, immigration and transportation. <http://projectcivildiscourse.org/index.php>. A national center on civil discourse has been created at the University of Arizona. The National Institute for Civil Discourse brings together political leaders, scholars and others in a "nonpartisan center for debate, research, education and policy generation regarding civic engagement and civility in public discourse consistent with First Amendment principles."

<sup>18</sup> See, e.g., Lisa Blomgren Bingham, *Collaborative Governance: Emerging Practices and the Incomplete Legal Framework for Public and Stakeholder Voice*, 2009 J. DISP. RESOL. 269; Matthew Leighninger, *The Next Form of Democracy: How Expert Rule is Giving Way to Shared Governance...and Why Politics Will Never Be the Same* (2006); Jody Freeman, *Collaborative Governance in the Administrative State*, 45 UCLA L. Rev. 1 (1997). Examples of collaborative governance methods vary widely, from town hall meetings (including large-scale models like AmericaSpeaks) and study circles (such as those modeled by Everyday Democracy) to citizen juries, deliberative polling, military/civilian conversations sponsored by A Seat at The Table, and deliberative dialogue processes promoted by the Kettering Foundation.

<sup>19</sup> See, e.g., BEYOND CIVILITY: FROM PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TO PROBLEM SOLVING, NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES: AN ACTION GUIDE FOR CITY LEADERS (2011); Amanda R. Brown & Wendy D. Puriefoy, *Public Engagement in School Reform: Building Public Responsibility for Public Education*, STAN. J. CIV. RTS. & CIV. LIBERTIES (2008)

More substantially, a section or committee could also set up a task force to study the issue and develop options for action. Such options might include, for example, writing an article about the meaning of civil public discourse within that specialty area in the section's newsletter or magazine, holding a law student writing competition on the topic, or perhaps engaging in an outreach effort to local schools and community centers. ABA entities and other bar organizations could also hold panel discussions at association meetings on the area's intersection with civil public discourse, identify an issue to focus on in convening a state, local, or national civil public discourse event, or even choose to work with civil public discourse for a year as an organizational theme. The list of potential "meaningful steps" is limited only by one's ability to imagine the possible.

### **3. The Appeal to Those Who Work With Government and the Political Process**

The third part of the resolution asks those who work with the political process and government to "strive toward a more civil public discourse in the conduct of political activities and in the administration of the affairs of government."

In a representative democracy such as ours, elected officials, political candidates, parties, the media and advocacy groups play a dominant role in the debate over issues of public concern. In important respects, they are the very face of public discourse, and, as such, are where the current decline in political discourse is most visible. They can do better, and this resolution asks them to "strive" to do so. This language is significant because it recognizes that the political arena is a hardy place, where differences in ideology, means for achieving ends, campaign styles, competition for power and influence, and other political pressures can push discourse to the brink. These dynamics are fundamental to the American political process and this resolution does not seek to change or deny the robust environment in which the political process takes place.

Rather, it simply asks political actors to tone down the rhetoric and at least try to engage in political activities with greater regard for principles of civil public discourse than is often presently seen. At least try to demonstrate respect for opposing views instead of caustically dismissing them for cheap and divisive political effect. At least try to listen to the needs, interests, and concerns that underlie opposing political views with an open mind to see if there may be room for compromise or common ground upon which to build a mutually acceptable solution. At least try to engage in the issues rather than merely score political points. Of course, the highest level of civil public discourse may not be achievable in any particular situation. But that does not mean that all efforts are futile, and certainly does not justify using the most extreme of tactics. As in all other matters, change in political discourse comes through striving for what we can do, rather than falling victim to what we cannot, and it is change in the political discourse that these resolutions so fundamentally seek. Perfection need not be the enemy of the good.

### **4. Authority to Participate**

The fourth and final part of the resolution enables the ABA and its member entities to participate in the development of national, state and local government policies, practices and procedures that

“promote civility and civil public discourse.” This provision allows the ABA member entities, and the organization as a whole, the greatest flexibility in taking the meaningful steps it chooses to fulfill the goal of doing what we can as lawyers to uplift the level of public discourse today. In particular, it would provide the ABA and its member entities the authority to draft or comment on legislation or administrative or judicial rules that would promote civil discourse if that was the “meaningful step” chosen as a course of action. By authorizing ABA participation, it would also ensure that any such rules, regulations, or practices comport with federal and state constitutional laws. In so doing, it would also allow the ABA and its member entities to foster the structural advance of democratic governance by encouraging the growth of collaborative processes that are increasingly being integrated into federal, state, and local government policy making.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Wayne Thorpe  
Chair, Section of Dispute Resolution  
August 2011

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2012 Conference Resolution 2

Offered for consideration this 24<sup>th</sup> Day of September, 2012 by

### Bayfield County

Relating to

## Supporting the WDVA and Continued Funding for the State/County Partnership

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Veteran's Affairs and the 72 County Veteran Service Officers have a long-standing relationship serving returned veterans; and

WHEREAS, the WDVA has historically self-funded all of their operations; and

WHEREAS, the WDVA now needs state assistance to continue operations; and

WHEREAS, the WDVA provides critical support to the County Veterans Service Officers; and

WHEREAS, CVSOs are the state's front line to ensure veterans' issues are addressed at the local level; and

WHEREAS, the WDVA is an ally, resource and partner to the counties; and

WHEREAS, the WDVA and CVSOs strive to help veterans as quickly as possible; and

WHEREAS, there is a strong relationship between the WDVA and CVSOs and both parties are looking forward to further strengthen the relationship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support the use of state tax dollars for the WDVA to continue and strengthen the WDVA/CVSO relationship.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:  
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by CONNORS, second by STOFFEL, to adopt. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2012 Conference Resolution 2

2012 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

I.D.39. Support the use of state tax dollars for the WDVA to continue and strengthen the WDVA/CVSO relationship.

County Organization and Personnel

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2012 Conference Resolution 3

Offered for consideration this 24<sup>th</sup> Day of September, 2012 by

### Dunn County

Relating to

## Recommending Legislation Authorizing the Option of County Regulation of High Capacity Wells

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. 281.34(1)(b) defines a high capacity well as a well that, together with all other wells on the same property, has a capacity of more than 100,000 gallons per day; and

WHEREAS, the siting of high capacity wells could have significant adverse environmental impacts including, but not limited to, alteration of groundwater levels, groundwater discharge, surface water levels, surface water discharge, groundwater temperature, surface water temperature, groundwater chemistry, surface water chemistry and other significant degradation of environmental quality; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. 281.34 and Chapter NR 820 provide for State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regulation of high capacity wells; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin counties are prohibited from regulating high capacity wells; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Legislature previously delegated to Wisconsin counties pursuant to Wis. Stat. 59.70(6) and 280.21 the option to regulate private water systems; and

WHEREAS, said delegation includes the regulating of private well location, well location and pump installation permits, existing private water systems, private well construction and well and drillhole abandonment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support state legislation that would grant Wisconsin counties the option of regulating high capacity wells.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:  
Refer to the Board of Directors.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by IDSVOOG, second by ERDMANN, to refer to the Board of Directors. Motion carried.

2012 Conference Resolution 3

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Refer to the Board of Directors.

2012 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

Environment and Land Use

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2012 Conference Resolution 4

Offered for consideration this 24<sup>th</sup> Day of September, 2012 by

### Eau Claire County

Relating to

## Requesting that the Governor and All Elected Representatives in the Wisconsin State Legislature Reject Further Cuts to County Land Conservation Staffing Grants

WHEREAS, county Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plans were added to Chapter 92 State Statutes in 1997 as a new method of addressing nonpoint pollution and other land conservation efforts in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 92.16(6)(b) the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) shall attempt to provide funding for an average of three staff persons per county, with an average of \$100,000 per county for cost-sharing grants; and

WHEREAS, the Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) program is currently approximately \$4,000,000 short of meeting its statutory staffing grant goal; and

WHEREAS, county land conservation staff supported by state grants have consistently decreased since the program began: from 219 in 1997 to 97 in 2012, under the 2011-2013 biennial budget, and corresponding agency lapse proposal; and

WHEREAS, DATCP proposes to further reduce soil and water general purpose revenue funds, which are used for staffing of county conservation departments by 29%, resulting in a statewide reduction of \$1,100,400; and

WHEREAS, this comes in addition to the \$1,000,000 in cuts already approved in the 2011-2013 biennial budget; and

WHEREAS, DATCP's proposal identifies only \$105,695 for Eau Claire County's 2012 staffing grant which is a cut of \$34,882 from the previous year's award and less than half of the amount that Eau Claire County is eligible to receive by statute; and

2012 Conference Resolution 4

WHEREAS, county land conservation staff play a critical role in our state's economy by assisting landowners in obtaining state and federal funds that help pay for their operations and the proposed cuts will therefore have a rippling negative impact on our county's citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby urge the Governor of the State of Wisconsin and all elected representatives in the Wisconsin State Legislature to reject further cuts to county land conservation staffing and cost-sharing grants, recognizing the invaluable service that county conservation employees provide in local delivery of state programs and in managing and protecting the county's natural resources.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:  
Amend to add "and cost-sharing" after "cuts to county land conservation staffing" in the resolved clause.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by BATES, second by EBERHARDT, to adopt. Motion by STOFFEL, second by RASMUSSEN, to amend to add "and cost-sharing" after "cuts to county land conservation staffing" in the resolved clause. Motion carried. Resolution adopted as amended.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as amended by the Resolutions Committee.

2012 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

- II.G.1.z. Urge the Governor of the State of Wisconsin and all elected representatives in the Wisconsin State Legislature to reject further cuts to county land conservation staffing and cost-sharing grants, recognizing the invaluable service that county conservation employees provide in local delivery of state programs and in managing and protecting the county's natural resources.

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2012 Conference Resolution 5

Offered for consideration this 24<sup>th</sup> Day of September, 2012 by

### Bayfield County

Relating to

## Creating Statewide Seamless Data Layers, Allowing the Integration of Information Across Government Jurisdictions

WHEREAS, Land Records Departments across the state create and maintain multiple Geographic Information System (GIS) layers; and

WHEREAS, Geographic Information Systems at the local level have the most accurate information on physical features for most data layers; and

WHEREAS, counties and cities create and maintain their own data which make it very difficult to work across boundaries; and

WHEREAS, statewide data layers are created by uploading data to a central source or by creating links to the 72 individual counties and multiple city web services; and

WHEREAS, information provided impacts multiple users across all sectors; and

WHEREAS, having seamless statewide data layers would improve regional planning, impacting economic growth, as well as creating cost savings; and

WHEREAS, a leadership role from the Department of Administration for Land Records Modernization is critical; and

WHEREAS, the State's role in this area has diminished in recent years due to budget shortfalls; and

WHEREAS, in order to accomplish seamless data layers, a strong commitment must be made by the State Legislature to ensure that funds designated for Counties are dedicated to establishing statewide data layers from locally-built data layers for an integrated land information system.

2012 Conference Resolution 5

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support the full establishment of statewide seamless GIS data layers that create the free flow of information across government agencies to everyone who needs it and recommends the Wisconsin Counties Association work with Land Information Officers Network, Wisconsin Land Information Association, Wisconsin Geographic Information Coordinating Council, State Cartographer Office, Geographic Information Officer to create seamless GIS data layers across the State of Wisconsin starting with Parcel, PLSS, Addresses, Transportation, Orthophoto, LIDAR (elevation) and Interactive Mapping.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:  
Refer to the Board of Directors.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by IDSVOOG, second by TRAMBURG, to refer to the Board of Directors. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Refer to the Board of Directors.

2012 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

Environment and Land Use

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2012 Conference Resolution 6

Offered for consideration this 24<sup>th</sup> Day of September, 2012 by

### Wood County

Relating to

### Supporting Open Pit Iron Ore Mining in Ashland and Iron Counties

WHEREAS, the last two iron ore mining operations in Wisconsin have been successfully completed and reclaimed resulting in a county park in Jackson County and a recreation area along the banks of the Flambeau River near Ladysmith; and

WHEREAS, the historic iron ore mined from the Gogebic Range in Iron County, Wisconsin, and Gogebic County, Michigan, helped to build our nation and win two wars; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin iron ore mining operations that have occurred and are currently occurring have had minimal negative environmental effects; and

WHEREAS, the region's 100-year history of open pit iron ore mining has allowed for the understanding and development of safe environmental and health practices for responsible mining; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Wisconsin International Trade, Business and Economic Development Council (NC ITBEC) also realizes that if the proposed iron mine is operated responsibly it would significantly improve unemployment, per capita income, household income and increase or stabilize the decline in population and property values; and

WHEREAS, North Central ITBEC also realizes that revenue from taxes will greatly help relieve the current revenue shortage for local schools, municipalities, and county governments; and

WHEREAS, proper planning for mine closure and reclamation could create lakes and recreation areas that would provide future economic benefit for Northern Wisconsin.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support responsible open pit ore mining in Ashland and Iron Counties.

2012 Conference Resolution 6

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Indefinitely postpone.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by IDSVOOG, second by JOHNSON, JR., to indefinitely postpone. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Indefinitely postpone.

2012 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

Environment and Land Use

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2012 Conference Resolution 7

Offered for consideration this 24<sup>th</sup> Day of September, 2012 by

### Dunn County

Relating to

## Recommending Legislation Authorizing Wisconsin Counties to Impose a Frac Sand Production Tax

WHEREAS, vast areas of the State of Wisconsin contain abundant supplies of frac sand;  
and

WHEREAS, there is a high demand for frac sand due to the hydraulic fracturing process utilized in oil and gas extraction in other parts of the world; and

WHEREAS, frac sand is a non-renewable natural resource; and

WHEREAS, frac sand mining operations can have negative impacts on groundwater and surface water, landscape and aesthetics; and

WHEREAS, frac sand mines generate heavy truck traffic which can damage roads and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, property values may be adversely affected by frac sand mining operations;  
and

WHEREAS, there are other potential impacts from frac sand mining and processing, including logging bluffs and hilltops, excavation of sandstone ridges, loss of agricultural land, equipment noise, dust, exposure to respirable silica dust, excessive groundwater use and additional potential sources of surface and groundwater contamination; and

WHEREAS, county governments where abundant supplies of frac sand are located are in need of financial resources to deal with these complex issues; and

WHEREAS, the oil and natural gas companies are generating profits as a result of the utilization of Wisconsin's abundant supply of frac sand.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support legislation that would enable Wisconsin counties to enact a frac sand production tax for all frac sand extracted from a county.

2012 Conference Resolution 7

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:  
Indefinitely postpone.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by RASMUSSEN, second by  
EBERHARDT, to refer to the Board of Directors. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Refer to the Board of Directors.

2012 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

Environment and Land Use

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2012 Conference Resolution 8

Offered for consideration this 24<sup>th</sup> Day of September, 2012 by

### Wood County

Relating to

### Seeking State Support of Frac Sand Mining Via Policy Development and Allocation of State Resources to Assist in This Area of Economic Development

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has the good fortune of having large deposits of the type of sand needed by the oil and gas industry in recovering greater amounts of these petrochemicals through the use of the fracking process; and

WHEREAS, frac sand companies have come to Wisconsin to mine the frac sand and are currently operating in over 20 counties; and

WHEREAS, the frac sand companies operating in Wisconsin are creating thousands of new jobs and significantly increasing the tax base; and

WHEREAS, there are infrastructure costs associated with the new frac sand mining industry's development in Wisconsin, primarily with respect to improving local roads to withstand the weight of the sand being hauled over them as the local roads are not built to the standards of the state highways, which are designed to handle the added weight; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has and will continue to reap the benefits of the frac sand mining industry; therefore, it is appropriate for the state to share with the local units of government some of the costs associated with developing and supporting this industry, primarily with respect to the roads; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has a history of investing its limited resources into maintaining and expanding the businesses and industries that operate here in its attempt at being a business friendly state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support the development and expansion of the frac sand mining industry and encourage the State of Wisconsin to join in that support by its policy development and resource allocation so as to enable the frac sand mining industry to thrive; and

2012 Conference Resolution 8

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED request that the State of Wisconsin's Department of Transportation is requested to assist local units of government in maintaining the roads and highways used by the frac sand haulers by reallocating some of its funding for this purpose.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Environment and Land Use: Indefinitely postpone.

Transportation and Public Works: Amend to delete "support the development and expansion of the frac sand mining industry and encourage the State of Wisconsin to join in that support by its policy development and resource allocation so as to enable the frac sand mining industry to thrive; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;" and replace with "request"

Delete in the second resolved clause "'s Department of Transportation is requested to," "frac sand" and "reallocating some of its," and add "that exceed normal and historic use of those roadways" after "haulers" and add "providing" after "by."

The steering committee's resolved clause reads as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request that the State of Wisconsin assist local units of government in maintaining the roads and highways used by haulers that exceed normal and historic use of those roadways by providing funding for this purpose.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by RASMUSSEN, second by PODZILNI, to refer to the Board of Directors. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Refer to the Board of Directors.

2012 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

Environment and Land Use  
Transportation and Public Works

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2012 Conference Resolution 9

Offered for consideration this 24<sup>th</sup> Day of September, 2012 by

### La Crosse County

Relating to

## Requesting Wisconsin Department of Health Services do a Health Impact Assessment of Frac Sand Mining on Public Health

WHEREAS, crystalline forms of silica meet the definition of a known carcinogenic air pollutant as defined in Wisconsin's Air Toxic Rule, Chapter NR445 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code; and

WHEREAS, exposure studies have found crystalline silica is a cause of silicosis, an incurable, chronic and progressive lung disease; and

WHEREAS, mining and rock crushing are among the most well-known sources of crystalline silica; and

WHEREAS, no crystalline silica air monitoring data exists in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin DNR Silica Study published on August 30, 2011 stated it is currently unknown whether emissions from large sources in Wisconsin are high enough and whether people are close enough to have significant exposures; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to study the effects on public health from crystalline silica exposure associated with frac sand mining and transportation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support requiring the cooperation of the Department of Natural Resources and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to conduct a health impact assessment of frac sand mining hazards and to develop recommendations for actions to protect public health if needed.

### STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Environment and Land Use: Adopt.

2012 Conference Resolution 9

Health and Human Services: Amend as follows: After “support requiring the” in the resolved clause, add the following: “cooperation of the Department of Natural Resources and the.”

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by JOHNSON, second by BATES, to adopt. Motion by JOHNSON, second by BATES, to amend to add the following: “cooperation of the Department of Natural Resources and the” after “support requiring the” in the resolved clause. Motion carried. Resolution adopted as amended.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as amended by the Resolutions Committee.

2012 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

- III.E.28. Support requiring the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to work cooperatively to conduct a health impact assessment of frac sand mining hazards and to develop recommendations for actions to protect public health if needed.

Environment and Land Use  
Health and Human Services

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2012 Conference Resolution 10

Offered for consideration this 24<sup>th</sup> Day of September, 2012 by

### La Crosse County

Relating to

### Requesting that the Department of Health Services Incentivize More Effective Regional Collaboration, Cost Savings and Efficiency in Income Maintenance (IM) Administration by Bringing More Equity to Calendar Year 2013 Consortia Funding Allocations

WHEREAS, Act 32 (the State of Wisconsin's 2011-2013 Biennial Budget) eliminated the system whereby individual counties administer Income Maintenance (IM) programs and instead directed that, beginning in calendar year (CY) 2012, counties organize into no more than ten multi-county consortia for the purpose of administering IM programs; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the consortia model is to create regional IM systems that preserve essential local presence and oversight while maximizing certain efficiencies so that IM services remain consistently strong statewide, despite the 17 percent reduction in State funding for IM administration that was part of the strategy to bring balance to the 2011-2013 Budget; and

WHEREAS, by legislative design, it was intended that IM consortia achieve cost savings by leveraging three types of efficiencies: (1) the sharing of a single call center by counties within each consortia; (2) utilization by all consortia of a newly-created state-operated Central Document Processing Unit (CDPU) to perform scanning and coding functions that were traditionally performed by county staff; and (3) other efficiencies achieved by counties sharing the workload of application processing, eligibility determinations and ongoing case management within their consortium partnerships; and

WHEREAS, La Crosse County is the administrative lead for the Western Region for Economic Assistance (WREA) IM consortia, a collaboration of eight western Wisconsin counties which employs an innovative service delivery model that leverages all three intended legislative efficiencies and is uniquely collaborative in how workload and managerial structure is shared across county boundaries; and

2012 Conference Resolution 10

WHEREAS, the Department of Health Services (DHS) deferred to the Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) on how to distribute CY 2012 State IM funding, consequently adopting a formula that continued to assign funding to individual counties instead of consortia, failed to consider legislatively mandated maintenance of effort (MOE) levels, distributed the 17 percent State funding reduction in a widely disparate fashion and continued to subsidize duplication and inefficiency; and

WHEREAS, the WREA and Northern consortia were impacted most negatively by the WCHSA methodology, absorbing State funding reductions exceeding 30 percent at the same time some of the other consortia saw funding reductions of only seven percent and some individual counties actually received funding increases; and

WHEREAS, using the current allocation formula to set consortia funding levels for CY 2013 would continue to place an unnecessary and potentially unsustainable workload burden on WREA and other disparately impacted consortia and is unfair to the elderly, disabled and other individuals they serve who depend on timely access to income maintenance benefits; and

WHEREAS, at this time of such limited resources, when taxpayers are demanding collaboration and increased efficiency, DHS should be using a funding methodology that rewards efficiency and incentivizes consortia to employ collaborative service delivery models that maximize the benefits of the consortia model.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request that DHS adopt for CY 2013 a new funding methodology that considers MOE levels, better equalizes funding resources among consortia, rewards collaboration and drives regional IM systems to leverage the efficiencies intended by the Legislature.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:  
Indefinitely postpone.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by CONNORS, second by CLARK, to indefinitely postpone. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Indefinitely postpone.

2012 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

Health and Human Services

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2012 Conference Resolution 11

Offered for consideration this 24<sup>th</sup> Day of September, 2012 by

### La Crosse County

Relating to

### Supporting Policy of Tax Equity on Other Tobacco Products

WHEREAS, other tobacco products very similar to cigarettes, such as little cigars and cigarillos, present the same health risk as cigarettes, yet are taxed at a significantly lower rate, which makes them cheaper and more accessible to children; and

WHEREAS, such products are offered with candy flavoring and bright colors, making them extremely appealing to a younger, non-smoking audience; and

WHEREAS, the use of these products is on the rise among youth, and these products are addictive in nature, likely to result in a lifelong addiction to nicotine; and

WHEREAS, the tax imposed on cigarettes has been proven to help smokers quit and keep others, especially youth, from starting to smoke; and

WHEREAS, the costs resulting from the use of tobacco negatively affect Wisconsin businesses, taxpayers, and families; and

WHEREAS, data suggests that by taxing other tobacco products at a higher rate than the current rate, state revenues will increase.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support the policy of tax equity on other tobacco products so that those products are taxed and treated the same as cigarettes.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by EBERHARDT, second by WYMAN, to adopt. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2012 CONFERENCE ACTION:

2012 Conference Resolution 11

Caption:

III.E.28. Support the policy of tax equity on other tobacco products so that those products are taxed and treated the same as cigarettes.

Health and Human Services

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2012 Conference Resolution 12

Offered for consideration this 24<sup>th</sup> Day of September, 2012 by

### Sauk County

Relating to

### Requesting the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation Develop a Proactive Approach to Signage on the U.S. Highway 12 Bypass in Order to Provide Support to Businesses that may be Negatively Impacted by Highway Improvements

WHEREAS, U.S. Highway 12 in Sauk County is the subject of a substantial and needed improvement project from the county line to Lake Delton, and these improvements have included the development of a four-lane, limited access expressway west of the old Highway 12 corridor between Baraboo and Lake Delton, with the former Highway 12 being designated County Trunk Highway (CTH) BD; and

WHEREAS, existing businesses along CTH BD have experienced a decline in business after the opening of the bypass and this decline is partially attributed to the opening of the bypass without appropriate, informational, way-finding signage; and

WHEREAS, Sauk County regulates the placement of signage pursuant to Sauk County Code Chapter 7; and

WHEREAS, the Highway 12 project calls for the construction of a bypass around the City of Baraboo and the Village of West Baraboo's existing Highway 12 alignment beginning in 2015 potentially impacting many businesses and local units of government; and

WHEREAS, portions of the Highway 12 improvements will occur adjacent to and within the Baraboo Range National Natural Landmark (BRNNL), an area of sensitive natural habitat and extensive environmental protection activity, and the ability to locate billboards within and adjacent to the BRNNL may be limited in accordance with various land use plans that seek to protect the view-shed from artificial intrusion; and

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Committee of the Sauk County Board of Supervisors created a stakeholders group comprised of business owners and local government representatives from the recently bypassed roadway, as well as similar stakeholders from the segment of Highway 12 in the Baraboo area that will be bypassed beginning in 2015, for the purpose of addressing concerns that fall under the scope of the County's authority; and

2012 Conference Resolution 12

WHEREAS, this stakeholder's group has determined that the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), impacted businesses, stakeholders, and local units of government must be proactive in addressing similar potential concerns along the portion of the roadway to be bypassed beginning in 2015, and an appropriate, proactive approach necessitates an institutional policy by WisDOT that requires that needed support in the form of way-finding signs and other measures be in place prior to the opening of another segment of bypass.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request the State of Wisconsin Secretary of Transportation direct that WisDOT create a proactive stakeholder process that includes impacted businesses, stakeholders, and local units of government to address concerns created by a bypass well in advance of the opening of any bypass and to reinforce this course of action by requiring the approval and placement of directional and way-finding signs as a contractual obligation between the WisDOT and the project's general contractor, with assurance that this condition be satisfied prior to the opening of another segment of bypass; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proactive policy developed by WisDOT include the following elements:

1. At least eighteen months prior to the planning, submittal and estimate (PSE) deadline for a bypass, WisDOT shall convene the above-referenced stakeholder process and direct a WisDOT team to coordinate meetings with impacted businesses, stakeholders, and local units of government from the portion of the roadway to be bypassed for the purpose of discussing potential issues of concern including, but not limited to, the approval and placement of way-finding signage; and
2. WisDOT shall require that appropriate way-finding signage become a part of the contractual obligation between WisDOT and the project's general contractor, ensuring that placement of all directional and way-finding signs be accomplished prior to the opening of any bypass.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Amend to strike "create a proactive stakeholder process that includes impacted businesses, stakeholders, and local units of government to address concerns created by a bypass well in advance of the opening of any bypass and to reinforce this course of action by requiring the approval and placement of directional and way-finding signs as a contractual obligation between the WisDOT and the project's general contractor, with assurance that this condition be satisfied prior to the opening of another segment of bypass; and

2012 Conference Resolution 12

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proactive policy developed by WisDOT include the following elements: At least eighteen months,” “convene the above-referenced stakeholder process and direct a WisDOT team to,” and “WisDOT shall require that appropriate way finding signage become part of the contractual obligation between WisDOT and the project’s general contractor, ensuring that placement of all directional and way-finding signs be accomplished prior to the opening of any bypass.”

The steering committee’s resolved clause reads as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request the State of Wisconsin Secretary of Transportation direct that WisDOT prior to the planning, submittal and estimate (PSE) deadline for a bypass WisDOT shall coordinate meetings with impacted businesses, stakeholders, and local units of government from the portion of the roadway to be bypassed for the purpose of discussing potential issues of concern including, but not limited to, the approval and placement of way-finding signage.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by FORDHAM, second by HELWIG, to adopt. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2012 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

- VII.D. 25. Request the State of Wisconsin Secretary of Transportation direct the following process occur with regard to the construction of a bypass:
1. At least eighteen months prior to the planning, submittal and estimate (PSE) deadline for a bypass, WisDOT shall convene a stakeholder process and direct a WisDOT team to coordinate meetings with impacted businesses, stakeholders, and local units of government from the portion of the roadway to be bypassed for the purpose of discussing potential issues of concern including, but not limited to, the approval and placement of way-finding signage; and
  2. WisDOT shall require that appropriate way-finding signage become a part of the contractual obligation between WisDOT and a project’s general contractor, ensuring that placement of all directional and way-finding signs be accomplished prior to the opening of any bypass.

**CORRECTIONS TO BE MADE TO  
AUGUST 13, 2012, JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD MINUTES**

**Page 94:**

Line 32 – Align the \$ with the \$ signs below it in the column

Line 39 – Align the \$ with the \$ above it in the column; move the decimal point to align with other figures in the column

Line 43 – Align the \$ with the \$ signs above it in the column; move the decimal point to align with the other figures in the column

Line 44 – Align the \$ with the \$ signs above it in the column

**Page 95**

Line 10 – Align the \$ with the \$ signs above it in the column

Line 17 – Align the \$ with the \$ signs above it in the column

Line 45 – Insert the word Fair before the word Park Director so that it reads Fair Park Director David Diestler, . . .

**Page 98:**

Line 42 – Move the words of line 42 flush with the left hand margin (no paragraph indent)

**Page 99:**

Line 16 – Insert the letter d after an

**Page 100:**

Line 11 – Move the words of line 11 flush with the left hand margin (no paragraph indent)

Line 26 – Underline the comma at the end of the word random

**Page 101:**

Line 24 – Underline the comma at the end of the word random

**Page 104:**

Line 12 – Move the words of line 12 flush with the left hand margin (no paragraph indent)

Line 23 – Delete the semicolon and insert a comma

Line 45 – Move the words of line 45 flush with the left hand margin (no paragraph indent)

**Page 106:**

Lines 1 thru 9 – Align the words as on page 105, paragraph #1

2. A person who leases residential or business premises in the building.
3. A person if a firearm is in a vehicle driven or parked in the parking facility, or to any part of the building used as a parking facility.
4. A person using a knife or similar cutting implement in the normal course of business in a Fair Park structure outside of office areas.
5. A person using a knife or similar cutting implement in the normal course of employment as an employee or contractor for Jefferson County.

Line 13 – Underline the comma after fixtures

Line 20 - Move the words of line 20 flush with the left hand margin (no paragraph indent)

Line 25 – Underline the word used and place a strikethrough the words capable of use (Line 25 should read G. . . . or any device designed or used ~~capable of use~~ as a)

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**Page 108:**

Line 3 – Move the words of line 3 flush with the left hand margin (no paragraph indent)

**County Administrator's  
Monthly Activity Report  
August, 2012**

1. 2013 Budget

Meetings have been held with all departments to review their requested budgets. Most of my time for the remainder of this month and early September will be spent on the development of the recommended budget. I will also be working with Tammy Worzalla and Tammie Jaeger in developing the budget binders that will be used by the Finance Committee during their review of the recommended budget. The budget hearings begin on 9/12.

2. Department Head Meeting

A department head meeting was held on 8/15 (copy of agenda attached). Further discussion of issues/questions relating to Open Records requests is scheduled on the 8/22 Administration and Rules Committee agenda. John Molinaro and I will work jointly on an article for the next employee newsletter addressing the critical role that employees have in the functioning of County government. The next meeting is scheduled for 9/12.

3. Committee/Board, Staff and Other meetings

I will have attended 9 Committee/Board meetings by the end of this month. In addition, I will have had at least 19 meetings with staff and other officials this month. These primarily were meetings to discuss the 2013 requested budgets.

On 8/23-24 I will be attending a Chief Executives Workshop in Green Bay. This will be attended by members of the League of Municipalities and the Wisconsin City/County Managers Association. Topics of discussion will include alternatives to the property tax; transportation funding challenges in Wisconsin; case studies of local governments functioning under Act 10; review of issues in the State legislature; and roundtable sessions with other local government executives.

4. Highway Facility Site Selection

On 8/15, the Infrastructure Committee discussed the matter of submitting an Offer To Purchase on the old Countryside Home property, for use as a site (Site G) for a new Highway Dept. main facility. Corporation Counsel Phil Ristow has been discussing terms of the offer with the property owner's broker, prior to an actual offer being drafted and submitted. The Committee has authorized me to submit an offer on the property, based on several contingencies that were discussed by the Committee.

**County Administrator's  
Monthly Activity Report  
August, 2012**

5. Courthouse Security Entrance

Sheriff administration, Courthouse maintenance staff and I continue to meet with Pete Weston of Design Alliance on the design of a new security entrance for the Courthouse. Preliminary design plans have been reviewed by the Infrastructure Committee and updated plans will be submitted for the Committee's review at its 9/5 meeting. The Committee has authorized a contract with Design Alliance to develop final plans and issue bid specifications. Upon receipt of bids, the Committee will consider a recommendation to the full County Board.

6. Personnel Matters

Department Head performance evaluations are up to date. The next evaluation is due on 11/3.

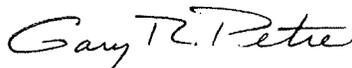
The Human Resources Director continues to review the County's Personnel Policies and Procedures. On 8/13, the County Board adopted an ordinance amendment addressing voluntary donation of vacation time by employees to a specific employee in need of additional paid time off.

Job Description Questionnaires (JDQ's) have been completed by County employees as part of the Classification and Compensation Study. I have reviewed the JDQ's that are being completed by those Department Heads who report to me.

The appointment of Brian Lamers as the County's new Finance Director was confirmed by the County Board on 8/13. He will begin his new job on 9/4. Although he couldn't be here during the preparation of the recommended budget, he will be able to participate in the Finance Committee hearings on the recommended departmental budgets.

7. Board/Commission Appointments

At this time, I do not anticipate any Board/Commission appointments being submitted to the County Board for confirmation at its 9/11 meeting.



Gary R. Petre  
County Administrator

Jefferson County  
Department Head Meeting  
Wednesday, August 15, 2012

1:00 p.m.

Workforce Development  
874 Collins, Rm 103  
Jefferson, WI

1. Issues/Questions relating to Open Records Requests
  - a. Copy Fees
  - b. Custom Reports
  - c. Elected Official Requests
  - d. Electronic Requests

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2. Newsletter articles to John Molinaro
3. Status of 2013 Budget
4. Department Head Items
5. Next Meeting – September 12<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m.

2012 Meeting Dates (all meetings at 1:00 p.m. in Room 103 at Workforce Development):

September 12<sup>th</sup>  
October 10<sup>th</sup>  
November 14<sup>th</sup>  
December 12<sup>th</sup>

