

Intercounty Coordinating Committee (ICC) 5-21-2012 Board Meeting Minutes

Location: Red Oak Shelter of Devils Lake State Park

Attendees: Vern Gove, Columbia County; Jason Kauffeld, Green Lake County; Scott Weir, Green Lake County; Marge Bostelmann, Green Lake County; Jack Meyers, Green Lake County; David Richter, Green Lake County; Joan Fordham, Sauk County; Andy Ross, Columbia County; Bob Westby, Columbia County; Dave Marcouiller, UW Madison Extension; David Callender, WCA; Steve Koenig, Sauk County Park Director; Jeff Hoffman, Dodge County UW Extension; Joyce Fiacco, Dodge County Director Land Resources/Parks; Dave Frohling, Dodge County; Steve Grabow, UW Extension Jefferson County; John Molinaro, Jefferson County; Joe Nehmer, Jefferson County; Marty Havlovic, UW Extension Marquette County; Paul Wade, Marquette County Vice Chair; Pat Kilbey, Marquette County LWCD; Brenda Johns Grams, Marquette County Admin. Coordinator; Russell Kottke, Dodge County; Kurt Calkins, Columbia County LWCD; Marty Krueger, Sauk County; Nancy Elsing, Columbia County Economic Development Corp.; Lisa Wenzel, Sauk County UW Extension

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

Certification of open Meeting Notice: Lisa Wenzel, Sauk County UW Extension confirmed.

Elections of ICC Officers: Bob Westby, Columbia County nominated Russ Kottke as Chairman. The vote was unanimous. Andy Ross was nominated for Vice Chair; Motion to approve was made by Dodge County and seconded by Green Lake County; no dissenters. John Marinara was nominated for Secretary/Treasurer; Motion to approve was made by Marquette County and seconded by Columbia County; no dissenters.

Adopt the 5-21-2012 ICC Agenda. Motion to approve was made by Columbia County and Dodge County seconded.

Setting and Collecting ICC Membership Dues: There was discussion regarding that for the last 2 years dues have not been collected. A motion was made to bill \$100.00 for 2012; Jefferson County made a motion to approve and Columbia County seconded.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Discussion indicated that one change needed to be made to the prior minutes. The name Mark O'Connell needs to be entered because it was written incorrectly as Mark O'Connor. Dodge County made a motion to approve the minutes and Green Lake County seconded.

Reports from Visiting Legislative Officials: None

Update of County Issues – WCA: Dave Callendar discussed the recall and tremendous amounts of money being spent. They have had several meetings with Walkers staff and round table discussions with the Dept. of Justice and the Dept. of Revenue. The DOR want tax rate limits to go. The DOR processes a levy limit and there is a second process for the county. The levy limit should become permanent and should be built in. This discussion is in the very early stages so it is important to talk with respective legislators with a consistent message that the tax rate does affect the county and it is important to the county. He will send out top 3 talking points: 1) Tax rate elimination. 2) Flexibility on levy limit. 3) Re-districting. Take time to talk with legislators now about what the county does; they do not understand what we do.

Open Discussion of County Issues - Jason Kauffeld discussed the need for an updated distribution email list. He will send it out and asked that everyone review it for accuracy.

Parks and Local Economic Development – Dave Marcouiller, UWEX Natural Resource Economist: Dave teaches Urban and Regional Planning at UW Madison. Overall he discussed the role local parks and trails have and the economic stimulation of that use. Dave can perform studies considering establishing a new trail and for studying existing trails to include recreational users (local and non-local) for economic impact and tourism development. The benefits to parks and trails are generally: attracts new residents, stimulates economy (local and non-local use), promotes healthy life-styles, reduces youth crime, opportunity to provide conservation, increases land value. These key natural amenities are accessed through the county. Dave discussed a study he performed for the Cheese Country Trail which is a multi-use trail, meaning ATV's can use them. There are 10 total in the state. Demand for outdoor recreation is high. ATV users brought in \$200 per trip, per user. Those who bike on trails bring in less per person but the volume of bikers is much higher.

Panel Discussion with County Park Directors:

Marquette County-Pat Kilbey, is a Conservationist, not a Park Director. He reported that there is not much for parks at all but that trails are very important in their county. Budgeting is an issue along with the county decision to conserve land or develop for recreational use. They are starting to focus on parks more now than in the past. They are working on the Ice Age Trail and others.

Jefferson County – Joe Nehmer, Parks Director reported that they believe they have success with parks and trails due to relationship and partnership with UW Extension, the County Chair, the DNR, Trek and more. They stay connected by communicating with business partners. Economic development is a network that does not stop. They have a total of 18 full and part-time employees. They have 16 county parks that are nature/resource based. Stated they are the last remaining green space between Milwaukee and Madison. Their 4 top focus areas are: 1) Conservation. 2) Link trails together. 3) Public wildlife area-hunting. 4) River conservation. The parks and trails are used as a recruiting tool for the county through local businesses and communicate frequently so that businesses understand what they are doing. An endowment has been created for individuals who can donate to maintain and improve parks. Their parks/trails are thriving and a strong part of the county. Their goal is to reconnect people with the land and to each other. We use different message points for different groups in our county. A recent example of working with and maintaining a partnership is that Trek donated 250,000 for a trail head facility. They have worked with Dave Marcouiller who helped them to move forward.

Dodge County – Joyce Fiacco reported that parks are geographically located to reach everyone who lives in the county. Most parks offer camping and many offer rentals and horseback riding. Dodge County has worked with Extension to add parks, and their Highway Dept. is a partner also. They have 2 full-time and 9 seasonal employees and a Friends Group to support the parks/trails. Expenses are 646,000 and revenues are 233,000 with a total of 413,000 to levy. They do use the Huber program and volunteer program to help maintain parks. Horicon Marsh is a big draw and the DNR is a partner who is adding a 3.2 mil. International Education Center. The Rock River Trail is an initiative of many counties and they are working on a State and National Trail Designation. They offer a phone line status for their park system.

Sauk County – Steve Koenig reported they have 13,000 acres of state parks in the county. There are 9 county parks with 2 full-time, 1 part-time and 6 seasonal employee's. The tax levy is 252,000 and they do require a county entrance fee to parks bringing 60,000 annually. Camping revenue is 40,000. Steve

works with townships and municipalities to bring in revenue. They help with several projects like the Baraboo River clean up.

Green Lake County – Scott Weir reported that they have 324 acres of smaller parks with 7 parks total, including 2 ½ miles of hiking/biking and 110 miles of snowmobiling. Boat landing brings in 26-28,000 annually. The total budget is 614,000 annually with 1 full-time and 2 seasonal employee's. They are working with the DNR as a partner. Any property that comes open, they are trying to place in conservancy status. Most of their projects happen through donations.

Columbia County – Kurt Calkins reported that he manages the parks program and the conservation program. They have 7 parks: 4 parks have less than an acre, 2 parks are bigger requiring more management and the other 1 is Gibraltar Rock that has conservation and use issues. They ended up gifting the property to the DNR when they bought property near it. Columbia County has focused more on conservation than building up parks. Budget is levy driven at 32,000. Revenue is generated by foresting the land on one park. They are experiencing growth, therefore, a demand for parks but have mixed opinion how to use land and to grow. An area high school is a partner who use and maintain the park in the winter.

Panel discussion idea - use your highway department for maintenance; use volunteers; consider specialty parks like dog parks; develop scope and mission for each park; kayaking is the newest growing activity; use Dave Marcouller as a resource; make use of flyers and maps as a tool with partners/donors/users of parks.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.