

WISCONSIN COUNTIES UTILITY TAX ASSOCIATION

Two East Mifflin Street, Suite 600, Madison, Wisconsin 53703
Phone: (608) 255-8891

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

June 3, 2011

**DeWitt Ross & Stevens S.C.
Madison, Wisconsin**

2010-2011 Officers

President
JOHN H. TRAMBURG
(920) 484-3534
Columbia County

Vice President
LAWRENCE WILLKOM
(715) 723-5804
Chippewa County

Secretary
PAUL TITTL
(920) 682-6203
Manitowoc County

Treasurer
LINDA SINKULA
(920) 388-3251
Kewaunee County

Executive Director
ALICE O'CONNOR
Direct(608) 252-9391
aoc@dewittross.com

The Wisconsin County Utility Tax Association meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m. by WCUTA Chair John Tramburg. The following members were present:

Columbia County	John H. Tramburg	(920) 484-3534
Jefferson County	Jan Roo	(262) 495-2687
Kewaunee County	Linda Sinkula	(920) 388-3251
Kewaunee County	Kaye Shillin	
Manitowoc County	Paul Tittl	(920) 682-6203
Rock County	Richard Ott	(608) 756-2443
Sheboygan County	William C. Goehring	(920) 994-4749
Vernon County	Tom Spenner	(608) 489-2302
Washington County	Doug Johnson	(262) 306-2202
Buffalo County	Del Twidt	(608) 687-8549
Sheboygan County	Michael Vandersteen	
Washington County	Herb Tennes	
Chippewa County	Larry Willkom	

Excused: Phil Boutwell, Ed Dorner, Jim Eschram, Doug Finn, Brad Karger, Del Twidt and Michael Vandersteen.

Member Counties

ASHLAND
BUFFALO
CHIPPEWA
COLUMBIA
DOUGLAS
DUNN
GRANT
JEFFERSON
KENOSHA
KEWAUNEE
LA CROSSE
MANITOWOC
MARATHON
MARINETTE
OZAUKEE
ROCK
SHEBOYGAN
VERNON
WASHINGTON

Staff present:

Alice O'Connor, Executive Director of WCUTA, of DeWitt Ross & Stevens S.C., David Callender, Wisconsin Counties Association.

The minutes from the March 4, 2011, Board meeting were approved on a motion by Supervisor Paul Tittl seconded by Supervisor Linda Sinkula.

Supervisor Tittl said there was no follow up with Brown County to rejoin our Association.

Chairman Tramburg reported that 90 windmills will be erected in Columbia County by December 2011 with 1.8 megawatts for each tower. It is expected to generate \$600,000 annually. The windmills are being built in the two townships that are not zoned by Columbia County. WE Energy is the electric company. He is not sure who the wind company is.

Treasurer's Report: Linda Sinkula reported the checkbook balance as of May 31, 2011 is \$27,333.27 with April and May expenses tallying \$5,982.13. This does not include the one time legal bill that is still outstanding. It will include the \$850 filing fee from the IRS and \$1,000 in legal fees to process the renewal of the nonprofit tax exemption that should resolve our ongoing dispute with the IRS over our tax exempt status. IRS rules have changed for all non-profits.

The 6 month CD that comes due August 2011 is currently valued at \$15,250 giving the Association funds totaling \$42,584.18. The board decided by consensus to reduce 2012 dues dollars and to decide this at the October board meeting. Everyone agrees the bank balance does not need to be this high. The Treasurer's report was unanimously accepted on a motion by Supervisor Wilhelm, seconded by Supervisor Rouu.

Executive Director Report: Alice O'Connor indicated the Association had not yet heard back from the IRS regarding its tax exempt status Brian Anderson, Attorney and CPA with DeWitt Ross & Stevens, has filed with the IRS so the Association as a government entity should be exempt permanently.

Alice reported the night before about midnight that the Joint Finance committee had passed "Super motion 450" that included some reference to "combined utility aid payments under the shared revenue account with the utility aid payments under the public utility distribution account." Alice indicated she did not think it had harmed the utility tax funding but she wasn't sure and no one in the legislature had been able to confirm exactly what this motion did. Department of Revenue wasn't sure either. She will provide a report to the board when she finds out. It does appear to be a streaming effort that won't affect funding.

She also indicated that as the Joint Finance Committee wrapped up its work there were nine senate recall elections that would occur July 12th. She said, anger and extreme partisanship were in full swing in the state capitol. Speculation remains solid that the budget will be done by June 30, 2011 if not before. David Callender will provide an attachment that reflects how the legislature has changed levy limits and restoration of \$420 million in new funding of which counties will get \$7 million. Mr. Callender also reported that the judgment by Dane County Judge Sumi was that that the open meetings law was violated when the republican led legislature voted on the budget repair bill, now Act 10. It has negated the implementation of gutting of the collective bargaining laws. The Supreme Court still has not decided if it will take the case and they are not likely to do this by June 30th. The speculation is that a substitute amendment of the budget repair bill will be the most expeditious way to invoke the collative bargaining repeal.

He reported that "public safety employees" is a new term that is being applied to all law enforcement that says they can't make their health insurance subject to collective bargaining. There are some other changes to the employee trust fund process with employees and employers each contributing different amounts. He said the Budget Bill also calls for a study to define a contribution system for retirement as opposed to a system of self benefits. The study will also include the impact of HSA options for self directed options. Maintenance of effort for law enforcement was repealed but Mr. Callender believes this is why there might be addition dollars inside the Department of Revenue. He said shared revenue and utility aid changes make the boundaries cleaner.

Audit Committee:

Supervisor Paul Tittl presented the report from the Audit Committee comprised of himself, Supervisor Jan Rouu and Supervisor Tom Spenner. The Association has generated \$29,785.01 in dues since May 2010. The Local Government Pool Account was closed in November 2010 and \$612.40 was transferred to the checking account. A three month CD continues to be rolled over and will now come due in September 2011 with a total of \$25,181.60.

The Association has one time legal bills of \$1000 and \$850 from the IRS nonprofit status issue that have not yet been paid.

The basic checking account as of May 31, 2011 is \$27,333.27.

The report was accepted with a precondition to reduce dues for 2012 on a motion presented by Supervisor Tittl, seconded by Supervisor Sinkula.

Nominating Committee:

Chair of the Nominating Committee, Supervisor Doug Johnson, and Supervisors Tom Spenner and William

Goehring presented the Nominating Committee Report. Doug Johnson indicated he had announced at the last meeting if you wanted to run for office to contact him. No one did so the motion from Rock County Representative Richard Ott, seconded by Supervisor Richard Goehring was to approve the nominating committee's slate of officers for 2011-2012.

It was noted that no one saw a need to change officers at this time. The slate of offices for 2012 remains the same as the 2011 officers.

Supervisor John Tramburg continues as President; Larry Wilkom remains as Vice President; Paul Tittl as Secretary; and Linda Sinkula as Treasurer.

Special Guest Rep. Brett Hulsey (D-Madison)

Alice introduced Rep. Brett Hulsey (D-Madison), freshman Democrat from Madison who sits on the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. Rep. Hulsey is the prior executive director of the Sierra Club and now is a consultant to the utility industry and others with his company "Better Business Solutions." Rep. Hulsey said he does not think Wisconsin needs more nuclear energy and he will fight republicans who wish to lift the nuclear ban. He says Wisconsin has enough biomass capacity to export 17 billion pounds. He says we are giving 300,000 jobs to someone else by not using home grown energy sources. He says, "what will happen when we decommission our power plants? Counties will be stuck guarding plants. We can learn from the French. Alliant is starting to burn biomass with coal."

"We have wind capacity that will only cover 35 percent of our energy needs." He says he wants to go with plug-in hybrids at night when there is more wind and less demands on the grid. "We spent billions on coal plants that we are still continuing to pay off debt. Wisconsin has the highest biomass cogeneration in the country. Co-generation is 60 percent efficient as compared to usual efficacy of coal/electric so only 30 percent efficient." Rep. Hulsey also talked about the fact that 19 of the 25 freshman legislators in the Assembly have never been in any kind of government service before.

The next meeting was set for October 7th at 10:30 a.m. at Dewitt Ross and Stevens.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m. on a motion from Supervisor Shillin, seconded by Supervisor Johnson.

AOC:km