



Intercounty Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

**Monday, April 21, 2014
Green Lake Training Center
County Government Center
571 County Road A
Green Lake, WI**

ICC Participants

Columbia County – Andy Ross, Vern Gove, Mary Cupiny; **Dodge County** – Russell Kottke, Donna Maly; **Green Lake County** – Marge Bostelmann, David Richter, Jack Meyers; **Jefferson County** -- Jim Schroeder, Genevieve Borich, Steve Grabow; **Marquette County** - Brenda Jahns-Grams; **Portage County** – Lynn Jerde; **Sauk County** – Marty Krueger, Lisa Wenzel; **WCA** – David Callender; **Legislators** – Luther Olsen, Joan Ballweg; **Media** – None; **Program Guests** – Andy Lewis, Broadband & Economic Development Specialist, Jill Hietpas

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by ICC Chair Russell Kottke at 9:30 a.m.

Certification of Wisconsin Open Meetings Law Notice

County host confirmed the requirements of the WI Open Meetings Law were met.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion by Columbia County, second by Green Lake County to approve the agenda – Approved.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion by Green Lake, second by Columbia County, to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2014 meeting of the Intercounty Coordinating Committee -- Approved.

Legislative Report –

Representative Joan Ballweg:

- Done in legislation for the year.
- Voter ID is in the Supreme Court; may be called into session
- Special Committees: Will lead on topic “Early Brain Development”; focus on 0-3 year olds; policy for future budgets.
- IOH Bill: May be signed but have not heard. Will require permits (must be agreed to by local government); a year of education will be part of the legislation.
- Regulation and Sand Mining: First go-round “crashed and burned”, Towns are not OK with the second round; will likely come back next year. Comment/Perspective by County Supervisor: “Don’t mess it up!” (i.e. around important local control matters)

Senator Luther Olsen:

- Will be “bringing down” technical college costs.

- Number one priority: Property Tax Levy Issue: “How do we fund roads?”; costs of repairing/rebuilding roads is going up. Legislature is “all ears” on possible solutions; State cannot continue to bond for new road projects. At the local level, the problem will not go away.
- Economy is getting better in the State; revenue is increasing.
- Question: Raise sales tax? Response: Sales tax is regressive. Could tax more things. There is talk about this, but “it would be a big pill to swallow.”
- Question: Why opposition to raising fuel tax? Response: Convenience stores in opposition.
- Question: Is there a chance of gasoline price indexing? (again) Response: Has been difficult. Concern: Have heard that gas will be over \$4 per gallon this summer. Response: Will affect tourism spending. Comment: Hope rural counties get some money for State highways. (If State takes any action on roads.) Response: there is a big fight between “building new roads” and “maintaining roads”.
- Question: What are impacts of raising federal road taxes? Response: Yes, they are looking at it, but this will be difficult, too.
- Question: If toll roads, would federal aid be eliminated? Response: There are other alternatives to toll roads (i.e. tracking devices on cars). Would need federal permission.

Wisconsin Counties Association Report – David Callendar

- Session is over and 50-60 bills have been signed; will be another 50-60 bills to be signed by the Governor.
- Clarifying role of County Clerks legislation has been passed; good legislation.
- Study committees will be formed including (study through the summer):
 - Criminal penalty
 - Treatment alternative in Courts
- Many retirements in the legislature (many legislators with experience); may result in a culture change. Questions on how Senate will change – has been a more deliberate body.
- WCA: District meetings are starting (schedule on WCA website).
- WCA/LGC: Training will start in early May.
- Unfinished: Highway financing/transit financing

Program: *Broadband: Where is the Coverage?* by Andy Lewis, Broadband & Economic Development Specialist with Broadband & E-Commerce Education Center/UW-Extension. Collaborator and Resources Assistance: Jill Hietpas, Regional Broadband Educator with Broadband & E-commerce Education Center.

PowerPoint Presentation can be found at: <http://slidesha.re/1msyNAv>

- Broadband: very important part of innovation.
- People are starting to ask the right questions. Need bigger transmission pipes, and the job may never be done.
- Speed: US no longer the world leader (now U.S. is in 8th place).
- Connectivity
 - > 4Mbps: US Not top 10 in the world
 - >10 Mbps: US 34% at this speed
 - >10 Mbps: Wisconsin is 17% at this speed
- Cost: This is another area of concern.
- Next Generation: 1 Gbps: 100 times faster than most of us typically need or use now; Only 23 communities in Wisconsin are at this level.
- IEDC says we will need the higher level of service.
- 60% of small businesses say broadband is important.

- Digital Exclusion: Costs about \$1.8 per year (in Wisconsin) or \$175 per person.
- Cities: much better connectivity
- Coverage in Wisconsin > 25 mbps: mostly in cities.
- Need a robust fiber backbone
- Cooperative Model is promising! Minnesota has a “Minnesota Fiber Cooperative”.
- Some cooperatives are starting in Northern Wisconsin; Norvado Telephone Corporation in Northern Wisconsin; Vernon County Telephone Cooperative; Mosaic Cooperative in Chippewa Valley.
- Also private examples: Baldwin Broadband LLC
- Litmus Test (per Andy): How well are we serving farmers/ag producers?
- E-commerce
 - Grew 72% (2006-2011); retail grew 7% (2006-2011)
 - Now makes up 5% of total retail but is growing.
 - Makes up 49% of manufacturing business sales.
- Businesses: Currently only have a modest presence.
- Unmet demand by County: PSC asked about getting needed connectivity; highest unmet in rural areas.
- 560,000 people in Wisconsin with no broadband (50% in Wisconsin)
- What would it cost to solve the problem? \$1.4 billion.
- Questions:
 - Are there grants available?
 - PSC buy only \$500,000
 - Will be made in another grant cycle this fall.
 - Minnesota Program: will be \$100 million

At this point in the program, those present heard from Jill Hietpas. Jill pointed out the following:

- Information by County on “Dashboard” site.
- For:
 - Wired
 - Fixed Wireless
 - Mobile Wireless
- Provided coverage maps for each ICC County.
- Can print out a full report for each County.
- Bandwidth Assessment Tool (BAT): to identify needs
 - Survey/Report/Determination of need
- This is a starting point!
- Comprehensive Plan Update: Could look at broadband in “Economic Development Element” or “Utility Element”.
- The link to the “Dashboard” site is: <http://wisconsindashboard.org/broadband-investment-impact>

Next Meeting

Next meeting: May 19, 2014 in Montello (Marquette County); Topic: Economic Impact of Rail in WI.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by a motion by the Chair at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Steve Grabow
 Jefferson County