

WCUTA Board of Directors Meeting draft minutes final

September 8, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 by Chairman Willkom. A roll call was taken.

PRESENT: William Goehring – Sheboygan County Board, Rick Gundrum – Washington County Board Chair, Chuck Hoffman – Manitowoc County, Brad Karger – Marathon County Administrator, Robert Keeney – Grant County Board Chair, Linda Sinkula – Kewaunee County Board Supervisor, Alyssa Spaanem – Jefferson County Supervisor, John Tramburg – Columbia County Supervisor, Lawrence Willkom – Chippewa County Supervisor, Bob Yeomans, Rock County Supervisor.

VIA PHONE: Kurt Gibbs – Marathon County Board Chair, Don Pazynski – Marinette County Supervisor

STAFF: Alice O'Connor, Dan Bahr, Chelsea Fibert – WCUTA Government Affairs assistant

Minutes June 16, 2017 approved on a motion by Supervisor William Goehring, seconded by John Tramburg.

President's report

Supervisor Larry Willkom welcomed new Jefferson County Representative Alyssa Spaanem.

He indicated Bylaws need to be changed in several areas. After discussion, a motion was made by Supervisor Rick Gundrum, seconded by Supervisor Brad Karger, approved to amend bylaws to say:

“Article 2(B) Membership. Any County in Wisconsin having an interest in shared utility taxes who is a dues-paying member shall be considered for membership in this Association. The amount shall be 1.5% of the annual utility tax revenue determined by the Department of Revenue or as determined by the WCUTA board or a minimum of \$500, whichever is greater. New members shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the association.”

In the same motion, Article 10 – Amended to say “notice of any proposed amendment to the bylaws shall be communicated to the members at least ten days before the time appointed for the meeting.” Notice will no longer have to be in writing via mail.

After some discussion, it was determined Article 4 Voting does not need to be changed. The person designated to vote or his representative can be a member of the County Board of the county he or she represents but such person shall be authorized by such County Board to cast such a vote.

The recommendation to amend the bylaws shall be approved at the next meeting. It was suggested that a subcommittee of the current Executive Committee review the entire bylaws and come back to the next board meeting with complete recommendations for changes. Consensus to do this.

Presentation of 2018 Slate of Officers by Larry Willkom

Slate of officers for approval

Chair: Larry Willkom (Chippewa County) continuing
Vice Chair: Brad Karger (Marathon County)
Secretary: William Goehring (Sheboygan) continuing)
Treasurer: Bob Yeomans (Rock County)

Supervisor Willkom thanked Supervisors John Tramburg and Linda Sinkula for their many years of service on the WCUTA Board and wished them well in their future endeavors. They are not running again. Each Supervisor will try to find a replacement on the WCUAT board from their county.

The officers were approved, effective January 1, 2017 on a motion by Supervisor Chuck Hoffman, seconded by Supervisor John Tramburg.

The updated contact sheet was passed around and changes made. It will be circulated to the membership.

Treasurer's report- Supervisor Linda Sinkula

An updated format based on June 16 discussion was presented. Supervisor Sinkula complimented Alice on the new format and said it was very clear a lot of work had gone into setting the format. It should be easy going forward.

Supervisor Sinkula reported the June, 16 Treasurer's Report showed a beginning checkbook balance of \$40,130.24 on March 31st, 2017 and a CD balance of \$40,363.78. Dues collected between March 31 and May 31, 2017 totaled \$3,820.19. Interest collected totaled \$4.87. Total expenses were \$6,741.81. Total balance as of May 31, 2017 was \$77,577.27.

Supervisor Sinkula then reported the September 8 2017 beginning checkbook balance of \$37,213.49 on May 31, 2017 and a CD balance of \$40,363.78. Dues collected between May 31 and June 31, 2017 totaled \$3,502.56. Interest collected totaled \$2.92. Total expenses were \$7,083.89. Total balance as of July 31, 2017 was \$73,998.86.

The Treasurer's Report for June 16 and September 8 was approved on a motion by Supervisor Karger, seconded by Supervisor Hoffman.

Supervisor Hoffman asked why every county who is receiving some utility tax payment has not been asked to join our association. He said even if a county does not have a power plant, every county has transmission lines. On a motion by Supervisor Hoffmann, seconded by Supervisor Goehring, Alice was directed to craft a letter inviting every county in the state to join the association and what their dues would be if they did join. The letter should include what has happened in the past and why they would derive value from this association.

Alice will work with the executive committee on this letter. It will go out to all 72 counties after the utility tax payment is completed by the Department of Revenue, likely the 2nd week of October. The letter must state that while all counties are benefiting, we invite you to participate with us; your dues would be appreciated.

Audit Committee-Chair Supervisor Linda Sinkula

Supervisor Sinkula pointed out that the Audit Committee needed to be appointed and she would work with them and the audit committee will make a report at the next meeting. This committee will consist of Chuck Hoffmann, Bill Goehring, Linda Sinkula and 2018 Treasurer Bob Yeomans. In addition to bank statements, Supervisor Yeomans said he wanted to see the check book. Supervisor Willkom said the audit committee will make a report at the next meeting.

WCA Report – Dan Bahr

Mr. Bahr stated that the counties did well in this year's budget that was completed earlier in the week. In motion #419, a wrap up motion there was a partial repeal of some Road Aids. \$74.4 million. But there was a backfill pot of money that went to local government making counties hole. There was also a manufacturing and agriculture credit that grocers and small business groups worked hard to get rid of and that was also backfilled to counties who had cuts.

The I-94 East West Corridor was delayed and cuts in bonding occurred.

The counties received a 13% increase in segregated bonding an increase from \$98 million to \$111 million. There was a routine maintenance increase of \$33.7 million dollars and the governor added an additional \$33.7 million to enhance and maintain bridge repair programs. Counties will receive a \$10 million increase each year from \$16.9 to \$36.9. This also requires federal dollars to match.

He said the legislature discussed reciprocal prevailing wage but it was tied to the Davis-Bacon Act that has different rules applying for how labor is paid on federal projects.

Additional cuts were made for Southeast Wisconsin with cuts of \$61.6 million for Southeast mega projects. Specialized transportation aids increased 2% each year of the budget. He also said there's additional block grants to states from the federal government so there will be a study of how smaller, less complex projects are helped or hurt by the Surface Transportation Program (STP).

There is also a \$2.5 million study that must report back to the legislature January 1st, 2019 to determine what factors such as traffic, revenue, environmental concerns and how the money will be applied to tolls when determining highway funding. As a group, both towns and counties are very happy and feel that they can now determine their own destiny. There was also a provision added to the budget that you cannot eliminate eminent domain for bike trails. You can do eminent domain on a road or a shoulder.

There was also a \$75 hybrid fee and \$100 electric car fee added to the budget that will generate \$8.4 million dollars. The DOT says it has eliminated \$215 million of funds from its budget and 200 jobs. A controversial item is the regulation of rock quarries that now is eliminating all local regulations for air water and blasting. It was also mentioned that the forestry tax was repealed and backfilled the GPR.

Executive Director report - Alice O'Connor

Alice added to what Dan Bahr had reported by saying the Joint Finance Committee earlier this week approved the Governor's budget bill after months of stalemate. This progress came on the heels of the largest loan in the history of the state for Foxconn in the amount of \$3 billion in advance.

One motion contained in a rollup motion (#421) referenced a provision of utility services that was specifically addressing an issues with the Winnebago Mental Health Institute being able to control or

land manage its own plant or equipment for production, transmission delivery or furnishing of water directly or indirectly to the public. It did not affect the utility tax formula or to of money.

The city of Janesville also received funding over their existing formula for expenditure restraint payments in the amount of \$583,000 GPR in 2018-2019 through 2022-23.

According to Governor Walker, the budget bill will be signed by September 23rd. The items that came out of the Joint Finance Committee are likely to survive without further amendments. The Senate and Assembly are not getting along and people are ready for the budget to be done.

The next meeting date was set for December 8th. Location to be determined.

Speakers to be solicited will be the Municipal Utility Association and the Wisconsin Utility Institute. Supervisor Keeney will try to have his Senator, Howard Marklein who sits on the Joint Finance Committee also speak at our meeting .

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm on a motion by Supervisor Alyssa Spaanem seconded by Supervisor Gundrum.

Minutes Prepared by M. Alice O'Connor