



## **Intercounty Coordinating Committee**

Meeting Minutes from Monday, October 18, 2021

Columbia County Administration Building

Portage, WI

**ICC Participants: Columbia:** Vern Gove, James Foley, Bob Koch, David Drews, Shonna Neary  
**Dodge:** Russell Kottke **Jefferson:** Steven Nass, **Marquette:** Bob Miller **Sauk County:** Tim McCumber, Bryant Hazard, Jenny Erickson, Extension **Waushara:** Donna Kalata **WCA:** Dan Bahr  
**Other:** Attendees via Zoom

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Certification of Wisconsin Open Meetings Notice**

The requirements of the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law were met.

### **Adoption of Agenda**

Motion made by Jefferson and seconded by Marquette to adopt the agenda. Motion Approved.

### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Motion made by Waushara and seconded by Sauk to adopt the minutes from the August 2021 ICC meeting. Motion Approved.

### **Reports from Visiting Legislative Officials**

None present

### **Update of County Issues (WCA) presented by Dan Bahr**

- Legislature is in the fall session and WCA is working on a transportation work zone safety package focused on egregious driving in work zones. This includes:
  - A Green Light Bill for work zone trucks to improve their visibility in extreme weather.
  - Flagger Rights Bill will give similar rights to flaggers to report egregious drivers much like bus drivers and crossing guards.

- Add 30 minutes of safety zone training to drivers' education programs
- Considering requirements for handless cell phone use across the state (much like current requirements in the work zones)
- Discussion of Federal infrastructure bills

### **Program: Budget Process in Columbia County**

Presented by Shonna Neary, Columbia County Accounting and future Comptroller

- Budgeting has become a year round process with an early focus on capital improvements, etc.
- In June Finance Committees set the budget guidelines
- In July personnel requests are reviewed
- September Finance meets with each of the departments
- Net new construction for 2022 allows for 1.2% increase and interests for investments has dropped significantly. Recruiting and retaining employees has been challenging.
- Currently planning for closure of coal plant/utility aid. Considering solar farms.
- ARPA funds will largely be used for capital improvements and limited lost revenue.

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- Many of the ICC counties currently have or are moving to an Administrator system which works well especially during the budget cycle.

### **Open Discussion of County Issues**

- If solar farms are large enough they can get approval from the PSC and they are out of the county's jurisdiction. However, the PSC is asking solar farms to work with the counties.
- WCA is meeting with UW Madison Chancellor Rebecca Blank to talk about issues between the counties and Extension. ICC members shared the following feedback on Extension:
  - All five counties present counties officials have issues with the functions of Extension.
  - Jefferson would like more full time educators.
  - System is broken and has not been fixed since original \$3.5 million budget cuts.
  - Columbia County does not want to be in the consortium with Dane, Jefferson and Rock Counties. Should stay with former regions.
  - Extension forces educators to work across multiple counties
  - Extension is underfunded. Appreciated
  - Sharing across the counties creates waste – not beneficial for either county.
  - Held together with binder twine now.
  - Saw these issues coming when merged with UW-Madison and took all Extension's funds
  - Need to restore funding to Extension

- Sauk is paying for an extra 20% of the state's required funding because did not want to lose the position.
  - There is good value in Extension. It is broken and we want the old version back.
  - Kids don't want to participate in virtual 4-H.
  - When Dean Rick Klemme was in charge it was better. We haven't figured out Karl Martin.
  - Counties should have more input into what Extension is doing. Extension tells us what counties need not the other way around
  - Sauk is considering starting an Extension hub at UW-Platteville Baraboo Sauk County
  - ICC values Extension and the Wisconsin Idea
  - University information is outdated. Get better information from the seed companies.
- WCA conference was the best ever.
  - Cyber security is getting to be a big issue with ransom ware, etc.
  - Cost of licensing is getting very expensive
  - Discussion of county board online voting pros and cons
  - Discussion of masking in county buildings and COVID vaccines

### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting: December 2021 in Marquette County on solar

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:10AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Erickson  
Community Development Educator  
UW-Madison Extension, Sauk County