

Intercounty Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 15, 2008
Dodge County Administration Building
Juneau, Wisconsin

ICC Participants

Columbia County – John Tramburg, Debra Wopat, Bob Westby, Kurt Dey, Kathleen Haas; **Dodge County** – Russell Kottke, Ray Seaholm, Brian Field, Dean Perlick, Bill Nass, Jeff Hoffman; **Green Lake County** – Bob Podgorski, Dan Priske, Jason Kauffeld; **Jefferson County** - Sharon Schmeling; Steve Grabow, Steve Nass; **Sauk County** – Jenny Erickson, Paul Endres, Stephen Muchow; **WCA** - John Reinemann; **State Legislators** – Senator, Scott Fitzgerald, Representative, Jeff Fitzgerald; **Transportation Information Center** – Ben Jordan.

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

The Secretary confirmed the requirements of the WI Open Meetings Law were met.

Adoption of Agenda

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

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion by Columbia County, second by Green Lake County to approve the minutes of the November 2008 meeting of the Intercounty Coordinating Committee. Approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer asked when the Counties should be billed their ICC dues. Motion to bill each County its \$100 dues in 2009. Approved.

Legislative Report

Senator Scott Fitzgerald said the makeup of the Senate remained the same as prior to the 2008 election. The Senate is working with the Governor on the next budget. He also added that all areas of the budget are fair game for cuts with these tough economic times.

Representative Jeff Fitzgerald talked about the change in the Assembly, the Democrats are in control. He talked about the possible bailout dollars from the Federal Government and said it will be an interesting next two years.

Both Legislators answered questions.

Wisconsin Counties Association Report

John Reinemann said the approach of the WCA is “damage control” the Association will work to keep what they already have. The 2009 District meetings have begun and will continue in the spring. WCA just distributed their Legislative agenda for 2009. He handed out a Wisconsin Way summary report he will talk about at the January ICC meeting.

Program

How to maintain today’s and tomorrows roads and highways.

Presented by – **Ben Jordan**, P.E. Wisconsin Transportation Information Center

Mr. Jordan started with a discussing about the challenges he sees in the near future. Funding – Maintaining roads using local natural resources – Replacing experienced employees – Environmental concerns – Increased emphasis on safety.

He stated he did not see the paradigm of doing more with less changing. Costs continue to increase and even though gas prices have dipped, he did not think prices for inputs of roads will also fall. He talked about the need for Counties to look closely at their pavement management data to refine where their maintenance is completed. His research found that Counties tend to rate their roads in “to good” condition - the result provides an inconsistent message to State level DOT officials.

He cautioned Counties to reconsider reducing their preventative maintenance in difficult budget times. He said the resulting backlog of projects will become overwhelming. He talked briefly on the uses of alternative recycled materials in road base. While they cost less, they are not holding up as hoped.

Discussion on winter deicing procedures included a report from each county’s Commissioner. There was a mix of salt sand options presented. Mr. Jordan commented that the use of strictly salt tends to increase the number of freeze – thaw cycles. The use of salt/sand mixtures work counter to each need. Sand works best with a snow pack, while salt melts the snow pack leaving a mushy snow mixture making the sand ineffective. He suggested using a salt only and sand only practices on different roads. He led a discussion on the results of using Ag. By-products as a preventative. He completed the salt discussion predicting that the cost of salt in the future will not likely drop to prices they were accustomed.

Mr. Jordan commented that some local Governments are bonding to cover road maintenance costs. There was a discussion about the costs associated with

changing a road with an existing hard surface to gravel. He stated the costs may make this option unlikely.

Open Discussion on County Issues

Question and discussion on the permitting required for wind turbine construction.
Question and discussion how many county's Highway Departments have been involved in removing condemned homes.

Next Meeting

Next meeting: January 19, 2009 - Topic is the Wisconsin Way – in Jefferson

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by the Chair at 11:42

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Hoffman
UW-Extension, Dodge County