



Intercounty Coordinating Committee

Columbia, Dodge, Green Lake, Jefferson & Sauk Counties
ICC Minutes for 1/18/08
Columbia Co. Annex, Portage

Participants: Columbia County – Harlan Baumgartner, John Tramburg, Sue Martin, Kathleen Haas (scribe); Dodge County – Russel Kottke, Ray Seaholm, Jeff Hoffman; Green Lake County – Orrin Helmer, John Brenman; Jefferson County – Steve Nass, Steve Grabow; Sauk County – Kathy Schanf, Marty Krueger, J. Ashford; Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf/WCA

Call to Order @ 9:32 am by Chair Steve Nass

Certification of Open Meeting Notice

Adoption of Agenda, approved by Dodge/Sauk

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes, approved by Columbia/Green Lake, please note corrections:

- The Chair of Columbia County is not the Administrator for Columbia the Clerk is the designated Administrator Coordinator for the County
- Green Lake clarification: Highway, Human Services, Agriculture, and Justice committee representatives serve not the department heads/hwy. Commissioner.
- Clarification that Dodge county will host Feb ICC meeting

Reports from Visiting Legislative Officials – none present

Update of County Issues – WCA

- Within the next few weeks WCA will be hiring new liaisons
- WCA is working w/ legislators on the next budget, the following priorities:
 - WCA has concerns that the Video conferencing technology requirement will be a burden to counties. There was a hearing in Jan. 2008 by the Supreme Court. If any county has comments they must submit comments by Feb.
 - AB 526 and Senate 321: this bill is proposing changing indigent standards; the standards have not been revised since 1987. The bill being proposal asks that if a person qualifies for W-2 then they should be entitled to public representation. The republicans are not in favor of this proposal unless the counties agree to reduce their levy limits.
 - SB 401: Deals w/ 17 year olds juveniles that are going back into the criminal justice systems, 17 years olds are currently considered adults. There is research that shows 17 year olds are better managed in the juvenile system rather than the adult justice system. The proposed funding source does not cover estimated costs associated w/ this proposal. There will be a public hearing that will examine what should be an appropriate funding source.
 - AB 582: Proposes to change the publishing requirement of local government ordinances from publishing the whole text of the ordinance in a newspaper to just posting a summary of the proposed ordinance.
 - AB 39: Child agencies will access to C-CAP files

- Probation and Parole: WCA would like to see reimbursement rates be at the statutory rate, of \$40/day, currently it is \$28/day.
- Child Support funding has been greatly decreased because of federal changes in the funding equation. The State's shortfall

Open Discussion of County Issues – will be discussed after the program

Program: County Governance Structure II: Decision-Making & Capacity Building, presented by Kate Lawton, UW-Extension, Local Government Center.

County	Jefferson	Sauk	Columbia	Green Lake	Dodge
Structure	Admin. Coord. Hired	Admin Coord. Hired	Chair acts as Admin. Coord. but Clerk holds official position	Chair acts as Admin. Coord. But Clerk holds official position	Will be hiring Admin. Coord.
# Supervisors	30	31	31	19	37
# Committees	27	15 standing	13 standing	17-18	24
Pop Changes from 1990 -2005	67, 000 to 77,000	47,000 to 59,000	45,000 to 53,000	19,000 to 19,500	77,000 to 81,000
GPR changes from 1990-2005	\$17 to \$94 mil	\$12.2 to \$75.2 mil	\$8.9 to \$53.1mil	\$4.9 to \$22.6mil	\$16 to \$96 mil

- LaCrosse Co. Model: LaCrosse Co. has merged committees to area committees with great scope (eg. LCD, P&Z, LIO, Register Deeds, UWEX). Ozaukee Co. has also consolidated several standing committees into area committees, similar to what LaCrosse did.
- Why have Counties changed their admin. structure:
 - Intergenerational “ways of doing business”
 - Changes in populations
 - Economic Trends
 - Political pressures
- Dodge Co: has recently decided to hire an Admin. Coord. Some supervisors were not supportive of this move because the committee members thought they would lose power. But those in support of hiring an admin. Coord. know they only have policy oversight not administrative oversight.
- Leadership styles have changed over the years. The leadership style used to be more of a hierarchical/supervisory nature, whereas today, we see more of a mediator style.
- The question raised, “why do people run for office” is it that they want to be a public servant or because they have the desire to solve issue(s)?
- Columbia Co. believes that members of committees rotate every few years but also have some continuity.
- Sauk Co. believes that the budget must be tied to their overall strategic plan. This year they asked each dept. to have a plan that aligns w/ the County’s strategic plan. Sauk co. believes this allows committees not to be advocates for their committees but examine the overall county’s good. Sauk county has begun training for supervisors including orientation training, mid-year assessment (e.g., chair training, etc.).
- Jefferson co does have an orientation and training session for new supervisors. Are decisions made regarding “needs or county” or “desires of committee”
- Columbia County wants to resolve department “turf” struggles and have each dept. work towards the overall county good.
- How do counties balance the decision-making authority of each committee and the decision-making authority of the overall county board?
- Jefferson co. has found that if there is a long-term plan (e.g., comprehensive plan, parks plan, etc.) then decisions are based on “need” rather than “desire”

- Jefferson co. has been doing department audits. Recently the county did an audit of the administrative unit and one of the recommendations that came out of the audit is for the County to do an overall county strategic plan. Jefferson hired an outside consultant to do the audits.
- Sauk co. recommends that you not only have dept. plans but counties also have an overall county plan. LaCrosse and Ozaukee Counties have found that by having larger committees w/ greater scope that committees shift from being “advocates” when making decisions to making decision based on “county needs and available resources”.
- How Sauk Co. makes decisions: Board decides issues -> Staff does research and presents options -> committee decides policy recommendation
- How can Counties build leadership Capacity of county board supervisor?
- Good decision making should be based on have processes in place

Open Discussion of County Issues

- WCA would like to see an increase to beer sales tax so that communities could set up alternatives to incarceration
- Sue Martin felt that the *WI Way* is a great way to hear what WI residents want. Sue wondered if elected officials have been invited to *WI Way* sessions?
- How do Counties establish elected official salaries: Dodge does it thru their Human Services Committee based on contract agreements; Sauk Co. uses the union contracts and looks at US averages for that position; Green Lake establishes it each year; Columbia Co. bases it on a grid, 2% every year.

Adjourn @ 11:55 am, approved by Dodge and Green Lake. Next two meetings will be in Dodge County