

Intercounty Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 18, 2008
Dodge County Administration Building
Juneau, Wisconsin

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steven Nass at 9:30 a.m.

Attendance:

See attached attendance sheet

The requirements of the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law were met.

The agenda was approved (motion 1st Columbia County - 2nd Jefferson County)

The minutes were approved (motion 1st Dodge County - 2nd Columbia County)

Legislative Report

No Report

Wisconsin Counties Association, WCA Report

John Reinemann – discussed the progress of refilling vacant positions at the Counties Association. He commented that there is little activity in the Legislature over the last month. John related that the State budget is worse off than expected (\$650 mil short) – he said there is a possibility that there will be a budget adjustment bill before June 30. In addition, the State is looking at delaying payments or holding off on commitments as a fiscal strategy. There also was a discussion about the recent WCA Legislative workshop.

Program

How do you deal with conflict – what are the elements of negotiation, and how are negotiation and conflict related? Jeff Hoffman – UWEX Community Development Educator, Dodge County.

Hoffman talked about the need for elected officials to handle citizens concerns in a better way. He provided examples that demonstrated the results of poor conflict management by elected officials. There was discussion on areas where participants experience frustration and conflict. Hoffman offered a definition of conflict and asked the participants to relate their life situations to the elements of conflict. Hoffman defined conflict behaviors and the group practiced competitive and collaborative behaviors. Hoffman explained the Model for Improvement and explained how our assumptions and beliefs are the root of one's conflict actions. Hoffman talked about the first three of the seven elements of negotiation and the group practiced their inquiry techniques. The remaining elements of negotiation will be part of the March presentation. Hoffman asked participants to think about a negotiation that they are currently involved in; he wants participants to use the negotiation tools next month on a real situation.

Open Discussion on County Issues

There was a discussion on the primary vote tomorrow and the need for a change in the procedure to establish wages for elected county officials. There was also a short discussion on downsizing County Boards and the affect on County Committees.

Next meeting: March 17, topic – continuation of Conflict Management and Negotiation

Meeting adjourned at 12:06 (motion 1st Dodge County 2nd Columbia County). Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Hoffman
UW-Extension, Dodge County