Intercounty Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 16, 2015
Jefferson County, UW-Extension Office
Jefferson, WI

ICC Participants

See attached sign-in sheet

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Certification of Wisconsin Open Meetings Law Notice

Steve Grabow certified that the ICC meeting was posted according to Wisconsin State Open Meeting Law.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion by Green Lake County, seconded by Jefferson County to approve the agenda. Motion passed on voice vote.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion by Dodge County, seconded by Green Lake County, to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2015 meeting of the Intercounty Coordinating Committee. Motion passed on voice vote.

Legislative Report

None

Wisconsin Counties Association Report

Not able to attend.

Open Discussion of County Issues:

- **Green Lake County:** Jack Meyers had surgery but is doing well.
- **Jefferson County:** A large number of ICC members expressed an interest in touring the new Highway Shop after the meeting.

Program Topic: ***County Transportation Planning: General Approaches and Jefferson County Considerations***

- Program Topic was presented by Steve Grabow, Professor and Community Development Educator with UW-Extension, with the UW-Extension, Jefferson County Office.
  - The PowerPoint of his presentation can be found at: http://jefferson.uwex.edu/files/2010/09/SteveTransportationPlanPresentationMarch2015.pdf

Dialogue Among County Officials: The Status of Transportation Planning in the ICC Counties

There was extensive dialogue around transportation issues. Comments from the ICC counties are captured below.

Jefferson

- Determining jurisdictional responsibilities is a need in Jefferson County, i.e. is there a need to make changes on who is the lead jurisdiction on various roadways? Need clarification and designation.
- Organizational Options: Should the main department remain as Highway Department or be expanded into a Transportation Department? Rural mass transit is an emerging need.

Dodge

- Has a Comprehensive Plan.
- Needs an updated Comprehensive Plan with a Transportation Element.
- Needs to address mobility and Human Services.
- Beaver Dam – does have a taxi.
- An older population is requiring expanded transportation options
- How do we define transportation?
- Rail: is an area that will be more important in Dodge County.

Jefferson

- Linkages to fiber-optics is a utility and/or community facility need.
- More people could work remotely if there was better broad band.

Columbia

- No additional Transportation Planning is likely in Columbia County.
- They do not have a County Administrator.
- The priority in Columbia County is a $46 million building program.
- Some Departments are working on Transportation activities:
  - Bike trail facilities are becoming more important.
  - Highway projects
- There are needs for van transportation (ADRC helps).
- Agrees: need for high speed internet (and this is an economic development emphasis).

Green Lake

- Not moving forward with Transportation Planning.
- The County struggles to keep roads up.
- Not a lot of dollars.
- An aging County.
- In process of updating its Comprehensive Plan.
- The Town of Brooklyn did a 20 year road plan.

Jefferson

- Large ag operators are putting more pressure on local/town roads.
- Ag traffic is predominate in rural counties.
- It is important to balance economic development and transportation.

Green Lake

- Has two frac sand pits which are creating transportation issues.

Dodge

- Implements of Husbandry Law Implications: waste haulers are running very heaving equipment, but are not required to get permits like agriculture vehicles.

Jefferson

- Rail and emergency planning is another issue given the significant increases in shipping oil through Wisconsin.
- Chuck Morrone from the Strong Towns Program suggests an approach to transportation planning.

Green Lake

- Roads are falling apart because of a lack of funding.

Sauk County

- Just putting the Team together to do a Comprehensive Plan Update; this new plan will have a significant transportation element.
- Sauk County has the Parks function already in the Highway Department. Parks interests are a "step-child" to Highway interests. They should be separate departments.
- Doing a Placemaking Initiative: Sauk County envisions the Parks System enlarging with new additions to the system (being a part of Highway will no longer work.)
- Broadband is key to economic development. (If an area doesn't have it, it will not have community development.)
- Sauk County is also concerned about the mobility of seniors and the underserved populations.
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Jefferson

- Human Services/Workforce Transportation: There is a scenario of reaching out to St. Colletta's to use their underused vans.
- See big difference between Highways and Parks; requires the right people.
- Pipelines – They have their own set of policies; it is important to look at the "land use element".

Open Discussion of County Issues (Continued)

Jefferson

- The County has a Task Force on Operations and Organizations; what is Sauk County doing to review its organization?

Sauk

- The Sauk County organizational assessment process was summarized by their Board Chair.
- The County is doing a "mid-term assessment" of the County.
- They added a special board meeting at the end of April.
- Originally they ask supervisors to discuss what was accomplished in the past year, and what do they want to focus the budget on?
- The Sauk County detailed process includes:
  - In January, Supervisors are informed of the process
  - In March, Strategic issues are discussed in committees (3-5 year issues; 2 issues are identified per committee)
  - Issues are presented at the March Board meeting
  - In early April, there is an Intergovernmental Meeting: issues are discussed by Town, City, Village leaders. How do their issues relate to you?
  - On April 30, the only topic is to go over "Strategic Issues" (They come up with a new "grading system" and are trying to have a better scoring system).

Dodge

- April Board meeting: Supervisors will go on a "Bus tour" of parks and other facilities. This is a good for many of the new Supervisors.
- A Supervisor wants to do a "Forensic Study" of three departments; a kind of "Forensic Audit"; $350 per hour to do this; would cost 6 figures to do this; may not get traction.
- They might rather do an in-depth audit of one department per year.

Columbia

- Audits (forensic) can be more of a witch-hunt rather than an audit; could be very demoralizing.

Adjournment

Motion by Dodge County to adjourn the meeting to a Tour of the New Jefferson County Highway Facility led by the County Administrator Wehmeier and County Board Chair Schroeder, seconded by Jefferson County at 11:30 a.m. Motion approved by voice vote. About 13 people participated in the tour.

Minutes Submitted By

Steve Grabow, Community Development Educator, UW-Extension, Jefferson County

Submitted on March 31, 2015