

(149-09/10)

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD PROCEEDINGS
PLANNING MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2010**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on January 11, 2010 in the Administrative Center, Room B410. Chair Doyle called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The County Clerk, Linda Stone, took attendance. All supervisors were present except as noted:

DISTRICT - NAME

1 Richmond, Andrea
2 Geary Jr., Ralph - Absent
3 Veenstra, Joe
4 Johnson, Jai
5 Konkel, Bradley - Excused
6 Billings, Jill
7 Plesha, Roger
8 Freedland, Maureen - Excused
9 Hampson, Sharon
10 Wood, Margaret
11 Kader, Audrey - Absent
12 Flood, Bridget
13 Brockmiller, Bill
14 Medinger, John D.
15 Mach, Beverly
16 Sebranek, Gerald
17 Meyer, Donald
18 Johnson, Tara

DISTRICT - NAME

19 Keil, Robert - Excused
20 Bina, Donald
21 Manthei, Dennis
22 Ebert, Ray A.
23 Gamroth, Tammy
24 Pfaff, Leon - Absent
25 Schroeder, Jeffrey - Excused
26 Burke, Vicki
27 Pedretti, Marilyn
28 Doyle, Steve
29 Kruse, Monica L.
30 Spiker, Charles
31 Fisher, Ann
32 Benrud, Arlene - Excused
33 Berns, Jim - Present at 6:36 p.m.
34 Wehrs, Tina - Excused
35 Bilskemper, Joe - Excused

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

COUNTY BOARD CHAIR REPORT – Steve Doyle

- **Mileage Reimbursements:** Chair Doyle reminded supervisors that if they still had 2009 mileage reimbursements to turn in the deadline is January 31, 2010, and they must have vehicle insurance on file to qualify.
- **Airport Community Technical Advisory Committee:** A letter was received from the Airport Manager. The City of La Crosse is undertaking a project to develop a zoning ordinance to preserve and protect the airport and they are looking for a volunteer from the community who has an interest in the airport and zoning issues to participate in that committee. If anyone is interested contact the Chair after the meeting. The 1st meeting is at the airport terminal on January 20, 2010.

PROCLAMATION: JANUARY 2010 HIGHWAY SAFETY/TRANSPORTATION MONTH

WHEREAS, staff works so diligently to build safe roads for the residents of La Crosse County and visitors to travel upon; and, **WHEREAS**, maintenance such as snow plowing; salting; grading shoulders; mowing; repairing, sealing, sweeping, and paving roads and many other duties keep La Crosse County highways clean and safe; and, **WHEREAS**, the safety of all traveling persons is ensured by the hard working men and women of the highway department. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the month of January 2010 as La Crosse Highway Safety Month and urges all residents to join in recognizing the valuable contribution of persons dedicated to ensuring safe roads for La Crosse County residents and visitors.

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Motion by Spiker/Brockmiller to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 7 excused – Benrud, Bilskemper, Freedland, Keil, Konkel, Schroeder and Wehrs and 4 absent - Geary, Kader, Pfaff and Berns.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – Steve O’Malley

- **WCA Legislative Exchange:** This event will be held on February 9 and 10, 2010. Anyone interested in attending should contact Chair Doyle’s assistant. Some committee meeting dates may need to be changed to accommodate those who will be in Madison.
- **High Speed Rail:** On Saturday, January 23rd representatives from both sides of the river will be traveling to an event in Milwaukee and holding press conferences along the way to promote bringing the High Speed Rail through our area. They will attend the Timber Wolves / Bucks game and hope to get an audience with Senator Kohl. Administrator O’Malley has the information for any that are interested. All expenses will be the responsibility of each participating individual.
- **Dioxins and Waste to Energy:** Solid Waste Director Hank Koch spoke, with the aid of a power point presentation, about Dioxin, Waste to Energy (WTE) and Plastic Recycling. His purpose is to inform and educate on these important issues.
 - Overview
 - What is Dioxin? Dioxin emissions past and present
 - A group of 17 chemical compounds with highly variable toxicity.
 - The EPA has classified dioxin as “a known human carcinogen” based on wild animal studies
 - Municipal waste incineration has gone from being the primary source of dioxin (56.8%) in 1987 to only 1.4% in 2000.
 - WTE compared to coal plant emissions
 - The EPA has concluded that WTE power plants produce electricity “with less environmental impact than almost any other source of electricity.” WTE is considered a minor source of mercury and dioxin compared to coal
 - Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)
 - Our system has the lowest GHG emissions since electrical production no longer comes from coal, we have no long hauls so most vehicle emissions have been eliminated from the process, we produce less methane and have been doing recovery and diversion.
 - Is WTE Green? Yes, because of the following:
 - Waste stabilization
 - Avoids long haul transport; Lessens reliance on fossil fuels
 - Provides long-term control over disposal capacity and pricing
 - Provides base load renewable energy
 - Complements source separation recycling programs
 - Have the opportunity for cogeneration
 - Is cleaner than coal or oil
 - Minimizes landfill disposal impacts
 - Should we recycle plastics?
 - Probably, but it will not have a significant effect on either the landfill space or the Xcel tonnage, nor will it impact dioxin production.
 - What does this mean to us? La Crosse County is on the right track.
 - Hierarchy of waste management
 - GHG (Green House Gases) reduction
 - Long term future is more secure
 - The investments made by the County have paid off in that they have reduced dioxin emissions

In Mid 2010 the Wisconsin DNR will do an independent and comprehensive multi-pathway risk assessment on Xcel Energy. This will tell us how we are doing and will influence future processes. To improve recycling programs Solid Waste Director

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Koch suggests a regional approach for evaluation, recycling on a larger scale and the possibility of alternative funding mechanisms

- **Equalized Value Apportionment Data:** With the aid of slides and charts Administrator O'Malley demonstrated how property assessments affect property tax. The current tax assessment system does not fairly account for true value. The system has no standards and lacks professionalism. Because some assessments are late or incomplete and/or inaccurate there is no consistency in equalized value. This is key to distributing the County tax across the municipalities. That is why some municipalities see a jump in their portion of the County tax and others see misleading decreases, only to "catch up" in following years. La Crosse County's Resource Agent, Karl Green, has a very informative presentation that some supervisors have seen and others may find interesting as well. Administrator O'Malley thought that would tie in very well with the presentation given at the recent Collaboration Conference which was also very educational. He proposed a joint meeting with the City of La Crosse at our February Planning Meeting which could start a little early to accommodate both presentations.
- **Administrator Evaluation and 2010 Work Plan:** Administrator O'Malley asked all supervisors to fill out his evaluation and 2010 Work Plan and turn it in to the Chair.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by T. Johnson/Brockmiller to go into closed session at 7:23 p.m. pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes Section 19.85 (1)(g) conferring with legal counsel for the Governmental Body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the Body with respect to litigations in which it is or is likely to become involved TO WIT: 1) Stenberg, et. al. v. County of La Crosse and Town of Campbell; and 2) Olson v. Thorn, Judge Damon, County of La Crosse, State of Wisconsin Court of Appeals, et. al. passed on a unanimous voice vote with 7 excused – Benrud, Bilskemper, Freedland, Keil, Konkell, Schroeder and Wehrs and 3 absent - Geary, Kader and Pfaff.

No action was taken in closed session. **Motion** by Meyer/Manthei to reconvene into open session at 7:49 p.m. passed on a unanimous voice vote with 7 excused – Benrud, Bilskemper, Freedland, Keil, Konkell, Schroeder and Wehrs and 3 absent - Geary, Kader and Pfaff.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

Historical Societies: Supervisor Ebert asked about the Historical Society presentations he requested during budget discussions. Administrator O'Malley confirmed that he was working on that in conjunction with the budgetary needs of other outside agencies, which was part of Supervisor Ebert's original request. It is on his list of future agenda topics.

Excel Energy Assessment: Supervisor Billings asked if the Wisconsin DNR would inform them of the results of their assessment of Xcel Energy. Administrator O'Malley assured her that will come before the Board in some format.

ADJOURN

Motion by Meyer/Brockmiller to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. passed on a unanimous voice vote with 7 excused – Benrud, Bilskemper, Freedland, Keil, Konkell, Schroeder and Wehrs and 3 absent - Geary, Kader and Pfaff.

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE)

I, Linda Stone, La Crosse County Clerk, in and for the County of La Crosse, Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Journal of Proceedings of the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors at the Planning Meeting held Monday, January 11, 2010 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS 14th DAY OF JANUARY 2010.