

## **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Monday, January 9, 2012  
County Administrative Center, Room 3220  
11:30 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bill Brockmiller, Bridget Flood, Sharon Hampson, Monica Kruse, John Medinger, Don Meyer, Roger Plesha

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** None

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF & GUESTS:** Steve O'Malley, Margaret Norden, Dave Holtze

### **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Chair Brockmiller called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None requested.

### **APPROVE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 10, 2011**

**MOTION** by Plesha/Kruse to approve the Minutes of October 10, 2011. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **UPDATE ON RESOLUTION RE: OPPOSITION TO 2011 ASSEMBLY BILL 146**

Steve O'Malley explained that Assembly Bill 146, which eliminated renewable resource credits, was killed in committee.

### **RESOLUTION RE: SUPPORTING ASSEMBLY BILL 454, PERFORMANCE OF HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS BY COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT FOR ANOTHER COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY**

The Resolution addresses Assembly Bill 454. The bill was drafted by Representative Doyle to repeal 59.52 (30), 62.14 (1d) and 66.90901 (11), and to amend 86.31. The statutes are related to performance of highway improvement projects, and specifically prohibit counties from sharing workforce or equipment with other counties or municipalities as enacted in the 2011 Biennial Budget Act 32. It would eliminate these restrictions and allow counties to contract with the lowest responsible bidder, including other counties or municipalities. Ron Chamberlain reported there were Senate Republican co-sponsors. Discussion was held about whether the WCA and WCHA favored the bill, and Chamberlain responded that WCA favored, but the WCHA board's motion to support failed with a tie vote. **MOTION** by Plesha/Hampson to approve the Resolution Re: Supporting Assembly Bill 454, Performance of Highway Improvement Projects by County Highway Department for Another County or Municipality. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **UPDATE ON HAZMAT FUNDING ISSUE**

Steve O'Malley reported that the state legislature has allowed a six month extension for funding of local hazardous materials teams, but has not provided funding beyond that time. The La Crosse area hazmat team functions under the City of La Crosse Fire Department. If there is no action, it will fall upon businesses that are mandated to have hazardous materials plans in place to fund their own clean-up if there is an exposure situation. Discussion was held about smaller communities that have received small amounts of funding, and the need to pool resources. Further discussion was held regarding possible union rules that could prohibit sending workers into hazardous locations when they have inadequate protection. The Administrator will keep in touch with Fire Chief Cleveland to see if there is potential legislative action to consider supporting in the future at the end of the six month extension.

### **WCA LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE, FEBRUARY 6-7, 2012**

The conference dates are actually February 7-8, 2012. Three committee members indicated they would like to attend.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Aging and Long-term Care Committee suggested monitoring legislation on Family Care caps.

**NEXT MEETING: TO BE DETERMINED.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Hampson/Plesha to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

**Approved,** March 5, 2012, Margaret Norden, Recorder