

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
CLARK, LANGLADE, LINCOLN, MARATHON, PORTAGE,
WAUPACA, WAUSHARA, AND WOOD COUNTIES
MINUTES

Date and Time: Monday, August 20, 2018, 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Location: Central Wisconsin Airport, Lower Level Room 017, Mosinee WI

Attendees: Kurt Gibbs, Joe Waichulis, Wayne Hendrickson, Mary Kay Poehlman, Bill Clendenning, Brent Vruwink, Keith Langenhahn, Kyle Christianson, Bill Leichtnam, Sara Guild, Dennis Kussman, John Durham, Fred Zaug, Bob Lee, Jake Hahn, John Robinson, Rep Katrina Shankland, Sen. Tom Tiffany, Mary Ann Lippert, Mary Palmer

1. Call To Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Silent Cell Phones
4. Approval of the March 12, 2018 Minutes
MOTION BY CLARK COUNTY; SECOND BY WOOD COUNTY TO APPROVE THE MARCH 12, 2018, MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Update By and Discussion With Visiting Area Legislators
Rep. Katrina Shankland –
Under current law going to referendum by counties is a difficult process. Rep. Shankland is introducing policy to make the process more clear for binding referendums and less hurdles to do it. This may be a more pressing issue down the road and wants to get ahead.

Water issues – Representative Shankland introduced the Well Compensation Grants Bill. 40% of wells test above national rates for nitrates. Counties and local municipalities help fund testing private wells, but really the state should do this. Right now the Well Compensation Grant is for homeowners with livestock. She is looking to reintroduce the standards to all people. But, how do we ensure that people should test their water on a yearly basis. The other part of the bill is that the state pay to test all wells every 7 years and to know what levels of particles in water are reported.

Red Cedar River has a crusty blue green algae that is completely across the river. Also Lake Superior has the blue green algae there. We have to address phosphorus issues and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for transporation.

State Legislators were urged to approve transportation funding in whatever format can get passed. The State roads are in bad shape.

Senator Tom Tiffany

Senator handed out a Then vs. Now handout on Budget, Business Climate, Unemployment Rate and Average Property Tax Bill on a Median Home showing the difference between 2010 and the present.

Foxconn – democrats are trying to make it an albatross around the republicans. Taiwan is concerned about mainland China. Foxconn is based in Taiwan. Illinois is rankled that

Wisconsin got this project. We did put out incentives. Michigan offered over \$800 million more in incentives. The Senator voted in favor of Foxconn because they get no incentives until they make the investments and hire the people. All flat screen TV's are currently made in Southeast Asia and soon it will be manufactured here in Wisconsin. Many Wisconsin manufacturers will benefit from this.

Transportation – The State is putting more money into transportation than 8 years ago. A billion dollars was taken out of the transportation fund in 2005 – 2007. We are putting more money in general transportation aid. Significant reforms in transportation will more effectively use the dollars we currently have. Legislators need to see what reforms are being considered before they get the money. \$30 million went toward bridges from joint finance earlier this summer. DOT has a program to beef up bridges with \$30 to \$50 thousand rather than tear down and rebuild for half a million.

Wisconsin receive \$160 million from federal government. That's the second highest received.

Local governments have needs that can't be met. Local municipalities are borrowing millions to fix roads. It's not being handled at the State level where it should be.

Child Support – Wood County is requesting \$1.5 million in general revenue which would generate a federal match of \$2 per dollar. July 1 state through DCF will be taking money away from the County. They will also be limiting the County's ability to recoup birth costs. BadgerCare DHS only receives 15% of the 50% they could normally be recouped. This means there is a need for more levy from the County due to what's happening. It can be crippling to the counties. The increase will hopefully be a break even with losing the recouping of birth funds.

Representative Katrina Shankland – When a couple lives together – they are not aware they will get a huge bill of 3,000 to 4,000 dollars a few months down the road after child birth. It's not a co-pay. It's kind of push to incentivize marriage. If married they would not have to pay the extra thousands. It could be that if both incomes are considered they might not qualify for Badgercare (Medicaid).

Mary Ann Lippert, Department of Administration

It's quiet in Madison right now. She can provide input to policy staff and the Governor. The real life stories are important to help carry the message back. She will be available after the meeting to discuss child support and the resolutions.

6. Updates from Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) Representative and Review of 2018 Resolutions

Kyle Christianson, Director of Government Affairs and Keith Langenhahn, Field Agent – Last Friday the WCA Board of Directors met to approve the legislative agenda. The Board creates a document that identifies and sets priorities prior to Sept. 15. It will be published in the September WCA magazine. Then budget items are re-evaluated and then prioritized later.

Not much happening in the legislature right now. WCA following 6 committees and is trying to get county representation on each committee they are interested in.

They are meeting with agency secretaries and budget directors. Agency budget requests submitted in September will be the governor's priorities.

Juvenile Corrections – unanimous support by both assembly and senate. It moved very quickly

The next meeting is August 27th if a County is interested in learning the steps to apply to run a juvenile facility. A group of county officials are going to Missouri to view their regional models.

Resolutions: Once a year counties can submit resolutions to be reviewed at WCA's Annual Meeting. The Resolutions that are adopted get added to the legislative platform. The process was explained. Each resolution is reviewed for three criteria – Is the issue timely? Is it a statewide reform? Is the issue a county government issue?

Christiansen went through Resolutions 1 – 41 and explained what action, if any, was taken and why. Resolutions 42 – 59 are resolutions that WCA already has taken a position.

7. Update On Federal Issues By Senate And Congressional Representatives

Sara Guild – Congressman Sean Duffy's Office –

Water issues – USDA rural development has \$4 billion through water and waste program which includes storm water drainage. Reach out to your local USDA office or Sarah.

It's quiet on the House side. September 4th the Congressman will be heading back to Washington. First couple weeks he will be working on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), conservation funding and subsidies for farmers. His goal is to get these items passed before this year's budget ends.

Congressman Duffy is also working on reauthorizing the land and conservation fund which expires 9/30 this year. It has to do with the Ice Age Trail.

8. Thank you Portage County for Hosting Today's Meeting

Thank you also to Senator Tiffany, Representative Shankland, Kyle Christensen, Mary Ann Lippert and Sarah Guild for attending today's meeting.

9. Next Meeting Date December 10, 2018, Hosted by Marathon County

10. Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m. **MOTION MADE AND SECONDED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary Palmer