

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, August 9, 2010
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, Dean Ruppert, Nick Nichols

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 7, 2010

MOTION by Flood/Meyer to approve the Minutes of June 7, 2010. **Motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION RE: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE STATE OF WISCONSIN'S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE'S 25X25 VISION

The Resolution states that the mission of the Office of Energy Independence is to generate 25% of the state's electricity and transportation fuels from renewable sources by 2025, to capture 10% of the emerging bio-industry and renewable energy market by 2030, and to lead the nation in groundbreaking research to make renewable energy more affordable and create Wisconsin jobs. By joining the Wisconsin Energy Independent Community Partnership, La Crosse County will have additional access to state and federal funding, increased technical assistance, and improved energy efficiency. Discussion was held regarding not pursuing LEED certification of new county buildings. Supervisors Hampson and Kruse expressed their desire to be more aggressive in setting an example to the community. Supervisor Medinger pointed out that the Sustainability Coordinator can apply for grants to pursue sustainable technology for new construction and retrofits. **MOTION** by Hampson/Kruse to approve the Resolution Re: A Resolution Supporting the State of Wisconsin's Office of Energy Independence's 25x25 Vision. **Motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION RE: COUNTY NURSING HOMES AND THE 2011-2013 STATE BIENNIAL BUDGET

The Resolution calls for a statutory change to Sec. 49.45(6u)(am), Wis.Stats., and to require the state to share equally the federal match dollars received as a result of county nursing home losses. It further calls for bed tax assessments to be used for nursing home rate increases, not as supplementation to the MA Trust Fund. Finally, it calls for an exemption for county owned Institutes for Mental Disease (IMD's) and state-only licensed facilities from the provider bed assessment (bed tax). Supervisor Hampson stated that the Legislative Committee should further discuss the issue of IMD's being required to pay the bed tax, even though they do not qualify for Medicaid payments. **MOTION** by Plesha/Kruse to approve the Resolution Re: County Nursing Homes and the 2011-2013 State Biennial Budget. **Motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION RE: FUNDING CHANGES FOR WISCONSIN JUVENILE CORRECTION INSTITUTES (JCIS)

The Resolution states that Juvenile Correction facilities (JCI's) should avail themselves of fiscal resources that are available to them, thus reducing costs to Wisconsin counties. It outlines those resources, including transfer of costs to the state school aids formula, transfer of fixed costs to the state general purpose revenue, having the state assume health care costs under the general Medicaid BadgerCare Plus program, removing high intensive service from the "blended" daily rate, increasing the number of offenses for which the state would assume payment, and establishing a

daily rate that represents the average of comparable out-of-home placements and fund any gap from the general purpose fund. Discussion was held regarding other cost-saving measures for JCI's, such as utilizing the school-based lunch program. Supervisor Hampson stated that she sits on the WCA HHS steering committee, which moved in favor of closing Ethan Allen. **MOTION** by Flood/Kruse to approve the Resolution Re: Funding Changes for Wisconsin Juvenile Correction Institutes (JCI's). **Motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION RE: SUPPORT FOR ELIMINATION OF POTENTIAL OF THE ASIAN CARP SPREAD INTO THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND SURROUNDING WATERSHEDS

The Resolution addresses the invasion of Asian Carp that threatens boating and recreational and commercial fishing in the Mississippi River and Great Lakes. It supports the Attorney General in pursuing legal remedies to stop Asian carp from entering the Mississippi River via dams and tributaries, and urges the Governor of Wisconsin to address the United States Congress to support studies to biologically separate Asian carp.

MOTION by Flood/Hampson to amend the Resolution to state, "Be it Further Resolved that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors urges the Governor of Wisconsin to address the United States Congress to support studies (insert) that find ways (end insert) to biologically separate Asian carp from entering the Mississippi River through dams and tributary river systems." **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION by Plesha/Hampson to approve the Resolution Re: Support for Elimination of Potential of the Asian Carp Spread into the Mississippi River and Surrounding Watersheds, as amended. **Motion carried unanimously.**

ROLE AND GOALS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Chair Brockmiller stated he envisioned two goals: 1) originate resolutions, and 2) provide a single committee meeting for local government representatives to attend. Supervisor Flood suggested a review of previous meeting minutes where the role of the committee was discussed. Supervisor Kruse stated she would like to see taking a more activist role.

REGULAR MEETING DAY AND TIME

Chair Brockmiller stated he would work around his work schedule to keep the current regular meeting day and time. He also said that he had appointed Supervisor Flood as vice-chair in the event he should have a conflict.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Bed tax imposed on Mental Disease (IMD's) and state-only licensed facilities
Review of minutes regarding role of committee
Juvenile detention and changes in Department of Corrections rules

NEXT MEETING: CONFLICT WITH LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

Committee consensus was to have no meeting in September, 2010; next meeting will be on October 11, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Meyer/Flood to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Approved, October 11, 2010, Margaret Norden, Recorder