

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, October 11, 2010
County Administrative Center, Room 3220
11:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Brockmiller, Bridget Flood, Sharon Hampson (exc. 12:02), Monica Kruse, John Medinger (11:46), Don Meyer, Roger Plesha

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF & GUESTS: Steve O'Malley, Margaret Norden

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Bill Brockmiller called the meeting to order at 11:39 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 9, 2010

MOTION by Flood/Kruse to approve the Minutes of August 9, 2010. **Motion carried unanimously.** Medinger excused.

RESOLUTION RE: SUPPORT FOR BANNING SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS

The Resolution urges the state legislature to ban the use, sale, purchase and possession of synthetic cannabinoids, which are chemical substances that imitate the effects of marijuana, and are gaining increased use in La Crosse County. The Resolution describes the adverse physical effects of the drug, which include fast heartbeat, hypertension, vertigo, hallucinations, and muscle spasms. Chair Brockmiller noted that the way the substance is marketed circumvents FDA oversight. Discussion was held regarding an Ordinance to prohibit synthetic cannabinoids in La Crosse County that will go to the Judiciary and Law Committee, along with the Resolution to recommend that the state ban the substance. Supervisor Hampson stated that banning controlled substances and criminalizing use and possession does not have an effect until the demand for the substances is reduced. Supervisor Flood stated a concern that there are no long-term studies regarding the effects of synthetic cannabinoids. Supervisor Medinger stated he would prefer referring the matter 60 days, and have public health and law enforcement officials report on the item, and the Resolution would still be timely for the next legislative session.

MOTION by Flood/Meyer to approve the Resolution Re: Support for Banning Synthetic Cannabinoids. **No action taken.**

MOTION by Medinger/Meyer to refer 60 days. **Motion carried 6-1.** Hampson opposed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES REGARDING ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE

A summary of minutes from previous meetings where the role of the committee was discussed was provided. Chair Brockmiller spoke about keeping standing committees engaged on issues, and having a single forum for local legislators.

WCA CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP

Supervisors Hampson and Kruse attended the annual WCA conference, and Supervisor Kruse reported on workshops she attended. She stated she was particularly impressed with the urban farm program she toured that is expanding from Milwaukee to Chicago and Madison. She also attended the women in government breakfast. Steve O'Malley reported on the Foth Good Government Award that will go to La Crosse County, and Representative Shilling receiving an outstanding legislator award for her representation of county issues.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Resolution Re: Support for Banning Synthetic Cannabinoids
Bed tax imposed on Mental Disease (IMD's) and state-only licensed facilities
Juvenile detention and changes in Department of Corrections rules
Fees associated with ash from Xcel Energy

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be December 6, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Meyer/Flood to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** Hampson excused. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Approved, December 6, 2010, Margaret Norden, Recorder