

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, September 12, 2011
County Administrative Center, Room 3220
4:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Brockmiller, Bridget Flood, Sharon Hampson (4:34 p.m.), Monica Kruse, John Medinger, Don Meyer, Roger Plesha

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF & GUESTS: Steve O'Malley, Margaret Norden, Jennifer Shilling, Ron Chamberlain, Randy Nedrelo, Nick Nichols, Mary Meehan-Strub

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Brockmiller called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2011

MOTION by Flood/Kruse to approve the Minutes of April 10, 2011. **Motion carried unanimously.** Hampson excused.

RESOLUTION RE: URGE CONGRESS TO PASS THE COMPLETE STREETS ACT

The Resolution states that between 1996 and 2006, approximately 54,000 pedestrians and 8,000 bicyclists were killed in road accidents because of a lack of sidewalks and crosswalks, and lack of accommodation for public transportation or people with disabilities. The National Complete Streets Coalition promotes providing for the needs of all street users, which is cost-effective and reduces fatalities. La Crosse County was the first in the country to adopt a Complete Streets policy. The Resolution seeks to urge Congress to pass a Complete Streets Act to direct states and municipalities to adopt a policy for federally-funded transportation projects. **MOTION** by Plesha/Hampson to approve the Resolution RE: Urge Congress to pass the Complete Streets Act. **Motion carried unanimously.**

WCA LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Several resolutions will be presented at the Wisconsin Counties Association state conference on September 26, 2011. The resolutions are titled as follows:

1. Establishing a Non-Partisan Election for the Legislature and County Offices
2. Recommending the State of Wisconsin Keep Its Current Recycling Program
3. Opposing the Centralization of Income Maintenance Programs
4. Opposing the Cuts to the Child Support Program, Food Stamp program and Medicaid and Supporting the Restoration of Funding at the Federal Level
5. Supporting the Work of Western Dairyland and Continuing Community Development Block Grant Funding at 2008 Levels
6. Operating a Motor Vehicle While Under the Influence of an Intoxicant
7. Supporting Legislation Repealing the 1992 County Tax Levy Rate Limit
8. Opposing a Decrease in Delinquent Property Tax Interest Rates

Chair Brockmiller stated that at the WCA conference, anyone could comment on the resolutions, but the vote would be limited to the committee. Discussion was held in particular regarding #'s 7 and 8, and impact on La Crosse County.

INVITATION TO SENATOR SHILLING AND REPRESENTATIVE DOYLE TO DISCUSS COUNTY LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Representative Doyle was unable to attend due to meetings in Madison. Senator Shilling attended, and spoke about her transition from the Assembly to the Senate and getting to know constituents in Vernon and Crawford Counties, and learning about agricultural issues. She stated there are opportunities in eco-tourism and organic farming. She foresees the main issues to be addressed are mining legislation, venture capital, and job initiatives. She also reported on

attending a local forum regarding children in poverty and the alarming statistics and cuts in funding. She stated that businesses need to be involved in solutions for employees who are struggling. Ron Chamberlain spoke about special dollars available from the national scenic byways program. The state DOT exempts local and county roads from being part of the program, which was not the intent of the federal government. He stated Bliss Road and others could benefit from access to that funding. Nick Nichols spoke about AB146, an Act to Amend 196.378(3)(c) of the statutes: relating to: use of renewable resource credits to comply with renewal portfolio standards. The proposed amendment states there may be no renewable resource credits used after December 31, 2011. Nichols stated the bill would affect the Gas-to-Energy project with Gundersen-Lutheran, and the viability of future projects. He further stated that alternative energy sources create jobs that otherwise go out of state.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Resolution Re: Oppose AB 146

NEXT MEETING: TO BE DETERMINED.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Medinger/Flood to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Approved, October 11, 2011, Margaret Norden, Recorder