

Florence County
LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2016

9:00 AM

Florence County Courthouse (second floor conference room)

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Edwin Kelley called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.
2. **Roll Call:** Those participating included Supervisors Kelley, Edward Wenger, Holly Wahlstrom-Stratton; School Board Member Ronald Yadro; and Unit Chairman of the Wisconsin Towns Association Fred Erwin. Supervisor Larry Dzekute was excused.
3. **Approval and/or revisions to the current agenda:** On a motion by Wenger, supported by Wahlstrom-Stratton, all were in favor to approve the agenda as posted.
4. **Approval of the previous Legislative Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes:** Wahlstrom-Stratton moved to accept the December 1, 2015 Meeting Minutes as drafted. Seconded by Erwin. All were in favor.
5. **Department and Partner Agency/Organization Recommendations –**
(discussion and/or action)
 - a. State and Federal School Legislation: R. Yadro reported on action moving forward on a locally led resolution to address the Maintenance Of Effort (MOE) federal requirement to provide consistent funding for special education programs. He agreed to report back with this item after the Wisconsin Association of School Boards conference takes action later in January.
 - b. Wisconsin Towns Association: Erwin updated the group on successful legislation passed this session with support of the state organization including: Act 79 which allows legal notices to be posted in one physical location in the jurisdiction if also placed on an internet site maintained by the local government; Act 96 authorizing towns to participate in multi-jurisdictional Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) districts that was previously prohibited; Act 105 eliminating the requirement for town electors to approve the highway expenditures line item of their budget; and, Act 113 providing greater flexibility in ambulance staffing by emergency medical technicians and first responders. Erwin followed up with information on the WDNR's involvement with disposal of e-waste providing primarily public education at this time with many municipalities charging consumers by weight or piece. With so much e-waste generated locally, all would like to see this become part of the state's recycling grant program. Erwin agreed to bring this issue forward to the Florence County Recycling Committee for further consideration and share information with other public entities such as the school district.
 - c. EmR-1511: relating to modifications in walleye harvest management in Ceded Territory waters. A letter of recommendation from local WDNR Fisheries Biologist Greg Matzke indicated that he believes that this is an effort to stabilize the walleye regulations and increase fish populations in these waters. Moved by Erwin, supported by Wahlstrom-Stratton, all were in favor to pass this along to the County Board Supervisors for further consideration.
 - d. AB-156 (SB-134): relating to coverage for new participating employers under the Wisconsin Retirement System. With no known impacts to the county coverage, Wenger moved to table this item and refer it to the local Town Association for further action. Seconded by R. Yadro. All were in favor.
 - e. AB-361 (SB-278): relating to local government employee participation in ancillary insurance coverage programs. On a motion by R. Yadro, supported by Erwin, this item will also be referred to the local Towns Association for any further consideration. All were in favor.
 - f. SB-392 (AB-520): relating to motor vehicle fueling facilities providing the public a telephone or other means for contacting emergency services. R. Yadro moved to send this item for comment to Florence County Sheriff Jeff Rickaby and Fire Chief Joe Witynski.

Supported by Erwin. All were in favor.

- g. SB-436 (AB-598): relating to Lake Monitoring and Protection Grants. Erwin explained that some of the money for river protection would be redirected through this proposal to lake monitoring and added protection. All agreed on the significance of maintaining water quality in the county. On a motion by Erwin, seconded by Wahlstrom-Stratton, all were in favor to send a letter supporting this recommendation to the County Board for further action.
- h. AB-441 (SB-339): relating to establishing a Wisconsin Veterans Employment Initiative. Though all appreciated local Veterans Services Officer Theis's viewpoint in supporting veteran initiatives, some expressed concern over meeting hiring ratio numbers rather than seeking the best qualified candidate for the job. Wahlstrom-Stratton felt that the proposed hiring formula was also very confusing. R. Yadro moved to oppose the proposed legislation as written. Seconded by Wenger. Motion passed to send this item on to County Board Supervisors. (Kelley voting nay, Wahlstrom-Stratton abstaining)
- i. AB-470 (SB-395): relating to operation of off-highway motorcycles. Erwin expressed his interest in promoting additional tourism though broadening trail system use. Wahlstrom-Stratton questioned driving ability and judgement of potentially 12 year-old drivers using public trails and roads, and asked if passage of this bill required building a separate trail system. R. Yadro moved to send this back for comment to Sheriff Rickaby and to Forestry & Parks Administrator Pat Smith. Supported by Wahlstrom-Stratton. All were in favor.
- j. AB-541 (SB-419): relating to Veterans Employment and Entrepreneurship Grant Program. Following Veterans Service Officer Theis's recommendation, Erwin moved to send this on to County Board Supervisors to support. Seconded by R. Yadro. Wahlstrom-Stratton felt this would have low financial impact though several agreed that this is at least a start. Motion passed. Wahlstrom-Stratton voted nay citing this effort as only tokenism.
- k. AB-561 (SB-434) & AB-559: relating to Managed Forest Lands. A handout was shared on public hearing testimony by the WDNR regarding potential benefits and drawbacks. Though it was felt that the Managed Forest Law which was enacted in 1985 has been a keystone tool used to encourage sound forest management of WI's privately owned forest lands, this bill is anticipated to carry some wins and losses for the state agencies and conservation funds, municipalities, landowners, and public recreation. Wenger moved to defer this item to the next meeting for a better understanding of the complexities of this bill. Seconded by Wahlstrom-Stratton who stated the significance of the WDNR's ability to maintain quality forests, air, water, and soil resources. All were in favor.
- l. AB-603: relating to Shoreland Zoning Restrictions. M. Yadro had provided a recommendation by Zoning Administrator Rich Wolosyn to take a neutral position on this bill. He plans to review this item with the Planning and Zoning Committee on January 6. Wenger moved to table this until requested for action by the Planning and Zoning Committee. Supported by Wahlstrom-Stratton. All were in favor.

6. Update from area Legislators: none were present.

7. Group discussion/any other action on legislative business: R. Yadro expressed his concern over the President using Executive Orders to bypass Congress. Wahlstrom-Stratton added her thoughts on the apparent increase in interference of Christian religions, and the overreaching arms of the Environmental Protection Agency. These items were requested for discussion at the upcoming ANSWERS meeting. M. Yadro also explained a proposal to remove real estate property tax relief from non-resident Wisconsin farm lands.

8. Future ANSWERS/Legislative Advisory Committee meeting agenda items: The upcoming ANSWERS meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2016 at the Natural Resource Center starting at 9 a.m. Wenger asked that the timing be reviewed for ease of attendees.

9. Set date for next Legislative Advisory Committee meeting and adjourn: On a motion by R. Yadro, supported by Wahlstrom-Stratton, all were in favor to adjourn until February 2, 2016.

Margie Yadro

Margie Yadro, Florence County
Legislative Advisory Committee Coordinator