

LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – May 5, 2015

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Edwin Kelley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Florence County Courthouse second floor conference room.
2. **Roll Call:** Committee members in attendance included Florence County Board Supervisors: Edwin Kelley, Holly Wahlstrom-Stratton, Edward Wenger and Larry Dzekute; Fred Erwin, Unit Chair of the Wisconsin Town's Association (WTA); and, Ron Yadro, Florence School Board Member. Additional meeting participant: Legislative Advisory Committee Coordinator, Margie Yadro.
3. **Approval and/or revisions to the current agenda.** Erwin moved to accept the agenda as posted. Seconded by Wahlstrom-Stratton. All were in favor.
4. **Approval of the April 7, 2015 Legislative Advisory Committee Minutes.** Wahlstrom-Stratton motioned to approve the previous meeting minutes as drafted. Supported by R. Yadro. All were in favor.
5. **OLD BUSINESS –**
 - A. County Board action on resolutions and bills: Kelley reported that the Florence County Board Supervisors supported all resolutions and bill correspondence as recommended from previous action taken by the Legislative Advisory Committee.
 - B. School Board/Resolutions: R. Yadro commented on recent steps taken toward the installation of a Fabrication "Fab" Lab at Florence Public Schools. Wahlstrom-Stratton suggested consideration of a "Friends" volunteer group to help support this effort. It was R. Yadro's understanding that a legislative bill is being drafted at this time to continue to forward the interests to secure reciprocal tuition across state lines. No further action was necessary.
 - C. Florence County Townships: Erwin updated the group on several legislative issues prioritized by the Wisconsin Townships Association (WTA) such as opposing changes to the Board of Review process. Florence County Supervisors had also expressed opposition to this county-wide assessment proposal. Erwin continued with potential impacts from the Governor's budget that could affect local road use/maintenance resources, private and commercial wastewater systems, and related grant funds including recycling. Wahlstrom-Stratton expressed her concerns on related economic and environmental impacts and moved to suggest that if the local Recycling Committee opposes any state budget reductions in the recycling grants, that a letter of support to legislators would be warranted for consideration by the full County Board. Seconded by Erwin. All were in favor. Wahlstrom-Stratton questioned any changes to classification or rating on Highway 'N'. Erwin believed that "strong roads" are being established for heavy weight road classes. All expressed concerns in the reduction of services related to forest roads, campgrounds and waysides. Erwin will follow up with WTA if any letters of support would be helpful on these issues.
 - D. National Forest PILT monies: Kelley reported that Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) was included within the federal budget and expects local budgets to see some gains. Though Florence Schools saw a reduction in the federal 25% Fund, they are pleased that the Secure Rural Schools Program will be reinstated. It was unclear if there would be some retroactive benefits. R. Yadro will follow up with Superintendent Neihaus.
 - E. Terrestrial Invasive Species support: M. Yadro reported on local citizens questioning the use of the state's 'Noxious Weeds' Law to demand treatment of invasive plants such as wild parsnip. After further communication with the state, M. Yadro was informed that road right-of-ways are exempt from this authority. She and Annette Seibold, Florence County's Health Department Director, are developing a media packet to improve public awareness of these hazardous plants.

Wahlstrom-Stratton moved that Mary Ann Lippert of the Wisconsin's Department of Administration be included in these hazardous plant management discussions, and express the need for securing additional state resources for their treatment. Supported by Erwin. All were in favor.

F. Regional Transportation Aids for the North: Erwin reported on local funding related to Town roads aids especially in proximity to state lands. No further action was taken.

G. Updates from Departments regarding information presented from the last Legislative Advisory meeting:

- a. **SB 67**: related to pupil assessments, evaluation of educator effectiveness, and school accountability reports. R. Yadro commented on the difficulties in implementing these measures and that this bill actually opposes these requirements at this time. R. Yadro moved to request County Board Supervisor's consideration of a legislative letter of support for this bill. Seconded by Wahlstrom-Stratton. All were in favor.
- b. **AB 81, 82 and SB 73**: related to documents filed with county registers of deeds. Wahlstrom-Stratton moved to follow Florence County Register of Deeds Pattie Gehlhoff's recommendation through a legislative letter of support considered by the County Board Supervisors. Seconded by R. Yadro. All were in favor to combine the support for all three bills into one letter.
- c. **AB 13**: related to the return of seized firearms to their owners. Florence County Sheriff Jeff Rickaby would like to see the return of firearms extended from 2 days to 10 days to allow time for a background check to be made. After discussion, Wahlstrom-Stratton moved to table this item at this time as the bill is not locally recommended as written. Supported by Erwin. All were in favor.
- d. **AB 19**: was recommended for support by Florence County District Attorney Doug Drexler, only with owner's knowledge in the use of global positioning devices. R. Yadro moved to defer this to the next meeting agenda when more information could be made available. Supported by Erwin. All were in favor.
- e. **SB 52 and 53**: were recommended for support by Florence County Economic Director Wendy Gehlhoff, relating to modifying the requirements for sharing tax increments by tax incremental districts (TIDs). She felt that this allows districts more flexibility to succeed, though it was noted by some committee members that this bill was confusing and may only affect districts formed during a certain time period. Erwin moved to send a legislative letter of support to County Board Supervisors to follow W. Gehlhoff's recommendation. Seconded by Wenger. All in were in favor. Wahlstrom-Stratton asked if the Economic Director could make a more detail explanation of the potential impacts of this bill to the full county board.
- f. **SB 15**: was recommended for support by Florence County Health Department Director Seibold, addressing the manufacture and acceptance for sale of products containing microbeads. M. Yadro reported that she believed the related Assembly Bill has been tabled. Wenger moved to defer this to the next meeting for more information. Seconded by R. Yadro. All were in favor.
- g. **AB 122**: related to exempting certain vehicles of utilities from class B highway weight limitation and certain special or seasonal weight limitations. R. Yadro suggested also seeking comments from Florence Utilities, local Rescue Squads and emergency responders. Wenger moved to defer this until the next meeting. Supported by Wahlstrom-Stratton. All were in favor.

6. **NEW BUSINESS –**

- A. **SB-124**, relating to grants to certain small businesses that receive federal grants: Wahlstrom-Stratton expressed concern for how this bill was written. R. Yadro moved to send it on to W. Gehlhoff for recommendation. Supported by Wahlstrom-Stratton. All were in favor.
 - B. **AB-113**, related to operating implements of husbandry and agricultural commercial motor vehicles on highways and transporting implements of husbandry by trailer on highways. Wahlstrom-Stratton reported that this was recently signed into law according to the Wheeler Report and moved to table this item. Supported by Erwin. All were in favor.
 - C. **CR 14-025**, related to the addition of the Blanding's Turtle to the State's protected wild animal list. Committee members expressed additional economic concerns related to further protection of wild animals. Wahlstrom-Stratton moved to send a legislative letter to oppose this effort. Seconded by Erwin. All were in favor.
8. **Update from Legislators:** None were present. Wahlstrom-Stratton commented on the value of direct contact to state legislators.
9. **Group discussion/any other action on legislative business:** a suggestion was made to encourage local citizens and officials taking part in legislative listening sessions.
10. **Future meeting agenda items:** as stated above.
11. **Adjournment:** With all business complete, Erwin motioned to adjourn. Supported by Wenger. The meeting adjourned until June 2nd at 9:00 AM at the pleasure of Chairman Kelley. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted by: Margie Yadro, Legislative Advisory Committee Coordinator