

LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes–July 7, 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, and Edward Wenger; along with Fred Erwin, Unit Chair of the Wisconsin Town’s Association (WTA); and, Ron Yadro,Florence School Board Member. Supervisor Larry Dzekute was excused. Legislative Advisory Committee Coordinator, Margie Yadro, also participated.
3. **Approval and/or revisions to the current agenda.** Wahlstrom-Stratton moved to revise the current Agenda to addSB 203 as a NEW BUSINESS item. Seconded by Erwin. All were in favor.
4. **Approval of the June 2, 2015 Legislative Advisory Committee Minutes.** Wahlstrom-Strattonmotioned to approve the previous meeting minutes confirming adjournment time. Supported by Erwin. All were in favor.
5. **OLD BUSINESS –**
 - A. County Board action on previous resolutions and bills:Chairman Kelley reported that all legislative letters and resolutions were supported by County Board Supervisors as recommended last month by the Legislative Advisory Committee. R. Yadro expressed his thanks to the County Supervisors on behalf of the School District for the additional support given toward maintaining state funding for educatingstudents within the local communities.
 - B. School Board Update and/or Resolutions:R. Yadro shared concerns about Wisconsin’s increased regulation of school buses. Wahlstrom-Stratton suggested that the School Boardmembers prepare a written recommendation for further County Supervisors’ consideration. This item could also be listed forfuturediscussion and/or action by the ANSWERS group. R. Yadro agreed to follow up.
 - C. Florence County Wisconsin Townships Association (WTA): Erwin expressed concern noted by the WTA in regards to Sections 2 and 3 of LRB 2663, potentially impacting the Townships’ ability to contract with County Highway Departments for roadwork.As the current status of this proposal was unknown, R. Yadro moved to oppose these sections of LRB 2663 as written,and send a request for comment to the County Highway Department for a recommendation on this issuewith future consideration by County Board Supervisors. Supported by Erwin. All were in favor.
 - D. National Forest PILT/25% Funding: Kelley recommended this as a standing agenda item. No action was necessary.
 - E. Regional Transportation Aids: Committee members were unable to take further action until more information is known. R. Yadro spoke on the limited improvement of transportation state aid to Florence Schools, a 497.5 square mile county-wide public school district.
 - F. Department and Partner Agency/Organization Recommendations:
 - a. **AB-191** relating to requiring drug testing and treatment for eligibility for certain work experience programs. Though several committee members agreed with the overall concept of this bill that would require drug testing and treatment before certain government benefits are granted, they appreciated Florence County’s Human Services Director, Jen Steber’s rationale to oppose this bill that it is unclear as to who will conduct and fund the drug screening and treatments, and be responsible for case management, along with related professional and administrative costs. On a motion by Erwin, supported by R. Yadro, all were in favor to defer this again to the Human Services Director for more cost-benefit analysis details and potential local impacts.

- b. **AB-204:** relating to repealing an air pollution rule promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources. No local recommendation was received. Wahlstrom-Stratton moved to table indefinitely. Supported by Erwin. All were in favor.
- c. **AB-211:** relating to waivers for prescription drug assistance for elderly program, use of excess moneys in prescription drug assistance for elderly program, and making an appropriation. Wahlstrom-Stratton encouraged support for this bill that proposes the creation of a waiver for prescription drug assistance for elderly programs, and that any moneys remaining after paying pharmacies and pharmacists, etc. are used to: reduce enrollment costs for participating seniors, reduce the prices paid for related prescription drugs, and enlarge the number of prescription drugs available through the SeniorCare program. As it was believed that this bill is on track to be passed. R. Yadro moved to table this item indefinitely. Seconded by Erwin. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS –

- A. **SB-118:** relating to limitations on town expenditures for certain highway purposes. Under this bill, the limit on town expenditures for material and equipment for construction and maintenance of highways would be eliminated. Erwin moved to send a letter to the WTA and state legislators to oppose this bill as drafted. Supported by Wahlstrom-Stratton. All were in favor.
 - B. **SB 203:** relating to changing the assessment method for business improvement districts. Wahlstrom-Stratton moved to send this to Economic Director Wendy Gehlhoff for recommendation. Seconded by Erwin. All were in favor.
- 8. **Resolutions:** M. Yadro reported on a draft resolution considering a request for sustainable state funding for conservation programs to meet statutory goals. No action was necessary.
 - 9. **Update from Legislators:** None were present.
 - 10. **Group discussion/any other action on legislative business:**
 - 11. **Adjournment:** With all business complete, Wahlstrom motioned to adjourn. Supported by Erwin. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2015 at 9:00 AM. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted by: Margie Yadro, Legislative Advisory Committee Coordinator