

Florence County
LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2015

Florence County Courthouse (second floor conference room)

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Edwin Kelley called the meeting to order at 9 AM.
2. **Roll Call:** County Board Supervisors Edward Wenger, Holly Wahlstrom-Stratton and Larry Dzekute; Unit Chair of Wisconsin Towns Association, Fred Erwin; and, School Board Member, Ron Yadro. Also participating was Legislative Advisory Coordinator, Margie Yadro.
3. **Approval and/or revisions to the current agenda:** Wahlstrom-Stratton moved to approve the current agenda as posted on November 25, 2015. Supported by Erwin. All were in favor.
4. **Approval of the November 3, 2015 Legislative Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes:** Erwin moved to accept the November 3, 2015 Meeting Minutes as drafted. Seconded by Wahlstrom-Stratton. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS – (discussion/action)

5. Department and Partner Agency/Organization Recommendations—

- A. State and Federal School Legislation –
Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Requirements, Florence Schools: in a correspondence from Florence School Superintendent, Ben Niehaus, the MOE proposal has been prepared to move ahead at the upcoming Wisconsin Association of School Board Conference in January and is anticipated to be supported for further consideration at the federal level. No formal action was necessary.
- B. Local Government legislative concerns or requests –
Budget impacts to the Wisconsin Historical Society: Wahlstrom-Stratton reported on recent communication with the state Historical Society and though they expressed that budget reductions will cause some work to be on hold, she felt that they appeared somewhat satisfied. Plans are to follow up as further action may come forward in the near future.
- C. AB-361: relating to local government employee participation in ancillary insurance coverage programs. Though several committee members shared their interests in seeking more insurance options for employees, Wenger moved to forward this item on to the Florence County Personnel Committee for further consideration. Seconded by Wahlstrom-Stratton. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS – (discussion/action)

- A. AB-470: relating to operation of off-highway motorcycles. Discussion took place on whether there would be additional vehicles using existing ATV trails or if this would mean developing new trails. Wenger moved to forward this to the Forestry & Parks Administrator for more information and a recommendation. Supported by R. Yadro. All were in favor.
- B. SB-376: relating to counting low-income pupils for state school aid purposes. After reviewing comments and suggestions from Superintendent Niehaus, R. Yadro moved to table this item indefinitely. Supported by Wahlstrom-Stratton. All were in favor.
- C. HR-3918: relating to the Strengthen Employment and Seasonal Opportunities Now Act.

Wahlstrom-Stratton asked after the success in utilizing legal migrant workers for planting trees for Florence County. Erwin moved to send a letter for Florence County Board Supervisors to consider in expressing their opinions on this matter with federal legislators. Supported by Wahlstrom-Stratton. All were in favor.

- D. EmR-1511: relating to modifications in walleye harvest management in Ceded Territory waters. Wenger moved to defer this item to the January meeting after seeking a comment by the area's WDNR Fisheries Biologist, Greg Matzke. Seconded by Wahlstrom-Stratton. All were in favor.
- E. AJR-85: relating to options for each county to combine the offices of County Clerk, Register of Deeds, and Treasurer. In a letter shared from the Wisconsin County Constitutional Officer Association in opposition to this proposal, the organization cited: little or no financial gains anticipated; incompatible duties combined with potential losses in accountability and services; less staffing flexibility; and finally, a concentrated power that could become the opposite of the intent of the Framers of the Wisconsin Constitution. Following local department administrator recommendations, Wahlstrom-Stratton moved to send a letter opposing this bill to the County Board Supervisors for further action. Supported by R. Yadro. All were in favor.
- F. AB-156 & SB-134: relating to coverage for new participating employers under the Wisconsin Retirement System. Wahlstrom-Stratton moved to send this proposal to the County Personnel Committee and local School Board for recommendations. Supported by Erwin. All were in favor.
- G. Update from area Legislators/Wisconsin Towns Association: Erwin shared information on working with local vendors for the collection of e-waste. Though he stated that the Towns are not required to provide this service, committee members felt this should be included under the Wisconsin Recycling Grant Program. Erwin moved to send a letter to the County Board Supervisors to request this through the state legislature. Supported by R. Yadro. All were in favor. Erwin also agreed to pursue similar action through the local unit of the Wisconsin Towns Association.
- H. Group discussion/any other action on legislative business: M. Yadro read Senator Tom Tiffany's response explaining the introduction of SB-392, related to motor vehicle fueling facilities providing the public a telephone or other means for contacting emergency services. M. Yadro will include this on the January agenda and seek comments from the local fire department, sheriff, and/or local Chamber of Commerce.
- I. Future ANSWERS/Legislative Advisory Committee meeting agenda items: the upcoming ANSWERS meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2016 at 9 AM at the Florence Natural Resource Center.
- J. Set the next meeting date and time, and adjourn: January 5, 2016 at 9 AM was chosen as the next date and time of the Legislative Advisory Meeting. On a motion by Dzekute, supported by Wahlstrom-Stratton, all were in favor to adjourn.

Ed Kelley

Edwin Kelley, Committee Chairman
Florence County
Legislative Advisory Committee