

Florence County

LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2014

In attendance: Committee Chairman Edwin Kelley; Supervisors Edward Wenger and Holly Wahlstrom-Stratton; and appointed members Ron Yadro and Fred Erwin. Supervisors Don Gardner and Larry Neuens were excused.

Also in attendance: Land Conservation Department Administrator - Margie Yadro.

Chairman Kelley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the first floor workroom at the courthouse.

Wahlstrom-Stratton moved to drop item 6(C) from the agenda, supported by Erwin, all were in favor.

On a motion by Erwin, a second by Wahlstrom-Stratton, all were in favor to accept the January 7, 2014 Legislative Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes as submitted.

Old Business items to be discussed or acted upon:

A – County Board Action on Resolutions and Bills:

There was no County Board legislative action taken in January, 2014.

B – K-12 Education Reform:

R. Yadro reports on a current proposal to mandate expanding students' time for participation in phy-ed programs. Discussion followed on class schedules accommodating this. R. Yadro also stated that he felt that most of the upcoming school legislation so far does not appear to affect the Florence School District; or, it is something already part of their regular business operations. No further action was necessary.

C – Replies from Departments/outside Agencies regarding previous meeting items: AB 251, relating to counties seeking reimbursement for expenses incurred in confining a prisoner in jail. Sheriff Jeff Rickaby supported this. No additional replies were received nor action taken.

Senator Johnson's Letter: Kelley shared a reply from U.S. Senator Ron Johnson (WI) who is in support of National Forest System management including the 1.5 million acres of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Committee members' expectations were such that the Farm Bill amount is expected to be about the same, though more is anticipated to go towards firefighting. Wenger explains the Stewardship funds and Kelley reports on some of the county implications to timber management and road work. No further action was taken.

New Business items to be discussed or acted upon:

AB 448: relating to programs for the disposal of drugs, including controlled substances, and certain medical or drug-related items, and the regulation of prescriptions drugs. (January 14, 2014 read a third time and passed, Asm. 96-0; February 4, 2014 passed as amended by Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, available for scheduling.) M. Yadro provided county administrator responses. Wahlstrom-Stratton felt more comfortable with the Sheriff Departments continuing their role rather than an appointee. Wenger recommends this item be sent to the county's Safety Committee, supported by R. Yadro. All were in favor.

AB 506: relating to professional land surveyors; the practice of professional land surveying; surveying land abutting navigable waters; various changes regarding platting, surveying, and certified survey maps; and, granting rule-making authority (February 7, 2014 referred to Committee on Rules). Concerns were expressed where it was felt that this could negatively impact county timber sales and require local governments to survey public lands. Wahlstrom-Stratton motions to send this item to Forestry and Parks, and Zoning Departments for recommendations. A second by Erwin. All were in favor.

SB 223 and AB 218: relating to access and observation of personal internet accounts, and providing a penalty. These bills would prohibit the disclosure of this information, but permits employers, educational institutions or landlords to view, access, or use information that can be obtained without access

information or is available from a public domain. (January 15, 2014 Asm. Public Hearing held). M. Yadro provided county administrator comments that supported employer access to communication from devices paid for in whole or in part by the employer or institution, but felt employees should be given some privacy from their employer through use of a personal e-mail account or other devices which are only accessible to those chosen by the employee. Human Services Director, IT specialist Jen Steber stated that she would rather encourage the employer to impose policies that prohibit employees from accessing their personal accounts during working hours; and, from forwarding proprietary or confidential information to a personal e-mail account. Erwin moved to support both bills, seconded by R. Yadro. All were in favor.

SB 469: referring to solicitation of a fee by a business or individual for a public record, granting rule-making authority, and providing a penalty. (February 4, 2014 passed Senate Energy, Consumer Protection, and Government Reform Committee, 5-0; available for scheduling.) R. Yadro explained the small business perspective of government requirements for notification of employees. Wahlstrom-Stratton believes in limiting the costs. R. Yadro motions to send this for comment to Economic Development Director Wendy Gehlhoff, the local Chamber of Commerce, and the County Clerk, supported by Wenger. All were in favor.

LRB-1940: relating to school district expenditures for community programs and services, and requiring the exercise of rule-making authority. Local School District Administration commented that though this is probably a good idea, he doesn't feel it will affect the Florence County School District. R. Yadro moves to table this item, supported by Wenger. Motion passes.

LRB-2673: relating to counting low-income pupils for state school aid purposes. No additional comments have been received. Wahlstrom-Stratton motions to seek the opinion of the School Superintendent, supported by R. Yadro. All were in favor.

There were no department or agency resolutions submitted.

Under Group Discussion and/or action on any other legislative business, Wahlstrom-Stratton asks about following up on SB 408, relating to: school district bonds, promissory notes, and state trust fund loans (November 21, 2013 read first time and referred to Committee on Education). Wahlstrom-Stratton questioned the status of AB 270 regarding additional providers in the volunteer health care provider program and proof of financial responsibility and malpractice insurance requirements for certain advanced practice nurses serving as volunteer health care providers (passed Asm. November 15, 2013; available for scheduling January 22, 2014 Sen.) Request for recommendations will be sent to the county's Health and Sheriff's Departments. M. Yadro agrees to distribute hard copy legislative analysis for committee members.

Future meeting notice: continue as first Tuesday of each month at 9 AM at the courthouse.

On a motion by Wenger, supported by Wahlstrom-Stratton, all were in favor to adjourn until March 4, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Yadro
Legislative Advisory Committee Secretary