

Florence County

## LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2013

Supervisors in attendance: Chairman Edwin Kelley, Holly Wahlstrom-Stratton, Don Gardner, and Larry Neuens  
Appointed: Ron Yadro. Excused: Supervisor Edward Wenger

Also in attendance: Margie Yadro, Fred Erwin, Annette Seibold, and Rich Wolosyn

Chairman Kelley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

On a motion by Wahlstrom-Stratton, supported by Gardner, all were in favor to approve the current agenda.

R. Yadro moved to accept the May 7, 2013 Meeting Minutes as drafted, supported by Gardner. All were in favor.

#### Old Business:

**AB 40:** R. Yadro updated the committee about the anticipated affects on the local school district. After speaking with the Florence School District Superintendent, he believes that the amended version has been through the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) and could amount to a small funding increase for the local district. The greater concern was in proposing the voucher system to expand beyond the Milwaukee/Kenosha area. Yadro feels that public school funding will continue to be lost while paying more vouchers down the road. He will follow this issue and report as needed.

**AJR 25:** Recall of elective officers and code of ethics for government officials was already supported by the Florence County Board of Supervisors. (Status: Public Hearing held June 4.)

**SB 190:** Florence Utilities Manager, Robert Friberg, sent comments that relate to the proposed multiple wastewater discharge permits for publicly owned sewage treatment facility or system. Though he hadn't had a chance to investigate the bill entirely, Friberg believes that it will not apply to any Florence County wastewater systems for some time as they are single point sources. No action was taken. (Status: read a third time in the Senate and passed 32 ayes, 0 nays; has been ordered immediately messaged.)

**SB 125:** Disabled offender recidivism reduction pilot program. Human Services Administrator Steber deferred to the Sheriff's Department for comment. No further action was taken by Committee. (Status: introduced by Joint Legislative Council on April 3; read the first time in the Senate and referred to Committee on Health and Human Services.)

**SB 160:** Training standards for law enforcement officers regarding domestic abuse incidents, complaints and reporting. Local administrator comments were circulated showing no concern in changes proposed though could result in more reporting by the District Attorney's Office. Wahlstrom-Stratton motions to send a letter to legislators in support of SB 160, seconded by Neuens. All were in favor. (Status: Introduced in Senate on April 25 and read the first time; then, bill referred to Committee on Transportation, Public Safety, and Veterans and Military Affairs. Fiscal estimates received May 6 and June 11.)

**SB 103:** Relating to the release of municipal utility customer information, Committee Members agreed with local manager's suggestion to support SB 103. M. Yadro was directed to send a letter of support to legislators. R. Yadro recommends this to be handled at Chairman Kelley's discretion. (Status: Read a second time at Senate on May 14; amendment 1 adopted; then laid on table.)

**AB 122:** Changing elements that must be included in county development plan. Zoning Administrator Wolosyn stated that he believes that this does not apply to Florence County as there are no city or village designations. No action was taken. (Status: June 4, report passage recommended by Committee on Urban and Local Affairs, ayes 7, nays 1; referred to Committee on Rules.)

**AB 133:** The applicability of the one- and two-family dwelling code to certain structures used for camping and the exclusion of certain recreational vehicles and portable toilet systems from the definition of plumbing. Wolosyn reported that the Wisconsin County Code Administrators took position to oppose parts of this. His recommendation was to stay neutral and continue to let each county handle this as they see fit. Wolosyn felt that some items should be included in the uniform dwelling code and others by conditional use permit as needed. No action was taken. (Status: introduced in Assembly on April 4; read first time to Committee on Housing and Real Estate; fiscal estimates received April 16; LRB correction May 9.)

**AB 178:** Operation of certain existing sport shooting ranges. Wolosyn suggests monitoring this bill over the next month. Wahlstrom-Stratton requests this put on July Legislative Advisory Committee agenda. (Status: April 25, introduced to Assembly; May 22, public hearing held; May 31, report passage recommended by Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage, ayes 14, nays 0; referred to Committee on Rules, May 31.)

Land Conservation Administrator M. Yadro reported on the recent budget action by the Joint Finance Committee that affects county Land Conservation Departments. Both of the governor's proposed reductions in this next budget were removed, totaling over \$1.8 million. This was felt to be a conservation victory through partnerships in a tough budget climate. Top comments received at public hearing for atcp 50 revisions included keeping public entities eligible for conservation cost-share.

Health Administrator Seibold shared a correspondence from Senator Tiffany regarding the state budget proposal recently passed by the JFC. If it continues through both houses and the governor as is, Florence Schools along with many surrounding districts could stand to gain. The School District of Florence County is estimated as receiving an annual payment of \$137,700. (Status: June 4, Assembly executive action.)

#### **New Business:**

**SB 85:** Tax Incremental District Number 3, Wausau. The consensus of the Committee is that this item is specific primarily to Wausau, though a concern was expressed about setting precedence. Gardner motions to table indefinitely, supported by Wahlstrom-Stratton. All were in favor. (Status: June 12, read a third time in Assembly and concurred in ayes 97, nays 0; ordered immediately messaged.)

**AB 112:** Telecommunications systems under the management and control of the WDNR, suspend portions of WDNR rule. R. Yadro cannot imagine any harm to the public, though Wahlstrom-Stratton expresses concern about potential competition to local businesses. R. Yadro motions to send a letter of support to legislators, a second by Neuens. Motion carries ayes 4, nays 1. (Status: June 11, read a third time in Senate, ordered immediately messaged.)

**AB 138:** Sales and transfers of firearms, and providing a penalty. R. Yadro believes this proposal will prohibit private firearm sales without a federally licensed dealer. Committee members question current restrictions already in place. Several express their concern of infringement on constitutional rights and expanding firearm regulation. The language proposed also renames "handguns" to "firearms." R. Yadro makes a motion to oppose AB 138 and send corresponding letter to county board then legislators, a second by Neuens. Motion passes. (Status: introduced in Assembly on April 4, read first time and referred to Committee on Criminal Justice; April 19-23, fiscal estimates received; May 14, LRB correction.)

**SB119:** Ratification of the state and province emergency management assistance compact. Wahlstrom-Stratton comments that the compact has many safeguards built in. R. Yadro moves to send a letter of support to legislators, seconded by Wahlstrom-Stratton. All were in favor. (Status: May 21, Public Hearing; June 3, recommended by Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, ayes 7, nays 0; referred to Committee on Rules.)

**AB 33:** Extending time period for counties to seek reimbursement for expenses during confinement. It is believed that those that care to pay, do so right away; otherwise, it is an expensive chase where the county is the last one to get paid. Wahlstrom-Stratton motions to table this item indefinitely, supported by Neuens. All were in favor. (Status: June 12, ordered a third Assembly reading, rules suspended; passed, ordered immediately messaged.)

**AB 89:** Method of reporting election returns by municipalities. This bill appeared relevant to municipal populations of 35,000 or more. Wahlstrom moves to table indefinitely, supported by Gardner. All were in favor. (Status: May 21 Public Hearing held.)

**AB 43.** Age and speed restrictions and safety certification for operation of all-terrain and utility vehicles. Wahlstrom-Stratton reports that Forestry and Parks Administrator Pat Smith noted this bill as having both good and not good aspects. Neuens motions to send a letter to legislators to oppose, supported by Gardner. Motion passes. (Status: April 10, Public Hearing; April 23, LRB correction.)

AB 40 effects on rural schools will be monitored by R. Yadro. (see also “old business” above)

Under “Residency” requirements, Kelley shares a letter requesting that the proposed 15 mile residency radius not cross state lines. Wahlstrom-Stratton requests clarification on county’s residency interests and motions to send a letter of support to county board, legislators and members of JFC, a second by Neuens. R. Yadro favors the residency clause though it wasn’t possible at the school at this time. Gardner questions if this 15 mile radius is primarily for emergency response time. All were in favor. (Status: executive action taken by JFC Assembly, June 4.)

Resolution: Limitations of nonresident/foreign Wisconsin landownership. Neuens moves, supported by Wahlstrom-Stratton, to send resolution to county board for consideration. All were in favor.

Future meetings: With all business complete, R. Yadro moves for the next meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. Supported by Gardener. All were in favor.

On a motion by Neuens, supported by Gardner, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Yadro