



**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025**

A. Call to Order

Chairman Farrey called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Members Present: 13 – Tom Egan, Steven Binder, Howard Miller, Jim Wise, Karen Powers, Morris Cox, Donald Nussbaum (arrived at 8:44 am), Chuck Farrey, Larry Lautenschlager, Ralph Harrison, Frank Frassetto, Douglas Nelson and Thomas Snider.

Absent: 3 - Maribeth Gabert, John Hinz, and Koby Schellenger.

Also Present at the Meeting:

Cassie Smith-Gregor, Chief Deputy County Clerk

Ethan Hollenberger (Assistant to the County Executive)

Chad Casper (Land & Water Conservation Department Director)

Sheriff John Matz

Kristin Dassler-Alfheim, State Senator Senatorial District 18

SydneyRose Faestel, District Director for Senator Rachael A. Cabral-Guervara's Office

via TEAMS

Delmer Volpel (Veterans Service Office Director)

Melissa Schnyder (Accounting Supervisor, Clerk of Courts Office)

Paul Kaiser (Finance Director)

Julie Barthels (Winnebago County Clerk)

Rhys Phillips

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Public Comments

Supervisor Powers stated that Adam Breest, Parks & Expo Center Director, will be holding a public forum on February 4, 2025, at 6:00 pm about incorporating all the county parks in one park district.

D. Approval of Minutes

Supervisor Frassetto mentioned that Tom Egan was listed twice in the attendance portion of the minutes. Mr. Frassetto made a friendly request to remove one of them.

Motion by Supervisor Cox and seconded by Supervisor Harrison to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2024, meeting as amended. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. (Abstain: Wise and Snider)

E. Committee Chair's Report

Chairman Farrey commented that the County Executive's Office brought in three resolutions for review by this committee. He noted that these resolutions are from Winnebago County and made the committee aware that these do not have committee recommendations, so they have not been vetted through a committee prior to coming to this meeting.

F. Update from State Legislators

Chairman Farrey welcomed the State Legislators. Mr. Farrey asked them to introduce themselves.

State Senator Kristin Dassler-Alfheim - Senatorial District 18

State Senator Kristin Dassler-Alfheim, District 18, which now represents Appleton, Neenah, Menasha and Oshkosh, introduced herself and stated she is very proud and happy to serve with everyone here today. The committees she is on are the Financial Institutions and Sporting Heritage Committees. The Insurance, Housing, Urban issues and forestry are all lumped into one committee, and she is the minority chair. She has also been placed on the Wisconsin Economic Development Association (WEDA) Advisory Board of Wisconsin. She attended the Winnebago Interagency Meeting and gathered a lot of information on the needs of the community. She attended the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) last week and learned some things and is looking forward to learning as much as she can from this Legislative Committee. She understands the pressures on the county are heavy so she is very respectful of what we are all trying to accomplish with limited dollars, and she will do the best she can. She did put in a governor's request. Representative Palmeri queued her in on the need for more licensing and permitting via the DNR and she will try to get that into the governor's budget as well. She thanked the committee for having her and looks forward to learning as much as she can.

State Senator Rachael Cabral-Guervara - Senatorial District 19

Sydney Rose Faestel, District Director for Rachael Cabral-Guevara, was present but had nothing to report. Ms. Faestel reiterated that if there is anything that they would like to speak to the Senator about or meet with her to let Ms. Faestel know and she can get it set up for you.

G. Update from Federal Legislators

There were no federal representatives present.

H. Communications Shared by Committee Members

I. Updates from the County Executive

Ethan Hollenberger, Assistant to the County Executive, introduced himself to the committee and the state legislators who were in attendance.

Mr. Hollenberger wanted to make sure all the committee members had copies of the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) Legislative Agenda. He mentioned he thought this was in one of the county magazines, and citizen members may not get those anymore and wanted to make sure you had that so you could see that information. All but one resolution that is being addressed today supports the legislative agenda. The court funding resolution and the bidding threshold resolution are all on the legislative agenda for WCA, so Winnebago County is supporting WCA's position officially as a counties request.

Mr. Hollenberger discussed some concerns in regard to the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act. This Act relates to all veterans in the VA. The one that he wanted to discuss is the Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach (CVSO) Act. Mr. Hollenberger voiced concerns relating to this Act and the implementation that potentially could affect Winnebago County. It is a concern that Winnebago County may want to ask for different things and they may be blocked because of a provision in the law that requires a shortage of County Veterans Service Officer's (CVSO's) as a qualifier for the grant. Mr. Hollenberger stated they were going to monitor implementation over the next 6 months or so and submit public comments to make sure that the grant is as open as possible so that the innovation that's happening in Winnebago County, they can seek some funding for.

Mr. Hollenberger explained to the committee that they prepared a spreadsheet that includes State Bills that had or will have county impact. This spreadsheet was included in the packet for today's meeting. As the Legislation Session goes on, more rows and columns will be added. Each piece of legislation is a column and will include information such as when they were introduced, bill numbers etc. For example, The Laos Bill, the veteran bill that was introduced January 24, 2025, and had a hearing scheduled for Tuesday, January 28, 2025, in the Senate, these will be the types of things added as they happen. Mr. Hollenberger stated that they don't engage on the vast majority of these bills but what they want to do is track to see if things become law and if they have to change implementation.

J. Business Items

1. Requesting the Wisconsin State Legislature Provide Support for Elk Damaged Properties

Motion by Supervisor Nelson, seconded by Supervisor Powers, to approve resolution and forward to the County Board. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. (Nayes: 3 - Cox, Farrey and Frassetto)

2. Requesting Governor Evers and the Wisconsin State Legislature Reform Judicial System Aids

Motion by Supervisor Frassetto, seconded by Supervisor Egan, to bring item to the floor for discussion.

Motion by Supervisor Binder, seconded by Larry Lautenschlager, to approve resolution and forward to the County Board. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

3. Requesting the Wisconsin State Legislature Increase Bidding Thresholds and Streamline the Bidding Publication Process

Motion by Thomas Snider, seconded by Supervisor Frassetto, to bring item to the floor for discussion.

Motion by Thomas Snider, seconded by Supervisor Frassetto, to make an amendment to the resolution. On line 25, after the word "in", strike the words "lieu of" and replace with "addition to the". Line 25 and 26 should read, "law of \$25,000 and recognize counties efforts to modernize the bidding notification process in lieu of ~~addition to the~~ newspaper publications."

Motion by Supervisor Nelson, seconded by Supervisor Cox, to make a friendly amendment/edit, put a period after the word, "in" and remove, "lieu of newspaper publications." Thomas Snider did not accept the friendly amendment/edit, so the motion died.

Motion by Supervisor Nussbaum and seconded, to Call the Question.

Vote on the amendment. Ayes: 6 - Powers, Cox, Farrey, Lautenschlager, Harrison, and Snider; Nayes: 7; Abstain: 0; Absent: 3 - Gabert, Hinz, and Schellenger. MOTION FAILED.

Back to the Original Resolution.

Motion by Supervisor Nelson, seconded by Supervisor Egan, to make an amendment, put a period after the word, "process" and strike the rest of the sentence. Line 25 should read, "law of \$25,000 and recognize counties efforts to modernize the bidding notification process."

Vote on the amendment. Ayes: 10; Nayes: 3 - Snider, Nussbaum and Miller; Abstain: 0; Absent: 3 - Gabert, Hinz, and Schellenger. MOTION PASSED.

Motion by Supervisor Nussbaum, seconded by Supervisor Cox, to vote on the resolution as amended to approve and forward to the County Board. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

4. Requesting the Wisconsin State Legislature Reform Land and Water Conservation Practice Permitting within the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Motion by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Egan, to bring item to the floor for discussion.

Chad Casper, Land & Water Conservation Department Director, provided some background on this item.

Motion by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Egan, to approve resolution and forward to the County Board. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

K. Items for Next Agenda

Suggestions from committee members for items to be addressed on a future agenda

1. *Resolutions from other counties that were referred to the Legislative Committee from the County Board.*

L. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will take place on Monday, March 24, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. at the James P. Coughlin Center, Meeting Rooms A & B.

M. Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Cox, seconded by Supervisor Snider, to adjourn. MOTION CARRIED. The meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Submitted by:

Cassie J. Smith-Gregor

Winnebago County Deputy County Clerk

The video portion of this meeting is available on the County website: <https://winnebago.cowi.portal.civicclerk.com>