

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
CLARK, LANGLADE, LINCOLN, MARATHON, PORTAGE,
WAUPACA, WAUSHARA, AND WOOD COUNTIES
MINUTES

Date and Time: Monday, December 12, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Location: Central Wisconsin Airport, Lower Level Room 017, Mosinee WI

Attendees: Kurt Gibbs, Joe Waichulis, Wayne Hendrickson, Mary Kay Poehlman, Bill Clendenning, Brent Vruwink, Dona Gabert, Bob Lee, Sen. Tom Tiffany, John Durham, Keith Langenhahn, Bill Leichtnam, Sara Guild, O. Philip Idsvoog, Ed Wagner, Mary Ann Lippert, Denis Kussmann, Brian Grefe, Lance Leonhard, Doug Hill, Peter Weinschenk, Mary Palmer

1. Call To Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Silent Cell Phones
4. Approval of the August 15, 2016 Minutes
MOTION BY JOE WAICHULIS; SECOND BY ED WAGNER BY TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 15, 2016, MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Update By and Discussion With Visiting Area Legislators

Senator Tom Tiffany:

Post-election – January 3rd Pat Snyder will be sworn in. Senator Testin will be invited by Sen. Tiffany to attend these meetings.

Budget will be the first item to be discussed when they return to session.

Rural broadband funding will be increased in the Governor's budget
Transportation will be increased to municipalities and counties through shared revenue

Federal Government:

Medicaid – will the money be block grants?

Education – will the federal Dept. of Education be dissolved and leave it to states?

Many federal budget items will not be done by the time the State Budget is complete (6/30).
Upcoming federal changes will probably impact our state budget.

The great wolf – all parts of the endangered species act – National environmental groups have misused this act. Large groups whose attorneys keep filing federal law suits and we (the people) are continually paying for the legal fees. This issue was pulled out of the omnibus energy bill and will be left to the new administration. Optimistic that it will happen and encourages everyone to contact their federal representatives.

6. Updates from WCA Representative

Field Operative Keith Langenhahn gave an update on what is being worked on by WCA - Child Welfare, Heroin, 911 Funding, Transportation (roads), and more. Counties are asking to do more regional type facilities. Waterman and Associates used to represent WCA in Washington DC on behalf of Wisconsin and a couple years ago discontinued this because

they also were lobbying for other States. NACo is lobbying for WCA on the tax exempt bonds.

2/25 – 3/1/17 is the NACo conference. WCA will be sending at least three representatives.

7. Update On Federal Issues By Senate And Congressional Representatives

Doug Hill, representative from Senator Tammy Baldwin's office.

It's a lame duck session right now. Budget (continuing government resolution) passed on December 10 for four months through March.

January 20th is the inauguration and the new House and Senate will begin.

Sen. Baldwin has been working on:

- Passed a bill called "Buy America" Amendment
- Delisting Grey Wolf on endangered species list.
- Increase access to high quality health care in rural Wisconsin
- Urged rejection of proposed Chinese Purchase of U.S. Aluminum Producer (Purchase threatens U.S. national security, risks transfer of sensitive R & D, etc)

Reverse mortgages have been fined because they have convinced people they cannot lose their home. Consumer protection there is a move to make it partisan. Please ask your Senator not to approve this.

Mary Ann Lippert, Department of Administration

Broadband – very excited about additional funds for this issue. It's a community partnership from Federal, State and Local government.

Anaerobic Digestion for Animal Waste – This is a series of biological processes in which microorganisms break down biodegradable material in the absence of oxygen. One of the end products is biogas, which is combusted to generate electricity and heat or can be processed for renewable natural gas and transportation fuel. Although it takes the methane out of manure, it does not take the phosphates and nitrates out. It's not a magic bullet.

Growing Wisconsin – she would arrange for the magazine to be sent to County Clerks for distribution.

8. 2017 Meeting Dates: March 13, June 5, August 21 and December 11, 2017.

9. Thank you Lincoln County for Hosting Today's Meeting

10. Next Meeting Date March 13, 2017, Hosted by Waupaca County

11. Meeting was adjourned at 9:38 a.m. **MOTION BY BILL CLENDENNING; AND SECOND BY I. PHILLIP IDSVOOG TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary Palmer