

Notice of Public Meeting
Tuesday, March 21, 2017
3:00 p.m.

**LEGISLATIVE
COMMITTEE**

*Door County Government Center
Chambers Room (C102), 1st floor
421 Nebraska Street, Sturgeon Bay, WI*

AGENDA

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Establish a Quorum ~ Roll Call
3. Adopt Agenda / Properly Noticed
4. Approve Minutes of February 14, 2017 Legislative Committee Meeting
5. Communications
6. Public Comment
7. Supervisor Response
8. Old Business
 - A. Door/Kewaunee Legislative Days – April 5-6, 2017
 1. Logistics
 2. Review of Issues
9. New Business
 - A. Human Services – Legislative Day Issues
 - B. WCA Ambassador Program – Update
 - C. Possible Efforts to Close Commercial Property Assessment Loopholes
 - D. State Joint Finance Budget Hearings (possible attendance)
10. Matters to be Placed on a Future Agenda or Referred to a Committee, Official, or Employee
11. Next Meeting Date: tbd
12. Adjourn

Deviation from the order shown may occur.

Members of the Door County Board of Supervisors and/or its sub-units may be in attendance at this meeting to listen and gather information. Notice is hereby given that the above meeting may constitute a meeting of the Door County Board of Supervisors or one of its sub-units. However no official action will be taken except by the Legislative Committee.

Call Meeting to Order

Chair Susan Kohout called the February 14, 2017 meeting of the Legislative Committee to order at 3:00 p.m. at the Door County Government Center.

Establish a Quorum – Roll Call

Committee members present – Steve Sohns, Susan Kohout, Helen Bacon, Roy Englebert, and David Enigl.

Others present – Administrator Ken Pabich, UW Extension Rob Burke, County Clerk Jill Lau, and League of Women Voters Representative Barb Graul.

"These minutes have **not** been reviewed by the oversight committee and are subject to approval at the next regular committee meeting."

Adopt Agenda / Properly Noticed

Motion by Enigl, seconded by Sohns to approve the agenda. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Approve Minutes of December 20, 2016 Legislative Committee Meeting

Motion by Englebert, seconded by Sohns to approve the meeting minutes of December 20, 2016 with the following amendments: funding is needed to “assist” with attracting and to make the career more “attractive”. Motion as amended carried by unanimous voice vote.

Communications

No communications were presented.

Public Comment

No one from the public commented.

Supervisor Response

N/A.

Old Business

No old business was presented.

New Business**WCA – Potential County Resolutions**

Chair Kohout reminded the committee to review potential county resolutions for submittal to WCA.

Door / Kewaunee Legislative Days April 5-6, 2017

If attending Supervisors need to contact County Clerk Lau to register and for hotel accommodations. Rob Burke was in attendance and reviewed the tentative timeline. Not many agency meetings as of today; meetings may start later on Wednesday than tentative agenda states; start time yet to be finalized. Rob distributed issues and ideas proposed; no decisions have been made.

WCA Ambassador Program - Report

Information was included in the meeting packet.

CVSO Funding

Funding for Veterans Service changed last year to be funded through a reimbursement program. Limited instructions were provided as to how to obtain reimbursement and problems arose. Proposing the funding return to grants supervised by the County Administrator/Executive.

Child Welfare Funding

Some increases in budget but may not be enough.

County Land Conservation Staff & Cost-Sharing Grants

Statutes specify funding of conservationists however, funding hasn't even been close. If not enough money cannot require nutrient management plans.

Modernizing 911 Funding

Our equipment is becoming obsolete; need to upgrade to digital. Soon the companies will no longer service the current equipment. WCA requests the State hire a vendor to have all 911 systems consistent across the state.

Legislative Exchange Reporting

Bacon reported the conference was informational. Englebert reported the conference was informational; good feeling leaving the conference that the legislators are working together well. Both shared some of the interesting information learned.

Budget Document

Any notable interests or concerns? County staff will be reviewing and should bring forward concerns. Forestry Program funding cut discussed; Administrator Pabich noted County Staff is monitoring this issue. Other issues reviewed. Summaries are vague and more information is needed to determine any impact.

Legislative Agenda Document

Chair Kohout shared the printed documents included in the meeting packet. The document was reviewed.

"Just Fix-It" Resolution

Chair Kohout discussed this issue with Supervisor Neinas. Most counties have approved resolutions. Supervisor Neinas believes something will happen regardless of if Door County approves a resolution. Englebert noted Door County is one of the few counties that did not adopt a resolution. Door County's roads are not in poor shape. Roads in Southern Door County are not lasting as long as they used to. Englebert supports approving a resolution. Administrator Pabich noted the Highway Committee did not approve a resolution; holding off until specific legislation is proposed. Believe it would be more helpful to consider a resolution once more details were available. Sohns noted he believes if a majority send a message to the Governor, regardless of having specifics in place, it may give the Governor an out to his campaign promises of no new taxes or fees to allow for more funding for transportation.

Motion by Englebert, seconded by Enigl to support a Just Fix-it resolution and direct staff to draft the resolution for County Board consideration in March. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Other issues

None at this time.

Post Office Operations on Washington Island

An article was included in the meeting packet. Chair Kohout received a call from a Washington Island resident who is concerned that mail dropped in the drop box will no longer be stamped locally. If a person physically brings the mail to the counter it will be stamped locally. The issue arose due to taxes being mailed on January 31st, for tax payments, that were not stamped and may have been considered late. The resident that contacted Kohout asked that the committee hold off on taking any action on this matter until she can obtain further information.

Matters to be Placed on a Future Agenda or Referred to a Committee, Official, or Employee

Nothing as of this meeting.

Next Meeting Date

Tentative meeting date – March 21, 2017 - 3:00 p.m.

Adjourn

Motion by Englebert, seconded by Enigl to adjourn. Time 4:05 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by Jill M. Lau, County Clerk

2017 Door/Kewaunee Legislative Days***Schedule of Events***Wednesday, April 5**State Agency Meetings**9:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Wisconsin Conference Room, Dept. of Administration Building
101 East Wilson Street

9:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

North Hearing Room, State Capitol Building
(10:45 a.m. - Special presentation/meeting for Youth Delegates
Spencer Gustafson Sturgeon Bay HS Alum - Wisconsin Department of Justice)

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Delegate Assembly and Luncheon
Best Western Premier Park Hotel
Hosts: Joel Kitchens, Rob Cowles

1:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Group Photograph
Capitol Rotunda

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Lobby Teams Call on State Legislator Offices
State Capitol

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Reception and “Showcase of Door and Kewaunee County Foods”

For Delegates, Legislators, Legislative Staff, and Agency Officials

Remarks/Welcome by Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch

Best Western Premier Park Hotel

... continued

Thursday, April 6

7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

**Breakfast buffet with
Legislative Leadership and delegates
Best Western Premier Park Hotel**

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

State Agency Meetings
(if needed)
North Hearing Room, State Capitol Building

11:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Follow-up Legislative and Agency Visits as Needed

Our Legislative Agenda

Broadband - Support Proposed Funding for Improving Rural Broadband

Door/Kewaunee Legislative Days Requests the State of Wisconsin to:

Support Governor Walker's budget proposal to increase Broadband Expansion Grant program funding for the next biennium; and

Approve SB-49 and its companion Assembly bill to provide a an \$11 Million boost in broadband grant funding in the state of Wisconsin for the current Fiscal Year

Broadband access is increasingly important to our local economy, education and daily life. The state as a whole—citizens, governments, internet service providers, schools and businesses—have an interest in expanding broadband access and usage, especially in underserved areas of the state like Door and Kewaunee Counties. Those who do not live in an area with broadband access are in danger of being denied equality of opportunity.

The Wisconsin Public Service Commission's Broadband Expansion Grant program provides reimbursement for equipment and construction expenses incurred to extend or improve broadband telecommunications service in underserved areas of the state. The budget for the grant program for Fiscal Year 2018 is currently set at \$1.5 Million.

(For perspective, during the 2016 session, the Minnesota legislature approved \$35 Million in funds for their Border-to-Border Broadband grant program.)

The new bill regarding the PSC Broadband Expansion grant program, SB-49, that is currently being fast-tracked through the legislature, with the intent that it will pass before the end of March. This bill would affect the current fiscal year, so the PSC would have \$11 Million in grant funds for a grant cycle to be announced soon after the bill's passage.

For further information, contact:

Sam Perlman
sam@doorcountybusiness.com
920 743-3118

Protecting Water Quality in Our Karst Geology Region

Door/Kewaunee Legislative Days Requests the State of Wisconsin to:

Continue the rule-making process begun by the Wisconsin DNR in 2016 to write new rules regarding animal waste management that take into account our unique Karst geology.

We thank the State of Wisconsin for initiating the rule-making process and request the DNR, DATCP, and our state legislators to continue this process without delay and begin implementation and enforcement of the new standards as quickly as possible.

In 2015 the Door/Kewaunee Legislative Days program requested that the “one size fits all” regulations on nonpoint sources of pollution including animal waste management be tailored to account for the shallow soils over fractured carbonate bedrock geology. Well test results in Door and Kewaunee Counties showing unsafe conditions due to nitrates and bacteria in 1/3 or more of the wells tested illustrates that implementation of the statewide performance standards and prohibitions have not been sufficient to achieve groundwater standards in a very vulnerable Karst Geo-Region in the State of Wisconsin.

Existing Authority:

NR 151.004 State targeted performance standards. *Implementation of the statewide performance standards and prohibitions in this chapter may not be sufficient to achieve water quality standards under chs. NR 102 to 105 or groundwater standards under ch. NR 140. In those cases, using modeling or monitoring, the department shall determine if a specific waterbody or area will not attain water quality standards or groundwater standards after substantial implementation of the performance standards and prohibitions in this chapter. If the department finds that water quality standards or groundwater standards will not be attained using statewide performance standards and prohibitions but the implementation of targeted performance standards would attain water quality standards or groundwater standards, the department shall promulgate the targeted performance standards by rule.*

For further information, contact:

Greg Coulthurst
Door County Soil and Water
Gcoulthurst@co.door.wi.us
(920) 746-2275

Davina Bonness
Kewaunee County Conservationist
bonnessd@kewauneeeco.org
920-845-9743

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Protecting Water Quality of Door/Kewaunee Rivers

Door/Kewaunee Legislative Days Requests the State of Wisconsin to:

Support funding for a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study that will include three major Kewaunee and Door County Rivers: the East Twin River, the Kewaunee River and the Ahnapee River. These three major rivers are on the Impaired Waters List and are required by the Clean Water Act to develop TMDLs.

These major rivers will be included in a proposed TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) study of all tributaries into Lake Michigan in Kewaunee, Manitowoc and Sheboygan Counties. This study will eventually include waters in Door and Ozaukee Counties as well. The cost of the full study will be \$520,000 over four years.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources currently lists a combined 10 Kewaunee and Door County waterways or water bodies on its Impaired 303d Waters Listing due to contamination from a variety of pollutants including total phosphorus, E.coli, and sediments. At this point funding is only being requested for 3 of the 10 impaired water bodies currently listed on the WDNR web page (<http://dnr.wi.gov/water/impairedSearch.aspx>).

The first step to restoring these three major waterways is to determine the current level of pollutants, such as phosphorus and sediment, entering the waterbody from each potential source. This typically involves 2-3 years of water sampling and aquatic analysis. The next step is to determine the required reduction in pollution to meet water quality standards. At this point a TMDL plan is developed for a strategic framework to prioritize resources for water quality improvement efforts. Implementation of best management practices and compliance monitoring are the final steps toward meeting the targeted water quality values for use and aquatic life. **PLEASE NOTE:** *At present, none of Door or Kewaunee County's impaired waters have received a TMDL allocation.*

Door and Kewaunee County combined, host millions of visitors each year and the Door Peninsula is one of the top tourist destinations in Wisconsin. Visitors come from all over the United State and the World to visit the beautiful waters of these two counties. At a minimum, these very important fresh water resources deserve far better care than we have been providing. Failure to act will result in more beach closures, fewer sport fishing opportunities, and a tarnished reputation as a result of continued degradation to waters of the state. It is imperative to act now to prevent further damage to some of America's most beautiful coastal scenery.

For further information, contact:

Lee Luft, Kewaunee County Board of Supervisors
leeluft@gmail.com
920-255-6222

School Start Date: Oppose Repeal of Statewide Standard

Door/Kewaunee Legislative Days Requests the State of Wisconsin to:

Retain, do not repeal, the Statewide Standard School Starting Date which mandates school start dates on or after September 1.

A consistent school start date has always been, and remains, in the best interest of:

- **Overall economic development and sustainable economic growth through crucial tourism dollars**
- **Quality of life for families**
- **Tax revenues being returned to the state**
- **A young labor force during a time of critical employee shortages**
- **The hospitality reputation of the state**

LRB's 1677 is currently circulating in the state legislature that would allow school districts to begin classes earlier than September 1st. The current start date, which has been in place for 17 years, is a balance between educational and economic priorities. This legislation does nothing to enhance student achievement and has the potential to do great harm to our economy.

Proponents of this bill argue that an earlier start date would have a positive impact on student success. They say that Wisconsin students are put at a disadvantage in Advanced Placement testing because students from other states have additional class time to prepare for the spring tests. There is no evidence to support this. Wisconsin AP scores have steadily risen over the past 17 years since our current start date was implemented. Indeed, we have some of the highest AP test scores in the nation.

Wisconsin boasts a robust tourism industry, thanks in large part to the enthusiastic leadership of Department of Tourism Secretary Stephanie Klett, and small business owners around the state. In the last five years alone, Wisconsin Tourism has grown 30%, representing a \$19.3 billion impact statewide. Minnesota and Michigan, two major tourism competitors to Wisconsin, have state laws requiring schools to start after Labor Day, even later than Wisconsin. It is both irresponsible and irrational to harm our tourism industry for no reason.

Like many places around the state, the first assembly district relies on tourism. It is an economic force that helps support many family run small businesses. The impact of an earlier school start date would be catastrophic for small businesses. These businesses not only rely on young employees, but crucial tourism dollars flood in during the month of August from families all over the state visiting during that time. In just the month of August, visitors spent \$130 million more when compared to the month of June. These are not inconsequential numbers- they are the difference between success and failure for many businesses.

For further information, contact:

Jack Money Penny, President/CEO Door County Visitors Bureau
920-818-1131
jack@doorcounty.com

DRAFT

Door/Kewaunee Legislative Days 2017

Draft

Consistent and Adequate Funding for the Harbor Assistance Program

Door/Kewaunee Legislative Days Requests the State of Wisconsin to:

Ensure that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Harbor Assistance Program is funded consistently and adequately to meet the long term needs of Wisconsin's commercial harbors.

Shipbuilding and harbor infrastructure are critical to creating and maintaining thousands of jobs in Door and Kewaunee Counties. Door and Kewaunee Counties, and the City of Sturgeon Bay regularly contribute major funding to support our ports and harbors. The DOT's Harbor Assistance Program provides critical additional support that is essential to the maintenance and development of necessary infrastructure.

We support the current recommendation for the 2017-2019 biennium of \$15.4MM and urge future funding at adequate levels to meet the needs of all Wisconsin commercial harbors.

For further information, contact:

Caleb Frostman, Executive Director
Door County Economic Development Corporation
caleb@doorcountybusiness.com (920) 743-3113

Todd Thayse, Vice President and General Manager
Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding
todd.thayse@us.fincantieri.com (920) 746-3403

County Board Resolution

Approved this _____ Day of _____, 2017 by

_____ County

Supporting Efforts to Close Commercial Property Assessment Loopholes

WHEREAS, homeowners in Wisconsin already pay 70% of the total statewide property tax levy; and

WHEREAS, the disproportionate burden is about to get much worse unless the Legislature addresses tax avoidance strategies that national chains like Walgreens, and big box establishments like Target and Lowe's are using across the country to gain dramatic reductions in their property tax bills at the expense of homeowners and other taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, a carefully-orchestrated wave of hundreds of lawsuits in Wisconsin is forcing assessors to slash the market value of thriving national retail stores, shifting their tax burden to local mom and pop shops and homeowners; and

WHEREAS, Walgreens and CVS stores in Wisconsin have argued in communities across the state that the assessed value of their property for property tax purposes should be less than half of their actual sale prices on the open market; and

WHEREAS, in many cases the courts have sided with Walgreens and CVS, requiring communities to refund tax revenue back to the stores; and

WHEREAS, there are over 200 Walgreens stores located in Wisconsin; and.

WHEREAS, Target, Lowes, Meijer, Menards and other big box chains are using what is known as the "Dark Store Theory" to argue that the assessed value of a new store in a thriving location should be based on comparing their buildings to sales of vacant stores in abandoned locations for a different market segment; and

WHEREAS, the Indiana Legislature has on two occasions in the last two years overwhelmingly passed legislation prohibiting assessors from valuing new big box stores the same as nearby abandoned stores from a different market segment; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan State House overwhelmingly passed similar legislation in May of 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that _____ County does hereby urge the Governor and State Legislature to protect homeowners and main street businesses from having even more of the property tax burden shifted to them by passing legislation clarifying that:

1. Leases are appropriately factored into the valuation of leased properties; and
2. When using the comparable sale method of valuation, assessors shall consider as comparable only those sales within the same market segment exhibiting a similar highest and best use rather than similarly sized but vacant properties in abandoned locations.