

Walworth County  
Intergovernmental Cooperation Council  
(ICC)  
Tuesday, October 28, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.  
Walworth County Government Center, County Board Room 114  
100 West Walworth – Elkhorn WI  
Minutes

County Administrator David Bretl called the meeting to order.

**Roll was called by municipality.** Officials representing the towns of Bloomfield, Darien, East Troy, Geneva, LaFayette, Lyons, Sharon, Sugar Creek were in attendance. Village officials from Fontana, Genoa City, Mukwonago Walworth and Williams Bay were in attendance. City officials from Elkhorn were in attendance. County board members Rich Brandl, Ken Monroe and Nancy Russell were in attendance. See attached attendance sheet. Others in attendance include Larry Price, Director of Highway Operations, Kurt Picknell, Undersheriff, Sergeant Mark Roum, Walworth County Sheriff Department, Peg Reedy Agriculture Educator, Kristine Ely, Agriculture Educator, and Colleen Lesniak, Walworth County Volunteer Coordinator, UWEX. David Bretl, Walworth County Administrator. Other members of the public included Jim Stowell, Executive Chair of Walworth County Farm Technology and Derek D’Auria, Walworth County Economic Development (at beginning of meeting).

**Approval of agenda** on motion by Klarkowski/Pappa. Motion carried.

**Approval of March 25, 2014 ICC meeting minutes** on motion of Monroe/Brandl. Motion carried.

**2016 Farm Technology Days, July 19-21 to be held in Linn Township, Walworth County** - Peg Reedy, Agriculture Educator and Colleen Lesniak, Walworth County Volunteer Coordinator. Peg Reedy introduced herself, Colleen, and Jim Stowell, executive chair for Walworth County’s Farm Technology Committee and Kristine Ely, Agriculture Educator for Walworth County. Reedy stated Farm Technology Days is the largest agricultural show in Wisconsin and one of the largest in nation. Technology days were inaugurated in 1954. This is the first time Walworth County has hosted and the farthest location south in Wisconsin it has been held. This 3 day event averages daily attendance of approximately 40,000. The location will be Snudden Farms at 815 North Zenda Road in Linn Township. The farm is approximately 645 acres and employs approximately 18 workers. At least 150 acres is necessary for Farm Technology days and of that 45 acres will be used for the tents, another 100 acres is used for field demos. Accommodations for parking and trailers will use the balance. Utilities and Wi-Fi internet installation will need to be completed. Barron County held the event in 2013 and recently published an economic impact report showing a one million dollar impact to the area. The average profit for the show is \$138,000.00. This profit is used for agricultural related or youth development projects. Past funded projects includes buildings at fairgrounds and scholarships. Food tents on the grounds can be run by non-profits and have averaged \$60,000 to \$90,000 to the non-profits. Non-profits will need to complete an application and will need to bring their own volunteers. Colleen stated that recruiting is taking place for various committees and distributed a volunteer application for anyone interested. Bretl inquired as to number of volunteers needed. Colleen stated approximately 1,000 to 2,000 volunteers will be needed. Peg was asked if there is a website, she affirmed and said it was at <http://walworth.uwex.edu/agriculture/2016-farm-technology-days/>. Stowell added there will be over 800 vendors on the grounds. Bretl mentioned this is a great opportunity for County youth to develop leadership skills by volunteering for the various committees.

**Bureau of Transportation Safety countywide task force grant**- Sergeant Mark Roun, Walworth County Sheriff Department. Roun is the County Highway Safety Coordinator. Roun reported that agencies from the County Law Enforcement Community have teamed up to form the Walworth County Traffic Task Force. This program was made possible by a grant from Wisconsin Department of Transportation Bureau of Transportation Safety and Federal Highway Safety Improvement Funds. The task force includes township, village and city police departments as well as UW – Whitewater police and the Sheriff's office. Reimbursement will be for the cost of officers patrolling various areas of the county on scheduled days. The goal is to raise public awareness regarding reckless drivers that can involve intoxicated driving, speeding, texting and non-use of seat belts. Roun requested those in attendance to please mention any traffic concerns to their local agency. Bretl asked Roun to return to a future ICC meeting to provide updated information on the task force.

**Report on winter maintenance operations and communications between governmental units, to include salt procurement and emergency notifications** (Larry Price, Operations Director – Walworth County Public Works Department) Price stated county salt storage capacity is at 36,000 to 37,000 tons of salt, with the State paying for 16,000 tons of storage. Price specified the County uses a rolling five year average to determine the County order to the State and to determine quantities for municipalities. In early spring the order is placed and a price per ton is not determined until all county orders are received. Usually in late July or early August delivery begins. This year due to the amount of road construction it was impossible to find trucking companies to deliver salt. Price stated salt delivery started last week. If salt would be in short supply we would work with the municipalities as we have done in the past. The weather predictors claim that we will not have two world record winters in a row. Last year was only the second time the County had to limit salt that he recalls. This year's cost for salt is \$59.71 per ton up a little and sand/salt mix is close to \$20.00. A question was asked regarding brine. Price said the County is using brine, and the County would be willing to sell brine to municipalities. Brine does help the salt adhere on the road. There was a question asked regarding the Kikkoman brine and if the County was using it, Price stated it is still being tested. There is a question about the environmental effect of phosphorus within the solution. Price mentioned Public Works is always investigating various solutions and products to assist in removing snow and ice from the roads. Price stated Public Works is updating the scale system using radio frequency tags to improve inventory control.

**County salt sales to municipalities** – Dave Bretl, County Administrator Bretl explained that salt sales have been in the local news lately and he has copies of the Attorney General's opinion regarding county salt sales. He stated the opinion goes into great length that the County sale of salt can only be for public purpose. Also the County can't sell road maintenance supplies to a private party that intends to resell the supplies on the private market.

**Status of bridges throughout the County** – Larry Price, Operations Director – Bretl reviewed some of the history of recent bridge closures within the county due to structure problems. Bretl asked Price to continue. Price stated that the bridge program provides federal and state funding to replace or rehab deteriorated local bridges. Bridges must have a sufficiency rating of less than 80 for rehab and less than 50 for replacement. Funding is 80% federal/state and 20% local. Price said Walworth County has historically done well in regard to bridge funding. Most of the bridges in bad shape are from 1920's and the use of salt and heavy equipment does accelerate deterioration. Price recommended checking the Wisconsin Department of Transportation website at [www.dot.state.wi.us/localgov/highways/bridgeprogram.htm](http://www.dot.state.wi.us/localgov/highways/bridgeprogram.htm). Price stated WisDOT announced on their website that they will begin accepting applications for the next Local Bridge Improvement Assistance program cycle (2015-2020) in January 2015. Price stressed the importance to check the website for dates. Usually the Southeast district meeting is held in March. Information regarding the meeting will be sent by

WI-DOT to each township and municipality. Price mentioned the bridge inspections that were completed in August should be mailed in November.

**Report regarding county medical examiner services in 2015** – Dave Bretl, County Administrator Bretl stated as this county service does impact at least local law enforcement, he wanted everyone to have the information. John Griebel died last December. He was the Walworth County coroner for 53 years. Mr. Griebel ran the office very economically but due to litigation and new record keeping policies it was a good opportunity to modernize the office. Our current deputy coroners did a wonderful job and will hopefully stay on as deputy medical examiners. The County will be hiring a full time chief deputy medical examiner; due to concerns regarding long waits for services. Dr. Mark Molot has for many years performed autopsies at the morgue in Aurora Lakeland Medical Center, Elkhorn, and may be assigned cases and perform some autopsies. There are several good reasons to partner with Waukesha County. One is the closeness to our county and the fact they have already been doing some of our autopsies. Waukesha County Medical Examiners just recently completed a major renovation of their office with the aim of having a state of the art facility. Their facility includes a 26 body autopsy capability, a family meeting room, a fully isolated area for examination of contagious bodies and the ability to keep samples for years. We have entered into a 5 year renewable agreement with Waukesha County. In consideration for their services Walworth County will pay \$263,064.72 for the years 2015 and 2016. During the third to fifth years Walworth will pay the actual cost of providing the services. Each party was in agreement as no one could predict the actual cost for these services will be. We also have a transition agreement to make this change efficiently. If anyone has questions, please feel free to contact him.

**Update regarding Southern Housing Consortium activities** (update information provided by Kevin Brunner, Walworth County Director of Central Services as the Walworth County Representative on Southern Housing Board) Bretl distributed a report from Brunner providing information regarding loans available to low/moderate income households in Walworth County. To date Walworth County home owners have received a total of \$445,557 for 11 housing rehabilitation loans. In addition, there are four more loan applications pending for Walworth County. More loans have been approved for Walworth County than any of the other counties in the region as well as the highest total loan amount. Walworth County is scheduled to receive another allocation of approximately \$186,000 during the current State fiscal year for additional housing rehab loans. Loan applications can be downloaded from the County website (co.walworth.wi.us) or by contacting MSA (the firm that administers this program) at 1-800-552-6330.

**Confirm next ICC meeting** date and time: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 6:00 PM

**Adjournment** on motion by Pappa/Monroe at 7:38 p.m.

*Submitted by David Bretl, County Administrator and ICC Moderator*