

MINUTES OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION COUNCIL
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 25, 2008

Walworth County Administrator David Bretl called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. He thanked everyone for attending and noted several municipalities were absent, probably due to the deer-hunting season.

Roll call was made by those present introducing themselves.

Present:

Town of Spring Prairie Supervisor Robert E. McIndoe
Town of Spring Prairie Chair Jim Simons
Town of Bloomfield Supervisor Ken Monroe
Town of Richmond Chair Wayne Redenius
Town of Linn Supervisor Mike Palmer
Town of LaFayette Chair Bruno Schifflerger
Town of Lyons Chair Bill Mangold
County Board Chair Nancy Russell
City of Whitewater Manager Kevin Brunner

Also Present:

Michael Cotter, Director of Walworth County Land Use & Resource Management
Bob Biebel of Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
Shane Crawford, Deputy County Administrator
Fred Burkhardt, Walworth County Economic Development Alliance
Southern Lakes Newspapers and Lake Geneva Regional News reporters

Excused: Village of Mukwonago

Supervisor McIndoe made a motion to approve the agenda with a second by Supervisor Monroe. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Monroe made a motion to approve the minutes of August 26, 2008 with a second by Supervisor McIndoe. The motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Bretl introduced Bob Biebel of SEWRPC who is a Special Projects Environmental Engineer and part of the 32 member advisory committee studying water quality issues in the SEWRPC region. Mr. Biebel gave a power point presentation, a copy of which is available at the Walworth County Administrator's office. He noted what happens in Walworth County depends a great deal on the surrounding counties. The trends in water use for Walworth County from 1979-2005 showed a peak in 1990 and he was not sure why that occurred. He gave a background of the general hydrogeology of Southeast Wisconsin and noted that Walworth County has a good portion of area with deep sand and gravel levels. His presentation showed the deep water

levels through time, specifically 1880 through the present time with well locations and pumping levels.

He explained the purpose and scope of the study with a background of the issues of concern in Walworth County. He pointed out Walworth County has high recharge areas. A vast majority of high recharge areas will be preserved through the planning process and this is very important in the county as the western part of the county has good recharge areas. Water conservation and four plans were discussed along with the test and evaluation results summary. The summary of plan findings and recommendations were briefly reviewed and he explained the remaining steps in the process of finalization of the study

Supervisor McIndoe asked how the calculation of water usage was made. Mr. Biebel noted it was an estimate based on 65 gallons of use a day. The agricultural usage is much harder to estimate and permit figures are used. He also noted Walworth County contributes to the recharge of deep and shallow aquifers more than any other county in the region. It is very important these areas be protected because if they are paved over it would be more serious than in any other county. Walworth County has maintained open space, which is very important.

Supervisor Palmer wondered what effect farm tiling has on recharge issues. Bob Biebel stated this issue does not have a program in place to get the aquifer replenished but many of these tiles are in soils that doesn't allow percolation and are in low to medium recharge areas. There has been some movement to go back and remove some of these tiles.

City of Whitewater Administrator Brunner asked about how the study looked at municipal systems and their water usage. Mr. Biebel stated they looked at the supply side for this study. Mr. Brunner noted their water mains are very old and only replaced when street work is being done and wondered if money will be provided through the government for infrastructure.

LaFayette Town Chair Schiffleger asked how salt usage on road impacts the groundwater. Mr. Biebel stated the amount of chloride in the water system is going up. This is due to street salting and water softeners. Lake Michigan water is very soft so the more Lake Michigan water that is used the fewer softeners will be needed. Many municipalities are making an effort to reduce the impact of salt usage. Lake Geneva does a good job of encouraging people to use more efficient water softeners.

Administrator Bretl pointed out Walworth County is out of the Lake Michigan water issue but Mr. Biebel stated that while that is true, Walworth County is on the very edge of the problem. He noted that ten million gallons of water is pumped but twelve million gallons is in the sewer system due to leakage problems.

Administrator Bretl thanked Mr. Biebel for his presentation.

Administrator Bretl introduced Fred Burkhardt of the Walworth County Development Alliance by giving a brief explanation of the formation and funding of WCEDA. Mr. Burkhardt stated water is certainly important to any development issue; you can either put a fence up or limit water usage. He gave a power pointed presentation, a copy of which is available at the Walworth County Administrator's office. He stated WCEDA is serving five different jurisdictions specifically and explained their activities in Walworth County. He stressed their primary mission is to work with local governments to retain workers, training and cash flows

He also pointed out that there is an aging population of business owners and they are working to match those who wish to retire or sell with those who wish to begin a business or buy a business. They have obtained a USDA grant and he explained he has completed one loan to help a local business and his work with other potential borrowers as well.

Administrator Bretl thanked Mr. Burkhardt and asked him to advise those attending of his location and phone number, which he did by giving them his business card.

Deputy Administrator Crawford gave a very brief presentation of the county's new salt storage facility, projected salt allocations for the municipalities and the estimated salt storage fee assessment. They want the program to be simple and fair for everyone.

City of Whitewater Administrator Brenner noted the City of Beloit is using a mixture of chemicals rather than just salt and Whitewater is experiencing a problem with their storm water permit due to the sand use. He wondered if perhaps the county could help all of the municipalities as they deal with these issues. Deputy Administrator Crawford stated he is aware of other governments using different mixtures and he will research this to find out what has worked and the costs associated with the solutions and get the information back to those interested.

Administrator Bretl encouraged everyone to let him know of any topics anyone would like discussed. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and in view of the fact the next meeting is January 27, 2009, he also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Supervisor McIndoe made a motion to adjourn with a second by City of Whitewater Administrator Brenner. The motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Bretl adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy C. Burwell, Secretary