

## **WCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Friday, March 25, 2011

Radisson Hotel La Crosse  
La Crosse, WI

### **MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Buechel called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Del Twidt, John Tramburg, John Hendrick, Colleen Bates, Howard Ludwigson, Erhard Huettl, Janice Swoboda, Lee Holloway, Johnny Thomas, Lee Rymer (via telephone), Lonnie Wolf, Cindy Wisinski, Peter Hansen, Russ Podzilni, Randy Tatur, Herb Tennes, Mark Harris, Alice Connors, Keith Langenhahn, Gus Wirth, Dick Koeppen, and Allen Buechel.

**EXCUSED:** Dan Diliberti and James Dwyer. **STAFF:** Mark D. O'Connell, Lyn Bradstreet, J. Michael Blaska, Jon Hochkammer, John Reinemann, Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf, David Callender, and Doug Parrott. **OTHERS PRESENT:** Kelly Bablitch, Milwaukee County Intergovernmental Relations.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Board and others present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by HANSEN, second by LANGENHAHN, to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2010 meeting and February 23, 2011 Teleconference call. Motion carried.

**WELCOME:** Steve O'Malley, La Crosse County Administrator, welcomed the Board to La Crosse County and thanked them for choosing La Crosse for their Board meeting. He also thanked the directors and WCA for all the work they do on behalf of county government.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** President Buechel acknowledged counties have strong feelings on both sides of the Budget Repair Bill. Counties are now in the process of learning more about the State Budget. President Buechel and Mark O'Connell had good interaction at a Greater Milwaukee Committee event. The Committee wanted to learn more about WCA's issues. President Buechel attended the NACo Legislative Conference in Washington, DC., where they had excellent speakers and breakout sessions. It was a great opportunity to network and learn from each other. There is a lot of concern at the national level with money saving proposals and alarming budget cuts. Federal budget cuts affect counties and our communities. Spending controls can not be accomplished without looking at big budget items such as social security, medicare, and defense.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Mr. O'Connell reminded the board that on February 23, 2011 the Board took action on the Budget Repair Bill (BRB) to maintain a neutral position and given the opportunity, support treating all unions the same. WCA lobbies on issues we have positions on. WCA has no Platform position on collective bargaining. WCA's action on the BRB has been well received and understood by others. Mark introduced WCA's newest Legislative Associate, Doug Parrott. 71 counties are members of the Association. Walworth County is not a member for 2011. The WCA Legislative Exchange was the best ever. It was very well attended. The high level, respectable discussions and presentations by our speakers was well received. Seven Regional Legislative meetings were held the week of March 14. The Legislative staff is to be complimented for their professionalism, knowledge and outstanding job in conducting these meetings.

Supervisor Johnny Thomas asked for a copy of a letter that was sent to the Governor after the teleconference meeting on the Budget Repair Bill.

Chairman Holloway asked for clarification regarding cancellations of subscriptions to WisPolitics and the Wheeler Report. Peter Hansen suggested developing a policy regarding the matter.

President Buechel apologized to Chairman Holloway for a misunderstanding regarding attendance at a closed session of the Executive Committee.

**NACo DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Wisconsin NACo Director Keith Langenhahn reported on the NACo Legislative Conference, March 5-9. He remains honored to represent Wisconsin at these meetings. NACo's financial position exceeded expectations. Net assets grew \$3.5 million with \$29 million in net assets as of December 31, 2010. Eleven million has been designated for future office space needs. Contract negotiations for their Prescription Drug Plan continues. NACo will accept funds from Caremark as part of their "New Members Initiative" to fund the dues of non members to achieve 100% membership in 2011. This will allow everyone to take advantage of all NACo has to offer. NACo's "Presidential Initiative" this year will promote what county government really does for their constituents. Currently, Iowa has a candidate for NACo 2nd Vice President with no other candidates at this time.

#### **ASSOCIATION ISSUES:**

a. Confirmation of Appointment of WCA Executive Committee as 2011 Conference Rules Committee: Motion by LUDWIGSON, second by HUETTTL, to confirm the appointment of the WCA Executive Committee as the 2011 WCA Conference Rules Committee. Motion carried.

b. Nominations to 2011 Resolutions Committee: President Buechel urged the Board members to nominate members to the Resolutions Committee. The nominations will be confirmed by the Board at the May 6, 2011 meeting.

**ISSUE PAPERS:**

a. Consideration of Niagara/Escarpment Designation: Motion by HANSEN, second by WIRTH, to refer to the WCA Taxation and Finance Steering Committee. Motion carried.

b. Consideration of Medical Assistance: Motion by CONNORS, second by BATES, to support the continuation of Wisconsin's medical assistance program at current or expanded eligibility levels; to support the ability of counties to receive federal medical assistance matching funds for services funded by county tax levy; and to oppose changes in MA eligibility and payment structure without full legislative approval. Motion carried.

c. Consideration of Multi-Line Telephone Systems: Motion by HUETTLE, second by PODZILNI, to support model legislation drafted by the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) regarding E911 for multi-line telephone systems. Motion carried.

d. Consideration of 2011-2013 State Biennial Budget Legislative Strategy: Motion by CONNORS, second by KOEPPEN, to adopt the staff recommendations included in the budget summary and to adopt the following six issues as WCA's priorities for the 2011-2013 state biennial budget: a) Family Care; b) Income Maintenance; c) Child Support; d) Youth Aids/JCI Rates/JCI Consolidation; e) General Transportation Aids/Transit Funding; and f) Recycling. Motion to amend by THOMAS, second by HARRIS, to oppose the transfer of transit operating aids funding from the transportation fund to the general fund. Motion carried. Main motion as amended carried.

e. Consideration of Proposed Voter Identification Bill: Motion by HARRIS, second by THOMAS, to oppose Assembly 7/Senate Bill 6, the proposed Voter Identification Bill. Motion carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS AS ALLOWED BY LAW:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by SWOBODA, second by WIRTH, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.