



Neighbors

Newsletter of the Walworth County Intergovernmental Cooperation Council (ICC)



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Winter 2010 - 2011

After the Feb. 2 - 3 Storm

(Photo: Jack Delaney, County Public Works Dept.)

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Save the date:
Winter 2011 ICC Meeting
February 22, 2011

It is not too late to get an item on the upcoming agenda. If you have a topic you would like to discuss, please send it to: dbretl@co.walworth.wi.us

The minutes of the October 2010 ICC meeting are posted on the ICC web page: <http://www.co.walworth.wi.us/IntergovCooperationCouncil/IndexOfMtgsAgendasMinutes.aspx>

One of the founding purposes of the ICC was to document intergovernmental cooperation taking place in our county. If you have entered into a cooperative agreement with another unit of government, please send us a copy, and we will make sure it gets posted on the ICC web page.

ICC Meeting on February 22, 2011

Plan on attending the next meeting of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council. It is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, February 22nd at 6 PM. Our agenda includes presentations by Katie Lange, Local Government Services Sales Representative with Runzheimer International, and Joyce Erickson, Co-Director of the Tri-County Tobacco Free Coalition. Joyce was rescheduled from our October meeting. Katie will provide an overview of a number of interesting products and services that Runzheimer is beginning to market to local government. Finally, the Walworth County Economic Development Alliance Director, Mike Van Den Bosch, and Joshua Clements, Community, Natural Resources and Economic Development Agent with UW-Extension, will discuss economic development in the county. Shane Crawford will provide an update regarding road salt use and road sign pricing, and Dave Bretl will discuss updates regarding the county's intergovernmental cooperation ordinance.

Local Government Center Cooperative Local Government Program

The UW-Extension Local Government Center, in collaboration with the Local Government Institute, will be producing and broadcasting a program and discussion on Cooperative Government in Wisconsin Local Government. The program is scheduled to be held in Madison at the Pyle Center on April 28, 2011 and will be simultaneously broadcast in up to twelve other locations throughout Wisconsin. The program agenda and details concerning the broadcast locations will be available in the next few weeks. Local governments interested in learning more about intergovernmental cooperation can check the Local Government Center website, <http://lgc.uwex.edu/>, for details about the program.



February 2-3, 2011 - Snow Storm Clean-up
(Photo: Dave Woodhouse, County Public Works Dept.
Plow blade graphic by Elkhorn H.S. student)

State Budget Repair Bill

The State budget repair bill has dominated the news during the past week. It appears that sweeping changes in State labor laws will be followed by sweeping changes in State funding as well as likely tax caps. Changes in collective bargaining as well as mandatory contributions by employees to the WRS have been billed by the Governor as “tools” to cope with upcoming budget challenges. Whether these new tools are adequate, in and of themselves, to permit local government to deliver services in 2012

and beyond, remains to be seen. It looks like we will have to wait a little longer to learn the State’s plan for the next biennium. In any case, the ICC can play an important role in promoting cooperation among all Walworth County communities. Through the use of shared facilities and equipment, consolidated services and joint purchasing, the goal of the ICC is to provide taxpayers with quality and efficient public services.

S.T.E.P. Up for Highway Safety

Highway safety is a serious concern for all local governments. During the week of September 20 - 24, 2010, multiple police agencies across the State participated in the annual “STEP up for Highway Safety” program. S.T.E.P., Specialized Traffic Enforcement Program, is a week-long effort focusing on automobile and commercial motor vehicle safety. The program began in 2006 with Walworth County Sheriff’s deputies. Each year, more police departments join the effort in asking all drivers to take a STEP toward voluntary compliance with the law and make the roads safer for all. This year, in addition to the Sheriff’s Office, police de-

partments from the City of Elkhorn and Village of Walworth as well as the State Patrol participated in the effort here in Walworth County. All of these agencies deployed law enforcement officers within their jurisdictions at various times throughout the week-long program. This occurred on all shifts during the five-day period. Enforcement actions varied from truck inspections to speeding tickets to drug and bail jumping arrests.

If your community is interested in participating in this year’s STEP effort, contact Captain Scott McClory at 262.741.4441.

WisLine Teleconferences

The University of Wisconsin- Extension offers a number of WisLine live teleconferences via two-way sound communication. For a complete listing of their offerings, check out their website:

<http://lgc.uwex.edu/WisLines/index.html>. Upcoming teleconferences include “Wisconsin’s Revised Runoff Management Rules: Rationale and Potential Implications” on March 2, 2011. The Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence offers programs to help municipalities and counties in their efforts to lower energy dependency and costs. Find out what these programs are and how your local government can benefit at a teleconference scheduled on March 8th. Finally, on March 22, 2011, Carol Nawrocki of the Wisconsin Towns Association will host a teleconference entitled “How To Run The Annual Town Meeting.” She will discuss the statutory requirements and parliamentary procedures necessary to run a successful annual town meeting.