



NEIGHBORS

Newsletter of the Walworth County Intergovernmental Cooperation Council (ICC)



Nature's Summer Spider Web Tapestry (Jack Delaney photo)

SUMMER 2013

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 2

Plan Now for Leadership Training

Skip Mosshamer, a regular at our ICC meetings, is planning some exciting leadership training to take place in our county in 2014. This training is not limited to government workers but will be aimed at developing and improving leaders in all segments throughout the county. This type of leadership is long overdue, and we wanted to have Skip provide

some preliminary information regarding his plans. Since June 25 will be our last 2013 meeting before many municipal budgets are prepared, you may wish to consider including funds in 2014 to send someone from your organization to this training. Skip will be presenting information at our June meeting and will be available to answer questions.

Mark Your Calendars

Summer 2013

ICC Meeting

Tuesday, June 25 - 6 PM

Walworth County

Government Center

Our meeting includes several presentations on various topics, including community leadership training, wage and benefits survey, economic impact of Wisconsin & Southern Railroad, QECBs and "measurable management." If any member has a topic they would like included on the agenda, contact Dave Bretl at (262) 741.4357 or by email, dbretl@co.walworth.wi.us

2013 County Wage & Benefits Survey

This summer, Walworth County Economic Development Alliance (WCEDA) and the Walworth County Human Resource Association (WCHRA) will be conducting the 2013 Walworth County Wage and Benefit survey. Modified for 2013, this year's survey is designed to help compare compensation, benefits, pay trends and HR metrics for specific occupation types across the county.

"The help we are receiving from UW-Whitewater to conduct and evaluate this survey will help increase the usefulness for users in both the public and private sectors", said Mike Van Den Bosch, executive director of WCEDA.

Members of WCEDA and the

WCHRA that participate in the survey will receive results at no cost. Members of both organizations that do not participate in the survey can access the results for \$25. Non-members of both organizations can access the survey for \$50. Plan to attend the June 25 ICC meeting to learn more about this survey. Contact Mike Van Den Bosch with WCEDA at 262-741-8527 for more details.

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- ⇒ *Measurable Management*
- ⇒ *WSOR (Wisconsin and Southern Railroad) Economic Impact in Wisconsin*

Measurable Management

A number of different county and local governments have recommended a program called Measurable Management. Rebecca Heidepriem of Fritz Partners will be joining us at our June 25 meeting to discuss this program. Measurable Management assists organizations in achieving new levels of excellence and provides culture change methods, coupled with continual process improvement tools. The program will help your staff gain internal efficiencies and productivity, teamed with leadership and organizational innovation. It translates policies into measurable outcomes, and the benefit of this approach is that it is guaranteed to produce savings or generate innovative revenue ideas equal to or greater than the cost of the program. Rebecca has experience in both private industry and government, as an executive at Xerox Corporation and as the State's first Secretary of Electronic Government under Governor McCallum. The ICC may wish to engage a consultant in the future to facilitate additional cooperative efforts if one or more ICC members might be interested in this approach.

Wisconsin & Southern Railroad (WSOR) Economic Impact in Wisconsin



WSOR 4052 crossing busy West Washington Avenue at Madison as the state capitol building looks on. (March 3, 2013. Photo taken by John Ryan)

Our June meeting includes a presentation by Ken Lucht, Community Development Manager for Wisconsin and Southern Railroad (WSOR). Although perhaps not widely understood, WSOR's operations impact economic health in Wisconsin in a positive way. WSOR is a privately held Class II regional railroad company operating in the southern half of the State of Wisconsin and a small portion of north-eastern Illinois. WSOR operates over 700 miles of branch and mainline track traversing a total of 21 counties

in Wisconsin and Illinois and is Wisconsin's second largest railroad. WSOR directly connects within the state with the western Class I railroads BNSF, Canadian National, Canadian Pacific, and Union Pacific. With access to Chicago via the Belt Railway of Chicago, WSOR connects with the eastern Class I railroads CSX and Norfolk Southern. WSOR also has access to harbor facilities on the Mississippi River at Prairie du Chien and maintains several transloading sites within its system. WSOR operates on mostly former Milwaukee Road tracks that were earmarked for abandonment in the late

1970s and early 1980s. These tracks are now owned and managed cooperatively by the State of Wisconsin and 18 counties, including Walworth County, with which WSOR has a 50-year operating agreement.

WSOR transports a variety of commodities for its customer base, including lumber, liquid and dry fertilizers, corn, beans, plastic, aggregates, ethanol and liquid petroleum. Since its inception in 1980, WSOR has more than quadrupled the freight business of the previous carriers, handling over 60,000 carloads in 2012.

To learn more about WSOR and its economic impact, visit WSOR's website, <http://www.wsorrailroad.com>.

Turn to page 3 to read about the following.

⇒ *Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds (QECCBs)*

University of Wisconsin Local Government Center workshops

⇒ *Clerks, Treasurers & Finance Officers Institute*

⇒ *Using PASER & WISLR to Manage Your Roads*

* *How to rate your roads using PASER*

* *How to submit your PASER ratings*

Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds (QECBs)

In May this year, Joshua Clements, UW-Extension Community and Economic Development Educator, provided information to local municipalities regarding QECBs. QECBs are extremely low-interest bonds for publically-owned facilities, primarily for energy efficiency upgrades. Interest on QECBs is underwritten by the U.S. Department of Treasury. Created in 2008 and significantly enlarged in 2009 in the American Recovery and Reinvest-

ment Act, QECBs are a financial product to assist local municipalities. Walworth County has approximately \$1.5 million in bonding authority under this program. This authority is not just for Walworth County government, but is available to any municipality or school district in the county. Mr. Clements is scheduled to present information about QECBs at our June meeting and will be available to answer any questions ICC members may have.

Upcoming Local Government Programs

The **UW-Extension Local Government Center (LGC)** publishes an announcement of statewide programs on a monthly basis. It includes Extension programming and other programs of interest relating to local government that are offered in Wisconsin. Information about the **UWEX Local Government Center** and its programming may be found at lgc.uwex.edu. Listed here are a few that I thought members might find interesting.

June 26-28, 2013 – “Clerks, Treasurers & Finance Officers Institute” – League of Wisconsin Municipalities. (10:30 AM Wed. and 11:45 AM Fri.) Jefferson Street Inn, Wausau. The cost is \$90 for members and \$115 for non-members. Workshops include Worker’s Comp, TIF Update, Election Update, Bankruptcy Issues, Open Records/Open Meetings, Personnel Issues, Long Range Capital Planning, Economic Update, and Taxable Benefits. Register online at <http://www.lwm-info.org/index.asp?>

July 16, 2013 – “Using PASER and WISLR to Manage Your Roads – How to Rate Your Roads Using PASER” at the UW-Madison Transportation Information Center, 10:00 – 11:30 AM, Web Conference. The cost is \$25. Use the PASER system to rate the condition of your roads, determine the most likely causes of deterioration based on visual distresses, select the most appropriate maintenance treatments, and explain with confidence what needs to be done to maintain your roads. Questions, call 1-800-462-0876. Register online at

<http://tic.engr.wisc.edu/Workshops/Listing.lasso>

July 30, 2013 – “Using PASER and WISLR to Manage Your Roads – How Do I Submit My Pavement Ratings” at the UW-Madison Transportation Information Center, 10:00 – 11:30 AM, Web Conference. The cost is \$25. Download forms from WISLR, submit pavement ratings online to WISLR, modify road data in WISLR based on field inspection information, use WISLR inventory data to plan maintenance work and answer questions. Questions, call 1-800-462-0876. Register online at

<http://tic.engr.wisc.edu/Workshops/Listing.lasso>