



Neighbors

Newsletter of the Walworth County
Intergovernmental Cooperation Council (ICC)

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Walworth County Price Park, July 2006

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Upcoming Council Agendas

- **May 2008.** Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at 6 PM. The focus of the meeting will be on best practices. The agenda has been mailed and posted on the ICC web page, but it can always be amended. If you have any suggestions for changes, just let me know.
- **Email.** If you would like anyone else from your organization to receive this newsletter electronically, we would be pleased to include them in our email distribution. Alternatively, if you would like to be removed from our distribution list, just let me know.

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Welcome to our first edition of *Neighbors*

Somebody a lot smarter than me once said, “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” It is with that philosophy that we are pleased to unveil the first edition of the ICC newsletter, *Neighbors*. My hope is to publish this newsletter to keep ICC members informed, between regularly scheduled meetings of the Council, and to promote thinking about intergovernmental cooperation. If you have any suggestions for future articles, let me know.

In addition to this newsletter, I would encourage you to check out the ICC web page. It can be accessed by visiting the County web page: www.co.walworth.wi.us. Once on that page, follow the link to “County Board” and then “Intergovernmental Cooperation Council.” The ICC web page contains the agendas of upcoming meetings, minutes and other materials pertaining to our efforts.—
Dave Bretl

Tell Us About Your Cooperative Efforts

One of the goals of the ICC was to document the number of cooperative efforts already taking place in the county. We have seen that these efforts can range from “handshake” agreements to formal contracts. By documenting existing cooperative arrangements, you may inspire others to follow your example and save them a lot of work in

drafting agreements. We are archiving these agreements on our ICC web page. If you have any examples, such as boundary agreements, shared-use facility agreements or any other cooperative efforts, either written or unwritten, let me know. Electronic or “hard” copies of written agreements would be appreciated. A short written

narrative of less formal arrangements would be useful, as well. I am pleased to report that one cooperative effort, elected official training, was a success. Classes were held for local elected officials on April 30, May 7 and May 13 and included training in ethics for local government officials, and Wisconsin Open Meetings and Records laws.

ICC Ground Rules

The first meeting of the Walworth County Intergovernmental Cooperation Council was held on February 26, 2008. The meeting was well attended, with 20 towns, cities and villages represented. To date, we have received signed intergovernmental cooperation agreements from 24 of the 27 municipalities in the county. At its February 26, 2008 meeting, the ICC discussed a few simple “ground rules” for meetings of the Council. Those rules include:

- ICC meetings will not exceed 90 minutes in

length.

- Each meeting should focus on one of the objectives listed in the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement. Those objectives include: best practices, cooperative efforts, water issues and legislation.
- The last meeting, scheduled in 2009, will address whether the group has accomplished anything and whether it should continue or disband.

Upcoming ICC Topics

May 27, 2008. We have several presentations scheduled for our next meeting regarding best practices. The May 27 Council agenda includes a list of the presentations that are scheduled, including:

- Town & Village of Sharon shared municipal facility
- Mid-Moraine Municipal Association
- Walworth County Geographical Information Systems capabilities
- Local opportunities in

county purchasing

The complete agenda is posted on the ICC web page, which is linked through the County Board web page under “Important Links.” The county’s web page address is: www.co.walworth.wi.us.

August 26, 2008. We have arranged for a speaker from the Wisconsin League of Municipalities as well as Rick Stadelman from the Towns Association to attend our meeting to discuss boundary agreements.

November 25, 2008. Phil Evenson, Executive Director, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) is scheduled to speak at our meeting in November concerning regional water quality issues.

January 27, 2009. We will discuss legislative issues of interest to the entire group.

April 28, 2009. The Council will evaluate its accomplishments and determine whether to continue or disband.

County Surplus Property Available to Municipalities

Walworth County is currently modifying its procedures governing the disposal of surplus property. These changes will allow municipalities to take advantage of property declared surplus by the county that might be useful to others. Items that are to be sold at public auction, public sale or by competitive bid, will be posted on Walworth County’s website. Municipalities will be notified first of items offered for sale upon posting to the county’s web site. The revised procedure will give Walworth County municipalities the opportunity to purchase equipment and/or property, at a fixed cost, that will benefit their operations and promote mutual cooperation between county and municipal governments. The new procedures will also result in less labor and transportation for the county than other sale or disposal methods.