



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024 @ 8:30 AM

JAMES P. COUGHLIN CENTER

625 E. COUNTY ROAD Y

OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN

Virtual Access:

To join this meeting via Zoom, please click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88595102914?pwd=anpyZkNZck5oTzNDemk4akI2K1BGUT09>

Enter the Meeting ID: 885 9510 2914

Passcode: LEG032524

To join this meeting by telephone, dial (312) 626-6799.

A Business Meeting of the Legislative Committee will be held on Monday, March 25, 2024, at 8:30 AM at the James P. Coughlin Center, 625 E. County Road Y, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

At this meeting, the following will be presented to the Board for its consideration:

The Chairman may take up any item on the agenda at any time after the meeting commences.

A. Call to Order

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Public Comments within the Jurisdiction of the Committee

D. Approval of Minutes

1. Action Item: January 2024 Meeting Minutes

E. Update from State Legislators

1. Invited Legislators: Sen. Dan Feyen – District 18; Sen. Rachael Cabral-Guervara – District 19; Rep. Michael Schraa – District 53; Rep. Lori Palmeri – District 54; Rep. Nate Gustafson – District 55; Rep. Rep. Lee Snodgrass – District 57

F. Update from Federal Representatives

1. Invited Representatives: Senator Baldwin, Senator Johnson, Congressman Grothman and Congressman Mike Gallagher

G. Communications Shared by Committee Members

H. Updates from the County Executive

1. New Legislative District Maps

I. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Resolution: Establishing a Winnebago County Position on "Enhanced Wake" Regulations

J. Items for Next Agenda

Suggestions from committee members for items to be addressed on a future agenda

K. Next Meeting Date

L. Adjourn

****A quorum of the Aviation Committee, Highway Committee, Park View Health Center Committee, Planning & Zoning Committee, Personnel & Finance Committee, Information Technology Committee, Parks & Recreation Committee, and the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors may be present at this meeting.**

Upon request, provisions will be made for people with disabilities upon 24 hours prior notice to the Office of the County Clerk. Phone Number: (920) 232-3430.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
Monday, January 22, 2024
James P. Coughlin Center
625 E. County Road Y, Oshkosh

Members Present: 14 – Chuck Farrey, Steven Binder, Jim Wise, John Hinz, Brian Defferding, Morris Cox, David Albrecht, Tom Egan, Larry Lautenschlager, Robert Keller, Douglas Nelson, Thomas Snider, Nate Gustafson, and Ralph Harrison.

Absent: 3 – Koby Schellenger, Maribeth Gabert and Karen Powers.

Also Present: Mary Anne Mueller (Corporation Counsel); Conley Hanson (County Board Supervisor); Eric Sparr (District Attorney); State Representatives Nate Gustafson, Michael Schraa and Lori Palmeri; Jennifer Garner representing U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin's Office and Alan Ott representing Congressman Glenn Grothman's Office.

Via Zoom: Winnebago County Supervisors Rachael Dowling and Shanah Zastera, Ethan Hollenberger (County Executive Assistant), Doug Gieryn (Public Health Director), and Will Terry representing State Senator Rachael Cabral-Guevara's Office.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Farrey called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Farrey opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of minutes of May 22, 2023, and October 23, 2023, meetings

Motion by Supervisor Cox and seconded by Supervisor Albrecht to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2023, meeting. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. (Abstain: Nelson)

Motion by Larry Lautenschlager and seconded by Supervisor Cox to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2023, meeting. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. (Abstain: Nelson)

4. Public Comments

Conley Hanson, County Board Supervisor, spoke in support for agenda item no. 6, Price County Resolution No. 19-23 – "Request the State of Wisconsin to Address Concerns of Act 216, Relating to Distributing the Proceeds from the Sale of Tax Delinquent Property to the Former Owner"; item no. 7, Polk County Resolution No. 27-23 – "Resolution Supporting a Restitution Court Program for Polk County"; and item no. 8, Kenosha County Resolution No. 60 – "A Resolution on the Individual Health Decisions Pertaining to COVID 19 Government Lockdowns, Vaccine, and Mask Mandates".

5. Correspondence

No correspondence.

Chairman Farrey announced the following individuals were in attendance today: Supervisor Doug Nelson is the interim Chairman for the Solid Waste Management Board; Supervisor Brian Defferding is the vice-chair for the Judiciary & Public Safety Committee filling in for Chairman Bryan Stafford; and Supervisor Jim Wise is the vice-chair for the Facilities & Property Management Committee filling in for Chairman Andy Buck.

6. Discussion/Action: Price County Resolution No. 19-23 – "Request the State of Wisconsin to Address Concerns of Act 216, Relating to Distributing the Proceeds from the Sale of Tax Delinquent Property to the Former Owner".

Motion by Supervisor Binder, seconded by Larry Lautenschlager, to bring discussion to the floor.

Motion by Thomas Snider, seconded by Supervisor Hinz, to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board. FAILED BY VOICE VOTE.

7. Discussion/Action: Polk County Resolution No. 27-23 – "Resolution Supporting a Restitution Court Program for Polk County".

Motion by Larry Lautenschlager, seconded by Supervisor Binder, to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. (Nay: Cox)

8. Discussion/Action: Kenosha County Resolution No. 60 – "A Resolution on the Individual Health Decisions Pertaining to COVID 19 Government Lockdowns, Vaccine, and Mask Mandates".

Motion by Supervisor Gustafson, seconded by Supervisor Defferding, to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board.

Vote on Resolution: AYES: 7; NAYES: 6 – Farrey, Wise, Cox, Lautenschlager, Nelson, and Snider; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 3 – Schellenger, Gabert, and Powers. MOTION PASSED.

9. Discussion/Action: Green Lake County Resolution 23-2023 – "Resolution in opposition to Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau 2023 Bill Proposal LRB-3518/1" and Sawyer County Resolution 2023-27 – "Resolution on Enhanced Wake Regulations".

Motion by Supervisor Cox to separate and vote on each resolution separately.

1. Green Lake County Resolution 23-2023 – "Resolution in opposition to Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau 2023 Bill Proposal LRB-3518/1"

Motion by Supervisor Nelson, seconded by Larry Lautenschlager, to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board.

After further discussion, Motion by Supervisor Nelson, to withdraw his motion and take no action seconded by Larry Lautenschlager. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

2. Sawyer County Resolution 2023-27 – "Resolution on Enhanced Wake Regulations".

Motion by Larry Lautenschlager, seconded by Supervisor Nelson, to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board.

Vote on Resolution: AYES: 3 – Farrey, Lautenschlager and Nelson; NAYES: 10; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 3 – Schellenger, Gabert, and Powers. MOTION FAILED.

Motion by Thomas Snider, seconded by Larry Lautenschlager to refer this to the Land Conservation Committee. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

10. Discuss proposed State and Federal Legislation from the Legislative Committee members

None

11. Update from County Executive Jon Doemel

County Executive Jon Doemel updated on the following:

- The Strategic Planning Sessions are taking place January 23rd and 24th, this week, for the County Board Supervisors and Department Heads. This is an opportunity for these individuals to work with the facilitator and provide input on a strategic plan.
- The agenda prep software, Civic Plus, trials have been going very well, not too many glitches or bugs so far to work out. He is very excited as this software has some great features which will create, publish and distribute materials to the members and the public faster.

12. Update from State Legislators

Representative Michael Schraa – District 53:

- The Session is winding down. Mr. Schraa stated any bills that haven't had a hearing probably won't get done unless there's a big push to get them on the floor for a vote.
- Representative Schraa mentioned in the budget, they increased the correctional officers hourly pay for an additional \$13/hour and that has made a great impact. They are attracting individuals into corrections as a career. The only complaints they have received is that they are not getting enough overtime. This issue is going in the right direction.
- Mr. Schraa informed everyone an issue that was brought to their attention with the Wisconsin Resource Center and individuals not getting the proper medications. The current process of cases being transferred to a judge in a different county, requesting an order for medication is not working well. Several cases get dismissed resulting in the individuals not getting the proper medications. They are working with the Wisconsin Counties Association for a solution.
- Representative Schraa discussed the re-districting that is taking place and the new maps that are being drawn up. This will be debated again on 3/15/2024. This will need to be done by April 15, 2024, as that is when they will begin circulating papers to get on the fall ballot. There will be a lot happening in the next month or two.

Representative Lori Palmeri – District 54:

- Representative Palmeri echoed Representative Schraa's comments and added some additional thoughts regarding the change in district maps.

Representative Nate Gustafson – District 55:

- Representative Gustafson commented on his thoughts regarding the re-districting and new maps that have been drawn up.
- Mr. Gustafson updated everyone on the Task Force on Artificial Intelligence (AI). A report is coming out this week with recommendations submitted from the task force that includes forming a committee in the next session.
- Representative Gustafson discussed the Medical Marijuana issue. There is a plan in Wisconsin to introduce some type of medical marijuana, but it is at an early stage and discussions are still taking place.

Supervisor Nelson asked the representatives about the current issue regarding Wisconsin and the possibility of lake sturgeon being added to the endangered species act. This would be a huge economical impact for Wisconsin.

Representative Schraa stated that there will be a press conference today at 1:00 pm. There is also a community information meeting on the future of sturgeon spearing taking place tonight, January 22, 2024, 7:00-8:00 pm, held at the Stockbridge High School Gym. Mr. Schraa expects a very large crowd as there is a lot of concern out there. Federal and State representatives will give an update on efforts underway and what the next steps are in the process. The public will have a chance to voice their concerns and support and ask any questions they may have.

Chairman Farrey thanked the State Representatives for their attendance. It is greatly appreciated.

13. Update from Federal Representatives

Alan Ott, District Director—Congressman Glenn Grothman

- Congressman Grothman and Gallagher will be at the press conference and community meeting as mentioned earlier in the meeting regarding the Sturgeon Spearing issue.
- Mr. Ott discussed the border crisis. It has never been as bad as it is now. The illegal immigration is at an all-time record high. December alone, there were over \$300,000 individuals that crossed the border and 61 of them were from all different countries and not just Mexico and South America.
- The budget situation that passed this past Friday split the budget funding into two different pieces. The next deadline is in February. If they can't come to an agreement, there will be a partial government shut-down.
- Mr. Ott stated that in December, Congressman Grothman introduced the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) Direct-Hire Authority Act to provide direct hire authority to the Director of the Bureau of Prisons.
- Congress has not been too involved with the redistricting maps.

Jennifer Garner, District Director—Senator Tammy Baldwin

- Senator Baldwin fully supports the Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach (CVSO) Act. The CVSO Act will expand community-based outreach that will help veterans access services to improve their health and wellness and prevent suicides. Ms. Garner acknowledged that Tom Snider and Joe Aulik were responsible for getting this piece of legislation introduced and it passed unanimously in the Senate. Now, it will go before the House. This is going to help our veterans everywhere in this nation.
- Senator Baldwin was able to include the Fend Off Fentanyl Act which is bi-partisan legislation to combat our crisis. They know they need to take some pretty aggressive measures to stop the flow of fentanyl into our communities.
- Ms. Baldwin also introduced the following pieces of legislation:
 - Stop Fentanyl at the Border Act.
 - Bi-Partisan Safe Response Act
 - Bi-Partisan Re-Entry Act

Winnebago County Sheriff, John Matz, supports both Bi-Partisan Safe Response Act and the Bi-Partisan Re-Entry Act.

- Ms. Garner explained that Senator Baldwin has been involved in many remaining projects but didn't want to take more time to speak on all of them. If anyone is interested or has any questions on any one of them, feel free to contact Ms. Garner or Senator Baldwin's office or visit the website.

14. Topics to be discussed at next Legislative Committee Meeting

- Resolutions from other counties referred from County Board
- Supervisor Nelson will work with Mary Anne Mueller, Corporation Counsel, to draft up a resolution addressing the Sturgeon issue and bring it back to the Legislative Committee.

15. Next Meeting Date and Time

The next meeting will take place on Monday, March 25, 2024, at 8:30 am.

16. Adjourn

Motion made and seconded to adjourn. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.
The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Submitted by:
Cassie J. Smith-Gregor
Winnebago County Deputy Clerk

Agenda Item Report



DATE: March 18, 2024
FROM: Ethan Hollenberger, Assistant to the County Executive
AGENDA ITEM: Establishing a Winnebago County Position on "Enhanced Wake" Regulations

General Description:

Approving a resolution to adopt a position on enhanced wake boating operations.

Action Requested:

Motion to recommend the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors pass the draft resolution, which establishes a position on enhanced wake regulations.

Procedural Steps:

The Legislative Committee discussed this item at its January meeting. The committee sent the item to the Land Conservation Committee, which unanimously suggested this position. If this advances to County Board, board rules will require a three-fourths vote.

Background:

Across the state, wakeboats have caused great debate in Wisconsin due to the amount of water they displace. Generally, wakeboard boats are designed with ballast systems, V drive, hull design, and wake innovation produces better waves. They are designed to displace more water, creating stronger and bigger wakes. Wake boats mimic small "surf" waves. They are becoming more popular. Smaller lakes for years have struggled with ski boats, which are designed for longer, flatter wakes.

Legislators from up north have introduced Assembly Bill 656/Senate Bill 680 to regulate wakeboarding to 200 feet from the shore. Winnebago County GIS created a map which outlines these proposed regulations.

State Senator Andre Jacque introduced a more restrictive bill which would require a lake to be 1,500 acres and for wakesurfing to occur 700 feet from the shore or other boaters. This bill has not been given a bill number and does not appear to have an Assembly author.

Lakes at Stake is a group which opposes the legislation. [Their website has several resources on topic.](#)

The Wisconsin Land and Water Association, of which Winnebago County is a member, opposes AB 656 and the eroding of local control because, "We appreciate efforts to

address this topic, but oppose because the bill limits the ability of local governments to set appropriate regulations for unique water bodies."

Policy Discussion:

Under current law, Winnebago County can potentially enact an ordinance regulating enhanced wake boating operations on the county's rivers and streams. The law leaves lake ordinances to towns, villages, or cities.

The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* documented potential damage to a lake in Washington County caused by these enhanced wakes. [Here is a link to the video](#). Lakes at Stake Wisconsin recommends Wisconsin follow Vermont's recent regulations of 500 feet from the shoreline and in not less than 20 feet of water. Such a regulation would ban enhanced wakes in the Winnebago Lake System.

Even if Winnebago County passes an ordinance, the legislature may take away those ordinance powers. Staff recommends passing this resolution.

Attachments:

None

1 **RESOLUTION Establishing a Winnebago County Position on "Enhanced Wake" Regulations**

2
3 **TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

4
5 **WHEREAS**, Douglas, Sawyer, and Green Lake Counties have forwarded resolutions requesting local
6 control for "Enhanced Wake" regulations; and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, "enhanced wake" is commonly defined as "a trail of disturbed water left by the passage of a
9 watercraft which is created through the use of ballast and other mechanical devices" and can be
10 achieved by so-called wakeboats or aftermarket devices added to other boat types; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin State Legislature introduced three bills regarding enhanced wakes in the
13 2023 session with none of the bills passing within the session: Senate Bill 680/Assembly Bill 656 would
14 have preempted local control of enhanced wakes, Senate Bill 1016 would have banned enhanced wakes
15 within 700 feet of the shore or in less than 20 feet of water, and Senate Bill 1077 would have authorized
16 a study by the UW System; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, Winnebago County has the authority under Chapter 30 of the Wisconsin State Statutes to
19 enact an ordinance on rivers and streams within the county and municipalities and towns have the
20 authority to enact an ordinance on lakes, with some limitations; and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, documented damage to rivers, shoreline, aquatic vegetation, and an increase of invasive
23 species have occurred with the practice of creating enhanced wakes in small or shallow lakes.
24

25 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby
26 requests the Wisconsin State Legislature enact legislation which preserves local governments' ability to
27 set their own standards beyond state minimums and regulations which balances the right of everyone to
28 recreate in the waters of the State of Wisconsin.
29

30 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to all counties, Wisconsin Counties Association,
31 Wisconsin Town Association, Wisconsin Lakes, Wisconsin Land & Water, the legislature, Governor,
32 Secretary of the DNR and Natural Resources Board.
33

Respectfully submitted by:
LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Committee Vote:

Respectfully submitted by:
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
Committee Vote:

34
Fiscal Note:

Vote Required for Passage:

35 _____

36
37 Approved by the Winnebago County Executive on _____.

38
39 _____
40 Jonathan D. Doemel
41 Winnebago County Executive
42