

Ad Hoc Sub Consolidation Committee Meeting Minutes  
August 30, 2011, 1:00 p.m.

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, England at 1:00 p.m. Present: Sumpter, Allen, Wellumson, James, Keckeisen, Stuchlak and England. Also present, McLaughlin, Djumadi, and Kaye.

Motioned by Allen/Stuchlak to approve the agenda. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motioned by James/Sumpter to approve the August 15 meeting minutes. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

- EO Johnson contracts – Review options and/or results: Wellumson reported that he and Trena had met a couple of times but have no results on contracts. Budgets are a priority right now.
- Parks operation – continuation: Allen asked James if he had talked to Nickel, James talked with Nickel. The conversation with him was related to the collection box at Hwy 21. The people that are picking up money from the boxes should have phones. He did not talk about the \$196,000 or reducing the levy. The comment was made by Nickel to let department heads cut and worry about it themselves. Wellumson commented public access points. The parks should be self supporting, generating income and should not be restricting their services.

Stuchlak explained where school districts were in the county and where the different boundaries were.

Keckeisen and Allen exchanged conversation on the Parks Department operation. Keckeisen asked how it was expected that the parks be self sufficient? Allen believes that after the payback of the loan and getting out of the red there should be no problem. Allen said he did not expect them to be self sufficient all at once, but that over a period of time they should be. Allen would like to get Parks to run on what they take in and not necessarily raise fees. This should be obtainable in 4 years. McLaughlin, what are the parks revenues? They have been reinvesting them in years past. Has the time come to just maintain and use revenues to offset the levy? We are being asked to cut back and do without. Djumadi asked, as an observation, it appears the committee is focusing on budgets not on consolidation, is this really their job? It makes sense to reinvest in the Parks, they make money for the county and draw people here and promote tourism. People use small businesses and local restaurants, they spend their money here. James commented, regardless if the county owns the parks or if they were owned by private entity they would still draw people here. We could lease them to a private company, but I would prefer it not done that way. I would set aside money for capital improvements within the county structure. James commented on Nickel's capital improvement plans. Nickel had indicated he wanted to do new construction on the East side of the park and some road improvements. Sumpter asked, if the committee was playing finance committee or consolidation, aren't we to be looking at the possibility of consolidating and outcome? England responded, are we looking at the chicken or the egg, it is hard to look at consolidation without looking at finances. James commented that out sourcing, contracting, combining, and just like EO Johnson contracts all run together. Keckeisen said Nickel's budget was down for 2012, outlying Parks puts Nickel in the hole, as well as boat launches. They looked at giving the boat launches to the townships and it failed.

James said the total cost was approximately \$30,000. If he could swing a deal, referencing to Rome and New Chester.... Stuchlak feels there could be cooperation with Easton Lakes District and the Town of Easton that they would be willing to take over the launch. Easton Township will work with the Lake District. Keckeisen, two board members drove 30 people away, they moved to a different campground. Nickel has Adams County on his mind no matter where he is, we don't want people to move somewhere else. Allen and Stuchlak both want the parks levy to be reduced, they don't feel their tax dollars should help subsidize the Parks. Stuchlak was instrumental in obtaining the free week-end conducive with free fishing with proof of property. Stuchlak agrees with Keckeisen that Nickel sells Adams County very well. Discussion took place regarding an enterprise fund and if the parks should be run like one. Keckeisen didn't think that we should be considering this and reference Solid Waste. Nickel needs to be able to keep the money. Wellumson questioned Keckeisen and his reasoning.

Phillippi explained the difference between carryover accounts and fund balances. Anything corresponding to the general fund begins with a 100 account number; any other fund such as the Solid Waste department begins with 600 or like the Health and Human Service with 240. Money is handed differently depending on the accounting structure set up.

Allen would like to have Nickel come back at the next meeting letting the committee know what his department can do next year and moving forward. Allen refuses the idea of raising rates and would like cooperation, not miracles.

Djumadi again questioned the committee's responsibilities. Would not Nickel explain to his committee what his plans are moving forward? Is it not up to them to determine the budget? I am confused. Operate only with the money he makes, I don't agree with that.

Stuchlak agrees in order for the Parks to operate like a business the money stays there in that department. They need to maintain capital improvements and operate like a business.

James would like cooperative participation and would like Nickel to come back to the next meeting.

- Consolidation of Land and Water/Planning and Zoning – Review Handouts - Identify pros & cons

James went through all the material, there were 18 responses from McLaughlin's request from other counties. The majority of them are 6 years or better into the process, some went quite well, other have a long way to go. James went to Waushara, and met for approximately 40 minutes with Terri Dopp-Paukspat the director for Zoning and Land Conservation Department. They had made the transition in 2002 where they eliminated one department and reduced staff to 1½ people. Ed Hernandez is the County Conservationist/Deputy Director of Land Conservation. They also reduced their county supervisors from 21 down to 11 in 2008. They have a contract with Independent Inspection LTD for two inspectors. They have their own septic inspector. Golden Sands, administers their invasive species program, 5 counties have contracted with Golden Sands. Basically this is what Reesa currently does. They get a grant every year like the one we get for Reesa.

Tri Lakes has an aquatic invasive species program as well. They have been working with the University of Stevens Point to obtain two full time students for water quality; however they have only found one.

Barnes present.

Land and Water and the Extension office may have more in common.

McLaughlin indicated that what is called P&Z and L&W may not be the same across the board they may not be the same animal. It makes sense to know enough to make an educated decision on what should happen. What's important is to know what the specific individuals do. For example, GIS with P&Z would make sense as they do mapping which is a daily operation for us. James explored different ideas that may be a good fit for example: P&Z, Records, Real Property Lister, GIS.

GIS could be evaluated to determine or establish who that person should be under.

Phillippi explained that the records, real property lister, and land information position were one of the same.

Keckeisen informed the committee that DNR is an enterprise and cut a lot of private funding and grant money. We need to survive on the money that we get. What happens to Reesa if the funding is cut for the position? James expressed the same concerns. Sumpter questioned NR115. There were not sound answers. Stuchlak said that 2 years ago at a Lake Alliance meeting, to have one 1 cooperative person, Adams County Lake Alliance was totally against it, they would fund her position to keep it. There are 22 Lake Alliances. \$750.00 a year from Tri Lakes goes to the Lake Alliance. Stuchlak, they would fund the position being that they could add a special assessment to Lake District. James thought we had money to fund thru 2013. Sumpter, we need to make decisions together, nothing is going to be smooth, but I do not want to go thru 9 years of bumpy roads. Land Records and Planning and Zoning will create World War III. We need to be focusing on good solutions. Wellumson, I feel it is critical to see the revenues from State. Keckeisen, next meeting bring department heads here to listen to what they have to say, or have England and Miller attend the next department head meeting.

After much discussion it was determined there was much separation between the Planning and Zoning Department and the Land and Water Department.

Allen, we have good department heads. We have to have a plan. Maybe to save we need to have an outside person to come in and tell us where we can save.

McLaughlin thinks departments should pull together, be team players. Some are better team players than others. I am a team player, but in doing so shot myself in foot, some are not willing to give up what they have. Djumadi, there is no reason to have an outsider come in the finance coordinator can provide the figures and get those numbers for us. Allen, that is far more then we expect her to do.

Discussion related to internal and external customers occurred.

McLaughlin referenced their revenue sources with outsourcing we are only going to retain 10% of the money instead of 100% of the money. We are just going to give it away, building inspection giving away our revenue, then the department will do a flood plan, shore land and septic. Allen stated that is why it should be an individual from the outside to evaluate options. McLaughlin, I know it is not in our best interest to let go of these services. McLaughlin indicated he would be attending a meeting in New Chester, to fight to keep these services in place. Sumpter, doesn't think someone from the outside, we have spend money on studies for nothing. Keckeisen said that the county explored options when Petkovsek was here. Consolidation of the Highway and Solid Waste department, spending \$10,000 with Ayres to be told it wasn't feasible. Petkovsek wanted to change a bunch of stuff on us and tried to make departments look bad.

McLaughlin said that they had explored sharing an employee between the Land and Water Department and their department. We could revisit this idea. He is still willing to explore this option knowing that the Union won't be an issue in 2012. We could work on the job description and get it revised and approved. However, Marcia has started to work on filling a vacant position we currently have, we would want to stop this process if we are going to explore this other option. He wouldn't fill his part-time position. Allen recommends continuing to work on the merger and talk with each other. A portable printer, to print out building code sections, etc to improve services. McLaughlin explained that their department was working on obtaining a laptop and printer for Dan, to improve services.

Sumpter, would like to hear from Murphy and McLaughlin on a plan for using or sharing an employee and to have Nickel back.

Keckeisen went over MIS budget documents, explaining that there was a lot of dollars tied up in technology and quoted some figures.

Djumadi agreed that IT was one of the bigger expenses. However, this shouldn't be over looked, in order to maintain efficient operations you really need updated technology. It shouldn't get the short end of the stick.

Allen stated we are way behind in certain departments naming Health and Human Services, Corporation Counsel, and Extension.

Kaye informed the committee that Alex helps Dawn and there are other issues unrelated to staffing. Everyone needs to get along in the real world and cooperate and have good working relationships with individuals and also work with Union.

Wellumson, list by manpower to consolidate P&Z and L&W department.

Motioned by Allen/Sumpter to attend department meeting at 8:15 a.m. on September 15, 2011. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Djumadi, said there were a number of other option besides UWEX/LWD or GIS and Real Property Lister, we should hear from Murphy and McLaughlin about what other department heads considerations may be.

James, it's overkill to have 7-8 departments, we'd be all over the place. We should stick to one subject otherwise it looks disorganized. Have McLaughlin and Murphy discuss staff sharing option, McLaughlin check on moving GIS and report back.

**Recess:** Motioned by Keckeisen/Stuchlak to recess at 2:12 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Reconvene:** Called back to order by Chairperson England 2:21 p.m. All present.

Stuchlak, indicated that Land and Water and Extension Committee share some of the same members.

There may be a possibility of combining those two departments. Murphy and Genrich could talk about options.

McLaughlin talked about the differences in support offices and regulatory offices. Extension is a support office. Barnes wanted to know where they would be located if they were combined. The committee said they were just exploring options and they would deal with the physical mechanics later.

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There was further discussion of Planning and Zoning, GIS and Land Records being located together.

Allen wants to screen department head responses before next meeting, have them put in mail boxes. They should be thoughtful suggestions, actual by person.

England has draft chart that she would like to use moving forward. The chart would have a time line 6 months, 1 year/3 years then it could be filled in. Wellumson recommends Sumpter to make excel charts. Sumpter will assist once England provides the data.

Keckeisen, we should look at having Emergency Management/Law Department combined down the road.

Set next meeting September 15, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in room A260.

Motioned by James/Allen to adjourn at 2:45 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Cindy Phillippi  
Recording Secretary