

Lake County Illinois

*Lake County Courthouse and Administrative Complex
18 N. County Street
Waukegan, IL 60085-4351*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

1:00 PM

**Assembly Room, 10th Floor or register for remote attendance at:
<https://bit.ly/3Bguedx>**

Legislative Committee

1. Call to Order

Chair Wasik called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Ex-Officio Member Hart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call of Members

Present 6 - Member Hunter, Member Knizhnik, Vice Chair Roberts, Member Schlick, Chair Wasik and Ex-Officio Member Hart

Absent 2 - Member Altenberg and Member Campos

The physical presence of the County Board Chair constitutes a physical quorum.

**Electronic Attendance: Members Hunter and Knizhnik*

Member Knizhnik joined the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

Other Attendees***In Person:***

Paul Frank, Board Member

Walter Willis, Solid Waste Agency of Lake County

RuthAnne Hall, County Administrator's Office

Matt Meyers, County Administrator's Office

Patrice Sutton, County Administrator's Office

Theresa Glatzhofer, County Board Office

Kevin Quinn, Communications

Abby Krakow, Communications

Electronically:

Kristy Cechini, County Board Office

Janna Philipp, County Administrator's Office

Jolanda Dinkins, County Board Office

Derek Blaida, Strategic Advocacy Group

Mike Grady, Strategic Advocacy Group

Gregory Bales, McGuire-Woods Consulting, LLC

Tammy Chatman, Communications

Melissa Gallagher, Finance

Elizabeth Brandon, County Administrator's Office

Ed Gallagher, PACE

Jim Hawkins, County Administrator's Office

4. Addenda to the Agenda

There were no additions or amendments to the agenda.

Member Knizhnik joined the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

5. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

6. Chair's Remarks

Chair Wasik noted that Walter Willis, Executive Director of the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO), will be presenting during this meeting. Chair Wasik explained that the Committee will review and provide feedback for the County's 2025 Draft Legislative Program at today's meeting. Chair Wasik also noted that there is an advisory referendum relating to property tax relief on the current ballot that Members should research.

7. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

8. New Business

CONSENT AGENDA (Item 8.1)

MINUTES

8.1 [24-1221](#)

Committee action approving the Legislative Committee minutes from September 3, 2024.

Attachments: [LEG 9.3.24 Final Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Roberts, seconded by Member Schlick, that these minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Aye: 6 - Member Hunter, Member Knizhnik, Vice Chair Roberts, Member Schlick, Chair Wasik and Ex-Officio Member Hart

Absent: 2 - Member Altenberg and Member Campos

REGULAR AGENDA

8.2 [24-1296](#)

Discussion regarding the draft 2025 Legislative Program and additional concepts.

Attachments: [2025 DRAFT Legislative Program](#)

Matt Meyers, Assistant County Administrator, introduced Walter Willis, Executive Director of the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO), who provided an overview of the following four pieces of legislation for the Committee to consider adding to their Draft 2025 Legislative Program: 1) Extended Producer Responsibility Bill for Household Hazardous Waste, 2) Food Scrap Bill, 3) Bill to reduce methane gas emissions from landfills through banning organics in landfills, and 4) Extension of the Electronics Recycling Law, which will sunset at the end of 2026. Discussion ensued. There was no opposition from the Committee regarding adding the four aforementioned pieces of legislation to the Draft 2025 Legislative Program. Assistant County Administrator Meyers stated that he would work with Executive Director Willis to incorporate those four legislative items into the County's Draft 2025 Legislative Program.

Assistant County Administrator Meyers gave a brief overview of the County's Draft 2025 Legislative Program. Discussion ensued. The Committee discussed whether to support

Ethan's Law or for the County to write its own bill regarding firearm safe storage. The consensus of the majority of the Committee was to remove specific support of Ethan's Law and to retain the Firearm Regulation initiative section within the County's Draft 2025 Legislative Program.

Ex-Officio Member Hart left the meeting at 1:33 p.m. and re-entered the meeting at 1:38 p.m.

Chair Wasik requested that staff add the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) to the County's Draft 2025 Legislative Program.

Assistant County Administrator Meyers noted that staff has looked into the initiative brought forth by Vice Chair Cunningham regarding potentially allowing the County Board the authority to increase the salary for Vice Chairs of county boards or Chairs of committees. Assistant County Administrator Meyers explained that the State's Attorney's Office advised staff that the County Board does not have the authority to make increases without changes to current state statute. Assistant County Administrator Meyers also informed the Committee that, after outreach to the Illinois State Association of Counties, he could not find any other counties requesting such a change at this time. Chair Wasik asked the Committee if they were interested in pursuing the authority to make that change. The consensus of the majority of the Committee was not to pursue the initiative further at this time.

8.3 [24-1290](#)

Update and discussion regarding the State of Illinois 2024 Legislative Sessions.

Derek Blaida, Strategic Advocacy Group, provided a summary of the State of Illinois 2024 legislative session. Mr. Blaida thanked Walter Willis, Executive Director of the Solid Waster Agency of Lake County (SWALCO), for his availability and assistance. Mr. Blaida also thanked County Board Chair Hart for testifying at a recent Senate Transit Hearing. Discussion ensued.

8.4 [24-1289](#)

Update and discussion regarding Federal Legislative items.

Matt Meyers, Assistant County Administrator, noted that Greg Bales, McGuire-Woods Consulting, LLC, had to leave the meeting. Assistant County Administrator Meyers explained that Congress passed a continuing resolution for fiscal year 2024 funding through December 20, 2024.

9. County Administrator's Report

There was no County Administrator's Report.

10. Executive Session

The Committee did not enter into Executive Session.

11. Member Remarks and Requests

Member Schlick noted that the next meeting date is on election day. Matt Meyers, Assistant County Administrator, noted that he will work with staff to come up with a date for a special Legislative Committee meeting, based on this request from the Committee.

12. Adjournment

Chair Wasik declared the meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

Next Meeting: November 5, 2024

Minutes prepared by Theresa Glatzhofer.

Minutes were approved on October 31, 2024, by the Legislative Committee.