

Lake County Illinois

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, October 8, 2008

9:00 AM

Conference Room C

Revenue, Records and Legislation Committee

1.0 Call to Order

Present 6 - Chair Spielman, Member Bassi, Vice Chair Leafblad, Member Douglass,
Member Paxton and Member Powers

Absent 1 - Member Talbett

Also Present:

Gary Gibson, Asst. County Administrator

Barry Burton, County Administrator

Marty Paulson, Chief County Assessment Officer

Steve Carlson, County Board Member

Gary Gordon, Finance & Administrative Services

Mike Warner, Stormwater Management Commission

Amy McEwan, Sr. Asst. County Administrator

Diana O'Kelly, County Board Member

Mary Otahal, County Board Office

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Spielman led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.0 Approval of Minutes - October 1, 2008

Motion by Member Powers, seconded by Member Bassi, to approve the minutes from October 1, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

Aye: 6 - Chair Spielman, Member Bassi, Vice Chair Leafblad, Member Douglass,
Member Paxton and Member Powers

4.0 Public Comment

5.0 Added to Agenda

6.0 Old Business

7.0 New Business

Member Talbett arrived at 9:14 a.m.

Present 7 - Chair Spielman, Member Bassi, Vice Chair Leafblad, Member Douglass,
Member Paxton, Member Powers and Member Talbett

Recorder of Deeds:

7.1 08-0716 Report of Mary Ellen Vanderverter, Recorder of Deeds for the Month of August 2008.

Attachments: [August County Board Report.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Member Bassi, seconded by Member Douglass, that this report be received and placed on the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Aye: 7 - Chair Spielman, Member Bassi, Vice Chair Leafblad, Member Douglass, Member Paxton, Member Powers and Member Talbett

Legislation:

7.2 08-0739 Discussion of proposed initiatives for 2009 State and Federal Legislative Programs.

Federal Legislative Initiatives:

Mike Warner explained the following initiatives that the Stormwater Management Commission is submitting for the Federal Legislative Program:

1. *Countywide Wetland Preservation and Restoration Plan – requesting \$200,000 to prepare a countywide plan that will identify key wetlands to preserve and restore as a multi-objective method to reduce flood damages, improve water quality, and protect high quality natural resources. Vice-Chair Leafblad requested that “enhance aquifer recharge” be added after “improve water quality”.*
2. *Slocum Watershed Management Plan – requesting \$310,000 for planning, engineering and implementation funding to effectively rehabilitate and modify the existing drainage infrastructure system throughout this sub-watershed. Mr. Warner stated that they have been working with the Slocum Drainage District to try and help them rebuild financially and managerially.*
3. *Watershed Plan Implementation Projects – requesting \$2 million to implement high priority environmental restoration, ecological enhancement, water quality improvement, and Stormwater infrastructure projects identified in detailed, comprehensive watershed management plans for the Upper Des Plaines and Fox River watersheds, specifically the following:*
 1. *Squaw Creek Watershed (Fox River)*
 2. *Sequoit Creek Watershed (Fox River)*
 3. *Fish Lake Drain Watershed (Fox River)*
 4. *Indian Creek Watershed (Des Plaines River)*
 5. *Bull Creek (Des Plaines River)*
 6. *Newport Creek (Des Plaines River), and*
 7. *Upper Des Plaines River Watershed*

He reported that two of the Watershed Implementation Projects

(Indian Creek and Bull Creek) have received grants that will be approved by F&A today.

4. Mill & North Mill Creek Watershed Management Plan – requesting \$1,290,000 to prepare watershed-based plans for Mill and North Mill Creeks located in the Des Plaines River Basin in north-central Lake County.

Member Talbett entered the meeting at 9:14 a.m.

Member Douglass recommended that we get letters of support from the municipalities in the Mill & North Mill Creek Watersheds.

Member Douglass asked how much money our federal programs have received. Mr. Gibson stated that since we have contracted with the Ferguson Group, we've paid them approximately \$1 million, and have received close to \$9 million in federal funding. He will bring the exact figures back to Committee. Discussion was had on the affect the new earmark process has had on our federal requests.

Mr. Gibson then explained the Lake County Strategic Objectives for Federal Transportation Funding that Marty Buehler submitted. This is essentially the same request that was submitted last year, and will be presented to the Public Works & Transportation Committee.

State Legislative Initiatives:

Mr. Gibson reviewed the following state proposals that were presented to the Standing Committees this week:

1. Lake County Housing Trust Fund - Member Bassi explained this proposal asking the state for permission to charge a \$5.00 recording fee to fund the Housing Trust Fund program, estimated to generate \$750,000 annually. She worked with Lisa Tapper from the Affordable Housing Commission in drafting this proposal. Member Bassi stated that the structure and management of the program would be determined later. Vice-Chair Leafblad expressed concern about the timing and wording of this proposal given the current housing and financial market. Member Paxton requested more information on the current Recorder's fees to see what effect this additional fee would have.

2. Brownfield Property Late Penalty Write -off - the Health & Human Services Committee recommended making this request broader and opening this up to other vacant commercial and industrial sites. Member Paxton asked for clarification regarding whether this only applies to change of ownership. HCS Committee Chair Steve Carlson

stated that Committee directed staff to look into whether this could be applied beyond brownfields.

3. Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption - Marty Paulson recommended including this in the package again this year, stating that seniors could benefit. Member Bassi recommended that this proposal be amended to enable seniors to be permanently entered in the freeze program after three consecutive successful applications, rather than two. Member Talbett suggested putting a cap on the fair market value, and Chair Spielman recommended talking to Kip Kolkmeier about adding this suggestion.

4. Elimination of ability to file for Homestead Exemption for multiple homes by individual - Mr. Paulson reported that this request was submitted by Member O'Kelly. Member O'Kelly explained the background leading to this request. Staff will work on the wording of this to include a recapture fee along with a fine or interest payment.

Member Paxton left the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

5. Coroner's Fees increase – support legislation that would raise fees for copies of transcripts of sworn testimony, autopsy report, verdict of a coroner's jury, toxicology report, and for a coroner's or medical examiner's permit to cremate a dead human body.

6. Filing of Mechanics Lien - Notification to Property Owner – this proposal would institute a requirement that the party filing and recording the Mechanic's Lien provide documentation that notification had been sent to the property owner.

7. Clarification of Plan Review and Inspector Roles for School Construction Projects – require that an independent third party retained by the School District undertaking the construction project conduct plan reviews and inspections. Roycealee Wood voiced her support for this proposal at the Health & Human Services Committee meeting.

8. Plat Act Clarifications - More information will be presented at the next meeting by PBD staff.

9. Local Recapture of Locally Generated Funds for Affordable Housing Programs – Distribution of Rental Housing Support Program funds places suburban areas, including Lake County, last. If no local administering agencies submit an application from a particular suburban, small metropolitan or rural area, provisions should be made to reserve previously collected fees from the local \$10 Recorder of Deed surcharges on real estate document recordings. Such reservations should be allowed back to the County from which these funds were originally generated.

Member Talbett left the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

10. *Authority for County Boards to provide Supportive Human Services through imposition of Taxpayer Authorized Levy – modify the existing statutes to expand the authority of county boards to: (1) extend current authority to impose a property tax by referendum for senior services to all supportive social services; and (2) provide social services, either through county programs, intergovernmental agreements with other local governments or through contractual arrangements with not-for-profit organizations.*

11. *Revision to State Plumbing Code to allow reclaimed water systems for use in flushing and landscape irrigation applications – support the Forest Preserve’s effort to adopt legislation requiring an amendment to the Illinois Plumbing Code to explicitly authorize reclaimed water recycling systems for use in flushing and landscape irrigation, provided such systems have adequate safeguards to maintain system integrity over time and to ensure sanitary conditions for users.*

12. *Water Safety and Enforcement Fee/License Countywide Docking Fee – Authorize the County to establish waterway safety and enforcement fees/licenses and/or countywide docking fee. This proposal is aimed at trying to re-coup some of the \$650,000 that it costs to operate the Sheriff’s Marine Patrol Unit. The Unit collects \$43,000 from the Fox Waterway Agency and approximately \$9,088 from fees and tickets. The County would like to institute additional fees to cover the operating expense of the Marine Unit. Amy McEwan has been discussing this proposal with the Fox Waterway Agency. She stated that the general consensus was that the FWA was concerned that they didn’t want any regulations or additional fees on the Fox waterways that aren’t assessed on everyone else. They are discussing adding a fee through the IDNR when you register your boat, and adding on to the Fox Waterway fee for anyone from outside of Lake County. Ms. McEwan is working with the agency to see if they would support this issue. She feels that this should be included in this year’s proposals. Vice-Chair Leafblad stated that we should be looking at the surrounding municipalities, since it is their statutory responsibility to protect the waters. He stated that the municipalities of Antioch and Fox Lake should be consulted because they may have the authority to assess a fee.*

Member Powers left the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

13. *Constitutional Amendment to eliminate requirement for county-wide executive as a condition for home rule status – depending on the outcome of the Constitutional Convention question in November, support a Constitutional Amendment that would permit county boards to submit a binding question to the electors regarding the implementation of home rule authority without requiring that the county have a chief executive officer elected by the electors of the county. It*

was recommended that we add "for counties with populations of 500,000 or more". Chair Spielman stated that more discussion will be had on this issue when all of the Committee members are present.

9.0 County Administrator's Report

10.0 Adjournment

Motion by Member Leafblad, seconded by Member Bassi, to adjourn at 10:58 a.m. Motion carried.

Aye: 4 - Chair Spielman, Member Bassi, Vice Chair Leafblad and Member Douglass

Not Present: 3 - Member Paxton, Member Powers and Member Talbett

Minutes prepared by Mary Otahal.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Revenue, Records and Legislation Committee