

COUNTY BOARD STAFF COMMITTEE
July 12, 2011

Call to Order. Chair Podzilni called the meeting of the County Board Staff Committee to order at 4:00 P.M. in Conference Room N-1 Rock County Courthouse-East.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Podzilni, Kraft, Brill, Bussie, Peer, Yankee, Collins, Arnold and Jensen (4:01 P.M.).

Committee Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Craig Knutson, County Administrator; Jeff Kuglitsch, Corporation Counsel; Jeff Smith, Finance Director, Randy Terronez and Nick Osborne, Assistants to the County Administrator; Dave O'Connell, Human Resources Director; Colin Brynes, Planning and Development; Kris Baker Ellis, Child Support Director.

Others Present: Supervisor David Innis; Citizens Jerry Wurl, Ken Willing, David Karr, Ron Combs; and Adam Griffin, Combs and Associates.

Approval of Agenda. Supervisor Arnold moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Brill. ADOPTED.

Approval of Minutes. Supervisor Bussie moved approval of the minutes of June 14, 2011 as presented, second by Supervisor Peer. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements. None.

Bills/Encumbrances.

County Administrator	\$ 344.00
County Board	2,100.00
Corporation Counsel	184.02
Human Resources	3,305.67
Human Resources	1,458.12

Supervisor Kraft moved approval of the above Bills and Encumbrances for the County Board Staff Committee, second by Supervisor Jensen. ADOPTED.

Resolutions.

Recommending Passage of 2011 Assembly Bill 54, Committee on Children and Families, to Amend Wis. Stats. 767 Relating to Equalizing Physical Placement to the Highest Degree

“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this _____ day of _____, 2011, does hereby

go on record in support of passage of Assembly Bill 54, "To Equalize Physical Placement to the Highest Degree."

Supervisor Arnold moved to put this resolution on the table for discussion, second by Supervisor Bussie.

Supervisor Innis said the purpose of this bill is to help with custody and visitation disputes. He feels this Bill creates a presumption that it is in the best interest of the children that equal custodial time of the child (children) is given to both parents. The Bill should also help with unfounded and unfair accusations from one parent against the other.

Supervisor Bussie asked why the Senate did not pass this Bill previously, and why you presume judges are not doing their jobs properly in placing the children. Supervisor Innis said judges are fallible and sometimes make mistakes in their decisions. In regards to not passing in the Senate, a female Senator in Milwaukee liked things done the way they had been done. He heard she has since changed her mind and is in support of the Bill.

Supervisor Bussie said she would like the opinions of some judges before she can support this Bill. Supervisor Innis said he spoke to Judge Welker and he is in support of this Bill.

Supervisor Brill moved to table this resolution until a judge can attend the meeting, second by Supervisor Collins. ADOPTED.

Recognizing Janice Quade for Service to Rock County

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this _____ day of _____, 2011 does hereby recognize Janice Quade for her many years of dependable service with Rock County and extends its sincere expression of appreciation to Jan along with best wishes to her in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk be authorized and directed to furnish a copy of this Resolution to Janice Quade."

Supervisor Kraft moved approval of the above resolution, second by Supervisor Collins. ADOPTED.

Possible Action on Acquisition of Bass Creek Carry-in Boat Launch Property on County Road D. Supervisor Arnold moved to put the matter on the floor for discussion, second by Supervisor Jensen.

Mr. Byrnes showed a site plan of the area for the proposed boat/canoe/kayak carry-in site. He explained that the Town of Rock has allowed for an easement for vehicles and material for a pathway. There is a group of people who would like to donate this 2-acre parcel to the Rock County Parks Department to be maintained.

Mr. Willing said he has three letters from businesses in the area who are in favor of this.

Chair Podzilni asked if he would be able to put a canoe in and float it now. Mr. Willing replied that he would be able to do this, but he may run into a few snags while drifting in the form of trees, etc.

Supervisor Yankee said he does not feel there is enough land for a County Park. He had talked to two people from the Town Board and was told that they had turned down the donation of the property. Mr. Yankee said that he checked the property out on Sunday, had looked down the creek and it was full of debris. He asked if Ducks Unlimited would be interested in the property.

Mr. Willing said it would not be a park, it would be a launch site. He added that many canoe sites are gravel paths and that is what this would be. Mr. Willing said that no matter what river or creek you canoe you will find debris and this is why canoes are light so they can be portaged around these areas. Canoeists expect this. He said they have spent over \$7,000 on this property and are willing to spend more.

Supervisor Collins asked if he has used the creek since the dam has been removed. Mr. Willing replied that he has. That there were some rocks but he just got out and pulled his canoe over them. He said again that the owners of these small businesses are in favor of this.

Supervisor Jensen asked what the businesses are. Mr. Willing said they are Bass Creek Espresso, Afton Family Market, Emilia's Una Pizza, and Wynn Simmons rents canoes nearby.

Supervisor Jensen asked Mr. Karr if he has seen people at this site. Mr. Karr said he feels once the public access is in they will see some activity. He added that there is also a canoe/kayak rental place in Beloit who would probably be interested in this site too.

Supervisor Jensen said she had heard from someone that the DNR does fish counts in the creek and fishermen don't care if the area is mowed or not. She added that this would allow for access to Bass Creek.

Discussion on where the floodway, flood fringe and floodplain are. That the parking area is in the 100-year floodplain and that these areas may change when they get the new information from the 2010 flight.

Mr. Griffin said he is from Combs and Associates and the parking area is outside the flood fringe.

Mr. Byrnes showed an aerial of the area explaining where the DNR land is, the old feed mill and the proposed launch site.

Supervisor Bussie said she is against Rock County having a 1-acre park and is concerned that if someone were injured the County would be sued for not maintaining the property. She asked why they did not give the property to the DNR or one of the businesses.

Supervisor Collins asked why the Town Board did not want the property. Mr. Willing said they did not want the responsibility. They are in favor of it but they do not want it.

Supervisor Peer said he used to canoe the area when the dam was in but since it was removed the fishing is not the same. He was concerned about the area by the trestle and wondered if people would really use it. He added that he agrees with Supervisor Bussie and is favor of helping the businesses but how much business will it bring. He asked what happens with the neighbors if someone gets tired of the battle and trespasses through their yards to get out.

Mr. Griffin said they can walk the normal high water line where the vegetation starts and stops, this would not be trespassing.

Mr. Willing said once word spreads people will use it and take care of it.

Supervisor Peer said he would like to support this but everything is fine until the wrong person gets hurt.

Supervisor Kraft asked if there are any other launch sites in the vicinity. Mr. Griffin said there is one three miles west.

Supervisor Kraft said if people want to use it they will use it whether the County owns it or not.

A roll call vote was taken on if the Committee was in support of acquiring the 1-acre parcel with the following result: Yes – Supervisors Jensen, Collins, Brill and Arnold; Noes – Supervisors Yankee, Bussie, Peer, Kraft and Podzilni. DEFEATED.

Semi-Annual Out-of-State Training and Conferences. Moved by Supervisor Kraft to accept the reports from Corporation Counsel, County Administrator and Human Resources, second by Supervisor Collins. ADOPTED.

Adjournment. Moved by Supervisor Arnold to adjourn at 5:09 P.M., second by Supervisor Collins. ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Bondehagen
Confidential Administrative Assistant

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.