

CALHOUN COUNTY
PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 25, 2007

The Special County-Wide Summit Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 25, 2007 in the Lew Boyd Room - Section A at the Burnham Brook Center, 200 West Michigan Avenue, Battle Creek, Michigan.

Present: Comrs. Arnquist, Bolger, Moore, Rae, Segal and Solis. Absent: Comr. Todd.

The agenda is attached for the purpose of showing the topics discussed. No Board action was taken.

Calhoun County Summit
on
Intergovernmental Cooperation
April 25, 2007

Agenda

8:30 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Welcome - Kate Segal, Chairwoman - Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

Introductions

Perspective on Local Government Collaboration by

Joan Bowman - Regional Director - West, MI, Office of Governor Jennifer Granholm

Ms. Bowman advised that in the Spring of 2006 the Governor's Office awarded seven community partnerships the "Center for Excellence Designation," out of 35 applications. Those communities received grants of \$25,000 over a two year period to encourage collaboration and sharing of resources among the local governments. Ms. Bowman encouraged participants to go to the website www.michigan.gov/CRE to receive information regarding what is occurring in the state and review models for collaboration. Ms. Bowman advised that the website also provides a link to the West Michigan Strategic Alliance, one of the seven grant recipients. Ms. Bowman advised that last week the Alliance held a conference in Grand Rapids to discuss what they did with their grant. Ms. Bowman further advised that on July 12 there shall be a state-wide teleconference on regional collaboration.

9:15 a.m. **The Whys and Hows of Intergovernmental Cooperation** by
John Amrhein - District Extension Educator and State and Local Government
(PRESENTATION ON FILE)

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10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. **Issues Identification**

Attendees relocated to tables determined by color to identify issues to address.

11:30 a.m. Lunch

12:30 p.m. **Group Reports
Prioritization of Issues**

Each group spokesperson presented their group's five major issues. Issues identified were:

Communications —

- Encourage citizen participation/volunteerism
- Need high speed internet in rural areas
- Shared knowledge with citizens and other municipalities
- More training on state laws
- Legal costs/concerns in small municipalities
- E 9-1-1

Geographic Information Services —

- Shared resource for all to utilize

Economic Development Information —

- Central location for information

Joint Purchasing —

- With County, State of Michigan, Schools
- Health Insurance, Supplies

Sharing Municipal Building Space —

- City of Marshall and County Building
- County and City of Battle Creek
- Emmett Township/School

Regional Police, Fire, E 9-1-1

Regional Economic Development —

- Utilities
- Transportation

School Consolidation

Regional Benefits —

- Purchasing
- Health Care
- Legacy Costs

Regional Services —

- Building Inspection
- Code Enforcement
- G.I.S.
- Assessing

Basic Consolidation —

- Shared Purchasing
 - Gas
 - Office Supplies
 - Consumables
- Shared Equipment

Communication Systems and Infrastructure —

- Ti Lines/Fiber Optics
- G.I.S. Across All Areas
- Electricity

Consolidation Being More Than Cost Savings —

- Value-added Services
 - Law Enforcement
 - Fire/First Responders
 - Roads, Water, Sewer
 - Schools (Basic Services)

Economic Development County-Wide —

- Shared Benefit and Shared Impact

Quality of Life From Regional Perspective

Central Dispatch 9-1-1

County-Wide Storm Water Management

Better Communication Between Units

County-Wide G.I.S.

Insurance Pooling

Regional Fire/Police/Public Safety

Public Safety —

- Police
 - Task Force Consolidation
- Fire, 9-1-1, Emergency Services Consolidation

Planning/Zoning Consolidation

Economic Development (Regional)

Metro Transportation Authority

County-Wide Purchasing

Technical Advances —

- High Speed Internet
- Satellite

G.I.S. —

- County-Wide
- Cost
- Economic Development

Tourism Strategy —

- County-Wide
- Rural

Farm Land Preservation

Public Services

Ethics in Government

G.I.S. —

- Costs
- Sharing One System

Fire Services

Tax Collection

Dangerous Buildings —

- Demolition
- Code Compliance
- Building Inspections

Public Transportation —

- Maintenance
- Purchasing
- Liability Insurance

Quality in Development —

- Requires Cooperative Planning
 - Schools, Housing
- Smart Growth

Pools Created For —

- Medical Insurance
- Liability Insurance
- Property Insurance
- Risk Management Insurance
- Excess Liability
- Work With Schools Also
- Consider Other Counties

G.I.S. —

- State of the Art Web-Based
- Useful Data for Business/Government

County-Wide Public Services

County-Wide Recycling —

- Cardboard
- Batteries
- Energy-Pro Green Technology

Mr. Amrhein compiled the listings for voting to determine the top nine priorities. The top nine priorities were determined to be...

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- 1) County-Wide Geographic Information System —
 - Economic Development
 - Web-Based
- 2) Pooling Funds for Insurance/Risk Management —
 - Multi-County
- 3) E 9-1-1
- 4) County-Wide Public Safety Planning —
 - Enhanced Service
 - Regional Police
- 5) County-Wide Centralized Economic Development
- 6) Communication —
 - Citizens Participation
 - Between Municipalities
 - Training
 - Shared Legal Costs
- 7) Technical Advances —
 - High Speed Internet
- 8) Public Transportation —
 - Metro Authority?
- 9) School Consolidation

Attendees chose an area of interest from eight categories for future discussion/planning; e.g., (1) Geographic Information System, (2) Pooling Funds, (3) Public Transportation, (4) Public Safety, (5) Economic Development, (6) Communication, (7) Technology and (8) E 9-1-1:

- 1) Geographic Information System —
 - Invite Jackson County for presentation
 - Any other communities?

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- Primer on G.I.S. for all committee members

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2) Pooling Funds —

- Insurance (Liability, Health)/Risk Management
- Purchasing Supplies, Fuel, Usable Goods
- Contact Villages, City, Township, County Officials
- Survey Needs/Wants
- Standardize Form?
- Inventory on Internet

Blaine VanSickle, Chairman

Tracy Hovarter thovarter@cityofmarshall.com
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Cheryl Krause ckrause@albion.edu
Charles Letts 579-1413

3) Public Transportation —

- Partner Concept Buy-In
- Negotiated Discussions - Not Dictated Practices
- Explore State and Federal Revenue

- Resources:
 - City of Lansing and Neighbors
 - City of Grand Rapids and Neighbors
 - City of Holland and Neighbors
 - City of LaPeer
- Proposed Partners:
 - City of Battle Creek
 - City of Springfield
 - Emmett Township
 - Bedford Township
 - Pennfield Township
 - Leroy Township
 - Newton Township

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4) Public Safety —

- Identify All Specialized Services
- Explore Regionalizing —
 - Reduce Cost or Cost Neutral

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- - Cost Neutral, but Improved Service
- Contact Eric Miller - Albion

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Andy Yankama

5) Economic Development

Frank Peterson, Chairman

Mike Hindenach

Laura Sparr

David ThunderEagle

Betty Arnquist

Andy Yankama

Carole Bammer

Mike Herman

Ron Gant

John Sackrider

6) Communication —

- Summary of what is happening in each municipality
- Coordination of efforts, information
- Contact information for Citizens Networks and Elected Officials Networks
- Survey – What information do you want constituents and elected officials to have?
- Cost saving ideas
- Websites/Calendar of Events
- Bulletin Boards, Newsletter, Surveys
- List Serve, Newspaper

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Wendee Woods, Chairperson

Wayne Wiley
Carol Hinton
Sandra Kuhn
John Neterer
Cindy Bair
Nelson Shedd

7) Technology

Cindy Sink, Chairperson

Art Farmer
Randy Davis
Art Smith

8) E 9-1-1

Jase Bolger, Chairman

Bruce Smith
Eric Miller
Mike Olson
Al Byam
Tom Frank
Marilyn McCleary
Betty Branche

2:45 p.m. Closing Comments – Kate Segal

Board Chairwoman Segal thanked everyone for committing their time today and stated that she looks forward to working with everyone. Chairwoman Segal thanked County Administrator/Controller Purcell, Mary Lou Barrett for remitting the invitations, Rita Klavinski and Carol Shaffer of M.S.U. Extension, and Alyce McDonagh for arranging for the food. Chairwoman Segal advised everyone that if they have any questions, to give her a call. Attendees were requested to turn in their name tags as they leave the meeting and to mark the chairpersons of each group on the worksheets to be collected.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

mlb