

**CHAIRMAN'S ADVISORY LEGISLATIVE FORUM (CALF)**  
**McHenry County Government – Administration Building**  
**667 Ware Road**  
**Woodstock IL 60098**

MINUTES OF THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Koehler at 8:13 a.m. The following members were present: Chairman Koehler; Sue Draffkorn; John Hammerand; Tina Hill; Marc Munaretto; Lyn Orphal; Virginia Peschke; Nick Provenzano; Dan Shea; Barbara Wheeler; and Mary Lou Zierer. Also in attendance: Peter Austin, County Administrator.

Sue Draffkorn	John Hammerand
Tina Hill	Marc Munaretto
Lyn Orphal	Virginia Peschke
Nick Provenzano	Dan Shea
Barbara Wheeler	Mary Lou Zierer
Kenneth D. Koehler, Chairman	

MINUTE APPROVAL

Ms. Orphal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hill, to approve the November 20, 2006 CALF meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as submitted with a unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

NEW BUSINESS

*Federal Legislation Update:* Trent Lehman provided an update on federal legislation issues via telephone. He noted that Congress did not finish their business and representatives continue their work on various bills next year. He noted that new majority leaders would be re-evaluating issues. The FY 07 spending bills will not include funding set-asides. The earmarking process would most likely not be considered during the FY 08 process. Mr. Austin stated it is anticipated that the County Board would adopt their legislative program at the second meeting in January and suggested that federal funding requests include:

- Miller Road widening
- Algonquin Road extension
- funding to conduct a study for access road over or under railway
- funding to conduct a water study for the watershed program
- and the Integrated Justice Program

Mr. Lehman noted that staff has done a good job in putting together a package for next year, although the situation with funding is unfortunate at this time. Mr. Austin thanked Mr. Lehman for his update.

*State Legislation Update:* Mr. Austin reported that staff is working to bring a program forward. He stated that one item being considered is a request to modify legislation on the Senior Service Levy to allow a change for administration costs. He noted that the program generates a lot of work for staff and it may be necessary to add personnel to address work on the Senior Services Grant.

Mr. Munaretto stated that Agritourism should be part of the County's State Legislative program and noted that State Representative Tryon and State Senator Althoff are very supportive.

Mr. Provenzano asked if the State is doing anything more with the vicious and dangerous dog issues. Chairman Koehler responded that the State was to be considering forming a group, but this issue appears to be in limbo at this time. It stated that when the group is formed there is a good possibility that a representative from the County would be asked to serve on that group.

Mr. Austin reported the McHenry County Council of Governments has drafted proposed amendments to the Ethics and Election Law to address concerns of referenda. He noted that there has been confusion and concerns on how a municipality can react to referenda that a local school district undertakes and provided examples. It appears that the current statutes unnecessarily tie the hands of local governments to work on behalf of their residents. He stated the MCCG has identified these major issues to address in the coming year. He pointed out that currently once a referendum is on the ballot the local governing body cannot comment. Members agreed that this raises many concerns that need further clarification.

Mr. Austin reported that both DuPage and Lake County were successful in getting a county cigarette tax through the House and said bill is now the Senate for consideration with a vote due in January. He stated that McHenry County may want to consider such legislation and asked Mr. Sarbaugh to provide an overview on what effect this would have on the County. Mr. Sarbaugh stated that he did a brief calculation based on a \$2 cigarette tax which indicated an increase of revenue at 80% (\$17,279,108) using Cook County figures or if statewide figures were used an increase revenue of 100% (\$21,598,884). He also stated that this tax must be used for public health or public safety issues. Mr. Austin noted that counties are recognizing that they can take advantage of this tax. Ms. Hill pointed out that government is taking on a "big stick" saying that a county can by-pass the voters. She stated that the State is giving the County a power that we may not wish to use. Chairman Koehler stated that the County has taken a neutral stance so far but if these bills are

passed we might want to re-evaluate our option. After a discussion, members agreed that the County should wait to see what happens before making any comment.

CHAIRMAN' S ADVISORY LEGISLATIVE FORUM  
Minutes of Thursday, December 14, 2006  
Page: 2

*Kishwaukee Valley Water Authority:* Mr. Austin reported that he had attended an education session on the proposed forming of the Kishwaukee Valley Water Authority, which would include Boone County, DeKalb County and Mc Henry County. He stated that McCog has raised some concern that municipalities were being excluded. Mr. Shea stated that this issue appears to be the "hot button of the moment" and would set-up another taxing authority if established. Members discussed what impact there would be to wells and water usage, it was noted that the water authority would have no authority over water used for agricultural purposes, farm irrigation or small residential wells. Mr. Austin stated that each authority has the capacity to define "high capacity" wells and this issue will be discussed in more detail during a meeting scheduled on December 21<sup>st</sup> with the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. Mr. Hammerand stated that some time ago he had asked from figures from Baxter and Woodman and has yet to receive a response. Chairman Koehler stated that McCog has a group working on this issue and noted that he would opposed what is currently being proposed.

Mr. Austin stated he would like to schedule monthly meetings of the CALF – at least through July of this year. After a discussion, it was agreed that the CALF would meet at 6 p.m. on the same date as the second monthly meeting of the County Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ms. Hill motioned, seconded by Ms. Orphal, to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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**RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:**

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