



Legislative and Agency Issues

Issues Identification Meeting on November, 14, 2018



TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Legislative Issues</i>	2
Selected Legislative Issues	2
Proposed Legislative Issues	3
Narrowing of Issues	5
<i>Agency Issues</i>	6
Wisconsin Department of Transportation	6
Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority	6
Department of Natural Resources	6
Wisconsin Historical Society	8
Department of Human Services	8
Department of Corrections	8
Department of Revenue	8
Department of Administration	9
Board of Public Lands	9
Public Service Commission – State Broadband Office	9
Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	9
Other / Unclassified	9
<i>Thank You’s</i>	10
<i>Process Summary</i>	11
<i>Participants</i>	13

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Contained in this section:

1. Final selected legislative issues and owners/advocates.
2. All proposed legislative issues.
3. Legislative issues summary and voting results

SELECTED LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Based on discussion with the group, the goal was to identify no more than three legislative issues. Considerable dialogue about advocating for Better City Superior again, and the importance and scope of a local option sales tax for county, city, and village/town roads. It was decided that three issues would be brought, but one issue – an economic development issue would consist of two requests.

Issue:	Issue Advocates / Owners:
Medicaid Funding for youth and adults. For accessing treatment, expanding local access, potential ACA funding, or a possible facility.	Amy Starzecki, Mark Abeles-Allison, Charlie Glazman, Kellie Pederson, Logan Bayard, Shawna Anderson, Jeff Silbert
Joint Economic Development Tools Issue: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Better City Superior, support placing authorizing language in the new biennial budget. 	Bruce Thompson
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> b. ½% local option sales tax for roads. 	Mark Liebaert, Mark Abeles-Allison, and Fred Strand
Funding for Higher Education. Support UW-System request, which provides an additional \$2.68 million for UW-Superior.	Jordan Milan

PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

All of the proposed issues are listed below, and like or similar issues are grouped together.

- Forest Management. PILT payments for town to maintain critical infrastructure, \$2/acre. (Jeremy Oswald)
- Medicaid Related:
 - Caregiver Shortage Crisis. With an aging population disproportionately growing in NW Wisconsin, in-house caregivers are increasing difficult to find and retain due to low Medicaid reimbursement rate and subsequent low wages being paid. Workers can make more money per hour working at locations like Kwik Trip than they can taking care of elderly and persons with disabilities. (Steve Carlson)
 - Increase Medicaid Reimbursement Rate. The state must raise the Medicaid reimbursement rate for all treatments for AODA that are currently covered by Medicaid. (Jim Paine)
 - Medicaid Reimbursement for Nursing Homes. The average nursing home loses \$63.04/day for each Medicaid patient. 16 nursing homes closed in 2017. Fewer local nursing homes, requires family to travel further to visit. Private pay patients are needing to pay more to cover the Medicaid deficit. Nursing homes can't afford to pay appropriate salary. (Fred Strand)
 - Increased funding for rehabilitation regarding opioid addiction and increased long term family supports (Jenny VanSickle)
 - Funding for Mandated Services. If the state mandates, then send funds with (mandate). (Pat Ryan).
 - Wisconsin Medicaid reimbursement for Minnesota (rate should match closer to MN). (Keith Allen).
 - Facility for Mental Health. Provide a facility that can address mental health for youth and younger people that can assist with addressing the problems related to mental health care and provide necessary services. (Ben Damberg)
 - Funding for Mental Health (Drug Treatment). Need more funds for mental health and AODA treatment. Pay for professionals is low, and not enough treatment providers. (Rebecca Wilberg)
 - Mental health services. Lack of services. Lack of access.
 - Mental Health Services for Children and Family. Lack of mental health services available. Address Medicaid reimbursement rate to improve service delivery. Funding for schools to employ social workers to connect families to services. Increase local access and day treatment options. (Amy Starzecki)
- Involuntary Commitments. The State of Wisconsin must fund or support the care of persons that receive care via the involuntary commitment process. (Jim Paine)
- Child Protective Services
 - Child Protective Services Funding. Insufficient funding to counties for child protective services for preventive treatment and out-of-home placement. For CPS state mandate to counties – insufficient reimbursement to counties. Substance abuse and opioids are driving this. (Fred Strand)
 - Social Services Funding. State of Wisconsin mandates providing care for children under protective services without providing adequate funding to help the county fulfill its requirements. We are asking legislature and Department of Children and Families to provide additional funding. (Charlie Glazman)

- Education related
 - Fund the UW Pay Plan. (Jordan Milan)
 - Support for UW System Biennial Budget. Total request of \$107.5m if fully funded, which is a \$2.68m increase in UWS budget for expansion of online courses and programs. (Jordan Milan)
 - Increased Funding for Academics (K-16). Reductions in educational funding have caused issues in attracting and retaining educational professionals in pre and post-secondary education. Increase funding to K-16 education. (Charlie Glazman)
- Retention of Staff/Public Employees. Need to attract and retain employees / people with higher wages. Stop the “brain drain” / loss of talent. The legislature needs to fully fund pay increases to relieve strain on budgets and enable agencies to retain staff and provide services to the public. (Jeff K)
- Infrastructure Funding
 - Ask legislature for ½% sales tax for highway and bridge infrastructure (Charlie Glazman)
 - ½ % Sales Tax for Roads. Douglas County would generate nearly \$4 million and would share with city, villages, and towns based on a proposed formula. Public would vote on the proposed tax. (Mark Liebaert)
 - 1/2% sales tax for roads. (Keith Allen)
 - .5% sales tax for roads. Some county roads are used by pulp trucks and get ruined to ordinary traffic. With the use of the tax, we will be able to maintain, or upkeep rural roads. (Catherine Beebe)
- Exposition District
 - Better City Superior. (Keith Allen)
 - Better City (Bruce Thompson)
 - Better City Superior. Keep pushing Better City. (Ben Damberg)
- Don't eliminate the manufacturing incentives. Key for our area to attract businesses to Superior. Possible aid request for international exports? (Jim Caesar)
- UWS – LSRI – Permanent Funding of Program and Staff. Request for \$460,000 for six positions / core staff. (Matt TenEyck)
- Rainfall Funding Formula. Engage industry, business, and local government for improved infrastructure development. (Mark TenEyck and Mark Abeles-Allison)

NARROWING OF ISSUES

Each participant was provided an opportunity to vote four times. Participants could use their four votes however they wanted to (e.g., all on the same issue, spread across four issues, or some combination). The results are noted below:

Issue:	Votes Received:
Medicaid Funding for youth and adults. For accessing treatment, expanding local access, potential ACA funding, or a possible facility	44
Better City Superior	29
Funding for Higher Education	28
½% local option sales tax for roads.	20
Increase funding for child protective services (out-of-home placements)	17
Increase funding and state support to LSRI, expanding their mission to provide technical assistance to communities to help overcome changes due to the effects of climate change.	5
Increase payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) to \$2 per acre	3
OARS: state jail re-entry services expansion to NW Wisconsin	2
Request State of Wisconsin to fully fund involuntary commitments	1

AGENCY ISSUES

The following issues were proposed by participants, and the issues are groups by agency.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- Fines and penalties for overweight loads. Overweight loads – lots of damage, overload fines should be dedicated to road repairs. (Jeremy Oswald joswald@bayfieldcounty.org)
- Public Transportation. Transportation funding, public transportation buses, multimodal, and incentives; including in rural areas. (Jenny VanSickle)

WISCONSIN HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

- Shortage of summer housing options. (Mayor Gordy Ringberg)

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- Age/point limit, help grow species populations. Deer hunting has no age limit, point system for bear hunting is low, which results in a decreasing animal population. Further, certain fishing regulations hurt fish population numbers. (Brody Edwards, Solon Springs School)
 - Change Online Camping Registration System for State Parks. Require 3rd party vendors to open state park campsites to online or onsite registration when cancellations or no-shows occur. (Jim Paine)
 - Support for North Country Trail (Peter Nordgren)
 - The North Country Trail Association requests the Wisconsin DNR to continue progress toward final approval of the Superior Coastal Plain Master Plan, incorporating the St. Louis River Streambank Protection Area, with approval of the route of the North Country National Scenic Trail across the southwest corner of this area. Timely completion and DNR approval no later than March will permit trail construction by the NCTA Brule-St. Croix Chapter as planned in 2019.
- NCTA also requests continued progress toward funding of the Tyler Forks River Bridge in Iron County, as previously agreed and planned. An update on this progress at our meeting will assist with plans for trail construction east of Wisconsin Highway 169 in 2019.
- Provide Counties with Increased Regulatory Authority to Safeguard Their Water Resources (Fred Strand)
 - The Citizens of Northwest Wisconsin Request

The Department Natural Resources create and submit legislation to the State Legislature which would allow the counties bordering Lake Superior to increased regulatory authority to safeguard their groundwater and surface water resources.

Background

The current statewide “one size fits all” regulations administered by the Wisconsin DNR and Department of Ag, Trade & Consumer Protection do not always account for the geological, geographical, topographical or hydrological uniqueness found across this vast state. Local differences are illustrated by the areas of the central sands, Karst areas or heavy clay soils of northern Wisconsin. The proximity to inland and Great Lakes resources further exemplify this.

The risks to groundwater and surface water resources posed by a proposed concentrated animal feeding operation to be located in Bayfield County's Fish Creek Watershed that drains into Lake Superior illustrates this point. Granting the four Lake Superior counties the regulatory authority to enact and enforce a more stringent animal waste storage and management ordinance with stricter provisions than the current state standards would significantly reduce this risk.

- Reinstating Ability for Counties to Enact Local Control for Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Standards (Fred Strand)
 - The Citizens of Northwest Wisconsin Request

The Department of Natural Resources create and submit legislation to the State Legislature reinstating local control for shoreland zoning for counties bordering Lake Superior.

Background

Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland and Iron Counties are blessed with abundant clean water resources, which are critical to their recreation based economies. Examples:

The four counties have all of the 325 miles of Wisconsin's Lake Superior shoreline.

Douglas County has:

- 431 inland lakes
- 101 streams and rivers with 705 miles of shoreline

Bayfield County has:

- 962 in-land lakes
- 125 streams and rivers with 531 miles of shoreline

There are 4,256 lake frontage parcels with improvements on them in the Bayfield County. Seasonal/non-residents own 76% of the parcels. The real estate taxes paid on season/non-resident and unimproved parcels are \$11.9 million dollars. These real estate taxes provide a substantial portion of the finances for schools, towns and the county.

The state budget bill passed in 2015 (Act 55) contained a provision that changed shoreland zoning standards in NR 115 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code from minimum standards to maximum standards, thereby removing local control which many counties had used to enact more stringent standards in their county shoreland zoning ordinances.

Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland and Iron Counties previously had exercised their local control authority to develop and adopt more stringent standards incorporating lake classification provisions in their shoreland ordinances. These provisions were developed and adopted after extensive review of the nature and characteristics of their lakes, and after extensive public input and support. It was determined to be necessary to adopt different standards for lakes with different characteristics to adequately protect them, which is critical to their counties' economies.

WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- Request that the Wisconsin Historical Society conduct a historic housing study in Superior. (Jim Paine)
- Pursue designation of Wisconsin Point on the registry of historical preservation. (Jenny VanSickle)

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

- Full Medicaid Funding from Federal Government. How do we get full federal ACA funding for Wisconsin that was rejected by Governor Walker, which is said to be over \$1 billion? This has a disproportionate impact on all health services – opioid treatment, mental health, nursing home reimbursement, creates more foster care needs that lack of treatment causes. (Jeff Silbert)
- Increase in Budget to cover out of home placements (Elizabeth Skulan eskulan@bayfieldcounty.org and Cheryl Hanson chanson@bayfieldcounty.org)
 - The substance abuse crisis has hit Northern Wisconsin particularly hard. Within Child Protective Services, out of home placements and caseloads have significantly increased as impacted families are unable to care for their children. A surge in out of home placements and additional supervision requirements has stressed budgets. Treatment for parents is impacted negatively by inadequate Medicaid reimbursements, exacerbated by competing higher rates in adjacent communities in Michigan and Minnesota. The substance abuse epidemic has overwhelmed caseloads of Wisconsin Social Workers. The proposed \$5 million budget to address this is inadequate. \$30 million in supplemental ongoing funding is required to address caseload overload that make it impossible to provide adequate attention and care to affected youth and families.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

- Increase funding for housing state prisoners in county jails. (Keith Allen, Mark Abeles-Allison)
- OARS expansion. (Mark Abeles-Allison and Jeremy Oswald)
 - There is a need to expand the existing program Opening Avenues to ReEntry Success (OARS) to serve inmates that will be returning to Northwest Wisconsin. At present the program exists in 44 counties in the southern part of the state but DOS NOT currently serve Northwestern Wisconsin. The program is a partnership of DHS and the Department of Corrections. The program offers support services in the prison where the inmate is serving their sentence, and provides services in their home communities for up to two years following release. We advocate for expansion of these services in our region. Details available here:
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p0/p00227.pdf>

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

- More autonomy for our own funding decisions. State has handcuffed local entities when it comes to funding (i.e., tax levies, exposition district). Local government entities need more say and less state control over revenue issues. (Ruth Ludwig)
- Income Tax Reciprocity: The State of Wisconsin must restore agreement with the State of Minnesota to provide tax reciprocity to workers that live in one state, but work in the other. (Jim Paine and Keith Allen)
- Retain manufacturing tax credit. (Jim Caesar)

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

- More autonomy for our own funding decisions. State has handcuffed local entities when it comes to funding (i.e., tax levies, exposition district). Local government entities need more say and less state control over revenue issues. (Ruth Ludwig)
- Retain manufacturing tax credit. (Jim Caesar)

BOARD OF PUBLIC LANDS

- Pigeon Lake – Drummond. Secure funding for continued operations for trainings, retreats, profit and non-profit. Market to southern part of the state. Possible food and beverage tax to fund. (Matt TenEyck, Mark Abeles-Allison)

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION – STATE BROADBAND OFFICE

- Broadband expansion, continue funding for grants. (Tylor Elm and Mark Abeles-Allison)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

- Support for dairy farms. (Mark Abeles-Allison)
 - The Dairy industry in our region is in turmoil. Dairy is critical to our region's history, culture, jobs and overall economy. Many factors are impacting this. Prices, supply, location, processors. A discussion with key players in Madison is warranted to keep ideas flowing and to brainstorm new solutions for the future.

OTHER / UNCLASSIFIED

- Property tax hike. Referendums in the past couple of years have been raising property taxes. It has affected many people in Solon Springs and other towns near it. It is becoming difficult to keep a home with payments of mortgage every month when the property tax goes up a large percent. (Gabriel Apfel, Solon Springs School)
- Rural Youth Employment (potentially DWD and/or WEDC). Teens in Solon Springs, Poplar, Lake Nebagamon don't have many job options without driving to Superior or farther. When doing that there are many costs like gas and car expenses. If we had more jobs available it would help with life skills and build work ethic as well as save money. (Julian Lawler, Solon Springs School)

THANK YOU'S

Based on prior Superior Days successes, Superior Days should thank the State of Wisconsin for the following past successes:

- TIFF District to Support Town of Cable. (Mark Abeles-Allison)
- 911 NextGen Funding. (Mark Abeles-Allison)

PROCESS SUMMARY

The grassroots community-based issue identification process is a fundamental value of Superior Days. Participants at the issues identification meeting are not required to participate in Superior Days. Further, participation in this process is not a requirement to be a Superior Days delegate. A short summary of the process to identify issues is described below:

- Participants are welcomed and sit at tables of their choosing.
- While participants network with other participants at their table, they find materials they will need for the evening (paper, pens, instructions, etc.).
- Participants are asked to review the instructions and three guiding principles for Superior Days issues:
 1. Issue is unique to NW Wisconsin, the issue uniquely impacts NW Wisconsin, or an issue has a disproportionate impact (e.g., economic costs) on NW Wisconsin.
 2. Resolution of the issue needs resources or capabilities that are in excess of what can be provided locally.
 3. There is wide spread consensus for the issue.
- Participants are given 20-30 minutes to brainstorm and discuss their ideas (legislative or agency issues) at their tables.
- Participants are asked to write out their issue with the following information:
 - Issue name
 - Description of the issue
 - The issue sponsor / proposers name
 - Table #
 - Identify if it is an agency or legislative issue
- The facilitator gathers all issues, and reviews each with the group.
- After each issue is read aloud, the facilitator may seek clarity or further definition of the proposed issue.
- Issues are then posted.
 - As issues as posted, they are grouped by theme or commonality.
- After all proposed issues are reviewed the issues need to be narrowed.
 - Agency Issues
 - All agency issues are accepted, and may drop off at a later time – based on an issue advocate deciding to pull it back, or other reasons.
 - Legislative Issues
 - For this session, all proposed issues were grouped into themes.
 - Each was reviewed with the group to ensure that the summaries reflected what participants proposed.
 - Each participant was provided an opportunity to vote four times.
 - Participants could use their four votes however they wanted to (e.g., all on the same issue, spread across four issues, or some combination).
 - Following voting, 5 of the X issues received enough votes for consideration.
 - There was discussion about how many legislative issues to bring to Superior Days.
 - Final selection was made based on consensus.
 - It is possible but unlikely that an issue could be dropped before the 34th Superior Days.
- The floor has been closed for proposing additional legislative issues.

- The window to propose additional agency issues is open through November 30, and must be submitted by contacting UW-Extension or completing the posted electronic form.
 - Link:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe5_E3K8GA0SSs8OsjXpofXB3pmT1IWeqHsgzfTgVAKxIT6Qw/viewform?fbclid=IwAR21hIxNqRz_xuWWESDAtB-1tOBUdssbyt4bAMIAAhS8Bf9-zE7jCO7AdkI

PARTICIPANTS

Participants were asked to self-register at their table. The following are the participants who registered:

Name:	Affiliation:	Table #:
Jeff Silbert	Bayfield County Board	1
Jeremy Oswald	Bayfield County Board	1
Josh Lee	WITC	1
Pat Ryan	Douglas County Board	1
Keith Allen	Douglas County Board	1
Catherine Beebe	Citizen	1
Matt TenEyck	LSRI @ UW-Superior	2
Kathryn Guimond	UW-Superior	2
Jon Winter	Citizen, Winter Systems Computers	2
Mark Abeles-Allison	Bayfield County Administrator	2
Amy Starzecki	Superior School District	2
Shawna Anderson	Citizen	3
Charlie Glazman	WITC, and Douglas County Board	3
Rebecca Wilberg	Citizen	3
Ben Damberg	Citizen	3
Harry Anderson	UW-Superior	3
Ken Andrs	Lake Point Church	3
Jeff Kahler	UW-Superior	3
Jim Caesar	Development Association	4
Renee Wachter	UW-Superior	4
Taylor Pedersen	Superior-Douglas Chamber of Commerce	4
Jenice Meyer	UW-Superior	4
Molly Smith	UW-Superior	4
Tylor Elm	Superior City Council	4
Fred Strand	Bayfield County Board	5
Jim Paine	Mayor, City of Superior	5
Mark Liebaert	Douglas County Board	5
Jenny VanSickle	Superior City Council	5
Ruth Ludwig	Superior City Council	5
Steve Carlson	Caregiver Challenge	5
Jordan Milan	UW-Superior	5
Nick Bursick	UW-Superior	6
Krista Pascoe	LHB	6
Rob Waksdahl	UW-Superior	6
Kellie Pederson	Bayfield County	6
Bruce Thompson	Better City Superior	6
Julian Lawler	Solon Springs School	7
Gabriel Apfel	Solon Springs School	7
Brody Edwards	Solon Springs School	7

Cheyenne Androsky	Solon Springs School	7
Logan Bayard	Solon Springs School	7
James Anderson	UW-Extension	Facilitator