



# Issues Identification Meeting

## *Summary of Event*

Held on Wednesday, November 14, 2018  
WITC-Superior

*Facilitated by:*

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## 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.

<b>Issue:</b>	<b>Issue Advocates / Owners:</b>
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
Joint Economic Development Tools Issue: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Better City Superior, support placing authorizing language in the new biennial budget.</li> </ol>	Bruce Thompson
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. ½% local option sales tax for roads.</li> </ol>	Mark Liebaert and Mark Abeles-Allison
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 heal 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:

<b>Issue:</b>	<b>Votes Received:</b>
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. (Mark Abeles-Allison)
- Public Transportation. Transportation funding, public transportation buses, multimodal, and incentives; including in rural areas. (TBD, no name)

### WISCONSIN HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

- Shortage of summer housing options. (Mark Abeles-Allison)

### 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)
- Regulation Problems. Meet with DNR to discuss support for return of local zoning, such as shoreland regulations. (Mark Abeles-Allison)
- Change Online Camping Registration System for State Parks. Require 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendors to open state park campsites to online or onsite registration when cancellations or no-shows occur. (Jim Paine)

### 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)

### DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

- Increase funding for housing state prisoners in county jails. (Keith Allen, Mark Abeles-Allison)

## 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)

## 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 34<sup>th</sup> 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-zE7jCO7Adkl](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe5_E3K8GA0SSs8OsjXpofXB3pmT1IWeqHsgzfTgVAKxIT6Qw/viewform?fbclid=IwAR21hIxNqRz_xuWWESDAtB-1tOBUdssbyt4bAMIAAhS8Bf9-zE7jCO7Adkl)

## PARTICIPANTS

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

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Affiliation:</b>	<b>Table #:</b>
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
<b>Table 3 Sign In Sheet Missing, everyone may not be noted</b>		3
Shawna Anderson	Citizen	3
Charlie Glazman	WITC, and Douglas County Board	3
Rebecca Wilberg	Citizen	3
Ben Damberg	Citizen	3
Amy Starzecki	Superior School District	3
Harry Anderson	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