

**Minutes of the Public Works Committee  
February 11, 2016**

Chair Dave Swan called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

**Committee Members Present:**

Dave Swan	Steve Whittow	Kathleen Cummings	Keith Hammitt
Richard Morris	Robert Kolb	Carl Pettis	

**Others Present:**

Senior Civil Engineer Karen Braun	Senior Civil Engineer Kevin Yanny
Senior Civil Engineer Ed Hinrichs	Technical Intern Jacob Steinhart
Principal Assistant Corporation Counsel Erik Weidig	Chief of Staff Mark Mader
Administrative Specialist Alison Ries	County Board Candidate Chuck Wood
County Board Candidate Michael Starich	County Board Candidate Darlene Johnson

**Approve Minutes of January 14, 2016**

MOTION: Morris moved, second by Cummings to approve the minutes of January 14, 2016. Motion carried 7-0.

**Correspondence**

Swan shared the February 2016 issue of Wisconsin Counties Association magazine stating there are several transportation articles that would be of interest to committee members.

**Public Comment**

County Board candidates Chuck Wood, Darlene Johnson and Michael Starich were present and introduced themselves to the committee.

**Executive Committee Report of January 18, 2016**

Swan reported that the following items were discussed at the Executive Committee meeting:

- Purchasing Division audit
- Health and Human Services (HHS) audit

**Future Agenda Items**

- Scope of duty to maintain county highways running through cities.

**Legislative Update**

Spaeth reported on bills related to:

- Swapping a portion of federal funds within local transportation programs.
- Allowing counties to raise the sales tax .5% for transportation projects. This bill was pulled from the calendar.

**Future Meeting Dates**

- March 10, 2016
- March 31, 2016

**Discuss and Consider Ordinance 170-O-089: Laying Out, Relocation and Improvement of County Trunk Highway (CTH) NN, Waukesha County Project I.D. 14-2819(4)A**

This ordinance authorizes the laying out, relocation and improvement of CTH NN from State Trunk Highway (STH) 83 to CTH ES in the Village of Mukwonago.

Braun stated the area the county will be purchasing is a single parcel to create a pond. The pond is a storm water management facility that will be a grassy basin created to reduce outflow of water in order to avoid flooding. Presently, the area is a rural open ditch but will have curb and gutters after being developed. The curb and gutters are being developed at the request of the Village of Mukwonago who will eventually be taking over this stretch of road with a jurisdictional transfer. Hinrichs stated the Village of Mukwonago will be reimbursing the county for the pond/parcel.

MOTION: Morris moved, second by Hammitt to approve Ordinance 170-O-089. Motion carried 7-0.

**Update on County and Local Bridge Conditions**

Yanny and Steinhart provided the committee with a presentation and distributed handouts titled *Deficient (County & Local) Bridges in Waukesha County (2015)* and *Condition of County Owned Bridges in Wisconsin - 2016*. Yanny provided bridge statistics and terminology and reported that currently there are 37 structurally deficient and/or functionally obsolete bridges in Waukesha County. Of those bridges, 13 are county owned and many are programmed for replacement or rehabilitation. In response to Swan's question, Yanny stated Waukesha county's budget for bridges has always been well accounted for.

Yanny explained that the term deficient can mean functionally obsolete, structurally deficient or both. He went on to explain that a functionally obsolete bridge may be considered deficient due to narrow shoulder width stemming from standards that were in place when the bridge was constructed and not the actual condition of the bridge. Since current construction standards have changed, the bridge is considered functionally obsolete but is not necessarily of significant concern. Yanny reported that factors influencing bridge life (75 years) are bridge design/structure type selection, initial construction, regular routine inspection, special inspection (damage inspection), preventative maintenance, timely rehabilitation projects and the environment (snow, water, salt, chemicals, etc.). Lack of federal funding, increased use of de-icing chemicals and fewer maintenance personnel per lane mile are challenges facing bridge condition today.

Mader commended Yanny and Steinhart on their informative presentation. Copies of the presentation are available electronically from staff.

**Winter Road School/Wisconsin Highway Convention**

Swan updated the committee on the Winter Road School/Wisconsin Highway Convention, which is a three-day trade show held twice a year. This event featured 72 vendor displays. Highlights of the convention included presentations on:

- Federal legislation that would swap a portion of federal funds within local transportation programs with existing state transportation dollars, thus removing burdensome, expensive and ineffectual federal regulations, from local highway projects.

- “Just Fix It,” a new initiative to help support the argument that Wisconsin, like many states, does not adequately address the needs of its failing roads and bridges.
- Work Zone Safety which protects highway workers from death/injury while on the job in work zones. A workgroup is being created to develop additional education for county employees as well as educational tools for the public.

MOTION: Hammitt moved, second by Cummings to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 a.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Cummings  
Secretary