



# DECODER

Fall 2013

## Official Newsletter of the Wisconsin County Code Administrators

### President's Message - Steve Rannenber



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Submission of Articles:  
WCCA Welcomes articles, letters to the editor, articles from the WCCA districts, calendar listings, etc. Please send anything that may be of interest to other zoning administrators in Wisconsin. Articles may be submitted by mail, fax or email. Content of the articles does not necessarily represent the position of WCCA, the WCCA Executive Committee, or the editor.  
Deadlines:  
Spring Issue March 15  
Summer Issue June 15  
Fall Issue September 15  
Winter Issue December 15

On Friday, June 14, 2013 the WCCA Executive Board met to discuss the results of the Spring Conference and the speakers and topics for the upcoming Fall Conference (October 2,3 and 4, 2013 in Michicot, WI) and the current legislative session. Terri Dopp-Paukstat, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, led the discussion that consumed the majority of the meeting. A personal main effort of mine is to assure that we are informed, engaged and relevant. As we discussed the proposed bills it is clear that the legislature is acting to reduce the regulatory burden. However, there seem to be consequences to these bills that will likely not be part of the discussion on the floor of the legislature. Dan Bahr, our Wisconsin Counties Association Legislative Liaison, met with the board and described the current tenor of the legislature. He noted that the majority party is in a position to forward proposals and put forward their position with little opposition. My concern is

that there may be unintended consequences as there may be no one to ask the pertinent question. Scott Godfrey (Iowa County) serves on the WCA land use advisory committee as our representative will continue to clearly articulate our concerns and proposals. Our individual efforts can and should be to continue to engage with our respective legislators to express our concerns when given an opportunity. These discussions will require the exercise of diplomacy and be factually based.

Despite the obvious challenges of public service in Wisconsin I trust that you are all busy. Last week I had a chance to talk to a long-time friend of mine who lives in Arcadia, WI in Trempealeau County and serves on a land use advisory committee. He spoke in glowing terms of the effort Kevin Lien is putting forth to protect the resources of the county. I know that this is not an isolated case

of exceptional service by our fellows in service to the community. I for one am proud to be part of the team, in the fight and connected to you all in genuine fellowship. That is balanced against my concern for the well-being of our members.

There's that word "balance" again. The keys to success in this arena are to continue to communicate with others. I mentioned to Dusty that the WCCA Google-Group is getting a workout – which is a very good thing! I also noted that improvements to the WCCA website are enhancing your ability to navigate to timely and accurate information. Finally, take time to enjoy all that Wisconsin has to offer during our summer season. May you all enjoy a fruitful construction season and then find time to just "veg".

**Steve Rannenber**  
**President**



## District Reports

### Southwest District— Scott Godfrey

The Southwest District met on June 21st in Portage. Reed McRoberts, DHS Program Manager Campgrounds, provided an overview of the latest draft revisions to the state campground regulations, known as DHS 178. We had a good discussion with Reed, especially relating to the recognition of need for better collaboration between DHS and DSPS and between counties and the state. A special thanks goes out to James Janet who drove all the way from Vilas County...just for the sprinkly donuts.

We also had a discussion about and reviewed examples of budget reports. It was helpful to compare the processes and formats among the different counties.

Our next meeting will be Sept. 13th where we will focus on nonmetallic mining program administration, “Merger Mania” and budgets.

Scott Godfrey

### Southeast District—Terry Ochs

September 25, 2013 – The Southeast District did not meet. However, we did have an excellent Wetland Delineation Workshop on September 20. We had a great turn out with WiDNR, Army Corps of Engineers, Counties, N.R.C.S. as well as private citizens. I would like to take the time to thank Kyle Magyera of the Wisconsin Wetlands Association, for putting an excellent workshop together.

If you have a chance to attend any of these workshops I would strongly recommend it to everyone.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the fall conference.

### East Central District, Central District, Northeast District

No Report

### Northwest District

The Northwest District has not met since June. The meeting was held at Jim Flanigan’s cabin in Burnett County to celebrate the retirement of Craig Conroy. We discussed the creation of a brochure for failing steel septic tanks as well as mining issues. Welcome to Ed Taylor, the new Wastewater Specialist out of Hayward, he was also present and gave a DSPS update. NW will be meeting again in November or December. Thanks for the great conference and have a beautiful fall.

### West Central District

On June 13, 2013, we held our WCZA quarterly meeting at the Barron County Government Center. We had a follow-up discussion from the Administrative Assistant Training regarding “constructive criticism targeted at the office.”

Our guest speaker was Kyle Magyera from the WI Wetlands Association. He described that in 2012 the WI Wetlands Assn. received a grant from a WI Coastal Management Program and held 2 wetland training workshops. This year they wanted to offer one workshop per district. WI DNR and ACOE representatives will be there to discuss their approach to wetland basics, issues, paperwork, and permits. The membership decided to change the September 12, 2013 meeting from Dunn Co. to Chippewa Co. to centrally locate the wetland workshop for the district. Kyle asked for local county personnel to find 3-6 wetlands to look at for a 2 day workshop.

The NR 115 and NR 135 subcommittee reports were followed by a brief round table discussion regarding nonmetallic mining by county. The number of towns zoned vs. total towns per county are as follows: Barron 17 of 25, Chippewa 6 of 23, Clark 0 of 34, Dunn 17 of 22, Eau Claire 9 of 13, Pierce 16 of 17 (with 1 under Town Zoning), Polk 17 of 24 (with 3 under Town Zoning), and Trempealeau 15 of 15.

Finally, Dave Gifford gave members a tour of the newly remodeled zoning department. They merged a while ago, but after renovation, the department personnel are all in the same office area. Then some members joined in a team building exercise.

Next meetings: Sept. 12 & 13, 2013 in Chippewa Falls for the Wisconsin Wetlands Association Basic Wetland Identification and Assessment Workshop and December 12, 2013 - Eau Claire Co.



**WISCONSIN COUNTY CODE ADMINISTRATORS  
2014 RENEWAL/APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (Zip)

Title/Position: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Must provide E-mail address)**

Area of Expertise: \_\_\_\_\_ Years of Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to serve on the WCCA Executive Board?  Yes  No

Would you be willing to serve on a WCCA committee? If "Yes", which committee or committees?

\_\_\_\_\_

Membership fees include the dues for the current operating year, membership message board and reduced registration fees for the spring and fall educational conferences.

With my signature below I acknowledge that I have read the statement of principles of the WCCA (see the WCCA web site) and agree to abide by those principles.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

- Membership Category:  \$40.00 Full Membership  
 \$30.00 Second Full Membership from the same office  
 \$40.00 Associate Membership

**Full membership** in the Association shall be limited to those individual county employees charged with the responsibility of administering county land use regulations.

**Associate membership** shall be available to any employee, agency or organization concerned with county land regulations, which are not eligible for full membership. Associate members shall not have voting privileges.

Please submit this completed form along with your payment to the office below. Make checks payable to the Wisconsin County Code Administrators.

**Attn: Michelle Staff  
WCCA – Secretary/Treasurer  
Jefferson County Planning and Zoning  
320 S Main St. Room 201  
Jefferson, WI 53549**



## Recent Job Postings Listed on [www.WCCADM.com](http://www.WCCADM.com)

Posted October 21, 2013 Envir. Analysis and Review Specialist - State

Posted October 21, 2013 Land Services Administrator - Lincoln County

Posted October 18, 2013 Conservation Planning Services (RFP) - Racine County

Posted September 6, 2013 Assistant Code Administrator - Langlade County

Posted September 1, 2013 Zoning Technician - Buffalo County

As most of you have noticed by now, the WCCA webpage has been reformatted and redesigned. I welcome your feedback on it. Hopefully, it makes for easier navigation. For all of those who would like to submit articles to the Decoder, please use [grant@maqs.net](mailto:grant@maqs.net) as the e-mail address.

Your humble and faithful servant,  
Dusty

Hi Everyone,

It was a GREAT conference last week! I hope you all are enjoying the wonderful fall weather this week! Please use the link below to fill out the fall conference evaluation form. Your responses are important to us and help us to know what we need to do to make the next conference successful, too! Have a good day!

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JYRFZKN>

CeCe Tesky  
Conference Coordinator

Official Newsletter of the Wisconsin County Code Administrators



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