



## DECODER

Winter 2013

# Official Newsletter of the Wisconsin County Code Administrators

## President's Message - Steve Rannenberg



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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

President's Message – Steve Rannenberg

“He who masters the transition will prevail.” I first heard this about fifteen years ago and I thought it was a gem then and I still think so today. The funny thing about transitions is that we are not all on the same schedule. It always seems that everyone else is either moving through transition too quickly or too slowly. WCCA is in the midst of another transition. As I conclude my time as your president I feel compelled to share with you my parting words at the Fall Conference; “You’ve given me more than I ever gave you.” That is to say that this organizational transition is part of a much bigger personal transition for me.

Looking back at my first message to you I committed myself to achieving my intent that the members of WCCA will be informed, engaged and relevant. With your unswerv-

ing patience and persistence I believe we have succeeded. The recent legislative sessions reveal that as never before we are being challenged at every turn. That challenge continues and requires a re-dedication to making our voices heard.

I want to thank Kay Miller for following me along this journey over the past year. If you were to ask her I suspect Kay would admit to this being a leap of faith. I know that Kay is as committed as I to our organization and that she will serve you boldly in the coming year. The constitution provides that I serve as past president to be available to assist Kay as needed. What a great system.

I want to encourage Terri Dopp-Paukstat and Terry Ochs as they embark on their own transition into their new positions. Terri displayed a degree of attention to detail to legislative matters that others should emulate. I am con-

fident that Terri will wow us with a couple of great conferences in 2014. Terry has already taken the reins of the legislative report as his three-year stint begins.

Lastly, I want to thank CeCe Tesky and Michelle Staff for keeping this on-rushing train on the tracks.

Heres to another transition, that of CeCe possibly stepping down as our conference coordinator, will provide some stalwart soul with an opportunity for excellence. Talk about hard acts to follow. As you all know Michelle (who as a Past President and Professional of the Year has nothing to prove) seamlessly transformed the record keeping system of this organization keeping me out of jail and setting us up for success.

May you all enjoy the holidays and a fruitful and rewarding 2014.

Steve Rannenberg



## District Reports

**West Central District—Emily Lund**—WCZA Secretary/Treasurer and on behalf of Kevin Lien, WCZA President.

Twenty-three participants and six instructors attended a 2-day Basic Wetland Identification and Assessment Workshop on September 12 & 13, 2013 at the Ice Age Trail Interpretive Center in Chippewa County, WI. Kyle Magyera, Policy Specialist from the Wisconsin Wetlands Association, led our group in a classroom session and five various wetland field exercises, including seasonal/forested, wet/sedge meadow, and restored/mitigated wetlands. Wetland hydric soils, plants, and hydrology were reviewed. We discussed wetland laws, permitting process, and wetland banks. Information was shared amongst local, state, and federal regulators. A special thank you goes to Kyle Magyera for setting up the workshop for our district and for getting funding from the WI Environmental Education Board that covered the costs of our training. We also thank the other instructors, Jim Riemer (US Fish & Wildlife Service), Tim Miland (NRCS Soil Scientist), Pat Goggin (UW-Extension), Mark Harings (WI DNR), and Nate Campbell (US ACOE).

Twelve members from our district participated in the 4-day FEMA Managing Floodplain Development through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) from November 4-7, 2013 at the Eau Claire County Courthouse. The course was very helpful educating participants on the NFIP, concepts of floodplain management, maps, studies, ordinance administration, and the relationship between floodplain management and flood insurance. We want to thank the four instructors: Gary Heinrichs (WI DNR), Bruce Maki (Maki & Company), Jerry Brems (Ohio DNR), and Miriam Gradie Anderson (WI DNR).

Our winter meeting was held December 12, 2013 at the Eau Claire County Courthouse. New district officers were chosen. We congratulated Steve Kunzie (Dec. 2013) on his upcoming retirement. WI DNR made many presentations discussing: FEMA/floodplain updates from Mike Rogney & Dustin de Felice; Shoreland/St. Croix Riverway updates from Mike Wenzholz; and Air Permitting associated to Non-metallic Mining from John Stoffel & Deb Dix. We had roundtable discussions regarding LiDAR experiences; LOMA vs. LOMA-F; New Mining, Tower, and UDC/Smoke Detector laws.

By Emily Lund

### **East Central District—Bill Bosiacki**

The East Central County Code Administrators held our first meeting since last March in Outagamie County. A presentation was given by Bryan Woodbury DNR wildlife biologist. To discuss shoreland restoration as it relates to mitigation requirements, habitat restoration for waterway dredging, and habitat enhancement for home site pond excavations. Officers for the East Central District were elected as follows. President Jeff Henneman, V.P. Dan Hanks, Treasurer Glen Selner, District Rep. Bill Bosiacki. Next meeting scheduled for January in Kewaunee County.

### **Northwest District—Tom Bergman**

The NW District will be meeting in Hayward on Dec. 18th. At the meeting we will be electing officers for the district and discussing issues with some of the new legislation coming out of the state legislature. Wishing everyone a happy holidays!!



## District Reports—Continued

### Southwest District— Scott Godfrey

The Southwest District met on Sept. 13th in Portage, where John Bluemke likes to keep the town's history fresh by carrying his canoe to work every Tuesday. We spent much of the meeting longing for the sprinkly donuts that Dan Evenson had promised to bring. But, because he was still in training as his alter ego Thor, the Tough Mudder Man, he brought kale and beet bran muffins. Oh, yum.

Regardless, we had a good discussion comparing financial assurance calculation and adequacy for our nonmetallic mining programs. We also discussed the trend of department consolidations...where it has caused issues and where it has resulted in successes.

We met again Oct. 18th, this time in Baraboo...a city famously known as the home of the Circus World, or what we just call a Friday night out with Brian Cunningham. This meeting was solely dedicated to nonmetallic mining financial assurance. Using the WDNR calculation spreadsheet as a model, we decided to develop an exercise where each county would work through the same mining scenario using the spreadsheet. We plan to analyze the outcomes to see whether the spreadsheet works for a majority of counties and if the results yield similar dollar amounts. Our goal is to try to be as consistent as possible in how assurances are calculated in the District and to work to bring them in line with today's costs.

We won't meet again until the calendar flips to 2014, the Chinese Calendar Year of the Horse. Maybe I'll finally get a pony for Christmas

### Central District—Matt Bremer

Central District met in Rockton on Friday the 13th (Dec). This meeting has historically been scheduled on bad weather day. Perhaps we should have been scheduling it for Friday the 13th all the time. We had representation from 18 counties as well as DSPS (Matt Janzen) and the weather was fine for a December day.

Our agenda included a Legislative Update, NR 115 update, POWTS update (Matt Janzen), a DNR Shoreland update, a report on the impact of the wireless communication facilities ordinance, and a report on the aftermath of flooding in Southern WI. We also had an absentee report and planning session for the Central District Wetland Delineation Training session that Kyle Magyera of the Wisconsin Wetlands Association is putting on next June. A show of hands indicates that we will have a good turnout for that training which we hope to hold at the Necedah Wildlife Refuge. More to follow on that. An opportunity was offered to replace Matt Bremer as the Central District Rep. But after much discussion (I believe it was less than a minute), a motion for a unanimous ballot to be cast was made, I believe a train rolled through the establishment, and I found myself humbly accepting the position for another year.

Thanks for all of your support and for taking the time out of your busy days to travel to Rockton for the meeting.



# PLEASE NOTE DIFFERENT MAILING ADDRESS!



## 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  
311 S Center Ave Room 201  
Jefferson, WI 53549**



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

### Posted January 8, 2013 Conservation Tech I - Eau Claire County

A series of workshops for local officials is scheduled for Monday, January 27th, Wednesday, March 5th, and Wednesday, April 2nd. All three workshops will be held in the Dodge County Administration Building, lasting from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. The workshops are intended for local government officials and staff members, see the brochure located at [www.wccadm.com](http://www.wccadm.com).

Topics Include:

- Ordinance Development, Administration, and Enforcement – January 27th
- Avoiding Legal Challenges through Proper Decision Making – March 5th
- Not In My Backyard: Dealing with Tough Land Use Issues – April 2nd

As you may know, I've been writing annual articles for 6 years now that recommend great kids' books about lakes. Some years these articles have been included in the WCCA Decoder, and I just sent this year's version to Dusty. But I thought you might be interested in having it as a handout in your offices too or using it personally. I'll attach this year's article that I recently finished about frogs and turtles. My idea behind this is that adults reading good books to kids is a great way to help both learn more about natural resources.

Feel free to use it in any way that's helpful to you. I'll attach 2 versions. The first version is the full piece which also includes a new handout about how pesticides affect frogs and people. The second version is just the book recommendations.

If you'd like the similar articles from past years, let me know and I'm happy to share them too.

These can be found at [www.wccadm.com](http://www.wccadm.com)

Lynn Markham

Official Newsletter of the Wisconsin County Code Administrators



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Website - [www.wccadm.com](http://www.wccadm.com)

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