

Wisconsin Counties Association
ANNUAL CONFERENCE



WORKSHOPS

MONDAY WORKSHOPS

Monday, 8-9:00 a.m.

Ballroom A

When “Spirited Debate” Crosses the Line: What Can You Do?

County board meetings are supposed to be a forum for vigorous debate on significant policy issues. But what happens when the debate turns ugly? Is there any way to stop bad behavior? Join us for this session as we explore the mechanisms available to enforce rules of decorum.

Ben Conard, Attorney, Attolles Law, s.c.

Matt Thome, Attorney, Attolles Law, s.c.

Moderator: Vern Koch, Board Supervisor, Sheboygan County

Monday, 8-9:00 a.m.

Ballroom B

Strengthening Community Health: Strategies in State and Local Health Department Collaborations

Wisconsin’s state and local health departments play a critical role in the health, safety and economic prosperity of county government. Learn about how they, along with other partners, have worked to invest in our public health workforce to support local community health initiatives that improve our health outcomes and better integrate initiatives and programming.

Jamie Michael, Association Director, Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards

Paula Tran, State Health Officer, Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Moderator: Kari Ives, Board Supervisor, Chippewa County

Monday, 8-9:00 a.m.

Ballroom C

County Land and Water Conservation Districts: Professional, Proven and Pioneering

County land and water conservation departments are leaders in conserving Wisconsin's resources and enhancing communities. Learn about how Wisconsin's county-led conservation structure is unique nationally and hear about selected projects and examples from around the state that highlight the invaluable work of these professionals.

Matt Krueger, Executive Director, WI Land+Water

Moderator: Kurt Gibbs, Board Chair, Marathon County

Monday, 8-9:00 a.m.

Meeting Room AB

Town Withdrawal from County Zoning: What You Need to Know

Wait... what? Any town may now remove itself from county zoning? Yes, but the new law is intended to promote productive discussion and include safeguards and restrictions to ensure the proper zoning components are in place if a town opts out. Join us for an in-depth discussion of the implications of the new zoning law, possible challenges, and strategies to ensure a smooth transition.

Rebecca J. Roeker, Attorney, Attolles Law, s.c.

Moderator: Dave Frohling, Board Chair, Dodge County

Monday, 8-9:00 a.m.

Meeting Room CD

The Role of Constitutional Officers: Why Does it Matter? (Hint: It Matters a Lot!)

Constitutional officers play an important role in Wisconsin's history and their importance continues to this day. But how constitutional officers fit into the county organizational structure is not always clear, which can lead to misconceptions and, at times, disputes. Join us for an in-depth look at the roles and responsibilities of constitutional officers in county government and the steps your county can take to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of the important services they provide.

Andy Phillips, Attorney, Attolles Law, s.c.

Moderator: Staci Hoffman, Register of Deeds, Jefferson County

Monday, 1-2:00 p.m.

Ballroom A

Parliamentary Procedure in Action, Part 1: Attend a “Nisnocsiw County” Board Meeting

In this three-part session, attendees will be provided with a basic overview of the rules of parliamentary procedure. Then, it will be time to put that understanding to work as attendees view and participate in a "mock" meeting of the "Nisnocsiw County" Board of Supervisors. While the session is sure to entertain, it will also take the mystique out of parliamentary procedure and provide attendees with the tools they need to run effective meetings.

Andy Phillips, Attorney, Attolles Law, s.c.

Moderator: Lance Pliml, Board Chair, Wood County

Monday, 1-2:00 p.m.

Ballroom B

Long-Term Care Facilities: Building Sustainable Care in Counties

Building a sustainable long-term care continuum entails carefully balancing nursing care and assisted living services to meet the diverse needs of local communities. By integrating both types of care in a comprehensive manner, communities can ensure accessibility and affordability while maintaining quality standards. Join us for a discussion on the future sustainability of nursing care and assisted living by hearing the perspectives of Monroe and Fond du Lac counties.

Tina Osterberg, County Administrator, Monroe County

Linda Smith, Rolling Hills/Senior Living Administrator, Monroe County

Moderator: Alice Connors, Board Chair, Calumet County

Monday, 1-2:00 p.m.

Ballroom C

Creating Leaders from Within: Why Leadership Development is Critical

The last of the baby boomers are closing in on retirement, taking their years of experience, local knowledge and community connections with them and leaving many communities struggling to find replacements for administrators, department heads and staff, especially in rural areas. The best strategy may be to grow your own talent and guide them on a leadership development journey. Join our panel of community and local government leadership educators as we discuss the benefits and strategies of investing in your local talent pool.

Lynn Wood, Strategic Communications and Leadership Development Consultant, Wood Communications Group

Elizabeth McCrank, Community Leadership Specialist, UW-Madison Division of Extension

Moderator: Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator, Jefferson County

Monday, 1-2:00 p.m.

Meeting Room AB

The PFAS Crisis: How the State is Coping with the "Forever Chemical"

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources diligently keeps the public informed about ongoing efforts to tackle PFAS contamination throughout the state through regular updates on actions taken to address this critical issue. Join us during this session to get the latest update from the DNR about its commitment to safeguarding the environment and public health from the harmful effects of PFAS.

Jim Zellmer, Environmental Management Division Administrator, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Moderator: Jim Brey, Board Supervisor, Manitowoc County

Monday, 1-2:00 p.m.

Meeting Room CD

Exploring Wisconsin's Forest Sustainability: Insights from the County Forests Association

The Wisconsin County Forests Association serves the 30 counties in Wisconsin with public lands. Its mission is to provide leadership uniting the interests of Wisconsin county forests while ensuring long-term forest health and sustainability. This session will explore the work of WCFA as a collaborative platform and support network and an advocate for active, sustainable forest management.

Rebekah Luedtke, Executive Director, Wisconsin County Forests Association

Moderator: Sara Koopman, Associate County Administrator, La Crosse County

Monday, 2:15-3:15 p.m.

Ballroom A

Parliamentary Procedure in Action, Part 2: Attend a "Nisnocsiw County" Board Meeting

In this three-part session, attendees will be provided with a basic overview of the rules of parliamentary procedure. Then, it will be time to put that understanding to work as attendees view and participate in a "mock" meeting of the "Nisnocsiw County" Board of Supervisors. While the session is sure to entertain, it will also take the mystique out of parliamentary procedure and provide attendees with the tools they need to run effective meetings.

Andy Phillips, Attorney, Attolles Law, s.c.

Moderator: Lance Pliml, Board Chair, Wood County

Monday, 2:15-3:15 p.m.

Ballroom B

Addressing Child Care Shortages: Strategies and Solutions

Presenters will discuss creative ways to address child care needs in your county using examples and experience from Sheboygan and Dodge counties.

Alayne Krause, County Administrator, Sheboygan County

Cameron Clapper, County Administrator, Dodge County

Moderator: Sue Smith, Health Department Director, Wood County

Monday, 2:15-3:15 p.m.

Ballroom C

Workforce and Population Shifts: Adapting to a New Wisconsin

Wisconsin's population is changing due to falling birth rates, shifting migration patterns, and an aging workforce. The presenters will discuss these changes and how they are affecting counties as well as the steps that might be taken to alleviate some of these challenges.

Mark D. O'Connell, President & CEO, Wisconsin Counties Association

Dale Knapp, Director, Forward Analytics

Moderator: Mark O'Connell, President & CEO, Wisconsin Counties Association

Monday, 2:15-3:15 p.m.

Meeting Room AB

Preparing for Capital Improvement Projects: What Counties Should Know to Make Informed Decisions

Every county will need to tackle a necessary capital improvement project at some point, whether it is replacing a highway maintenance facility, a county jail, or even a UW Extension campus. This session will feature an open discussion on the value of professional design services and how to plan for success. They'll discuss what to include in requests for proposals, what outcomes to expect from a countywide master plan, and how to ensure your professional design services firm provides you with the right information to make informed decisions.

Kyle R. Knop, Vice President and Sr. Project Manager, Venture Architects

Moderator: Marty Krueger, Board Supervisor, Sauk County

Monday, 2:15-3:15 p.m.

Meeting Room CD

Wisconsin Department of Revenue News and Updates

Join the Wisconsin Department of Revenue for a dynamic session discussing recent developments on Innovation Grants, insights into maintenance of effort reporting, and other relevant State and Local Finance Division updates. This session will equip attendees with a deeper understanding of these new programs and actionable strategies, as well as available resources.

Valeah Foy, State and Local Finance Division Administrator, Wisconsin Department of Revenue

Moderator: Jane Klekamp, County Administrator, La Crosse County

Monday, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Ballroom A

Parliamentary Procedure in Action, Part 3: Attend a "Nisnocsiw County" Board Meeting

In this three-part session, attendees will be provided with a basic overview of the rules of parliamentary procedure. Then, it will be time to put that understanding to work as attendees view and participate in a "mock" meeting of the "Nisnocsiw County" Board of Supervisors. While the session is sure to entertain, it will also take the mystique out of parliamentary procedure and provide attendees with the tools they need to run effective meetings.

Andy Phillips, Attorney, Attolles Law, s.c.

Moderator: Lance Pliml, Board Chair, Wood County

Monday, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Ballroom B

Child Support Innovative Partnerships and Practices

Join us as we delve into a broader understanding of the state's Child Support Program, focusing on innovative partnerships fostered through county collaboration. This session will spotlight a groundbreaking intergovernmental agreement and innovative work being done in several counties.

Maria Lasecki, Child Support Director, Brown and Oconto Counties

Pamela Pipkin, Child Support Director, Monroe County, and, Past President, Wisconsin Child Support Enforcement Association

Cheryl Sandberg, Child Support Enforcement Specialist, Oconto County

Brent Vruwink, Child Support Director, Wood County, Vice President, Wisconsin Child Support Enforcement Association

Moderator: Cedric Schnitzler, Board Chair, Monroe County

Monday, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Ballroom C

Selling Tax-Deeded Lands: Understanding the Impact of 2023 WI Act 207

As a direct result of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Tyler v. Hennepin County, Wisconsin enacted 2023 Wisconsin Act 207, which makes changes to how counties must treat tax-deeded lands. This program will discuss the implications of the Tyler decision, how Act 207 ensures that Wisconsin law complies with that decision, and the changes the new law makes to the process for a county to sell tax-deeded properties.

Matt Thome, Attorney, Attolles Law, s.c.

Moderator: Mike Schlaak, County Treasurer, Calumet County

Monday, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Meeting Room AB

Local Government Transportation Programs: Learn What is New

Hear updates on new transportation programs benefiting county and local governments, including the Agricultural Road Improvement Program (ARIP), Local Road Improvement Program-Supplemental, and Under 20' Bridge Inventory Program. The session will provide an update and advice for applying to these programs.

Joel Nilsestuen, Assistant Deputy Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Moderator: Lance Leonhard, County Administrator, Marathon County

Monday, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Meeting Room CD

Creating a County Youth Commission: A Guide to Building Tomorrow's Leaders

The Milwaukee County Youth Commission makes advisory recommendations about policy and budgetary decisions, including those that impact youth, to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, and advances the county's mission of achieving racial equity. The presenters will discuss how the commission provides a unique experience in community service, civic

engagement, and policy and budget decision-making, as well as how other counties can encourage participation from youth in local governance.

Marcelia Nicholson, Board Chair, Milwaukee County

Members of the Milwaukee County Youth Commission

Moderator: Cate Wylie, County Administrator, Green Lake County

Wisconsin Counties Association
ANNUAL CONFERENCE



WORKSHOPS

TUESDAY WORKSHOPS

Tuesday, 8-9:00 a.m.

Ballroom A

Understanding Roles and Responsibilities in County Government

This session will continue discussions that should be undertaken regularly in every county - what are the roles and responsibilities of board members, staff and constitutional officers in county government. Too often, disputes arise surrounding who makes what decisions and when, rather than focusing on the important policy and operational decisions impacting our citizens. Join us for this session where we will take an in-depth look at county government organizational structure.

Andy Phillips, Attorney, Attolles Law, s.c.

Ben Conard, Attorney, Attolles Law, s.c.

Moderator: Andy Phillips, Attorney, Attolles Law, s.c.

Tuesday, 8-9:00 a.m.

Ballroom B

Combating Human Trafficking by Empowering Communities

This session will give an overview of Wisconsin's latest efforts to prevent, educate and respond to sex trafficking of youth within the child welfare system. It will also offer information on the factors that put youth at a high risk of experiencing trafficking and what communities can do to address sex trafficking.

Asia Jackson, Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Kailey Holloway-Alvarado, Program Supervisor, CW Solutions

Beth Larsen, Program Manager, CW Solutions

Moderator: Louie Okey, Board Chair, Barron County

Tuesday, 8-9:00 a.m.

Ballroom C

Wisconsin's Changing Economy

Wisconsin's economy is impacted by the changing size of and participation in the workforce, the cost of housing, and wages earned by the typical worker. In this session, Forward Analytics will dive into various factors that alter the economy of the state and what the future may look like if recent trends continue.

Dale Knapp, Director, Forward Analytics

Kevin Dospoy, Deputy Director, Forward Analytics

Moderator: Samantha Kerkman, County Executive, Kenosha County

Tuesday, 8-9:00 a.m.

Meeting Room AB

County Airports: Making an Economic Impact Beyond Aviation

Working strategically to secure buy-in, Sheboygan County made valuable investments in its airport. While the millions invested will pay dividends for generations, it took teamwork, collaboration and a group of people championing these initiatives to make them possible. This presentation will discuss the investment as well as the success stories of the addition of a U.S. Customs and Border Patrol facility and the acquisition of a fixed base operator.

Emily Stewart, Deputy County Administrator, Sheboygan County

Moderator: Jim Heinrich, Board Chair, Waukesha County

Tuesday, 8-9:00 a.m.

Meeting Room CD

Inside Cyber Incidents: Exploring County Response Teams

Explore the processes of county incident response team members as they navigate the intricacies of cyber incidents. Get ready for an enjoyable session filled with valuable insights as technical concepts of cyber incidents are simplified into relatable human experiences.

Seth Johnson, Senior Cyber Risk & Adjusting Professional, Aegis, A Charles Taylor Company

Moderator: Todd Romenesko, County Administrator, Calumet County

Tuesday, 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Ballroom A

Partnering with Extension: An Update on the Contract and Guidance Documents

A subcommittee of the WCA UW Extension and Education Steering Committee has worked diligently to revise the contract and guidance document governing the relationship between counties and Extension. The presenters will discuss the revisions as well as the continuing discussions with Extension to achieve our mutual goals.

Members of the WCA Subcommittee on the UW-Madison Division of Extension Contract and Guidance Document

Moderator: Bob Keeney, Board Chair, Grant County

Tuesday, 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Ballroom B

Mental Health and the 988 Crisis Hotline: Breaking Barriers to Improve Care

To improve the connection between the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and local care, Wisconsin DHS is funding five county crisis program pilot projects to ensure the people in acute crisis receive care. Learn more about these projects scheduled to start in October 2024.

Caroline Crehan Neumann, Crisis Services Coordinator, Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Sita Diehl, Public Policy & Advocacy Director, NAMI Wisconsin

Moderator: Dennis Pocerich, Board Chair, Bayfield County

Tuesday, 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Ballroom C

Addressing the Housing Crisis: Strategies for Overcoming Shortages

Local units of government and their partners are utilizing a variety of ways to support the preservation and new development of housing options. We will explore policy changes, capacity-building opportunities, coalition-building, and other creative approaches. With a specific look at Bayfield County, which has hit crisis levels in the lack of workforce housing, this workshop will discuss the multi-pronged approach the county has developed in collaboration with the UW-Madison Division of Extension.

Kelly Westlund, Housing Outreach Educator, UW-Madison Division of Extension

Mark Abeles-Allison, County Administrator, Bayfield County

Moderator: Michael Luckey, Assistant to the County Administrator, Jefferson County

Tuesday, 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Meeting Room AB

Renewable Energy Siting and County Control: Powering the Future of Wisconsin

Counties continue to face pressing questions regarding the authority to regulate siting, construction and ongoing operations for utility-scale renewable energy projects. In addition to providing an overview of a county's regulatory authority and potential options available, the workshop will explore resources and training opportunities.

Rebecca J. Roeker, Attorney, Attolles Law, s.c.

Christina Anderson, Associate Director, Wisconsin Land+Water

Moderator: Troy Streckenbach, County Executive, Brown County

Tuesday, 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Meeting Room CD

A Deep Dive into Court Funding: Going Behind the Bench

Circuit court funding has become unbalanced, with counties shouldering a majority of the costs. In addition to discussing the impact on county budgets and recent changes to state aid, the presenters will highlight examples of state expenditures on circuit courts and circuit court revenue retained by counties and remitted to the state.

Shannon Huberty, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Bureau

Penny Carter, Clerk of Circuit Court, Forest County

Susan Schaffer, Clerk of Circuit Court, Eau Claire County

Ron Skallerud, Board Chair, Forest County

Moderator: Penny Carter, Clerk of Circuit Court, Forest County