

Wisconsin Association of Municipal and County Assistant Managers
WAMCAM
Membership Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2002
West Allis City Hall

16 members present. Special Guest Dan Finley, Waukesha County Exec. Ray Ellingen also present.

- II. A. New WAMCAM Treasurer Scot Simpson was introduced.
- B. Program Committee Report: If you have any ideas, email the program committee members (Justin Marlowe, Rebecca Finn, Andy Peterson). The Program Committee asked members about their expectations for lunch meeting program with managers. 1) How often? 2) Meet the same manager on multiple occasions, or interface with multiple managers? Does a structure need to be established? Should the criteria be the manager's specialty? Similar community size? Should assistants simply take the initiative to arrange meetings? Clearing house call list coordinated by one person so same manager is not over-tapped? Quarterly brown-bag lunch each with a different topic structured similar to the meeting with Dan Finley? Program Committee will present recommendation at next meeting.
- Next Association meeting: focus public/private partnerships, to be held at Milwaukee Art Museum new addition with Chris Goldsmith, Admin. Lunch meeting (targeting last week July/first week August) Museum admission might be required. Finn will follow-up. Perhaps followed by Brewer Game or social event? Museum tour? Edelweiss groups? WAMCAM cost assistance is a possibility.
- Other topics of interest: engineering for non-engineers; municipal law/legal documents.
- Future potential meeting site: Whitefish Bay Library; Ripon (Statewide focus for meeting locations)
- C. PR Committee: Newsletter expected soon, 4 pages 8 1/2 x 11. Submit any articles for future issues of the newsletter to Larry Bierke or Linda Kutchenriter.
- D. WCMA Conference in WI Dells, June 19-21. There will be no WAMCAM breakout sessions nor Board meeting.
- E. Cooperating with IAMAA: Any WAMCAM member may attend any IAMAA meetings/conferences at IAMAA rates. Notice for next WAMCAM meeting at MKE Art Museum to be sent to IAMAA.
- III. Guest Speaker: Waukesha County Executive Dan Finley
- Public sector employees were not always considered professionals. WAMCAM strives to accomplish this and further...congratulations and good luck.
 - Intergovernmental cooperation: how to collaborate? Where moving to? How to adapt for the future? There is intense pressure for local government to

keep a lid on spending and control of property taxes. INTEGRITY crisis due to political scandals (i.e. MKE county and state government). The focus is on local government more than ever before. People's perception of local government is not high. It is lowest regarding county segment of government.

- Duplication of services: Governor should have embraced municipal government in his effort to reinvent WI. Not yet ready for metro government. However time is ripe for sharing services, regional cooperative arrangements, and partnerships in order to provide better programs and services. Change is difficult for the body politic...usually takes a crisis to demand change. There is an opportunity for cooperative services and building trust with neighbors by implementing things that work starting SMALL SCALE. Then build upon those successes. Cooperation can occur muni—muni; county—county; county—muni and may include tax collection, public works programs such as road striping, centralized and consolidated dispatch and radio communications, mass transit. Reasons for cooperation include: coordination, cost savings, records management. However, some people (i.e. chiefs) are averse to relinquishing control. It's not just recalcitrant officials though, it's the people who resist change.
- Hodge-podge dispatch between counties is inefficient in events such as high-speed chase, large fire, records/data sharing.
- Too much overlap! Sheriff, State Patrol, Muni PD...why do we need State Patrol with Sheriff and Muni coverage?
- Centralized tax collection: software...once program in place, county is able to handle mailing and collection. Agreements could be established with banks to accept payments locally.
- Higher service vs. higher tax bill: towns don't provide same level of services as incorporated areas. Towns benefit from areas of service that they don't pay for. While other municipalities are saddled with double whammy effect of paying for services they don't use. Equity...county needs to do better cost control, i.e. a service that is provided to only some communities—shouldn't it be those communities who ante up for the full cost of that service?
- There is an administrative burden associated with consolidation...how to accomplish with less staff and less time? Is it worth the cost savings? It seems to take a lot to pull it together initially, but once it's in place it is worth it...consolidated library allows all county residents to go to any library for any book.
- Principle of cooperation needs to be win/win not win/lose. Municipalities that are situated in close proximity in essence have a single work force. Therefore, governments need to work together.

Respectfully submitted

Tina Salzman, Secretary
6/17/02