



**UNITED COUNTIES
COUNCIL OF ILLINOIS**

TO: UCCI Members
FROM: Joseph Payette, Secretary
SUBJECT: Membership Meeting
Monday, May 22, 2023
9:30 A.M. – Sangamo Club
Springfield

This will summarize the decisions and actions of the above meeting attended by the following:

BOND	Bernard Myers
CALHOUN	Deann Koster-Fester
CASS	Eric Snellgrove
CLINTON	Mike Hilmes
EDWARDS	Mary Beth Smith
FULTON	Lisa Thompson
HAMILTON	P.E. Cross
IROQUOIS	Ray Williams
KANKAKEE	Larry Kerkstra
LaSALLE	Tom Walsh
LEE	Tom Kitson, Keane Hudson
LIVINGSTON	Alina Hartley
MACON	Tamara Wilcox
MASON	Ken Walker, Eldon Garlisch, Ron Knollenberg
McDONOUGH	Scott Schwerer
MENARD	Dara Worthington
OGLE	John Finfrock
PIATT	Jerry Edwards
RANDOLPH	Marc Kiehna
RICHLAND	Cynthia Given
ST. CLAIR	Mark Kern
STEPHENSON	Samuel Newton
TAZEWELL	David Zimmerman, Russ Crawford
WHITESIDE	Martin Koster
WOODFORD	John Krug

The meeting was called to order by UCCI Vice President David Zimmerman.

Vice President Zimmerman advised of passing of former UCCI Executive Committee Member Vern Holtgrave (Clinton County) and asked for a moment of silence in his memory.

Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM #1 – Welcome/Introductions

Welcoming remarks by Vice President Zimmerman.

AGENDA ITEM #2 – Approval of Minutes (March 28, 2023)

Motion by Tazewell County

Seconded by Ogle County

Voice Vote - Motion PASSED.

AGENDA ITEM #3 – Treasurer’s Report (March-April 2023)

Motion by Randolph County

Seconded by Lee County

Voice Vote - Motion PASSED.

AGENDA ITEM #4 – President/Executive Director’s Remarks

Executive Director McCreery’s welcoming remarks also included his appreciation to the audio/visual team and technicians present who worked with UCCI, the Sangamo Club and the Illinois Secretary of State’s office on fairly short notice in putting together the audio-visual equipment/programming necessary to allow today’s Zoom appearance of our guest speaker possible.

AGENDA ITEM #5 – Legislative Update

Report by Mr. McCreery of the Illinois General Assembly’s spring legislative session included a review of political maneuvering by both chambers during the final weeks leading up to adjournment; an overview of process and procedure for budget bill introduction in the Senate; and, an update on status of legislation of interest to units of local government which included, but was not limited to, HB1076 (leasing of farmland) including origin/background of legislative proposal; HB1236 (competitive bidding); HB1727 (replacement of disabled/inoperable patrol vehicles without competitive bid, if authorized by County Board); Wind/Solar Statewide Siting Standards, including deadline reminder for review/update of ordinances not in compliance with Act; Local Government Distributive Fund/stand-alone bill changes; *HB2781 re-referral to Rules Committee (increase in county funds for bridge construction); and, salary increase for county clerks/stand-alone bill changes. In closing, Mr. McCreery announced that the World Shooting Complex bill, having been unanimously passed by both chambers, will now proceed to the Governor for his signature.

In addition to expounding on legislative topics covered by Mr. McCreery (included in paragraph above), review by UCCI legal counsel, Mr. Jason Brokaw, on recently adjourned spring legislative session included, but was not limited to, the following: Required Auditor position modification/population reduction from 75,000 to 70,000 does not affect need for yearly county audit; Pressure washing position/category covered under prevailing wage rates; coroner/cremation fees; HB2539 (Property Tax Code/Special fund stipends) continue to monitor; electric fences/nonresidential; **HB3397 Appropriations/\$9 million to Supreme Court/‘mental health additional funding’ distribution to circuit clerks/juvenile court caseloads.

Mr. Brokaw also reminded membership of the procedure for a bill to become law ... following passage by both chambers, the bill is sent to the Governor for his signature, and the Governor then has 60 days from the date he receives it to act. Bearing in mind that all 'local government' bills were passed with a large majority (mostly unanimous), it is not expected any will be vetoed by the Governor.

Membership advised that legislation impacting units of local government will continue to be monitored up to and through the fall veto session by UCCI, with relevant updates provided.

Open discussion/question & answer session with membership included, but was not limited to:

- Oversight responsibility for failure to file required '*Disclosure of Economic Interest*' forms/local level authority to automate form.
- Possible veto session changes/seasonal workers ... '*Paid Leave for All*'.

*HB2781 (It should be noted that membership, during question/answer discussion, agreed and requested UCCI to look into what steps can be taken to get this bill moving again.)

**HB3397 (It should be noted that membership, during question/answer discussions, asked for additional information/assistance/guidance from UCCI.)

AGENDA ITEM #6 – Presentation by Illinois Secretary of State/Review of New Policy Initiatives

Membership advised by Mr. McCreery that scheduled guest speaker could not be present in person but was agreeable to make presentation from his Chicago office via Zoom appearance; and, again expressed appreciation to the audio-visual team/technicians and the Secretary of State's staff for working together to allow both the speaker and the audience to be able to see and hear each other for the entire presentation.

Welcoming remarks and introduction of Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias by Mr. McCreery.

Secretary of State Giannoulias expressed his appreciation for receiving invitation to speak with UCCI membership, apologized that his schedule did not allow an in-person appearance today but thanked all involved in making his Zoom appearance possible.

Introductory remarks by Mr. Giannoulias included his acknowledgement of the importance of the work performed by county boards and conveyed his thanks to all for their commitment to public service.

Mr. Giannoulias then provided membership with an overview of his personal/professional background leading up to being elected Secretary of State, as well as his first 100 days in office. He outlined efforts he is spearheading to modernize the office's antiquated IT infrastructure as well as how it does business, which included, but was not limited to, revamping of website to make it easier to view and navigate, and also adding new functions for services users can access easier and faster. In closing, the Secretary expressed his desire to continue working in partnership with UCCI and its county members and encouraged counties to provide input/feedback on ways of improving the programs/services his office offers and provides to the citizens of this state.

Open discussion/question and answer session held with membership.

AGENDA ITEM #7 – County Issues

LaSalle County ... Importance of making voices heard on legislative proposals. Requested UCCI assistance in obtaining contact/phone list for Governor's office. Mr. Brokaw indicated he would provide information to UCCI office for distribution.

Lee County ... '*No cash bail*' update request. Mr. Brokaw indicated oral arguments had been held in court case, but no decision/opinion has been issued.

Lee County ... 'Administrative Adjudication process'. Input request to members present. Zoning Board of Appeals/use of hearing officer as 'referee'. Following open discussion, UCCI to explore providing additional information/presentation on topic.

LaSalle County ... Codification of resolutions/ordinances. Mr. Brokaw noted there are outside companies that do reviews for codification; codification makes it much easier for county state's attorney reference; and, would highly recommend codification process to membership.

AGENDA ITEM #8 – Old Business

- UCCI Annual Conference (July 24-25, 2023) Eagle Ridge Resort, Galena
Overview of conference events provided by Mr. McCreery included Meet & Greet Reception (Sunday evening); Membership meeting; education sessions; golf outing; luncheon event for those not golfing; reception/banquet (Monday); and half-day education session (Tuesday). Registration required. Mileage reimbursement (county seat to Eagle Ridge) for all attendees driving to Galena. \$125 lodging reimbursement to all attendees for Sunday (provided attendance at membership meeting) and for Monday (provided attendance at education seminar). More information, including registration information, is coming soon.
- Membership reminded that there is no Membership meeting scheduled for June.

AGENDA ITEM #9 – New Business

- UCCI 2023 Leadership Academy
Mr. McCreery announced new format for this year's Leadership Academy ... two retreat-style sessions on the University of Illinois Champaign campus. Session #1 – August 3-4-5. Session #2 – August 24-25-26. Overview of program details provided by Mr. McCreery included, but were not limited to, Thursday afternoon-Friday all day-Saturday morning session format as developed by Anne Silvis (University of Illinois Extension) Leadership Academy Program Coordinator; no fees to participate; meals/materials/lodging entirely underwritten by UCCI; mileage reimbursement to program participants; graduates to be recognized at UCCI Fall Conference (October 27-29) at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum/Library in Springfield; and, encouraged persons interested to get their applications in early as there is limited program participation. Additional information, including required application, will be distributed to membership in the near future.

AGENDA ITEM #10 – Adjournment

Motion by Richland County
Seconded by Lee County
Voice Vote - Motion PASSED.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, July 24, 2023
10:00 A.M. – Galena Rooms/Main Lodge
Eagle Ridge Resort, Galena
ANNUAL CONFERENCE