



Door County Legislative Days 2009

Schedule of Events

Final Draft, 4/21/2009

Tuesday, May 12

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

State Agencies Meetings

9:00 a.m. Commerce, WHEDA, Workforce Development – First Floor Conference Room, Department of Commerce Bldg. 201 W. Washington Street

10:30 a.m. Public Services Commission, Department of Administration, and Office of Recovery and Reinvestment -- First Floor Conference Room, Department of Commerce Bldg. 201 W. Washington Street

9:00 a.m.: Department of Natural Resources – Room 225 NW State Capitol

10:30 a.m. Department of Transportation 225 NW State Capitol

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Delegate Assembly and Luncheon

Hosts: Senator Alan Lasee and Representative Gary Bies

Speakers: Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton

‘Hall of Wisconsin’ at the Inn on the Park

1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Group Photograph

Capitol Rotunda

1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Call on State Legislators Offices

State Capitol

5:00 p.m.

Reception begins for Delegates, Legislators, Legislative Staff, and Agency Officials

‘Signature Lounge’ at the Inn on the Park

5:45 p.m.

First Boil-Over of the authentic Door County Fish Boil!

Parking lot at the Inn on the Park

6:00 p.m.

Door County Fish Boil - dinner served. Followed by entertainment

‘Hall of Wisconsin’ at the Inn on the Park

Wednesday, May 13

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

**Breakfast buffet with Governor Doyle (8:00 a.m.) and
Legislative Leadership**

'Capitol Room' at the Inn on the Park

9:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

State Agency Meetings

9:30 a.m. - Department of Tourism -- 225 NW State Capitol Bldg

10:30 a.m. - Department of Commerce – POWTS, and Safety and Grounds Division -- 225 NW State Capitol Bldg.

11:00 a.m. - Office of the Governor

Our Legislative Agenda

A Thank You for the Phosphorous Fertilizer Control Bill

We would like to thank the Wisconsin Legislature and Governor on the passage and signing of the Phosphorus Fertilizer Control Bill

Maintain the Wisconsin Fund

We urge the legislature to continue financial support for replacing of failing home wastewater treatment facilities.

Protect Drinking Water in At-Risk Karst Geology Areas

To prevent the contamination of groundwater and drinking water in at-risk regions around the state, legislators must enact legislation that will: Create a “Carbonate Bedrock Management Area” for Kewaunee, Door, Calumet, Manitowoc and Brown counties, in which the application of wastes to land is restricted based on the risk of contamination to groundwater.

Prevailing Wage Rates Expanding to All Public Construction Projects

We oppose proposed legislation that would broaden and substantially expand the scope of prevailing wage on traditional public works and publicly funded private construction projects. Locally, expanding the scope of prevailing wage would render our Wire-Tech/Affordable Housing TIF district un-workable.

Improve DNR process for permitting docks, piers and dredging.

Clearer guidelines and more communication needs to be established to streamline the process and promote greater cooperation between all parties involved. Additional resources should be directed as needed to ensure DNR staff have capabilities to process permits.

K – 12 and Tech College Funding

Three of Door County’s five school districts receive minimal school aids; two do not receive any equalized aid, but are dependent upon the local school levy for more than 90% of their annual budgets. The Door County schools are doing their job of finding local resolutions for local problems. However, our communities and school districts need state legislators to do their job of finding legislative resolution for problems that extend beyond local jurisdiction.

The technical school system provides a valuable service to the State, yet Northern Door County pays a property tax bill FAR in excess of the cost for the students and only limited programs are established to serve the far northern population. The NWTC board should be accountable to the electorate just like local school boards.

Oppose Proposed Legislation to Repeal of Wisconsin’s Uniform School Starting Date

Current law prohibits a school district from commencing fall classes in any year until September 1, AB125/SB109 would repeal this provision. This would have a negative impact on tourist visits to Door County, resulting in reduced sales tax revenues for local government and reduced sales in the retail and hospitality sectors of our local economy.

Oppose Moving the Coastal Management Program from Department of Administration to DNR

The Coastal Management Program has benefited Door County by supporting economic development, beach protection and water quality projects. Moving it to the DNR and eliminating Coastal Management staff would narrow and shift it’s focus to the regulatory mission relating to water quality.

Ballast Water Permitting Program to Protect Great Lakes from Invasive Species

Regulating ballast water discharges is urgently needed to help protect the Great Lakes from invasive species. We urge the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources seek the advice and input of Wisconsin port communities, vessel owner/operators, shippers, shipyards and labor unions as it develops a vessel ballast water discharge permitting program.

STATE AGENCY MEETINGS

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WHEDA, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

9:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 12

1st Floor Conference Room, Dept. of Commerce Building

Sturgeon Bay Shipbuilding Cluster Master Plan Implementation

- An update on the progress in implementation of the plan, which was partially funded by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, and requesting the favorable review of an application for \$5 Million in New Market Tax Credits.

Rural Telecommunications Initiatives

- Describing the continued need for advanced telecommunications networks in Door County and the current status of the Norlight Telecommunications proposal to the County; requesting assistance with access to federal broadband economic stimulus funds.

WireTech Relocation/Affordable Housing Project

- An update on the status of the City's purchase and redevelopment of the current WireTech site for workforce housing and the relocation of WireTech to the Sturgeon Bay Industrial Park; requesting continued commitment of WHEDA and Commerce resources toward the project.

Attainable Housing in Door County

- Requesting continued support and assistance from the Department of Commerce and WHEDA for local workforce housing initiatives.

Door County Angel Investing

a. Door County Private Equity Fund

- Describing the proposed Door County mezzanine/venture capital fund, in partnership with InvestLink Private Capital LLC

b. Local Revolving Loan Fund Proceeds as Venture Capital

- Requesting that Commerce allow a portion of repaid CDBG loan funds be permitted to help capitalize a local angel investor fund.

Statewide Economic Development Priority Issues

a. Refundable Technology, Enterprise and Development Zone Tax Credits

- Requesting Commerce support making State tax credit programs refundable.

b. Competitive Business Incentives

- Urging the state of Wisconsin to develop and implement business incentive programs that are competitive with neighboring states. Door County loss of Homeschool, Inc. as a case study.

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION, OFFICE OF RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT And
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

10:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 12

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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

9:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 12

Room NW 225, State Capitol Building

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Maintain the Wisconsin Fund.

Continue financial support for replacing of failing home wastewater treatment facilities

Improve DNR process for permitting docks, piers and dredging.

Clearer guidelines and more communication needs to be established to streamline the process and promote greater cooperation between all parties involved. Additional resources should be directed as needed to ensure DNR staff have capabilities to process permits.

Protect Drinking Water in At-Risk Karst Geology Areas

To prevent the contamination of groundwater and drinking water in at-risk regions around the state, legislators must enact legislation that will: Create a "Carbonate Bedrock Management Area" for Kewaunee, Door, Calumet, Manitowoc and Brown counties, in which the application of wastes to land is restricted based on the risk of contamination to groundwater.

Allow part of Stewardship Funds to be used for outdoor park/rec land acquisition, and do not require those lands near urban areas to be open to firearm/hunting use.

Wisconsin Waterways Program have been reduced from 4.5 million per year to little over 2 million per year.

The dollars are there (generated by a tax on boaters and their equipment) but have been rerouted by DNR to other programs that are short of funds.

Request the DNR Develop a Nonresident weekend or 3-day pass for state park users.

Based on our interaction with visitors to Door County this is one issue of inconvenience to them. Door County is fortunate to have five wonderful state parks. However, for our non-resident visitors here for a weekend or short stay, buying a one-day pass does not allow them to explore all our parks, as a multi-day pass would. In 2005 a Destination Assessment was conducted and one of the recommendations was a multi-day pass to non-residents.

Request DNR to Proceed with Development of a Primitive Multi-Use Trail in Door County

Trail would allow for hikers, birders, snowshoers and biking. Trail is constructed with no impact to trees, 30 to 40 inches wide.

Washington Island Town requesting DNR assistance and possible stimulus funding to expand waste treatment facility.

Reduction in DNR staffing/office hours at the Sturgeon Bay office

Ballast Water Permitting Program to Protect Great Lakes from Invasive Species

Regulating ballast water discharges is urgently needed to help protect the Great Lakes from invasive species. We urge the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources seek the advice and input of Wisconsin port communities, vessel owner/operators, shippers, shipyards and labor unions as it develops a vessel ballast water discharge permitting program.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

10:30 a.m Tuesday, May 12

Room NW 225 State Capitol

Transportation Consortium

Update on progress in Door County. Brainstorm additional sources of funding.

The State needs to encourage the use of State highway right of way to allow for communications and electric system utilities to make greater utilization of that space.

The State should seek to create partnerships with utility companies utilizing rights of way to insure that fiber lines are laid, or empty conduits are placed to allow future connections to occur at lower costs.

Request State support in convincing the federal authorities to provide more local control over bridge opening schedule and policies.

We are seeking an hourly opening schedule (on demand for commercial vessels)

A Thank You message to DOT for the HWY 42/57 Expansion and Sturgeon Bay Bridge

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

9:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 13

Room 225 NW, State Capitol

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Wisconsin Implementation of Federal Swimming Pool Anti-entrapment Rules

Process in Wisconsin should lighten the burden and cost to businesses and communities. Pace and cost of inspection process could result in many Door County swimming pools to be closed in 2009.

A Thank You message to the Department of Tourism for their help with the state visitor centers cutbacks

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**THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - SAFETY AND BUILDINGS DIVISION – COM 90 AND
POWTS PROGRAM**

*10:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 13
Room 225 NW, State Capitol*

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Maintain the Wisconsin Fund

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Septic System Inspections/Management

Request the Department of Commerce to develop revisions to statutes and codes in order to prohibit the installation of steel sewage tanks and to take into account Door County's unique geology.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

11:00 a.m. Room 225 NW, State Capitol

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Ozone Designation

We thank the Governor for designating no counties as nonattainment areas. If accepted by the EPA this will successfully limit remediation actions necessary by Door County residents and businesses.