

Citizen Focus Groups

June 13, 2013 Baraboo Public Library 5:00 p.m.

- 11 County Board Members – Scott Alexander, Tommy Lee Bychinski, Ruth Dawson, John Dietz, Joan Fordham, Tom Kriegl, Andrea Lombard, John Miller, Dave Riek, Scott Von Asten, William F Wenzel
- 3 Staff – Kerry Beghin, Todd Liebman, Kathy Schauf
- 23+ Public – John Eric Allen, Judy Brey, Ann Burton, Becky DeMars, Wessie Dietz, Reece Donihi, Paul Hefty, Marilyn Kinsman-Kharbush, Sylvia Kriegl, Jim Lombard, Linda Meadowcroft, Jack Meegan, Mike Powell, Bianca Richards, Eugene Robkin, Jim Schernecker, Mary Carol Solum, Sharon Terry, Peter Vedro, William Waser, Marilyn Wolkowski, Gene Wuest, Mimi Wuest

Public's Comments Expressed:

1. Concerned about frac sand mining without a thorough cost-benefit analysis, study of health impacts to residents, and negative impact to tourism and the economy. Jobs created by mining are few and not well-paid. Small business mining companies are being bought up by large corporations. Sauk County has a strong history of environmentalism; allowing frac sand mining is at odds with this history. Strong reclamation plans should be developed, and reclamation funds should be produced prior to mining and held in trust.
2. Request of the County Board to ban, not place a moratorium on, frac sand mining at this time to allow further investigation of its impacts.
3. Alternative energies should be investigated and incorporated whenever possible.
4. Rails-to-trails should be expanded.
5. Difficulties in developing bike trails through multiple jurisdictions, and ultimately in maintaining the trails. Trails alone aren't an economic boost; there needs to be other activities to keep visitors here.
6. Concerned about the State of Wisconsin not accepting federal funds for Medicaid expansion. This is vital to the low income residents of the state. Difficult to hire people if they don't have health insurance, and BadgerCare fills that gap.
7. Concerned about the size of justice and jail budgets compared with health and human services budget.
8. Importance of The Bus in Sauk County, with valuable transportation provided to anyone in the County, particularly the disabled. More information about this underutilized service should be provided to the community. Providing more local funding is important to leverage the federal and state funds already allocated.
9. Funding for education and preventative care for at-risk children is a far better use of resources than incarceration.
10. The County should find a way to utilize the unused space in the jail.
11. Opposition to the school voucher program, which would be a detriment to our public schools. Public schools are tasked with caring for all children, even the troubled.
12. Libraries are a vital component of our communities.
13. Want access to a simplified budget that the public can consider and debate. The County Board should define its basic values and beliefs, then their attending goals. This guides allocation of resources. The County Board should pay more attention to State legislative activities. The Board should be aware of where funding from special interest groups is going.

14. Appreciation for the County Board's support of Circus World Museum, as well as the Badger Army Ammunition Plant Reuse Committee and restoration.
15. Looking forward to the results of the upcoming nitrate study. Support of maintaining our clean water.
16. In support of County Human Services staff and their work.
17. Wish there were more jail diversion programs, particularly for veterans. Need additional medical services and better food in the jail. Jailers need more training. Patrol officers are doing fine.
18. Also need to be concerned about possible mining of iron ore in the County. Strengthening the railroads is a precursor to mining expansion. Open mines pose dangers to water safety. Any action should be subject to public education and review, possibly referenda.
19. More funding should be allocated to veterans services.
20. Land use plans and other County actions should incorporate economic impacts.
21. Opposition to transmission lines.
22. Need more information and facts to make decisions, not based on personal feelings. The jail was built too large. Lake Redstone developers are gone, but the County needs a dam break analysis – think about long term effects of decisions. Broadband is important.

No issues moved to the Parking Lot