

**Winnebago County Board**  
**Legislative & Lobbying Committee Meeting**  
County Administration Building  
404 Elm Street, Conference Room 510  
Rockford, IL 61101

Tuesday, October 3, 2023  
5:30 PM

**Present:**

Jaime Salgado, **Chairperson**  
Paul Arena (via Zoom)  
Aaron Booker  
Valerie Hanserd  
Tim Nabors  
John Penney (via Zoom)  
John F. Sweeney

**Others Present:**

Joseph Chiarelli, County Board Chairman  
Marlana Dokken, Director, Chairperson's Office of Criminal  
Justice Initiatives

**AGENDA:**

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval August 22, 2023 Minutes
- D. Public Comment – This is the time we invite the public to address the Legislative and Lobbying Committee with issues and concerns. We ask you to limit your comments to three minutes. Personal attacks or inappropriate language of any sort will not be tolerated. We will allow a maximum of five speakers on a first come basis with sign up at the meeting. Speakers may not address zoning matters which are pending before the ZBA, the Zoning Committee or the County Board. Personnel matters or pending or threatened litigation may not be addressed in open session. An individual may speak a maximum of three times per calendar year on the same topic. This prohibition shall include the repetition of the same topic in a statement on what is purported to be a different topic. After acknowledgement by the chair, please stand and state your name. Thank you.
- E. Feedback from Legislators – Discussion
- F. State Lobbyist Interviews – Discussion
- G. TFG Update - Discussion
- H. Future Agenda Items
- I. Adjournment

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Salgado called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

**Roll Call**

Chairperson Salgado yes, Mr. Booker yes, Mr. Nabors yes, Ms. Hanserd yes, Mr. Sweeney yes.

Chairperson Salgado called for a motion to allow Mr. Arena and Mr. Penney to participate via Zoom.

Motion: Ms. Hanserd. Second: Mr. Nabors.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Chairperson Salgado noted the motion passed to allow Mr. Arena and Mr. Penney to participate in the meeting via Zoom and thanked them for joining the meeting.

### **Approval of August 22, 2023 Minutes**

Motion: Ms. Nabors. Second: Ms. Hanserd.

Chairperson Salgado called for any comments or discussion.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

### **Public Comment**

Chairperson Salgado omitted reading the Public Comment Section of the Agenda due to no one present to speak.

### **Feedback from Legislators - Discussion**

Discussion took place on feedback from Legislators. Committee members shared information regarding Legislator feedback. Feedback has been positive from the Federal and State concerning the selection of the Federal lobbyist.

### **State Lobbyist Interviews – Discussion**

Discussion took place on State Lobbyist interviews and whether to reopen the bidding process for a State Lobbyist. Committee members shared their thoughts. The committee agreed to reopen the bidding process for a State Lobbyist. The RFQ will be reissued and those who previously submitted a proposal will be required to resubmit.

### **TFG Update - Discussion**

A meeting was held last week with the Mercury team and TFG to discuss the contract with plans for Mercury and TFG to meet to discuss coordination of grants, advocacy and other details. Internally, a discussion between Mercury, TFG and the County centered on coordination of the needs assessment, grant writing and lobbying. Committee members were given an overview of the process for submission and tracking of projects by department, agencies and non-county agencies. Projects will be prioritized with the focus on larger infrastructure grants. Initially, the focus is on the needs assessment. Processes are being developed that will flow from the needs assessment. TFG will develop a Strategic Funding Guide to be shared at a later date.

- Discussion followed.

TFG will be contacted on the process for handling non-county partner requests.

Chairperson Salgado called for any other questions, comments or thoughts.

### **Future Agenda Items**

- Mercury providing an updated Congressional Calendar.
- Next steps with Mercury from an appropriation standpoint in making connections with local, state and federal representatives to discuss County priorities and communication guidance.
- State Representative DeLuca asked if the committee would consider drafting a letter of support for the Solar Farm bill and talk with legislators to co-sponsor the bill. A synopsis of the bill will be provided to committee members.

- A meeting is scheduled in November to tour landfill operations in Broward County, Florida that converts waste to energy and meet with the County Chairman of Broward County, Florida.
- Mercury was engaged to reach out to the Federal Department of Energy to ask why the interconnect and capacity issues are stifling growth in Winnebago County. A letter was sent to Mr. Quinionas, Chairman of ComEd requesting a meeting to discuss green energy initiatives and incentives.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Chairperson Salgado called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Mr. Sweeney. Second: Mr. Booker.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Bleile  
Administrative Assistant