



TO: COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS  
FROM: SANDY HART, CHAIR  
DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 2019  
SUBJECT: CHAIR'S REMARKS

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Please find my Chairman's Report for activities since the last County Board meeting on January 15, 2019. Once again, I am honored to serve you as Chair of the Lake County Board and I look forward to working with you and continuing our efforts on bipartisan policies and legislative matters.

**Video Available for All Standing Committees**

Last week the Finance & Administrative Committee voted in favor of filming all standing committee meetings, scheduled to begin the week of February 25. Meetings will not be live but will be shown on LCTV. This is an important transparency initiative, since much discussion and debate occurs at committee level.

**Quarterly Transit Team Meeting with LCDOT, RTA, Pace, and Metra**

- The RTA reported on their current budget and capital program and noted they have programmed \$840M for capital improvements in 2019. They stressed that to maintain a good state of repair, the RTA really should be investing \$2-3 billion annually in their capital program.
- Metra surveyed users and reported that passengers seek faster transit commute times. In response, Metra has recently installed new state of the art signal systems on the Fox Lake sub-division and on the mainline between Roundout and Chicago. They have also installed a new passing siding in Libertyville. These improvements will allow for additional express trains and schedule enhancements. Metra is also currently partnering with local municipalities on the construction of new stations at Prairie Crossing and Downtown Libertyville.
- Pace is re-branding their Call-n-Ride service which is currently available currently available in the Round Lake Area, Vernon Hills, and Mundelein- to be called "Pace On Demand" and later this year will launch an online booking feature. On Demand provides curb-to-curb service and is open to the general public desiring to travel within the service area or to facilitate connections with additional Pace fixed route services. More information is available at [pacebus.com](http://pacebus.com).

**Lake County Transportation Alliance (LCTA) -**

We heard a presentation on McHenry County's updated transit plan. Like Lake County, McHenry has a mixture of urban and rural development patterns that require a mixture of transit options. They have experienced a long-term (25 year) decline in fixed route transit ridership. Two of the general transit recommendations are to move towards more demand response services and expand the fixed routes to more desirable regional destinations such as O'Hare, Lake Geneva, and Rockford. Lake County's 2040 Transportation Plan and Paratransit Market Study had similar findings.

**COUNCIL OF COUNTY BOARD CHAIRS, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY**

Joe McCoy from Illinois Association of Counties (ISACO), attended and provided information on proposed state legislation that impacts counties. Lake County was asked to appoint an official to the Legislative Committee for ISACO and John Wasik is on the February LCB agenda to serve on behalf of the County. CMAP staff presented on IDOT's arterial roads and highways system much of which is in a state of ill repair. They estimated that IDOT's highway system needs \$50 billion dollars of investment simply to make repairs and maintain the system. They outlined the significant potential funding strategies needed

to support IDOT's transportation infrastructure over the next 30 years and the pro/con of each alternative.

### **OTHER MEETINGS**

- MacArthur Foundation Interview regarding the Safety and Justice Challenge grant that will provide funding for a Data Coordinator/Analyst position. This will assist the county in data collection and evaluation of performance measures. The Challenge grant provides financial and technical support to rethink justice systems and implement data-driven strategies to safely reduce jail populations.
- Prep for Leaders Roundtable w/Brooke Hooker and Amy McEwan
- Meeting with CMAP representatives to discuss the GOTO 2050 Plan
- Lake County Partners Operations Meeting to review their budget and membership
- Business & Government meeting for Village of Lake Bluff and City of Lake Forest
- J-Team meeting with SAO, Public Defender, Sheriff, Chief Judge, and Clerk of the Circuit Court
- Attended and spoke at the Forecast Lake County Luncheon hosted by Lake County Chamber of Commerce with Members Clark, Kyle, Vealitzek, and Wasik
- Met with members of the Sierra Club and HSUS on pending legislation impacting animal protections
- Martin Luther King Jr. Dreamers Breakfast with Vice Chair Cunningham and Members Clark, Kyle, Simpson, and Vealitzek.
- Attended Lake County Drug Court Graduation with Vice Chair Cunningham and Members Barr and Clark
- Meeting with Lake County Housing Authority Director Lorraine Hocker
- Meeting with Joe McCoy, newly appointed Executive Director of Illinois State Association of Counties
- Meeting with Andrew Tangen, Superintendent of Veterans Assistance Commission
- Meeting with members of Midwest Sustainability Group
- Attended the Diversity & Inclusion Luncheon hosted by Vice Chair Cunningham with Members Barr, Clark, Danforth, Kyle, Pedersen, Simpson, Vealitzek and Wasik. Several Forest Preserve and County staff members attended as did Waukegan Mayor Sam Cunningham
- Meeting with Tollway Authority regarding the Tri County Access project
- Meeting with Christina Lee, Abbvie Director of State Government Affairs

### **Event**

Participated in the Point In Time Count with Vice Chair Cunningham and Members Barr and Pedersen. 87 volunteers fanned out across Lake County to search for unsheltered people. 29 people were found, compared to 24 last year. The data collected helps us develop housing solutions, connect people with the services they need and tell if we're close to ending chronic homelessness in the County. Importantly, we are at "functional zero" for veteran homelessness.

### **Important Upcoming Events:**

- Regional Roundtables on February 13, 19, 20, 22 to meet with Lake County leaders to ensure consensus on priorities and discuss challenges, short- and long-term goals, and opportunities for collaboration
- Legislative Breakfast on February 25 with our Lake County legislators
- Strategic Planning dates are being finalized; invitations will be sent out shortly
- Final consultant selection for the County Administrator position will occur within the next two weeks; board members will be notified. We are working on a web page to keep parties informed of the process and timeline.