

Ozaukee County Board Committee Reorganization Study Follow-up Survey

At the January 5, 2005 Ozaukee County Board meeting, the Board voted 27-0 to reorganize the committee structure of the Ozaukee County Board. By doing this, the Ozaukee County Board consolidated 29 committees into 6 functional committees, 9 subcommittees and an Executive Committee. Through this study process, Board members agreed to evaluate this new committee structure after approximately one year to determine if this committee structure is appropriate and if changes are desired.

Please take a few minutes to complete this survey, which will assist the Executive Committee in their decision making process.

1 Does the new committee structure have enough committees to complete the work of the County Board?

Yes	17
No	0
Both	1
Blank	1

If no, what additional committee(s) do you think is needed and why?

- I worry that H&HS has such a great work load with members who need to be done in 2 hours. Should it be split? I am sure time will tell.
- I think it is helping us to find the right balance. There are still adjustments that need to be made. Written materials ahead of time help so that we don't have to read through the report at the meeting.
- I am not in a position to determine this. I do trust "the process" that evolved to this committee structure and believe it was a thorough work. I hope this structure is workable.

2 Has the new committee structure added too much workload for each committee?

Yes	3
No	14
Both	1
N/A	1

If yes, how can this workload be lessened?

- Lately H&HS has been a lot. Not for me, but for others
- I don't think so. I think that it has been helping us to really understand the area we are providing oversight to. I think the thing that needs to change is the whole County Board NOT RESPECTING THE WORK DONE AT COMMITTEE.
- The workload is about the same but you can do it with 1 or 2 meetings rather than multiple meetings.
- But, via e-mail and prep (?) and tough focused. Chairs- the meetings should be no longer than 2 hours.
- The workload has increased for the one committee. However, previously we had 4-6 committees to serve on. Combining the time & work of the multiple committees-workload for one is equal or less.
- Adds to the Chairman
- Workload can vary dramatically when a Dept. Head leaves, is on extended leave, or not up to doing job adequately

3 Do the new committee agendas meet the expectation of providing policy oversight and direction for the county departments?

Yes 15

No 3

Both 1

If no, what should be changed to the committee agendas?

- However, I would like to see better financial reports from the departments / from finance
- They are getting there. We need to keep looking at agendas and cutting what doesn't need to be there. Better facilitation of the meetings would also help.
- Need more time to get more information upon which to base decisions.
- To some extent, that role is still evolving as particular situations that are unique to providing policy oversight occur.
- We still have some day to day issues that are discussed. If an item is approved in the budget for purchase the committee should not need to address it again. Example, purchase of vehicle for PRLM.

4 Does the Executive Committee provide a communication linkage among the 6 Functional Committees of the County Board and work to resolve competing committee issues?

Yes 10

No 8

Don't Know 1

If no, how can the Executive Committee improve the communication linkage among the 6 Function Committees?

- Not at the committee level. I can't envision this. Maybe chairman needs to add time on the agenda for update. We do get a lot on the County Board floor but community members would not get that.
- I really do not know what is happening at these meetings and I am not sure what purpose they serve.
- The committee should meet at regular intervals and committees should know they can turn to the Executive Committee for help, info, ect.
- Consider elimination of 3rd Wednesday meeting. Responsibility for linkage is up to each member.
- I am probably clueless to what Executive Committee has done. Do we need it? Have not personally seen this in action. So am somewhat unaware. However, I hear Tom in his report often reference what happened in Exec and see that linkage in that perspective.
- Haven't seen any linkage.
- The Chairman of each committee could bring major issues of the Executive Committee back to their committees.
- Competing agendas can still be a problem
- Hopefully competing issue are addressed currently. Communication could be improved. Perhaps 1) a report back to committee by executive committee rep at committee meetings. 2) More detailed minutes that could be read on-line. 3) Careful selection of executive committee reps to fulfill these responsibilities

- 5 Is a regularly scheduled second County Board meeting each month necessary?
 12 Yes, keep the regularly scheduled second Board meeting
 7 No, only meet a second time in a month if there is a pressing issue that needs additional consideration
 0 No, only meet once a month

Comments:

- So far, we have had enough issues.
- Would like to see one meeting a month in the evening
- I would like to see some of these meetings take place in the evening. I have had several constituents ask about night meetings. Sometimes there doesn't seem to be enough information to warrant a second meeting.
- We need the second meeting to get more background information
- It's need for information and emergency votes
- Please no! Use e-mail and conference calls.
- I would probably like to see us try to limit the 2nd meeting to couple times per year, but essentially use that meeting for weighty content issues.
- Provided you have a worthwhile agenda!
- We can always cancel one here & there if there's nothing to do
- A couple of these meetings have not been very meaty, so could be postponed

- 6 Have the second County Board meetings each month in 2005 assisted you in making informed decisions regarding county policy issues? (Examples of policy issues discussed in 2005 include program prioritization & strategic planning, the old jail building, transportation & taxi service and courthouse security.)

Yes 18

No 1

If no, how can the second County Board meeting be improved?

- Sometimes I sense the 2nd meeting is a catch-up or catch-all for information and this seems to drag on or sometimes get away from the central issue. Still, as a whole I find it useful and the format necessary when Administrator Meaux has so much info he wants to us current on and well informed.
- Could do via e-mail or 1 monthly meeting

- 7 Overall, should the new committee structure remain intact as it is today?

Yes 15

No 3

N/A 1

If no, what should change?

- Shorter meetings. Non-committee board members may attend but only speak under public comment or when called on by chair
- Merge aging with H.H.S.
- I think we need to keep going with this structure and tweak it as needed. It is too early to think about changing again in any major way.
- Yes or very close, but I am only involved in H.H.S.
- We need to look at how we can fill committees with a reduced number of County Board members. Look at a range of 21-25 total county board.
- Yes, but don't rule out further consideration
- We need at least a year trial

If you are not returning to the County Board, please take a few minutes to answer these additional questions.

- 8 What policy or initiative would you like to see continue after you leave the Ozaukee County Board?
- Got everything I wanted
 - Strategic planning and priorities are essential to moving forward. I would also like to see the County Board address the issue of the size of the Board. We need to educate the community on what we do, how much it costs now, how much it would cost to have fewer Supervisors, etc.
 - Land preservation through the purchase of development rights, etc.
- 9 What policy or initiative did you not have enough time to work on while you were on the County Board that you feel the next County Board should make a higher priority?
- We need to encourage more innovative creative solutions to problems and reward those efforts that come from staff. New thinking on the County Board. There are too many decisions and votes that occur based on the information available not personal agendas.
 - Historic restoration, trust fund for human services & tax reduction
 - Strategic planning process on a regular basis. The prioritization exercise is not enough to provide long range planning for the future of Ozaukee County.

Thank you for your time. Please return to Paul Roback, Community Development Educator, at UW-Extension Ozaukee County.

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