LINCOLN COUNTY AD HOC RULES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 17, 2025 - 2:30 PM

MINUTES

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

**a. Roll Call**

Chair Cummings called the Ad Hoc Rules Committee to order with the following members present: Angela Cummings, Joe Dorava, Marguerite Lyskawa, Meunier, and Wickham (5). Guests: Chris Marlowe (1).

**2. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**3. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**

**a. September 3, 2025**

**M/S** Dorava/Lyskawa to approve the September 3rd meeting minutes. The motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.

**b. Updated Rules Template dated September 3, 2025**

**M/S** Dorava/Meunier to approve the September 3rd updated rules template. The motion to approve the updates carried by a voice vote.

**4. Review and discuss the Conversion of Lincoln County Chapter 2 to the WCA Template**

- **County Board Chair Role and Quorum (3.01)** discussion began regarding county board officers, specifically the County Board Chair. A proposal was made to include a provision in 3.01 allowing the board chair to serve as a member with full rights and privileges if there is otherwise not a quorum at a committee meeting. This was supported due to past instances of committees lacking a quorum.

- **Board Chair's Automatic Committee Memberships** the committee discussed which committees the board chair is automatically a member of. Chris Marlowe noted A&L and the Health Insurance Trustees Committee, as well as the emergency management portion of the Public Safety Committee and economic development, though confirmation for some of these roles was deferred for comparison with existing rules.

- **Vice Chair's Committee Roles (3.02)** discussion shifted to the Vice Chair's responsibilities. It was confirmed that the Vice Chair is automatically a member of the A&L Committee, but not automatically the chair of any committee, nor automatically on the health insurance trustees committee unless they are also the chair of finance.

- **Wording in Chair and Vice Chair Duties (3.03)** Section 3.03 was reviewed regarding chairs and vice chairs. A specific wording change was suggested, replacing "otherwise" with "therefore" or "shall" when describing the chair's ability to serve as a spokesperson, with "shall" being preferred for clarity.

- **Parliamentarian Role and Authority (4.01)** a significant discussion arose concerning the role of the parliamentarian, specifically in section 4.01. Chris Marlowe noted that the current rules designate the chair as the parliamentarian, a change from previously being corporate counsel. Concerns were raised about non-elected officials having authority over elected officials, but it was clarified that the parliamentarian's role is purely advisory. The committee decided to seek clarification from Karry on the comprehensive duties of a parliamentarian to make an informed decision on who should fill the role and whether the chair should have the authority to designate someone.

- **Committee of the Whole (4.02)** the committee then addressed 4.02, the "committee of the whole." While the current draft states the vice chair shall be the chair of any such committee, Cummings questioned this given that the board chair had previously chaired a similar informal strategy session. They decided to ask

Karry for clarification on why the vice chair is designated for this role, especially considering potential differences in rules regarding quorum and formality compared to regular meetings.

- **Use of Personal Electronic Devices (4.05)** the committee discussed the rule on personal electronic devices (4.05). They debated the extent to which board members should be allowed to use devices during meetings, given their use for accessing agendas and other meeting-related purposes. It was proposed that devices should only be used for purposes directly involving the meeting agenda, emergencies, or with the chair's permission, to encourage paperless meetings.

- **Public Decorum and Comment (4.07)** Section 4.07, covering public decorum and comment, generated extensive discussion. The committee acknowledged that current rules on decorum are often not enforced, particularly regarding disruptive behavior like shouting or clapping. While profanity is constitutionally protected, disruptive behavior is not, and the chair is responsible for enforcement.

- **Public Comment Sign-in Process and Time Limits** the committee reviewed rules for public comment, including requirements for individuals to sign in with their name and address prior to the meeting. A difference in public comment time limits was noted, with the proposed rule suggesting three minutes, while existing rules allow five. Although some members preferred five minutes, the consensus was to adopt three minutes with a provision for extensions if approved by a majority vote.

- **Restriction of Public Comment to County Residents/Taxpayers** a contentious point arose regarding whether public comment should be restricted to residents or taxpayers of the county. Ken Wickham expressed concerns about limiting participation, arguing that it could be illegal and that important information from outside the county could be missed. The committee decided to verify with Karry whether such restrictions are legally permissible.

- **Public Disclosure of Address for Commenters** Discussion regarding the requirement for public commenters to state their name and address. Concerns were raised about privacy and safety if addresses were publicly stated during recorded meetings. The committee ultimately decided to ask Karry for clarification on the purpose and necessity of collecting and publicly stating addresses, considering alternatives like just providing their name and district.

- **Reconsideration of Decisions (4.08)** the final topic discussed was section 4.08, "reconsideration," which allows a member on the prevailing side of a question to ask for reconsideration. Confusion about why someone who voted for a winning motion would want to bring it back for reconsideration. It was noted that this rule is consistent with Robert's Rules of Order, but the committee sought to understand the practical implications.

- **Reconsideration of Votes** the committee discussed the purpose of a motion to reconsider a vote, suggesting it allows individuals to change their minds or incorporate new information from constituents. They emphasized that this process provides an opportunity for further discussion and clarification, especially if a previous vote was close or members wish to alter their stance.

**5. Develop Further Work Details**

- **Clarification from Karry Johnson** Cummings proposed inviting Karry to the next meeting to provide clarification on several points. These include the specific use cases for motions to reconsider, their relation to Robert's Rules, and the rationale for calling them "statute". Additionally, they sought clarification on the requirement for a "space for legal note" on resolutions, including whether it's a legal requirement, if Karry reviews all resolutions, and if her review is documented.
- **Meeting Schedule and Document Preparation** the participants discussed the urgency of completing the document for the county board by the December meeting, suggesting they need to accelerate their progress by either increasing meeting frequency or extending their duration. Dorava suggested that they should consolidate their procedures and proposed changes into one comprehensive document.

## 6. Upcoming Meeting Dates

### a. October 1, 2025, at 2:30pm in Room 247/248

### b. October 15, 2025, at 2:30pm in Room 247/248

The October 15th meeting might require a time adjustment. This meeting date and time will be reconsidered at the October 1st meeting.

## 7. Adjourn

Chair Cummings adjourned the meeting at 3:47pm.