

## Commissioners Comments

I'm a month late getting these out to everyone, fall is a busy time. Oh well that just means more to write about. I talked last time about the WCCA Wind Task Force Committee that I serve on. We have been trying to get all parties together and agree on what changes if any should be made to the wind taxation law that will take effect January 1, 2012. After about six months of meetings and lots of miles traveled we finally agreed on a couple of options that would work for the Counties, Industry and the State. When the Joint Legislative Revenue Committee was presented with our options, they said thanks, came up with some crazy idea of their own, voted it down, and then decided to stay with the current law. A lot of us are wondering why we spent so much time working on this when the Revenue Committee in the end didn't want to have our recommendations. Sometimes it seems elected offices are too smart by half. Time will tell if wind energy will become a reality or not.

The County Clerks along with our Clerk, Chris Kanwischer have been working on a similar project. They are making recommendations to the State Legislators on a Redistricting plan for the House of Representatives and Senate. The plan that makes the most sense would keep Platte County whole or all in one District. That way our Representative would be from Platte County not somewhere else. I hope that when they present their plan they fair better than the Wind Task Force did.

The oil play is moving slowly, Chesapeake Energy is selling all their leases in Platte County. They tell me it is just a business move but I'm wondering if production tests in Platte County were less than expected. The fracking process is also taking a while to work out; it took five years to work out the details in North Dakota. So keep your fingers crossed.

The draft of changes to the Planning & Zoning Regulations is being looked over by the Planning and Zoning Board. They held a public meeting November 9<sup>th</sup>. After they are satisfied, the draft will come to the Commissioners for a public hearing and adoption or changes. The draft can be seen on the County website. If you have any concerns or questions on the regulations, please speak up now. The committee of Platte County residents has worked very hard over the year on the proposed changes and deserves a big thank you for their time and effort.

I am often asked "How is the Commissioner work"? Well my favorite way to describe it is this; faced with a choice to paint something red or blue, the Board finds that blue is cheaper. The state statues say it should be blue. So a motion is made and seconded to paint it blue, voted on and passed. At the following meeting or in the paper somebody will make a big fuss about how stupid the Board is to paint it blue! On the other hand if the motion was to paint it red, there would be a room full of people and lawyers pointing out that it is more expensive and against the law to paint it red! That is how Commissioner work goes.

Another one of my favorites is a quote from a former Commissioner- Charlie Coleman. He said "Commissioner work is like eating a whole chicken, beak, feathers and all, some parts of it are good". Along these lines we are elected by the people of Platte County and we listen to all of Platte County. You may not always agree with the Board but please take the time to understand why a decision was made the way it was. Often I hear of someone who is upset by something the Commissioners have done and

all too often that person has never been to a meeting or called one of us to get questions answered or concerns addressed. Don't be that person call or stop by anytime.

Till next time,  
Tim Millikin  
County Commissioner