

**TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Monthly Report of County Activities (February 2006)**  
**Linking County/Local Government for Efficient Public Services**

- The county updated its various financial and operating policies – they can soon be viewed by computer at [www.tuscolacounty.org](http://www.tuscolacounty.org) – some may be useful for your municipal/township government and could save time/effort in preparing local policies
- Other valuable web site information includes: commissioner meeting schedules-agendas-meeting minutes, financial reports, election results, online tax data base and land records search, monthly activity reports, employment opportunities, county government services identification, department reports, links to other web sites
- Please mark your calendar for March 29, 2006 – a conference will be held at the Tuscola Technology Center regarding collaboration, cooperation and partnering by local units of government to reduce costs and strengthen service delivery – it will be beneficial in determining methods of dealing with financial challenges while trying to deliver/preserve public services – the conference presenter will be John Amrhein from MSU-Extension who has given this presentation in Oceana and Manistee Counties with great success – more information to be supplied
- According to the Bureau of Elections, changes will be implemented in the near future that will greatly improve the administration of elections in Michigan – some of these valuable changes include: new computer servers to all State-funded QVF sites, ability of digitized signatures to be transferred from the Drivers' License File to the QVF database, new training options through the use of DVDs and the eventual ability to offer a new remote QVF technology to sites that do not have their own QVF equipment
- The county was fortunate to incur only a modest insurance renewal cost increase from the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority of less than 1% - this was welcome relief during these extremely difficult financial times – bidding county insurance coverages periodically has proven beneficial
- The county recycling operation continues to be successful – noteworthy accomplishments from 2004 to 2005 include: tonnage of recycled increased by 22%, revenues from sale of materials increased 30% , an 11% increase in volume of material at the drop off trailers, enhanced education programs, diversion of 1,446,000 pounds of materials from landfills in 2005 - the recycling center added computer diskettes, CDs, DVDs, video & audiocassettes, plastic shopping bags and vinyl siding to the list of acceptable items
- Planning for the mosquito season is underway – mosquito abatement will work with the county health department in tracking birds that may have the West Nile Virus - collection of mosquitoes for disease surveillance will continue - mosquito abatement continues to expand available equipment and personnel annually in an effort to keep up with the increasing demand for service - this expansion is planned to continue slowly for years to come, but has to stay in the confines of the available budget
- Information was forwarded in February to municipal/township governments explaining the advantages of membership in East Central Michigan Planning and Development Region and requesting consideration of becoming members of this organization under a joint funding plan with the county – a response by the end of March would be appreciated

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