

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

ANNUAL MEETING

June 20, 2007

3:00 p.m.

Washington County Courthouse Government Center
432 East Washington Street, Room 2024
West Bend, Wisconsin

Present:

Excused:

Commissioners:

Thomas H. Buestrin, Chairman
Richard A. Hansen, Vice-Chairman
Charlene S. Brady
James T. Dwyer
Anita M. Faraone
Adelene Greene
Susan S. Greenfield
Gregory L. Holden
William E Johnson
Allen L. Morrison
Robert W. Pitts
Daniel S. Schmidt
David L. Stroik
Paul G. Vrakas
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

William R. Drew
Lee Holloway
Mary A. Kacmarcik
Michael J. Miklasevich

Absent:

Anselmo Villarreal

Staff:

Philip C. Evenson
Kenneth R. Yunker
Loretta Watson

Executive Director
Deputy Director
Executive Secretary

Guests:

Thomas J. Sackett
Paul G. Hayes
Dorothy M. Morrison

Washington County Board Chair

ROLL CALL

Chairman Buestrin called the 217th meeting of the Commission to order at 3:10 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared present. Mr. Evenson indicated for the record that Commissioners Drew, Holloway, Kacmarcik, and Miklasevich had asked to be excused.

WELCOME

Chairman Buestrin recognized Washington County Board Chair, Thomas Sackett, for welcoming remarks, noting that Mr. Sackett served on the Regional Planning Commission during the 1980's. Mr. Sackett indicated that it was always a pleasure to have the Commission meet in Washington County for its Annual meeting. He indicated that he had enjoyed his service on the Regional Planning Commission and that it was increasingly important for people to focus on matters which are important to all who reside in southeastern Wisconsin. He thanked the Commissioners for coming to Washington County and wished them well in the meeting.

Chairman Buestrin thanked Mr. Sackett for his remarks. Mr. Buestrin then took note of the fact that among the guests at the meeting was Paul G. Hayes, a former reporter for The Milwaukee Journal, who has been engaged by the Commission to prepare a history intended to be published on the fifty-year anniversary of the Commission in September 2010.

INTRODUCTION AND SEATING OF NEW COMMISSIONER

Chairman Buestrin noted that Governor Doyle had made a new appointment to the Commission and that the seating of that new Commissioner was in order at this meeting. He then asked Mr. Evenson to introduce the newest Racine County Commissioner.

Mr. Evenson said that it was his pleasure to introduce Ms. Susan S. Greenfield to the Commission as the newest Commissioner representing Racine County. Ms. Greenfield is well known in the Racine area, having served for a number of years as the Chair of the former Town of Caledonia. Mr. Evenson indicated that he came to know Ms. Greenfield during that time when she provided leadership for a very ambitious, highly participatory neighborhood planning program designed to refine, detail, and implement both the regional land use plan and the Town of Caledonia land use plan. She also was engaged in the negotiations which led to the major Racine intergovernmental agreement, out of which in part came arrangements that led to the incorporation of the Town as the Village of Caledonia. He noted that Ms. Greenfield was appointed by Governor Jim Doyle to fill the vacancy created when Commissioner Dick Hansen relocated to Walworth County and was appointed by the Governor to fill a vacancy on the Commission from that County. Ms. Greenfield, he said, will serve an unexpired term ending in September 2010.

Mr. Hansen added that Ms. Greenfield is very well known in the Racine business community as a thoughtful individual who is interested in helping to formulate and carry out good public policy. She will, he said, be a good, contributing member of the Commission.

It was then moved by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Hansen, and carried unanimously to formally seat Ms. Greenfield, representing Racine County. Chairman Buestrin welcomed Ms. Greenfield. Ms. Greenfield indicated that she was very honored to be appointed to serve on the Commission, having admired the Commission's work for many years. She indicated that what was accomplished in Caledonia during her tenure as Town Chair could not have been accomplished without the foundation already laid by the work of the Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2007, MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Ms. Greene, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of March 7, 2007, were approved as published.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Noting that Commissioner Drew was unable to attend the meeting, Chairman Buestrin asked Mr. Evenson to present the Treasurer's report. Mr. Evenson noted that a copy of the report had been provided to all Commissioners for review at the meeting. In commenting on the report, he called attention to the following items:

1. Based upon disbursements through May 13, 2007, it is projected that total disbursements for the year will approximate \$7.57 million. Revenues are projected at \$7.77 million.
2. The total amount of funds held by the Commission in the various operating, liability, and reserve accounts approximates \$2.62 million. The various accounts are identified on the second page of the report.
3. As of May 13, 2007, the Commission had in investments and cash on hand about \$3.43 million. About \$2.72 million are invested in the State of Wisconsin Local Government Pooled Investment Fund. As of May 13, 2007, that fund was yielding 5.23 percent interest. Other funds are held in savings and checking accounts and in certificates of deposits at several banks.

There being no discussion, on a motion by Mr. Vrakas, seconded by Mr. Morrison, and carried unanimously, the Treasurer's Report for the period ending May 13, 2007, was approved (copy attached to Official Minutes).

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning and Research Committee

Noting that the Planning and Research Committee had met once since the Commission Quarterly meeting on March 7, 2007, Committee Chairman Schmidt reported the following items:

On June 7, 2007, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and acted to recommend to the Commission for adoption an amendment to the regional water quality management plan pertaining to the sanitary sewer service area for the Village of Twin Lakes. That amendment, scheduled for action later in this meeting, involves the addition of about 164 acres of land to the planned sewer service area. The lands are to be used for single-family residential development and entail no environmentally significant areas. The proposed amendment was found to be consistent with the adopted regional land use plan.
2. Reviewed and acted to recommend to the Commission for adoption an amendment to the regional water quality management plan pertaining to planned sanitary sewer service areas in the Villages of Caledonia and Mt. Pleasant. That amendment, scheduled for action later in this meeting, involves a significant expansion of the Greater Racine planned sanitary sewer service area to include certain lands located along the IH 94 corridor. The amendment also refines the boundaries of the previously adopted sewer service area in the Village of Caledonia to reflect the results of a neighborhood planning process carried out over a period of several years in that Village. The net effect of all the proposed changes would be to increase the size of the Racine sewer service area by 8.7 square miles,

or 13 percent. The proposed amendment was found to be consistent with local land use planning conducted by the Villages of Mt. Pleasant and Caledonia, with the overall end-result found to be consistent with the adopted regional land use plan.

3. Reviewed and acted to recommend to the Commission for adoption an amendment to the regional water quality management plan pertaining to the sanitary sewer service area for the Greater Kenosha area. That amendment, scheduled for action later in this meeting, involves the addition of about 542 acres of land in the Town of Bristol and Village of Pleasant Prairie to the Kenosha planned sewer service area. The lands in question lie west of IH 94 and south of CTH C and are intended to be developed for business park and related uses. The proposed amendment was found to be consistent with the intergovernmental agreements that exist between the Town of Bristol, the Village of Pleasant Prairie, and the City of Kenosha. Moreover, the proposed amendment was found to be consistent with the adopted regional land use plan.
4. Reviewed a possible amendment to the regional water quality management plan pertaining to the sanitary sewer service area for the City of Elkhorn. The requested amendment would expand the presently adopted Elkhorn sewer service area by about 10 acres to accommodate the development of a new church. The amendment was recommended to the Commission for adoption subject to the Commission receiving a report today on the results of a public hearing concerning this matter and on any action taken by the governing board of the Walworth County Metropolitan Sewerage District which is the wastewater treatment agency involved in this instance.
5. Received a progress report relative to a potential amendment to the Village of Genoa City sanitary sewer service area. This particular amendment had been sent back to staff for further work in November 2005. Following failure by the Village of Genoa City and Town of Bloomfield to reach agreement on a division line between the Genoa City planned sanitary sewer service area and the Pell Lake Sanitary District planned sanitary sewer service area, the Commission staff has concluded its analysis of the merits of the issue and has set forth a course of action that is intended to resolve this matter in time for the Commission to take action at its September 2007 Quarterly meeting.
6. Reviewed and approved for publication Chapter 10 of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 50, **A Regional Water Quality Management Plan Update for the Greater Milwaukee Watersheds**. This chapter sets forth information relative to the recommended water quality management plan being prepared to address water quality issues in the watersheds concerned.
7. Reviewed and approved for publication Chapter 6 of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 52, **A Regional Water Supply Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin**. This chapter sets forth information relative to water supply law as applied in the Region.
8. Reviewed and recommended Commission approval of a draft resolution relative to including the Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee commuter rail line in the adopted regional transportation plan. That action is scheduled for later in this meeting.

A brief discussion then ensued. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Dwyer relative to funding issues attendant to the proposed commuter rail service in the Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee corridor, Mr. Schmidt indicated that the Planning and Research Committee had undertaken a substantial discussion relative to those issues, noting in particular that Commissioner Lee Holloway had expressed concerns about transit funding priorities, believing that a dedicated funding source for the bus transit systems in the Region should come before securing funds for the proposed new commuter rail service. Mr. Evenson indicated that the KRM funding issues will be brought up later in the meeting in a presentation to the Commission by Mr. Yunker.

Following that brief discussion, on a motion by Mr. Stroik, seconded by Ms. Greene, and carried unanimously, the Planning and Research Committee report was approved.

Administrative Committee

Noting that the Administrative Committee had met three times since the Commission Quarterly meeting on March 7, 2007, Committee Chairman Stroik reported the following items:

On March 29, 2007, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved the Commission disbursements for three financial reporting periods: Year 2006 Nos. 4, 5, and 6, extending over the period February 5, 2007, to March 18, 2007.
2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending March 18, 2007. With nearly one-fourth of the year completed, the projections indicated a year end surplus of about \$215,000.
3. Reviewed and approved the 2006 Audit Report prepared by certified public accountants from the firm David L. Scrima, S.C. The Audit Report indicated that the Commission had a year end fund equity balance of about \$2.56 million. This amount compares with a fund equity balance of \$2.42 million at the end of 2005 after discounting \$300,000 irrevocably transferred early in 2006 to the trustee for the Rockwood Drive building bonds. Consequently, the Commission completed the year 2006 with a surplus of about \$140,000. The auditors found no material weaknesses in the Commission's internal fiscal control procedures.
4. Received a staff report that the Commission likely will receive a more favorable "experience modification" factor relative to claims involving workers compensation this past year. That change should result in a reduction in the insurance renewal premium this coming July.

On April 26, 2007, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved the Commission disbursements for two financial reporting periods: Year 2007 Nos. 7 and 8, extending over the period March 19 to April 15, 2007.
2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending April 15, 2007. With about 30 percent of the year completed, the projections indicated a year end surplus of about \$198,000.
3. Received a report that the final \$360,000 in funds required to retire, in March 2011, the then remaining bonds on the Rockwood Drive building acquisition project had been transmitted to the bond trustee. Accordingly, the Reserve Account established by the Commission for this intended purpose has been eliminated.

On May 24, 2007, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved the Commission disbursements for two financial reporting periods: Year 2007 Nos. 9 and 10, extending over the period April 16 to May 13, 2007.
2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending May 13, 2007. With about 40 percent of the year completed, the projections indicated a year end surplus of about \$195,000.

3. Authorized the Commission staff to retain the certified public accounting firm of David L. Scrima, S.C., to conduct the audit of the Commission's calendar year 2007 operations. That firm continues to deliver quality services in a timely way at a low cost.
4. Reviewed and approved a series of budget assumptions for calendar year 2008 proposed by the Commission staff. A budget based upon those assumptions will be considered later in the meeting today.
5. Began a comprehensive review of the Commission Personnel Regulations. The Commission staff was directed to compile a comparative analysis of key personnel benefits and practices by surveying the seven counties in the Region, the State of Wisconsin, and selected planning, engineering, and architectural design firms.
6. Authorized the Commission staff to acquire up to three defibrillators for deployment in the Rockwood Drive building and to undertake a staff training program relative thereto.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Holden, and carried unanimously, the Administrative Committee report was approved.

Executive Committee

Noting that the Executive Committee had met three times since the Commission Quarterly meeting on March 7, 2007, Chairman Buestrin reported the following items:

On March 29, 2007, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Received and approved a report from the Administrative Committee relative to its meeting that day.
2. Reviewed and approved three contracts for planning and related work. The details pertaining to these contracts are set forth in a table included with the agenda for this meeting.
3. Recommended approval of two applications for Federal grants or loans as being in conformance or not in conflict with the regional plans prepared by the Commission. The details pertaining to those applications are set forth in a table also included with the agenda for this meeting.
4. Created an Intergovernmental Coordinating and Advisory Committee on Transportation System Planning and Programming for the Wisconsin portion of the Round Lake Beach-McHenry-Grayslake, Illinois Urbanized Area. This area consists of portions of western Kenosha County. The Committee is made up of the chief elected officials of the local governments concerned, together with Federal and State agency representatives.
5. Appointed individuals to serve on a 15-member Environmental Justice Task Force. Commissioner Adelene Greene has agreed to serve on and Chair that Task Force which will work for two years on a trial basis. The Task Force will be asked to review the Commission's outreach program to minority and other communities, and to identify ways to improve that program and get greater feedback from individuals in these communities. The Task Force will also be briefed on emerging regional plan elements and asked to review and comment on those matters as well. The Task Force is expected to start work about mid-year.
6. Authorized the staff to proceed with a strategic review of the Commission's set of long-standing recommendations that have resulted in a control survey network being put in place over the entire

Region. That network serves as a sound basis for the conduct of land and engineering surveys. The network also provides the foundation for the creation of parcel-based land and public works information systems. The effort will involve a critical review of the status and continued utility of the network and of the Commission's role in the perpetuation of the network. The review will include an assessment of the impact on that network of major changes in survey technology. The proposal involves the engagement of a consulting geodetic engineer to staff the review.

On April 26, 2007, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Received and approved a report from the Administrative Committee relative to its meeting that day.
2. Reviewed and approved seven contracts for planning and related work. The details pertaining to these contracts are set forth in a table included with the agenda for this meeting.
3. Recommended approval of seven applications for Federal grants or loans as being in conformance or not in conflict with the regional plans prepared by the Commission. The details pertaining to those applications are set forth in a table also included with the agenda for this meeting.
4. Created a Technical Advisory Committee to oversee the review of the Regional Control Survey Program. That Committee is made up predominately of civil engineers and registered land surveyors. The Committee will be Chaired by the Commission's Executive Director Emeritus, Dr. Kurt W. Bauer, who is both a registered professional civil engineer and a registered land surveyor.
5. Received a report that the Walworth County Board has asked the Commission to prepare a redistricting plan for 11 supervisory districts for the County. The reduction from 25 supervisory districts at present to 11 such districts was made by the electorate at the April 3, 2007, election. The work will be done by the Commission's Executive Director, with support from personnel in the Land Use Planning and Geographic Information Systems Divisions.
6. Received a letter dated March 15, 2007, from Karl J. Ostby, Chair of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Transit Authority. That Authority, which serves Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine Counties, has formally indicated that it desires to sponsor commuter rail service in the Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee corridor. In accordance with the procedures laid out in the adopted regional transportation plan, the RTA Board requests Commission inclusion of the commuter rail service in the adopted plan.
7. Received a letter dated April 20, 2007, from the Wisconsin Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association, Inc. That letter sets forth an objection by that Association to the Commission's recommendation, set forth in the adopted regional water quality management plan, that relatively large onsite sewage disposal systems serving multiple landowners be publicly owned and operated. The letter is a direct result of a position taken by the Commission staff last year relative to a proposed large onsite disposal system intended to serve a 120-unit urban residential subdivision called Reflections Village and located in the Town of Richfield.

On May 24, 2007, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Received and approved a report from the Administrative Committee relative to its meeting that day.
2. Reviewed and approved two contracts for planning and related work. The details pertaining to these contracts are also set forth in a table included with the agenda for this meeting.

3. Recommended approval of nine applications for Federal grants or loans as being in conformance or not in conflict with the regional plans prepared by the Commission. The details pertaining to those applications are also set forth in a table included with the agenda for this meeting.
4. Approved 14 amendments to the 2007-2010 Regional Transportation Improvement Program, including budget adjustments to six projects already in the program and eight new projects. These projects relate to both highway and transit activities at various locations in the Region. The 14 amendments had previously been approved by the Commission's Advisory Committees concerning these matters, those Committees finding that all of the projects were consistent with the adopted regional transportation plan.

There being no discussion, on a motion by Mr. Dwyer seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously, the Executive Committee report was approved.

ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO REGIONAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Village of Twin Lakes Sewer Service Area (Resolution No. 2007-08)

Chairman Buestrin asked the Commission to consider Resolution No. 2007-08, noting that the Resolution would revise the Village of Twin Lakes sewer service area. He asked Mr. Schmidt to present the resolution.

Mr. Schmidt noted that all Commissioners had received for review prior to the meeting a copy of Resolution No. 2007-08, together with a copy of a SEWRPC staff memorandum dated June 2007. He recalled that the proposed amendment had been reviewed by the Planning and Research Committee at a meeting held on June 7, 2007, and was recommended for adoption by the Commission.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Ms. Greene, and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 2007-08 was approved (copy of Resolution No. 2007-08) attached to Official Minutes).

Villages of Caledonia and Mt. Pleasant Sewer Service Area Plan (Resolution No. 2007-09)

Chairman Buestrin asked the Commission to consider Resolution No. 2007-09, noting that the Resolution would revise the Villages of Caledonia and Mt. Pleasant portions of the Racine sewer service area plan. He asked Mr. Schmidt to present the resolution.

Mr. Schmidt noted that all Commissioners had received for review prior to the meeting a copy of Resolution No. 2007-09, together with a copy of a SEWRPC staff memorandum dated June 2007 documenting the proposed amendment. He recalled that the proposed amendment had been reviewed by the Planning and Research Committee at its meeting held on June 7, 2007, and was recommended for adoption by the Committee.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 2007-09 was approved (copy of Resolution No. 2007-09 attached to Official Minutes).

Greater Kenosha Sewer Service Area Plan (Resolution No. 2007-10)

Chairman Buestrin asked the Commission to consider Resolution No. 2007-10, noting that the Resolution would revise the Greater Kenosha sewer service area plan. He asked Mr. Schmidt to present the resolution.

Mr. Schmidt noted that all Commissioners had received for review prior to the meeting a copy of Resolution No. 2007-10, together with a copy of a SEWRPC staff memorandum dated June 2007 documenting the proposed amendment. He recalled that the proposed amendment had been reviewed by the Planning and Research Committee at its meeting held on June 7, 2007, and was recommended for adoption by the Committee.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Ms. Faraone, and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 2007-10 was approved (copy of Resolution No. 2007-04 attached to Official Minutes).

City of Elkhorn Sewer Service Area Plan (Resolution No. 2007-11)

Chairman Buestrin asked the Commission to consider Resolution No. 2007-11, noting that the Resolution would revise the City of Elkhorn sewer service area plan. He asked Mr. Schmidt to present the resolution.

Mr. Schmidt noted that all Commissioners had received for review prior to the meeting a copy of Resolution No. 2007-11, together with a copy of a SEWRPC staff memorandum dated June 2007 documenting the proposed amendment. He recalled that the proposed amendment had been reviewed by the Planning and Research Committee at its meeting held on June 7, 2007, and was recommended for adoption by the Committee subject to receiving a report from staff relative to the public hearing and local action on this matter. Mr. Evenson indicated that a public hearing was held on June 12, 2007, by the Walworth County Metropolitan Sewerage District (WalCoMet) on the proposed amendment. There were no adverse comments recorded at the hearing. Following the hearing, the WalCoMet Board approved the proposed plan amendment.

Following a comment by Mr. Morrison that the Walworth County Land Conservation Committee had similarly endorsed the proposed amendment at its meeting on June 18, 2007, on a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Morrison, and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 2007-11 was approved (copy of Resolution No. 2007-11 attached to Official Minutes).

CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF AMENDMENT TO DESIGN YEAR 2035 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN TO INCLUDE THE KENOSHA-RACINE-MILWAUKEE COMMUTER RAIL LINE

Chairman Buestrin noted that the next item of business was consideration of Resolution 2007-12, noting that the Resolution would amend the adopted design year 2035 regional transportation plan to include the Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee commuter rail line. He asked Mr. Yunker to present a briefing to the Commission.

With the aid of a slide presentation (copy attached to Official Minutes), Mr. Yunker then briefed the Commission on the recommended amendment. He reviewed the background activities that led up to the proposed plan amendment, the results of the alternatives analysis undertaken relative to the provision of improved transit services in the corridor, and the conclusions reached by the Steering Committee representing the Intergovernmental Partnership that sponsored the work effort as well as the position of the three-county Regional Transit Authority. Mr. Yunker also briefed the Commission on the activities of the RTA since its creation early in 2006. Mr. Evenson noted that while the RTA Board has taken a position relative to the source of local funding for the commuter rail service, adoption of the proposed plan amendment by the Commission would not mean that the Commission necessarily supports the position of the RTA Board as to a local funding source.

Following Mr. Yunker's presentation, Chairman Buestrin asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the proposed amendment to the regional transportation plan. In response to an inquiry by Mr.

Dwyer, Mr. Yunker confirmed that in order for the proposed KRM commuter rail service to be eligible for Federal funding, that service needs to be explicitly recommended for implementation in the adopted regional transportation plan, and that such service need not be explicitly identified in any county plan. In response to a follow up inquiry by Mr. Dwyer relative to the way in which the proposed KRM commuter rail service might compete for Federal funds with other transportation projects, Mr. Yunker indicated that the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Transit Authority would first be seeking a Federal Transit Capital Discretionary Grant under the "new starts" program, and that there is presently no other proposal from southeastern Wisconsin for such funding; that the KRM service would likely compete for Federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds with other transportation projects, including a Kenosha streetcar project, but that transit represents the highest priority use of such funds; that the KRM service once established would be eligible for Federal commuter rail annual grants not presently made available in Wisconsin; and that, with respect to State funding sources, State law presently makes commuter rail services available for State funding but that it is widely recognized that the Governor and State Legislature will have to make available additional monies in order not to reduce available funds to existing bus transit operations. In response to another question by Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Yunker indicated that while Kenosha County is classified by the U.S. Census Bureau as part of a multi-county consolidated statistical area focused on Chicago and not Milwaukee, Kenosha itself is classified as its own urbanized area and, as such, is not directly linked with Federal transit funds that flow to either the Chicago or Milwaukee urbanized areas.

Referring to page 32 of the presentation materials, Ms. Greene inquired as to whether the list of transit systems on that exhibit includes all commuter rail systems in the nation. In response, Mr. Yunker indicated that the list was not meant to be exhaustive in nature, but rather to be representative of metropolitan areas both larger and smaller than Milwaukee, indicating how public transit systems are funded in those areas. In response to a request by Mr. Vrakas, Mr. Yunker indicated that he would provide directly to him following the meeting, more detailed information relative to the funding requests made by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Transit Authority that were mentioned in his presentation.

Mr. Hansen indicated that in his discussions with the chief officials who manage major business operations in the Racine area, there is unanimous agreement that the KRM commuter rail service will fill a real need and make a very positive contribution to the development and vitality of the Racine business community. It is, he said, becoming more and more difficult for Racine area businesses to attract highly qualified, but scarce, talent without providing reliable public transit services to enable families with more than one breadwinner to access businesses in the Chicago-Milwaukee corridor without an automobile. Racine area business leaders, he said, are becoming increasingly frustrated at how long it is taking government to come together on this important issue. Mr. Pitts seconded Mr. Hansen's comments, noting that the Kenosha County Executive had recently sponsored a Kenosha area economic summit and that the proposed KRM commuter rail service was strongly supported in that summit meeting. Ms. Faraone indicated that she agreed with the observations by Commissioners Hansen and Pitts, and reported that the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors unanimously supported a resolution the prior evening that indicated its full support for the efforts of the Regional Transit Authority to fund and operate the service.

At the end of the discussion, on a motion by Mr. Pitts, seconded by Ms. Greenfield, and carried unanimously, Resolution 2007-12 was approved adopting the amendment to the design year 2035 regional transportation plan to include the KRM commuter rail line (copy of Resolution 2007-12 attached to Official Minutes).

CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF BUDGET FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2008

Chairman Buestrin noted that copies of the proposed Commission budget for calendar year 2008 had been provided to all Commissioners for review prior to the meeting, and asked the Commission to consider adoption of that budget. He then asked Mr. Evenson to briefly present the proposed budget.

Mr. Evenson then led the Commissioners through the proposed budget document, noting that the assumptions underlying the budget had been presented to and approved by the Commission's Administrative Committee at its May monthly meeting. He called attention, in particular, to the following major items:

1. As shown on Tables 1 and 2, the proposed year 2008 operating budget calls for a total revenue and expenditure level of about \$6.91 million. This represents a decrease of about \$370,000, or five percent, from the 2007 adopted budget level of about \$7.28 million.
2. A number of important expenditure assumptions are reflected in Table 3. These assumptions include a staffing level of 67 full-time positions, eight fewer than in 2007; salary adjustments at an average of about 3 percent; an assumed 10 percent increase in health insurance costs, coupled with an increase in employee cost share of monthly premiums from 19 percent to 20 percent; an assumed increase of 0.2 percent in the Wisconsin Retirement System contribution rate; and a continued strong commitment to part-time staffing arrangements. In addition, consultant fees are expected to be somewhat reduced. Other adjustments in expenditure categories on Table 3 have been made to reflect ongoing expenditure patterns.

[Secretary's Note: Since the June 20, 2007, Annual meeting, the Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds has announced that there will be no increases in the Wisconsin Retirement System contribution rates in 2008.]

3. As reflected in Table 4, Federal and State revenues are expected to be frozen at the 2007 budget levels. Overall, service agreement revenues are expected to decline by about 19 percent, reflecting the completion of major contract work programs in the land use, water quality, and water supply program areas. Rental income from the tenant in the Rockwood Drive building will increase by about three percent based upon lease arrangements.
4. The proposed budget would hold constant the Commission's regional tax levy at \$2.37 million. The portion of the regional tax base growth which may be attributed to new construction increased last year by about three percent. Accordingly, holding the tax levy constant translates to a real reduction in the property tax burden throughout the Region for regional planning. Owing to the changing distribution in the equalized value in the Region among the counties, the allocation of the regional tax levy to the counties will change. As shown in Table 15, Kenosha, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha Counties will be asked to contribute less, while Milwaukee, Racine, and Walworth Counties will be asked to contribute more. The property tax rate under the proposed budget would be reduced to 0.00133 percent of the Region's equalized valuation, less than one-half of the authorized rate under Wisconsin law of 0.003 percent of that valuation.
5. Tables 5 through 14 of the budget document pertinent information relative to the anticipated program budgets in each of the Commission's functional planning areas. More detail with respect to budget allocation will follow later in the year when the Commission's 2008 Overall Work Program document is produced.

After a few brief comments, on a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Vrakas, and carried unanimously, the Commission's proposed 2008 operating budget was approved, and the Chairman was authorized to transmit the appropriate tax levy requests to the seven constituent counties (copy of 2008 operating budget attached to Official Minutes).

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Evenson reported that he had placed on each Commissioner's desk today a letter received this spring from the Land Trust of Walworth County. That letter complimented Dr. Lawrence Leitner of the Commission staff for a presentation on the Commission's work relative to natural area preservation.

Mr. Wirth announced that during a recent meeting with Chief David Berousek of the Northshore Fire Department, the topic of communications inter-operability had come up as had the topic of intersection traffic control for emergency vehicles. Chief Berousek had indicated that he was willing to help the Commission in any way possible to address these issues on a regional basis. In response, Mr. Evenson agreed that these were directions that the Commission should move into in the coming year.

CONFIRMATION OF DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF SEPTEMBER QUARTERLY MEETING

Chairman Buestrin reminded everyone that the next meeting of the Commission has been scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 12, 2007, in Waukesha County.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, on a motion by Ms. Greene, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Evenson
Deputy Secretary

PCE/lw
Attachments
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