

Attachment 4

SEWRPC Environmental Justice Task Force

To: Gary Korb, Regional Planning Educator
UW-Extension working with SEWRPC

From: George F. Sanders

Re: SEWRPC ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

For July 29, 2008 meeting
HeartLove Place, Inc.
3229 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Subject: Public Comments

SEWRPC Affirmative Action Plan and Related Matters

Most important in any Affirmative Action Plan is how an agency assesses its capacity to activate goals and timetable objectives. Agency composition, or its selection process, while important, ought to be more carefully approached less intended objectives are difficult.

Helpful objectives samples and strategies related to SEWRPC's advisory role are readily available.

For example, a minority disparity approach may be inappropriate for Janesville yet helpful for Milwaukee, for one may easily observe that in Milwaukee, while training programs have been in existence for more than 20 years, it appears that the local building and construction industry which involves labor and subcontracting -- have less than minimal participation with a minority workforce..

This is in stark contrast with the existing high minority unemployment levels while the overall workplace is enjoying the most lucrative year in its history.

SEWRPC Regional Housing Study

It might be useful in the housing study to observe what local, state and federal funds are available for replacement housing, including where properties and large tracts of blighted real estate can qualify for Brownfield Cleanup programs to improve the capacity for both housing and commercial improvements

Citizens across the five counties might be provided with periodic reviews and the status of 32.26 (6), of the Wisconsin statute relative to its eminent domain policies, where the program has been recently employed, and when applicable to local area properties throughout the region.

SEWRPC Regional Water Supply Study

Citizens might also be provided with regular information about the condition of the water supply. This information can be incorporated with data about other city, county, state and federal decision-making processes. This may include the allocation, and distribution of federal funds, such as disaster relief, criminal justice related, block grants, education, health, criminal justice and economic development.

Smaller municipalities may not be fully aware of the Non-entitlement State CDBG program which has replaced the Small Cities program,

Of possible interest

Residents might appreciate reactions from city, county and state sources about why the State Department of Transportation's Marquette Interchange Project goals were not met. It may be of interest as to what steps will be employed for upcoming projects.

Technology and communications innovations may designate a need to review the capacity for smaller local governments with limited resources to receive quicker responses and updates about state and federal criteria needed for programs and assistance.

(I will be glad to elaborate on this comments if requested – Thank you for reading them. GFS)

#138594 v1 - EJTF Minutes - Mtg 5 - 7/29/08 - Attachment 4