

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

PLANNING AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

June 2, 2009

1:30 p.m.

SEWRPC Office Building
Commissioners' Conference Room
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
Waukesha, Wisconsin

Present:

Excused:

Committee Members:

Daniel S. Schmidt, Chairman
Gregory L. Holden, Vice-Chairman
William E. Johnson
John M. Jung
Mary A. Kacmarcik
Robert W. Pitts
Nancy Russell
David L. Stroik
Paul G. Vrakas
John F. Weishan, Jr.
(representing Lee Holloway)

Anita M. Faraone
Susan S. Greenfield
Michael J. Miklasevich
Anselmo Villarreal

Staff:

Kenneth R. Yunker	Executive Director
Lynn Heis	Staff Secretary

ROLL CALL

Chairman Schmidt called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared present. Mr. Yunker noted for the record that Commissioners Faraone, Greenfield, Miklasevich and Villarreal had asked to be excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF FEBRUARY 10, 2009

On a motion by Ms. Russell, seconded by Mr. Stroik, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the meeting of February 10, 2009, were approved as published.

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE REGIONAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Sewer Service Area Plan for the Village of Caledonia

Chairman Schmidt asked Mr. Yunker to review with the Committee a proposed amendment to the adopted regional water quality management plan pertaining to the sanitary sewer service area for the Village of Caledonia. A copy of the preliminary draft of a SEWRPC Staff Memorandum dated June 2009 concerning this matter had been provided to the Committee members for review prior to the meeting.

Mr. Yunker indicated that by letter dated March 10, 2009, the Village of Caledonia requested that the Commission amend the Caledonia sanitary sewer service area tributary to the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD). That area is currently documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 147 (2nd Edition), *Sanitary Sewer Service Area for the City of Racine and Environs, Racine and Kenosha Counties, Wisconsin*, dated June 2003, as amended. The purpose of the amendment would be to include within the planned sewer service area certain lands located in the northeastern portion of the Village.

Mr. Yunker explained that the current Caledonia-MMSD sewer service area consists of the Caddy Vista area located in the north central area of the Village. Directing the attention of the Committee members to Map 1, he indicated that the proposed amendment would add certain lands owned by WE Energies in the northeastern area of the Village to the Caledonia-MMSD service area. The subject area encompasses 139 acres and has been substantially developed for utility-related uses. About 19 acres of the site consists of environmentally significant lands. Sewers on the subject site would connect with a private sewer on WE Energies property to the north, which, in turn, connects with City of Oak Creek sewers tributary to MMSD. The flow from the subject area is expected to be small—about 2,600 gallons per day. Mr. Yunker noted that the flow rate indicated in the preliminary draft—7,200 gallons per day—would be changed to 2,600 gallons per day in the final report, based upon information provided by the Village engineer at the hearing.

Mr. Yunker indicated that the Oak Creek Water and Sewer Commission and the Racine Wastewater Commission have both indicated their support for the proposed amendment. He noted that the proposal was taken to a public hearing on May 12, 2009, and that there were no objections to the proposal at the hearing. The amendment was approved by the Village Board on May 19, 2009. Mr. Yunker indicated that the Commission staff recommends approval of the proposed amendment as it is consistent with the regional plans.

A brief discussion then ensued. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Stroik, Mr. Yunker explained that, for purposes of sewer service area plans, the term “environmentally significant lands” includes areas that have been identified as environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, as well small wetlands located outside the environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. Mr. Yunker then explained the concept of environmental corridors, noting that the concept originated from the work of UW-Madison Professor Phil Lewis and was adopted by the Regional Planning Commission in the 1960’s as a key component of the regional plan. Environmental corridors are elongated areas in the landscape that contain concentrations of wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitat, and other natural resource features. The corridors have been identified through the application of a system that assigns point values to individual resource features. Environmental corridors are classified as primary or secondary based upon their size, length, and width—primary corridors being larger, longer, and wider than secondary corridors. Mr. Yunker explained that isolated natural resource areas consist of smaller pockets of resource features, meeting a minimum size criterion that are separated from the environmental corridors. He noted that under Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) sewer extension policies, primary environmental corridors are substantially protected from sewered development. Under DNR policies, upland secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas may generally be developed for urban use served by

sanitary sewers, at the discretion of the concerned local government. The Commission recommends their preservation.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Kacmarcik, Mr. Yunker responded that, if a sewer line has to be routed through a primary environmental corridor, the design should minimize disturbance of the resources, and following construction the resources features should be restored insofar as possible. Mr. Yunker further stated that the DNR is responsible for the regulation of sanitary sewer extensions. The DNR relies on the Regional Planning Commission to review proposed sewer extensions to ensure compliance with the regional water quality management plan, including the provisions of the plan pertaining to the protection of environmentally significant areas.

In a response to a question from Mr. Jung, Mr. Yunker stated that WE Energies requested the addition to the sewer service area to enable a new utility building with bathroom facilities to be connected to sanitary sewers. He added that year 2008 aerial photography shows that the balance of the subject site is substantially occupied by railway facilities, electric utility facilities, and a coal storage area.

Following that brief discussion, on a motion by Mr. Vrakas, seconded by Ms Kacmarcik, and carried unanimously, the SEWRPC Staff Memorandum dated June 2009 was approved and recommended to the Commission for adoption.

Sewer Service Area Plan for the Village of Germantown

Chairman Schmidt asked Mr. Yunker to review with the Committee a proposed amendment to the adopted regional water quality management plan pertaining to the sanitary sewer service area for the Village of Germantown. A copy of the preliminary draft of a SEWRPC Staff Memorandum dated June 2009 concerning this matter had been provided to the Committee members for review prior to the meeting.

Mr. Yunker indicated that by letter dated January 10, 2009, the Village of Germantown requested that the Commission amend the Germantown sewer service area. That area is currently documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 70, *Sanitary Sewer Service Area for the Village of Germantown, Washington County, Wisconsin*, dated July 1983, as amended. The purpose of the amendment would be to include within the planned sewer service area certain lands located immediately adjacent to, but outside, the currently adopted sewer service area.

Directing the attention of the Committee members to Map 1, Mr. Yunker noted that two areas are proposed to be added to the sewer service area. Generally located between Mequon Road and Freistadt Road, and west of Country Aire Drive, the two areas encompass 31 acres, including 30 acres of agricultural land and one acre of environmentally significant land. The developable portion of the subject area is anticipated to be developed for residential use, accommodating about 45 housing units. Mr. Yunker characterized the amendment as a relatively minor one, noting that it would increase the size of the sewer service area by less than 1 percent and result in less than a 1 percent increase in the service area population. He added that the MMSD year 2020 facilities plan provides capacity for the subject area.

Mr. Yunker stated that the proposal was taken to public hearing on May 4, 2009, and that there were no objections to the proposal at the hearing. The amendment was approved by the Village Board following the hearing. Mr. Yunker indicated that the Commission staff recommends approval of the proposed amendment as consistent with the regional plans.

Following a brief discussion, on a motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Holden and carried unanimously, the SEWRPC Staff Memorandum dated June 2009 was approved and recommended to the Commission for adoption.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Yunker indicated that there was no correspondence to be brought to the attention of the Committee.

Mr. Yunker noted that the Commission's Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF) had requested that a member of the Task Force serve on each of the Commission's Advisory Committees. Mr. Yunker stated that the purpose of the EJTF is to further facilitate the involvement of low income, minority and disabled individuals in the Commission's planning and to help advise on the impact of the Commission regional plans on minority, low income and disabled populations. Mr. Yunker stated that as new committees are considered for appointment by the Commission, the staff would be recommending a member of the Task Force to serve on each committee. He noted that two members of the Task Force serve on the recently appointed Advisory Committee on Regional Housing Planning. Mr. Yunker stated that the staff would propose that a member of the Task Force be added to each of the Commission's Advisory Committees on regional planning efforts, as updates of those plans are initiated. This could begin with the reevaluation of regional land use and transportation plans following the year 2010 census. The purpose would be to help inform the Task Force of the Commission planning efforts, and further facilitate the involvement of low income, minority and disabled individuals in the Commission's planning. Mr. Yunker noted that for those Advisory Committees which are established on a population-proportional basis, the member of the EJTF on the committee would be a non-voting member. Committee discussion of this suggestion expressed support, but concern was expressed with respect to the size of some existing Advisory Committees and the need to limit membership. Mr. Yunker stated that the reason for adding a member of the EJTF would be to make special efforts in planning to address minority and low income populations.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Johnson, Mr. Yunker stated that the Regional Housing Study has been initiated. Public meetings on the scope of the study are currently being held. The Advisory Committee to the Housing Study has discussed and approved the scope of work. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Vrakas, Mr. Yunker stated that the Commission first prepared a regional housing plan in 1975. The Commission then conducted an ongoing housing planning program of monitoring and promoting implementation of the plan. This program was eliminated in 1981 with the elimination of Federal housing planning funds. The Commission then attempted to continue the program using, in part, its Federal and State funds for land use and transportation planning, but this was not approved by Federal and State agencies. In recent years the Commission has reopened these requests of the Federal and State transportation agencies and received their approval.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on a motion by Mr. Holden, seconded by Mr. Stroik, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth R. Yunker
Deputy Secretary

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