

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

PLANNING AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

August 18, 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
Anita M. Faraone
Susan S. Greenfield
Gregory L. Holden, Vice-Chairman
William E. Johnson
John M. Jung
Robert W. Pitts
Nancy Russell
David L. Stroik
Paul G. Vrakas
John F. Weishan, Jr.

Brian Dranzik
Mary A. Kacmarcik
Michael J. Miklasevich
Anselmo Villarreal

Staff:

Kenneth R. Yunker	Executive Director
Elizabeth Larsen	Business Manager
Robert P. Biebel	Special Projects Environmental Engineer
Debra D'Amico	Executive Secretary

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUNE 2, 2009

On a motion by Mr. Pitts, seconded by Mr. Stroik, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the meeting of June 2, 2009, were approved as published.

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO THE REGIONAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Sewer Service Area Plan for the Village of Genoa City

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 Genoa City. A copy of the preliminary draft of a SEWRPC Staff Memorandum dated September 2009 concerning this matter had been provided to the Committee members for review prior to the meeting.

Mr. Yunker indicated that by letter dated July 8, 2009, the Village of Genoa City requested that the Commission amend the Village of Genoa City sanitary sewer service area. That area is currently documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 175 (2nd Edition), *Sanitary Sewer Service Area for the Village of Genoa City, Kenosha and Walworth Counties, Wisconsin*, dated May 1996, as amended. The purpose of this amendment would be to include within the planned Genoa City sewer service area certain lands located immediately adjacent to, but outside, the currently adopted sewer service area.

Mr. Yunker directed the attention of the Committee members to Map 1 of the memorandum document, indicating that the proposed amendment involves the addition of a 21-acre parcel located immediately south of the Village of Genoa City in the Town of Richmond, Illinois. He noted that Map 2, an aerial photo, shows a closer view of the planned sanitary sewer service area parcel in the Town of Richmond. The parcel includes the John Sterling Corporation, a manufacturer of household hardware products. The parcel includes a three-acre portion of an isolated natural resource area that is located to the east of the Sterling Corporation plant. That plant currently relies on an onsite wastewater treatment system for treatment of its domestic wastewater. The Sterling Corporation would discharge domestic-type wastewater—not industrial process wastewater—to the Genoa City sewage treatment plant. Mr. Yunker noted that the Genoa City sewage treatment plant has ample capacity for the modest additional—500 gallons per day—flow expected from the Sterling Corporation.

Mr. Yunker noted that the proposed sewer service area amendment was the subject of a public hearing held on August 13, 2009. No opposition to the proposed amendment was expressed at the hearing. Following the hearing, the Genoa City Village Board approved the amendment.

Mr. Yunker noted that, while three sewer service areas—Hartford, Oconomowoc, and Whitewater—extend beyond the Region, this would be the first to extend into Illinois. He noted that the Town of Richmond, Illinois, has been notified of the proposed amendment and that the staff is not aware of any opposition from the Town.

Mr. Yunker stated that the abandonment of the existing onsite sewage disposal system could be expected to eliminate the pollutant loadings from the onsite system to groundwater. He then indicated the Commission staff recommends approval of the proposed amendment as consistent with the regional plans.

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

CONSIDERATION OF SEWRPC PLANNING REPORT NO. 52, A REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN, CHAPTER 10

Pages 1 through 18 of Chapter 10, “Recommended Water Supply Plan” of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 52 A Regional Water Supply Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin. (copy of Chapter 10 attached to Official Minutes)

Mr. Yunker noted that the Advisory Committee to the Commission on regional water supply planning continues to review materials being developed to document the forthcoming regional water supply plan, and that the materials for review now included the initial portion of Chapter 10, pages 1 through 18, “Recommended Water Supply Plan,” of the forthcoming planning effort. He then called upon Mr. Robert P. Biebel of the Commission staff to review with members of the Committee material included in this initial section of Chapter 10. Mr. Biebel then delivered a presentation attendant to that chapter section, which presents the public comments received on the preliminary plan and the staff and Advisory Committee response to each comment.

During Mr. Biebel’s presentation, the following questions and comments were made and addressed relating to the materials presented:

1. Ms. Greenfield commented that she has received phone calls from Village of Caledonia citizens regarding the regional water supply plan. She indicated the Village completed a lengthy local planning process and wants to ensure the water supply plan is consistent with the Village’s neighborhood plans and sewer service area plan. Ms. Greenfield suggested that Commission staff should check the adopted Village’s plans on the Village website and, if needed, contact local officials in Caledonia regarding the coordination of the Village’s plans and the proposed regional water supply plan. Mr. Biebel assured Ms. Greenfield that it was intended that the regional water supply plan be consistent with the Village of Caledonia’s plans; however, he indicated that the staff would check to verify that there was such consistency.

[Secretary’s Note: The staff reviewed the ongoing Racine County comprehensive plan (SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 301, *A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035*, in preparation), and the City of Racine and Village of Caledonia latest sewer service area plan (*Amendment to the Regional Water Quality Management Plan, Village of Caledonia*, June 2009). Based upon that review, the boundaries of the Village of Caledonia water supply service area have been amended to include areas lying along and west one mile of IH 94 in order to be consistent with the current plans. The revised water supply service area is shown on the map attached hereto as Exhibit A.]

2. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Weishan, Mr. Biebel stated that the regional water supply plan is intended to be consistent with the Great Lakes Compact. He noted, however, that there was more detailed information which needed to be developed by local plan implementation agencies to support any diversion applications. He also stated the plan has demonstrated that Waukesha water supplies can be sustained by using groundwater sources, if necessary. Mr. Yunker added that the analysis showed that Waukesha water service public costs would be less utilizing groundwater supplies. However, the increased cost of the Lake Michigan supply would be offset because of eliminating the need for water softeners in the service area.
3. A discussion ensued regarding the public comments on the analysis in the plan of providing potential municipal water service to areas in Kenosha and Walworth Counties now served by private wells. It was

suggested that additional outreach to county and local elected officials, guest newspaper editorials, fact sheets, and targeted information on the website would have helped address this issue.

4. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Vrakas, Mr. Biebel noted that the majority of the water supplied in Waukesha County, is obtained from the deep aquifer; however, a number of the utilities areas in the County and nearly all individual private well owners utilize shallow aquifer wells.
5. Mr. Weishan noted the third full paragraph on page 17. Mr. Biebel stated that the intent of the paragraph was to explain the finding in the regional water supply planning effort that groundwater aquifers were determined to be adequate to serve existing development as well as planned land use development proposed in the year 2035 regional land use plan.

Mr. Weichan suggested, and Mr. Pitts and Ms. Russell agreed, that the paragraph should be revised to more clearly communicate this conclusion. Mr. Yunker stated that the staff would revise this paragraph and provide the revised text to the Committee for review and approval in the minutes of this meeting.

On a motion made by Mr. Pitts, seconded by Chairman Schmidt, and carried unanimously, the Committee approved the text of Pages 1 through 18 of Chapter 10 "Recommended Water Supply Plan" with the aforementioned third full paragraph on Page 17 to be revised.

[Secretary's Note: The third full paragraph on page 17 has been revised to read as follows:

"Analyses conducted in the regional water supply study indicate that the patterns and intensities of development envisioned in the 2035 regional land use plan can be supported in a sustainable manner under the recommended water supply plan. Moreover, the analyses concluded there would be an adequate water supply through the year 2035 from a combination of deep and shallow groundwater aquifers for those communities from outside the Lake Michigan basin proposed under the plan to receive Lake Michigan water, should these communities instead continue to rely on groundwater for water supply. Accordingly, there is no basis for a change in the regional land use plan based upon water supply considerations."]

Appendix L, "Responses to Preliminary Regional Water Supply Plan Review Letters Received Which Warranted Specific Responses," and "Record of Public Comment—Regional Water Supply Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin".

Mr. Biebel briefly described both Appendix L and the Record of Public Comment as detailed support material for the now approved pages 1 through 18 of Chapter 10 of the "Regional Water Supply Plan" for the Committee's information and review.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Schmidt asked Mr. Yunker if there was any correspondence or announcements. Mr. Yunker indicated that there is a Clean Rivers Clean Lake Watershed Planning Conference VI sponsored by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) scheduled for Monday, August 31, 2009, being held at Discovery World at Pier Wisconsin in downtown Milwaukee. He distributed a conference brochure and registration forms and stated that more information was available through www.mmsd.com or www.swwtwater.org.

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(Planning and Research Committee)
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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on a motion by Ms. Faraone, seconded by Ms. Greenfield, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth R. Yunker
Deputy Secretary

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