

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 27, 2014

2:00 p.m.

SEWRPC Office Building
Commissioners' Conference Room
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53187-1607

Present:

Excused:

Committee Members:

David L. Stroik, Chairman
Gilbert B. Bakke
Thomas H. Buestrin
Michael A. Crowley
James T. Dwyer
Adelene Greene
Nancy L. Russell
Daniel S. Schmidt
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

William R. Drew, Vice-Chairman

Staff:

Kenneth R. Yunker	Executive Director
Philip C. Evenson	Acting Director
Elizabeth A. Larsen	Business Manager
Debra A. D'Amico	Executive Secretary

ROLL CALL

Chairman Stroik called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared present. Mr. Evenson noted that Mr. Drew had asked to be excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2014

Chairman Stroik asked if there were any changes or additions to the February 20, 2014, meeting minutes.

On a motion by Mr. Crowley, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on February 20, 2014, were approved as published.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT, MR. DWYER REPORTING

Chairman Dwyer reported that the Administrative Committee, at its meeting held just before the Executive Committee meeting, had taken the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved disbursements for two financial periods: Year 2014 No. 5 and No. 6; extending over the period February 10 to March 9, 2014.
2. Reviewed and approved the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the period ending March 9, 2014.

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

REPORT ON CONTRACTS

Chairman Stroik asked Ms. Larsen to review the proposed contracts, noting that Committee members had received a report with a table listing four contracts prior to the meeting. Ms. Larsen then briefly reviewed those contracts with the Committee.

Noting that the first listed contract was an agreement with Washington County to draft an amendment to its county comprehensive plan to remove all references to secondary environmental corridors, Ms. Russell inquired as to what precipitated such an action. Mr. Evenson indicated that it was likely that this request came about because of developer opposition to local plan recommendations aimed at preserving and protecting such corridor lands. Mr. Yunker noted that for many years the Commission's regional land use plan has explicitly recommended preservation of all primary environmental corridors. Commission plans do provide information about secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. Those plans recommend not only that county and local plans help preserve and protect the regionally significant primary environmental corridors, but also that county and local officials closely examine the secondary corridors and isolated areas for possible preservation in county and local comprehensive plans. In this case, he said, Washington County initially proposed in its plan to identify the secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas for preservation, but the Washington County Board has now reconsidered that decision and has authorized preparation of an amendment to the County comprehensive plan that would reverse its initial position.

A discussion then ensued concerning the wisdom of an action that would effectively write off the importance of the resources found in such corridors and isolated natural resource areas, as well as the efficacy of the Commission staff providing assistance to a local government in so doing. Mr. Yunker noted that this was another case of a local government, which may follow the Commission's recommendations in many respects, choosing in this respect to set aside Commission recommendations. This is to be expected, he said, given that State enabling legislation calls for the Commission recommendations to be strictly advisory in nature. Staff work on this matter, he noted, has been underway for some time in order to meet the deadline set by Washington County.

Following that discussion, and after considering a comment by Ms. Russell, it was moved by Mr. Dwyer and seconded by Mr. Buestrin, to approve the agreement with Washington County in this matter, but in so doing, make it clear that the Commission was in no way removing secondary environmental corridors and isolated

natural resource areas from its regional planning documents nor changing its advice to county and local governments with respect to such lands. The motion carried on a vote of 8 ayes and one nay, with Chairman Stroik voting negative to express his position that Commission staff resources not be used in situations like this one.

Following brief further discussion, on a motion by Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Ms. Greene, and carried unanimously, the remaining three contracts on the report were accepted and the report placed on file (copy of report attached to Official Minutes).

WORK PROGRAM REPORTS

Mr. Evenson reviewed a table entitled, “*Work Program Progress Report.*” He noted that the report shows the progress of key regional and selected community and county assistance efforts under each Commission staff division’s section of the report (copy of report attached to Official Minutes). It is important, he said, that work on the interim update to the 2035 regional transportation plan be completed and ready for Commission consideration at the June annual meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO THE 2013-2016 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (Resolution No. 2014-04)

Mr. Evenson presented Resolution 2014-04, amending the 2013-2016 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He noted the proposed TIP amendment includes 13 amendments to existing projects in five counties; namely, five projects for Milwaukee County, one for Washington County, three for Waukesha County, one for Kenosha County, and three for Racine County. There are also 28 new projects included in this proposed TIP amendment; including ten for Milwaukee County, two for Ozaukee County, two for Washington County, two for Waukesha County, four for Kenosha County, and eight for Racine County.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Russell regarding a Kenosha County amendment and the footnote referring to an increase in construction costs, Mr. Yunker stated that at times when a project moves through the preliminary engineering stage, additional construction costs are added to the project based upon the work completed in the engineering stage.

There being no further questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Bakke, and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 2014-04, was approved (copy of Resolution 2014-04 attached to Official Minutes).

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Evenson reported that there was no correspondence to report. He announced that Mr. Donald Simon, the Chief of the Cartographic and County Surveying Division, will retire on May 1, 2013. He indicated that this staffing change will provide an opportunity to do some reorganization of that division as well as to consider taking steps to strengthen the Commission’s county surveying function before retaining an individual that would head up a reorganized division of survey and mapping. Mr. Yunker indicated that this matter will be brought before the Intergovernmental and Public Relations Committee in the near future for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Ms. Greene, and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Evenson
Acting Director

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