

MINUTES
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

3:00 p.m.

Zimmerman Architectural Studios, Inc.
2122 W. Mt. Vernon Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Present:

Excused:

Commissioners:

David L. Stroik, Chairman
Charles L. Colman, Vice-Chairman
Thomas H. Buestrin
Michael A. Crowley
Mike Dawson
Brian R. Dranzik
William R. Drew
James T. Dwyer
Robert W. Pitts
Jennifer K. Rothstein
Linda J. Seemeyer
Peggy L. Shumway
Daniel W. Stoffel
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

José M. Delgado
David L. Eberle
Adelene Greene
Nancy Russell
Daniel S. Schmidt
Michael J. Skalitzky

Staff:

Kenneth R. Yunker	Executive Director
Michael G. Hahn	Deputy Director
Elizabeth A. Larsen	Assistant Director - Administration
Debra A. D'Amico	Executive Secretary

Guests:

Theodore Lipscomb, Sr. Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

ROLL CALL

Chairman Stroik called the 252nd meeting of the Commission to order at 3:00 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was declared present. Chairman Stroik indicated for the record that Commissioners Delgado, Eberle, Greene, Russell, Schmidt, and Skalitzky had asked to be excused.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2015, QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Stoffel, seconded by Mr. Crowley, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the September 16, 2015, Quarterly Commission Meeting were approved as published.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chairman Stroik asked Mr. Drew to present the Treasurer's Report. He noted that a copy of the Treasurer's Report had been provided to all Commissioners for review prior to the meeting. In commenting on the report, he called attention to the following items:

1. Based upon disbursements through November 1, 2015, it is projected that total disbursements for the year will approximate \$8.03 million. Revenues are projected at about \$8.04 million, exclusive of interest income and miscellaneous revenues.
2. The total amount of funds held by the Commission in the various operating, liability, and reserve accounts approximates \$4.4 million. The various accounts are identified on the second page of the report.
3. As of November 1, 2015, the Commission had in investments and cash on hand approximately \$4.9 million. A total of \$3.6 million are invested in the State of Wisconsin Local Government Pooled Investment Fund. As of November 1, 2015, that fund was yielding 0.14 percent interest. Other funds are held in savings, checking, and money market accounts at several banks.

There being no questions or discussion, on a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Colman, and carried unanimously, the Treasurer's Report for the period ending November 1, 2015, was approved (copy of the Treasurer's Report is attached to the Official Minutes).

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning and Research Committee

Chairman Stroik asked Mr. Stoffel to present the Planning and Research Committee report. Mr. Stoffel stated that the Planning and Research Committee has met once since the Commission's Quarterly meeting on September 16, 2015.

On November 10, 2015, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Received a briefing on an Addendum to SEWRPC Memorandum Report No. 206, *Revised Estimate of the Costs of Converting the Legacy Datums within the Region to New National Datums*. This addendum presents revised procedures and cost estimates for the conversion of the legacy horizontal and vertical datums (NAD27 and NGVD29) to the newer horizontal and vertical datums (NAD83 and NAVD88). No action was required, as this was an informational presentation for Committee members.
2. Recommended adoption by the Commission of the *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2015-2020* and the formation of an Economic Development District for the Region with the Commission to serve as the governing body.
3. Reviewed and approved for publication Volume II, Chapter III, "Alternative Land Use and Transportation System Plans"; and, Appendix F, "Complete Alternative Plan Evaluation Results" of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 55, *VISION 2050: A Regional Land Use and Transportation System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin*.

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There being no questions or discussion, on a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Pitts, and carried unanimously, the Planning and Research Committee Report was approved (copy of the Planning and Research Committee Report is attached to the Official Minutes).

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Stroik asked Mr. Dwyer to present the Administrative Committee report. Mr. Dwyer noted that the report had been provided to all Commissioners prior to the meeting. He also noted that the Administrative Committee met two times since the Quarterly Commission Meeting on September 16, 2015.

On October 22, 2015, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved disbursements for four financial periods: Year 2015 Nos. 18, 19, 20, and 21; extending over the period August 10 to October 4, 2015.
2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending October 4, 2015.
3. Reviewed a report on group medical insurance rates for 2016. The Commission obtains medical insurance for staff through the State of Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds Group Health Insurance Program. The Committee chose for the fifth year to provide in 2016 a Deductible Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) Plan (\$500 single and \$1,000 family) and to have the Commission reimburse employees for the deductible as it is expended through Health Reimbursement Accounts. The United Healthcare HMO, Anthem Blue HMO, Arise Health Plan HMO, Dean Health HMO, and the WEA Trust PPO are the qualified health plans for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region in 2016. The change from 2015 to 2016 in the premiums for these health plans ranged from a very slight decrease to an increase of 9 percent. Commission employees pay 20 percent of the health insurance premium, and the Commission pays 80 percent.
4. Reviewed and discussed the purchase of iPads for Commissioners to digitally receive meeting information for their review prior to and during Commission meetings.

On November 19, 2015, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved disbursements for two financial periods: Year 2015 No. 22 and 23; extending over the period October 5 to November 1, 2015.
2. Reviewed and approved the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the period ending November 1, 2015.
3. Received a report on employee enrollment in the 2016 group medical insurance program. A total of 62 Commission employees elected to obtain medical insurance coverage. Six Commission employees declined medical insurance coverage. The anticipated cost to the Commission of the 2016 health insurance is expected to be within the adopted budget for health insurance of \$953,000 for the year.
4. Reviewed and approved the purchase of iPads for those Commissioners who want to receive meeting information digitally.

Mr. Yunker stated that Commission staff will be contacting each Commissioner to request their preference of how they want to receive Commission information: digitally on a Commission-owned iPad or on their own computer or iPad, or paper hard copies. He stated that when Commissioners using Commission iPads leave the Commission, their iPad would be returned to the Commission. He also noted

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that Commission staff would assist Commissioners with learning how to use an iPad and access Commission meeting information.

There being no further discussion, on a motion by Mr. Colman, seconded by Mr. Stoffel, and carried unanimously, the Administrative Committee Report was approved (copy of the Administrative Committee Report is attached to the Official Minutes).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Executive Committee met two times since the Quarterly Commission Meeting on September 16, 2015.

On October 22, 2015, 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 five contracts for planning work. The details of these contracts are set forth in a table attached to this report.
3. Received a report outlining key planning efforts being undertaken by the Commission in 2015.
4. Reviewed and approved an amendment to the 2015 Overall Work (OWP). This amendment to the OWP was necessary to reflect modest revisions to the budgeted amounts of eight of nine Continuing Land Use-Transportation Study planning projects.

On November 19, 2015, 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 work. The details of these contracts are set forth in a table attached to this report.
3. Received a report outlining key planning efforts being undertaken by the Commission in 2015. This current key planning efforts status report is attached to this report.
4. Reviewed and approved an amendment to the 2015-2018 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This amendment to the 2015-2018 TIP was necessary to advance 23 projects, all of which were approved by the Commission Advisory Committee for Transportation System Planning and Programming for the Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine Urbanized Areas.
5. Reviewed and approved the Commission's Overall Work Program for calendar year 2016.

There being no questions or discussion, on a motion by Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Wirth, and carried unanimously, the Executive Committee Report was approved (copy of the Executive Committee Report is attached to the Official Minutes).

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED “*COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN: 2015-2020*” AND REQUEST FOR DESIGNATION OF THE REGION AS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

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Chairman Stroik asked Mr. Yunker to brief the Commissioners on the proposed *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2015-2020* (CEDS) and the request for designation of the Region as an Economic Development District.

Mr. Yunker gave a brief overview of the proposed CEDS. He stated that the CEDS was developed jointly by the Milwaukee 7 (M7), the Regional Economic Partnership (which includes representatives from each County's economic development organization or staff), and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, with assistance from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. He stated that the CEDS recommends that economic development efforts focus on strengthening the Region's economy through business exports, workforce development, innovation and entrepreneurship, economic place-making, infrastructure improvements, and enhanced public-private and interagency cooperation. It identifies key cluster industries believed to have the best potential for economic growth, expansion, and attraction in Southeastern Wisconsin. It also includes an action plan and proposed economic development projects in the Region.

Mr. Yunker further stated that the CEDS is also intended to meet the requirements of the U.S. Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration (EDA), and will make the Region eligible for Federal EDA funding for infrastructure projects in the seven-county Region that encourage economic development, and are shown to benefit the economically distressed areas of the Region. The County Board of each of the seven counties in the Region has adopted a resolution approving the CEDS and are requesting formation of an Economic Development District (EDD) for the seven-county Region, with the Commission to serve as the governing body of the EDD.

Mr. Yunker noted that the Commission in adopting Resolution No. 2015-19 would be approving the strategy, the requested designation of the seven-county Region as an EDD, and the Commission serving as the governing body of the EDD.

A discussion ensued regarding the identified industry clusters. It was noted that while a focus of existing economic development efforts is on the cluster industries, attempts are certainly made to maintain and attract industries and jobs in all economic sectors.

There being no further questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Crowley, and seconded by Mr. Dwyer, the *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2015-2020* and request for designation of the Region as an Economic Development District were unanimously approved by a vote of 14 ayes and 0 nays (copy of the *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2015-2020*, and Resolution No. 2015-19 are attached to the Official Minutes).

BRIEFING AND UPDATE ON PROSPECTUS FOR “A CHLORIDE IMPACT STUDY FOR THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION”

Chairman Stroik asked Mr. Hahn to review and update the Commissioners on the “*Prospectus for A Chloride Impact Study for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region.*” (A copy of Mr. Hahn's PowerPoint presentation is attached to the Official Minutes.)

During Mr. Hahn's presentation, he responded to the following questions and comments.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Colman, Mr. Hahn stated that the toxicity criteria shown on Slide 6 relate to humans and animals.

[Secretary's Note:

Review of Chapter NR 809, “Safe Drinking Water,” of the *Wisconsin Administrative Code* indicates there are no State drinking water criteria for chloride toxicity. The chronic (395 milligrams per liter (mg/l)) and acute (757 mg/l) chloride toxicity levels shown on

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Slide 6 of Mr. Hahn's presentation are set forth in Chapter NR 105, "Surface Water Quality Criteria and Secondary Values for Toxic Substances." Those criteria specifically relate to aquatic life; however, Chapter NR 809 establishes a secondary standard for chloride of 250 mg/l that is not indicative of a hazard to health, but at and above which the taste of water "may be objectionable to an appreciable number of persons."]

Ms. Shumway then asked if weather affects the spikes in chloride concentration shown on the chart. Mr. Hahn responded that it did since much of the chloride that reaches streams is transported in snowmelt or stormwater runoff. Mr. Dwyer asked about the relationship between shoreland zoning regulations and the delivery of chloride to lakes and streams. Mr. Hahn said that, while the shoreland regulations are intended to be protective of water quality, the protection they afford relates more to pollutants such as nutrients and sediment than to chloride since nutrients and sediments in stormwater runoff may be removed as the runoff passes through vegetated setback areas where it may infiltrate into the ground, while chloride is a conservative pollutant that would not be removed.

Mr. Dwyer inquired about whether there have been any requests from any of the seven Counties for advice from the Commission relative to recently enacted, or proposed, changes to the State Statutes addressing shoreland areas. Mr. Yunker stated that the Commission staff has not been contacted.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Colman, Mr. Hahn stated that the pollutants for which individual water samples are proposed to be analyzed (Slide 8) are the components of specific conductance. Mr. Stoffel added that anything ionic is considered a conductant. Ms. Shumway asked if there are any other states or organizations that have performed studies similar to the proposed regional chloride study, and if some of the information to be developed under the study may already be available. Mr. Hahn indicated that in Minnesota there is funding available at the State level through the Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment to the State Constitution, which provides for a 0.375 percent sales tax, one third of which is applied to fund water resources projects. He noted that much valuable work has been done with that funding, including development of a chloride management plan for the Twin Cities metropolitan area. He concluded that the Commission staff intends to review the Minnesota studies, and other pertinent studies and research efforts, during the course of preparing the chloride impact study. Mr. Yunker added that while the information developed under studies such as those done in Minnesota would be of use in preparing the proposed chloride impact study, it would be important to collect information specific to conditions in the Southeastern Wisconsin Region in order to document the significant sources of chloride to the environment, the locations of those sources, and the effects of chloride on the water resources of the Region. Ms. Rothstein asked that the Commission staff review existing studies from areas with similar climates to that in Southeastern Wisconsin.

Mr. Yunker noted that about 40 percent of the potable water in the Region is supplied by groundwater, and that such a supply generally requires the use of water softeners. He added that septic systems discharge water softener brine directly to the groundwater, and that water softener brine discharged to a sanitary sewer is conveyed to a wastewater treatment plant which does not remove chloride prior to discharging to a stream or river.

Mr. Colman commented that there has been limited action on the issue of chloride impacts on the environment because the public has not been made aware of the consequences. A short discussion ensued. Mr. Yunker said that measuring chloride concentrations in individual or municipal shallow groundwater wells providing a public water supply could demonstrate the problem in a context that would be of interest to those with such a supply. He noted that in Madison elevated chloride levels had been detected in some wells, and that some people have noticed a salty taste in their drinking water.

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Mr. Stoffel noted that the data presented on Slide 6 does not seem to indicate a cause for concern because the chloride concentrations shown are generally well below the chronic toxicity level. Mr. Hahn replied that the data shown on that slide were collected from spring through fall, and that the concentrations would be higher if winter data were available and included in that analysis.

[Secretary's Note: The study prospectus calls for the Commission staff to collect specific conductance and chloride concentration data throughout the year, including during the winter.]

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Drew relative to wastewater treatment plants having a process to remove salt from drinking water, Mr. Hahn stated that reverse osmosis works, but it is very expensive; thus, source controls are currently being considered by wastewater utilities.

At the conclusion of Mr. Hahn's presentation, he mentioned that the Commission staff intended to pursue the issue of the funding of the proposed study being shared by the Commission and the Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources and Transportation. He and Mr. Yunker asked that the Commissioners consider participating in meetings that the Commission staff would arrange with the Department Regional Directors and, in particular with, the Department Secretaries for the purpose of discussing their participation in funding the study.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Stroik announced that the upcoming Administrative and Executive Committee meetings for the month of December have been cancelled. He also stated that the year 2016 Commission Committee assignments and Committee meeting dates will be distributed to the Commissioners within the next week. He then asked Mr. Yunker if there was any correspondence or if there were any other announcements. Mr. Yunker said there were none.

CONFIRMATION OF DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF THE DECEMBER QUARTERLY MEETING

Chairman Stroik indicated that the next full Commission meeting will be the Quarterly Commission meeting on Wednesday, March 16, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. in Racine County.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, on a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Crowley, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth R. Yunker
Deputy Secretary