

Minutes of the Fortieth Meeting of the  
**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE**

DATE: February 13, 2018  
TIME: 4:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD)  
General Commission Room  
260 W. Seeboth Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Members Present

Adelene Greene..... Director of Workforce Development, Kenosha County (retired)  
Chair  
Tyrone Dumas..... President/Owner, Dumas Consulting Specialties  
Vice-Chair  
Yolanda Adams..... Wisconsin Deputy State Director for the Elderly,  
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)  
Huda Alkaff ..... Founder and Director, Wisconsin Green Muslims  
Ella Dunbar ..... Program Services Manager, Social Development Commission, Milwaukee  
N. Lynnette McNeely..... Legal Redress Chair, Waukesha County NAACP  
Rodney Prunty ..... President, United Way of Racine  
Theresa Schuerman..... Walworth County Bilingual Migrant Worker Outreach  
Willie Wade ..... Vice President, Employ Milwaukee

Guests and Staff Present

Dennis Grzezinski..... Law Office of Dennis Grzezinski  
Michael G. Hahn..... Executive Director, SEWRPC  
Andrew Levy ..... Urban and Regional Planning Supervisor,  
Southeast Region, Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
Gary K. Korb ..... Public Involvement and Outreach Specialist, SEWRPC  
Eric D. Lynde..... Chief Special Projects Planner, SEWRPC  
Benjamin R. McKay ..... Chief Community Assistance Planner, SEWRPC  
Jennifer B. Sarnecki..... Principal Transportation Planner, SEWRPC

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Greene called the meeting of the Environmental Justice Task Force to order at 4:35 p.m., welcoming those in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 14, 2017, MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. Greene asked if there were any questions or comments on the November 14, 2017, meeting minutes. There were none. Ms. Greene then asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Prunty moved, and Ms. McNeely seconded, the approval of the November 14, 2017, meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Greene asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

## **UPDATE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE RETREAT**

Ms. Greene explained that the idea of a Task Force retreat for members, staff, and interested parties to discuss the purpose and function of the Task Force was discussed at the last two Task Force meetings. Ms. Greene noted that she, Ms. Schellinger, and Mr. Dumas had met with staff to discuss potential ideas for the retreat, which are reflected in the preliminary framework document that was distributed to members for comments via email (see Attachment 1). She then asked if there were any additional suggestions for the retreat. Task Force members suggested moving forward with the retreat as outlined in the preliminary framework.

Ms. Greene then noted that the preliminary framework includes alternative start times for the retreat and asked the Task Force members to vote for their preference. The majority of members present expressed their preference for the retreat to be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on a weekday. Mr. McKay noted that staff will attempt to schedule the retreat for mid to late May or June. Mr. McKay will email members alternative dates and the retreat will be scheduled based on member and speaker availability.

## **UPDATE ON THE FOXCONN MANUFACTURING DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Hahn introduced the agenda item by explaining that the Commission staff has been involved in several efforts related to the proposed development including:

- Working with the affected communities preparing a sewer service area amendment for the City of Racine and environs
- Leading the effort to evaluate the effectiveness of proposed controls on runoff from the Foxconn site and associated development in the Village of Mount Pleasant
- Working with the SEWRPC Advisory Committees on Regional Transportation Planning and Regional Land Use Planning, along with the communities located in the vicinity of the Foxconn site, to prepare a potential upcoming amendment to the VISION 2050 regional land use and transportation plan

Mr. Hahn then asked Mr. Lynde to provide an overview of the amendment to VISION 2050. During his overview, Mr. Lynde explained that a potential amendment to VISION 2050 will address future land use development and multimodal transportation improvements associated with the Foxconn development and ancillary residential, commercial, and industrial development. He also explained that the amendment would highlight key regional planning recommendations that should be considered in relation to development associated with Foxconn. The following comments and discussion points were made during the overview:

1. Ms. Schuerman asked if there will be opportunities for public input. Mr. Lynde responded that SEWRPC will coordinate with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) during their public involvement process. In addition, SEWRPC will undertake a public involvement

process based on the procedures set forth in the regional public participation plan. Mr. Lynde noted that SEWRPC would likely hold public meetings in Racine, Kenosha, and Milwaukee Counties and coordinate with the Commission's nine community partners.

2. Ms. Schuerman asked which newspapers SEWRPC will use to advertise the public meetings. Mr. Lynde responded that the Commission typically advertises public meetings in a number of different newspapers, including The Daily Reporter, El Conquistador, Milwaukee Community Journal, Milwaukee Courier-Star, Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, and Milwaukee Times for meetings held in Milwaukee County and the Kenosha News, Racine Journal Times, and Southern Lakes Papers for meetings held in Kenosha and Racine Counties.
3. Mr. Wade referred to the possible regional transit authority (RTA) described by Mr. Lynde and asked when the legislation was introduced. Mr. Lynde responded that it was recently introduced by a group of State legislators led by State Representative Peter Barca, who represents portions of Kenosha and Racine Counties in the 64<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. Ms. McNeely asked if the RTA legislation was introduced in anticipation of Foxconn. Mr. Lynde responded that the legislation may have been introduced with the goal of creating dialogue around transit and noted that it is similar to legislation introduced in 2009 regarding a possible RTA involving Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine Counties. Mr. Dumas noted that the proposed Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee commuter rail line would have been operated by the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority, which was created in 2009 and dissolved in 2011. Mr. Hahn noted that VISION 2050 continues to recommend commuter rail service in the KRM corridor.
4. Ms. McNeely asked if VISION 2050 anticipated a large amount of development in the area of the Foxconn site. Mr. Lynde responded that the Foxconn development had not been announced until after VISION 2050 was adopted by the Commission and the site is in a rural area. Mr. McKay noted that Commission staff met with communities that provide public sanitary sewer service regarding potential growth areas during the VISION 2050 planning process. He noted that this area was not identified for a development of this scope. Mr. Hahn noted that a development of this scope is unprecedented in the Region.
5. Mr. Dumas commented that it is difficult to anticipate the water supply needs of the Foxconn development. Mr. Hahn explained the location of the site relative to the subcontinental divide between the Mississippi River Basin and the Great Lakes Basin. He noted that, because the subcontinental divide runs in a generally north-south direction through the Foxconn manufacturing site in the Village of Mount Pleasant (i.e., the Village straddles the divide), it will be necessary to apply for a Lake Michigan diversion according to the requirements of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact and the *Wisconsin Statutes* that implement the Compact. He said that, since the Racine Water Utility currently provides Lake Michigan water to portions of Mount Pleasant that are within the Great Lakes Basin and the Racine Utility owns the water distribution system in the Village (the Village of Mount Pleasant is a retail water customer of the Racine Water Utility), the application for a Lake Michigan water supply for that portion of the Foxconn site in the Mississippi River Basin would be submitted by the City of Racine. Mr. Hahn added that the details of the wastewater treatment proposal have not been finalized.

6. Mr. Dumas asked if there is a proposal for a housing component west of IH 94. Mr. Hahn responded that it was originally envisioned that the southeastern part of the Town of Yorkville, which is located along IH 94 west of the Village of Mount Pleasant, would be included in an amendment to the adopted sewer service area for the City of Racine and environs (and in a possible Lake Michigan diversion application). One of the first steps in Town participation in the amendment would be to amend the Town comprehensive plan to reflect the anticipated land use changes in the area to be provided with sewer and water service. The Town Board tabled the proposed comprehensive plan amendment at its January 22 meeting, effectively killing the measure and likelihood of developing higher-density housing in the area. Mr. Hahn noted that an amendment process is being undertaken for the Greater Kenosha sanitary sewer service area at the request of the Kenosha Water Utility in response to a request from the City of Kenosha and Village of Somers. This may allow higher-density housing south of the Foxconn development in the future. Ms. Adams asked if the Task Force would hear input from neighboring residents and landowners regarding development related to Foxconn. Mr. Hahn responded that input from neighboring residents and landowners on development projects is typically provided during the local government review process.
7. Ms. McNeely commented that Foxconn is a global company and asked if their development practices have been adapted to the current review process. Mr. Hahn responded that the development site is located in a newly created Electronics and Information Technology Manufacturing Zone. He noted that the State legislation establishing the zone provides limited exemptions from permit requirements relating to wetlands; however, wastewater treatment and stormwater runoff requirements remain in effect.
8. Mr. Dumas asked how many jobs will be associated with the new Haribo facility being developed in Kenosha County. Ms. Payne responded that there will be about 400 employees at the Haribo site located in the Village of Pleasant Prairie. Mr. Dumas asked about the supply chain that may be created by the Foxconn development. Mr. Prunty responded that it is estimated up to 120 new suppliers employing about 9,000 workers may be created by the supply chain associated with Foxconn. Mr. Prunty noted that there will be challenges associated with preparing the workforce for the creation of this many new jobs. Ms. Dunbar asked if Foxconn has any other facilities in the United States. Mr. Prunty responded that Foxconn has a small operation in Pennsylvania, but the plant in Mount Pleasant would be much larger. Mr. Prunty noted that they have also leased a building in Mount Pleasant to begin assembly activities.
9. Ms. McNeely asked about agreements regarding the number of jobs created by Foxconn. Mr. Hahn responded that the State tax credit package requires Foxconn to meet job creation and real estate value goals to receive the full benefit.
10. Ms. McNeely asked if a VISION 2050 amendment will require implementation of key plan recommendations. Mr. Lynde responded that the VISION 2050 recommendations will remain advisory. Mr. Hahn commented that amending VISION 2050 will involve identifying desirable transit improvements related to the Foxconn site, but the improvements will also require additional funding to be implemented. Mr. Hahn then noted that SEWRPC, in collaboration with Kenosha and Racine Counties, the Villages of Mount Pleasant and Somers, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), and WisDOT, is evaluating the effectiveness of proposed controls on stormwater runoff from the Foxconn site and associated development in the

Village of Mount Pleasant. He stated that this is a good example of the value of SEWRPC's comprehensive watershed planning program in that:

- The 2003 SEWRPC Des Plaines River watershed study included hydrologic and hydraulic analyses to establish recommended controls on runoff from new urban development in the watershed
- Those controls were expressed as release rates per acre of development that, if applied, would be expected to reduce runoff from the development site to a level that would not increase downstream flood flows and stages, and, thus, not increase the flood hazard along downstream rivers and streams
- Those recommended controls were adopted in the Village of Mount Pleasant stormwater management ordinance and would be applied in developing runoff controls for the Foxconn site and in evaluating the degree of control necessary to prevent flooding problems following site development

11. Mr. Dumas asked if the Foxconn development is impacting the housing market. Mr. Prunty responded that demand for housing in the Racine area is increasing. Mr. Wade noted that he was in attendance at an event where a Foxconn representative expressed the company's interest in workforce housing. Mr. Wade then noted that the company is interested in workforce housing near the manufacturing campus, but far enough way to screen the housing from traffic created by the manufacturing campus. Ms. Payne noted that the City of Racine's Department of City Development, Fair Housing and the Housing Authority of Racine County are partnering to prepare an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (AI). Multiple focus groups are being convened to discuss affirmatively furthering fair housing as part of the effort. The first group is bringing together business leaders from throughout the County to discuss transportation, employment, and amenities and their impact on the housing environment. Ms. Payne stated that she would share the results of the focus group with the Task Force when they are made available. Mr. Lynde noted that the regional housing plan also includes recommendations that would be relevant to development associated with Foxconn. Mr. McKay commented that many of the relevant regional housing plan recommendations are related to local government land use planning and regulation, and local governments should consider these recommendations in future development decisions. Mr. Wade commented that housing challenges existed prior to the Foxconn development, and the scope of the development will be a catalyst to addressing the challenges. Mr. Hahn responded that this is an opportunity to highlight relevant recommendations from regional plans such as VISION 2050 and the regional housing plan.
12. Ms. McNeely commented that areas of the Region experiencing economic distress should not be forgotten. Mr. Wade commented that the number of jobs created by development associated with Foxconn may present an opportunity for those reentering the workforce after incarceration. He explained that the incarcerated population has increased over the past several years, and corrections departments are implementing workforce training programs in an attempt to reduce recidivism. He further commented that Foxconn located in Southeastern Wisconsin for access to water and an available workforce.
13. Mr. Dumas commented that technology is constantly changing and products can become obsolete over a short period of time. Mr. Wade commented that Foxconn has an advantage because they are involved a variety of technologies in addition to manufacturing LCD screens, such as medical technology and autonomous vehicle technology.

14. Ms. McNeely asked if the need to treat potential wastewater created by the Foxconn development has been addressed. Mr. Hahn responded that details regarding treatment are still being determined; however, it may involve onsite pre-treatment in addition to treatment through the City of Racine wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Wade noted that there are websites that discuss how various issues have been addressed at other Foxconn facilities. Ms. McNeely commented that the waste issue is an important environmental justice consideration because minority populations and low-income populations have historically be exposed to more pollution than the population as a whole. Mr. Hahn commented that the Federal Clean Water Act requires proper treatment of wastewater; however, it is important to be vigilant to ensure that wastewater is properly treated. Ms. Greene suggested inviting a Foxconn representative to a Task Force meeting. Mr. Hahn responded that participation by Foxconn representatives in project meetings attended by the Commission staff has been limited, and it might be difficult to arrange for a representative to attend a Task Force meeting. Ms. Schuerman requested that staff continue to email updates and information to Task Force members regarding the Foxconn development.

[Secretary's Note: Addresses for the two websites dedicated to providing information on the Foxconn development include [www.foxconnracinecounty.com](http://www.foxconnracinecounty.com) and [wisconnvalley.wi.gov](http://wisconnvalley.wi.gov). As planning for the Foxconn development proceeds, Commission staff will watch for possible opportunities to invite a Foxconn representative to a Task Force meeting.]

Mr. Hahn asked if there were any further comments. There were none.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH DIVISION UPDATE ON PRIMARY ORGANIZATION CONTACTS**

Ms. Greene noted that Public Involvement and Outreach Manager Steve Adams recently retired and Nakeisha Payne has been promoted to replace Mr. Adams. Ms. Greene then asked Ms. Payne to provide an overview of SEWRPC's 2018 Primary Organizations Contact List (see Attachment 2). During the overview, Ms. Payne noted that the list has been reorganized to clarify the service areas of the organizations and that a number of new organizations were added. The following comments and discussion points were made during the overview:

1. Ms. Adams suggested contacting the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and adding the organization to the primary organizations list. Ms. Adams then commented on the emergence of the Poor Peoples' Campaign of Wisconsin and noted that more information about this organization will be available soon.
2. Ms. Greene asked why some organizations are in bold type. Ms. Payne responded that these are SEWRPC's community partners. She noted that the community partners worked with SEWRPC on outreach for VISION 2050 and have all expressed a desire to continue to partner with SEWRPC on future projects. She also noted that a ninth organization, Renew Environmental Public Health Advocates, Inc., has been added as a community partner.
3. Ms. McNeely asked if SEWRPC has a continuous relationship with the primary organizations. Ms. Payne responded that SEWRPC staff sends communications to the primary organizations, regularly attends their events, and invites representatives to attend SEWRPC events. Ms. McNeely asked if there are records of SEWRPC contacts with the primary organizations. Ms.

Payne responded that a section regarding Public Involvement and Outreach Division activities is included in SEWRPC's annual report. Ms. McNeely suggested surveying primary organizations regarding their expectations of their involvement with SEWRPC.

[Secretary's Note: Commission staff will send an email survey to the primary organizations.]

4. Ms. Schuerman commented that she would provide staff with some additional suggestions regarding organizations serving Walworth County.
5. Ms. Dunbar commented that the Social Development Commission only serves Milwaukee County. Ms. Payne responded that the service area shown in the list will be changed from multiple counties to Milwaukee County.
6. Ms. Adams asked if any correspondence has recently been sent to the primary organizations. Ms. Payne responded that a letter was sent to each organization in the beginning of 2018 discussing SEWRPC initiatives.
7. Ms. Schuerman suggested posting the primary organization contact list on the website. Mr. Hahn responded that staff will post the list on the website and added that the primary organizations are also listed in the Commission's annual report.

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Ms. Greene noted that the next meeting date would be the Task Force retreat. Ms. Adams commented about the importance of the lead water service line issue and suggested that this issue be discussed during a Task Force meeting. Mr. Wade noted that this is a national issue and that the U.S. Water Alliance has created a Water Equity Task Force. Mr. Wade noted that the Water Equity Task Force includes representatives from communities similar to the City of Milwaukee, and that he represents the City on the Water Equity Task Force. He further explained that the Water Equity Task Force is meeting on a quarterly basis and has a two-year window to develop recommendations. Ms. Schuerman asked if a regional study on the issue should be conducted. Mr. Hahn responded that most measures to address problems with lead water service lines would be implemented by local governments; however, SEWRPC staff could prepare a white paper on the subject. He suggested including the paper as an agenda item for the next Task Force meeting to be held after the retreat.

#### **FURTHER PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Greene asked if there were any public comments. Mr. Grzezinski commented that it was a good and informative discussion.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Greene thanked those in attendance and attending by phone. She then declared the meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

-8-

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin R. McKay  
Recording Secretary

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