

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 28, 2006

2:00 p.m.

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

Present:

Excused:

Committee Members:

Thomas H. Buestrin, Chairman
Allen L. Morrison
Daniel S. Schmidt
David L. Stroik
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

William R. Drew, Vice-Chairman
Adelene Greene
Richard A. Hansen
Linda J. Seemeyer
Paul G. Vrakas

Absent:

Staff:

Philip C. Evenson
Loretta Watson

Executive Director
Executive Secretary

ROLL CALL

Chairman Buestrin called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared present. Mr. Evenson noted for the record that Commissioners Drew, Greene, Hansen, Seemeyer, and Vrakas had asked to be excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 31, 2006, MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on August 31, 2006, were approved as published.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT, MR. BUESTRIN REPORTING

(Meeting of September 28, 2006)

Mr. Buestrin reported that the Administrative Committee, at its meeting held just before the Executive Committee meeting, had taken the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved the Commission disbursements for two financial reporting periods: Year 2006 Nos. 18 and 19, extending over the period August 21, 2006, to September 17, 2006.

2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending September 17, 2006. With nearly three-fourths of the year completed, the projections indicate a year end surplus of about \$47,000, not including interest income and proceeds from the sale of materials.
3. Received a report that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, as the State cognizant agency, had accepted the Commission's 2004 and 2005 audit reports and that there are no issues to be resolved.
4. Authorized the Commission staff to replace the 1999 Chevrolet Suburban vehicle used by the Commission's biological field services staff with a 2007 Chevrolet Suburban vehicle. By working off of the State contract bid process, the Commission will acquire the replacement vehicle at a cost of just under \$34,000. That vehicle carries a field staff of up to four people plus attendant field equipment.

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

REPORT ON CONTRACTS

Chairman Buestrin asked Mr. Evenson to review the proposed contracts and agreements, noting that the Committee members had received a table listing the contracts prior to the meeting. Mr. Evenson then briefly reviewed the two contracts reported on the table. He noted that the first contract was the normal annual stream gaging program arrangement with the U.S. Geological Survey. The cost of operating the stream gaging program is covered entirely by cooperating agencies, including the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), Waukesha County, and the Cities of Kenosha and Racine. The second contract, he said, is a multi-year work program with Kenosha County and its local government partners directed toward preparing a comprehensive plan that meets all of the State "Smart Growth" requirements. This project is scheduled to be completed by mid-2009.

There being no discussion, on a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Morrison, and carried unanimously, the report relative to the contracts was accepted and placed on file (copy of report attached to Official Minutes).

GEO 29 REVIEW

Chairman Buestrin asked Mr. Evenson to report on the Federal grants and loans and direct Federal development projects submitted to the Commission for intergovernmental review pursuant to the requirements set forth in Gubernatorial Executive Order No. 29.

Mr. Evenson noted that summaries of the five project applications were provided to the Committee members with the agenda for the meeting. There were no conflicts, he said, between any of the projects and the adopted regional plans.

Following a brief discussion relative to Federal funds that the Commission obtains directly from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in support of water quality management planning, on a motion by Mr. Stroik seconded by Mr. Schmidt, and carried unanimously, the following five applications were recommended to the grantor agencies for approval as being in conformance, or not in conflict, with adopted regional plans: one community action program (CAP-2170); and four conservation programs (CONSER-998 through CONSER-1001)(copy of table attached to Official Minutes).

WORK PROGRESS REPORTS

Mr. Evenson reported that the Commission staff had recently certified, as State law requires, the new regional land use plan for 2035 to all of the county and local governments in the Region. The certification process includes a request that county and local governments carefully consider the plan recommendations and, if they are so inclined, formally endorse the new plan. He reported that the consideration process is underway in at least Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties, and that staff is involved in briefing and question and answer sessions with county board committees. In addition, some local units of government have already taken action to endorse the new plan, including the Villages of Slinger, Thiensville, and Wind Point, and the Town of Lafayette.

Mr. Evenson also reported that regional plan certification efforts will be underway shortly with respect to both the new regional transportation plan for 2035 and the new regional wireless telecommunications plan. It should be expected that county and local review and consideration of these additional regional plan elements will be continuing for some months.

The staff is heavily engaged in completing work on the regional water quality management plan update for the Milwaukee area watersheds. This includes the Milwaukee, Root, Menomonee, and Kinnickinnic Rivers, the Oak Creek, and the near shore Lake Michigan drainage areas, plus the Milwaukee Harbor Estuary that work is being overseen by a Commission advisory committee chaired by Commissioner Schmidt. He recalled that the work is being done in tandem with the completion by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District of an updated wastewater conveyance and treatment facilities plan. Indeed, the MMSD provided substantial funding to the Commission so that its facilities planning work effort could be properly placed within the context of a broader watershed plan that focuses on achieving in stream water quality improvements.

Both the MMSD and the Commission plan are due to be completed late this winter with public involvement activities and plan adoption actions, hopefully by mid-year 2007. It comes as no surprise to the Commission staff, he said, given watershed-based system planning efforts conducted two and three decades ago, that the Federally mandated “fishable and swimmable” water quality standards for the watersheds concerned cannot be achieved by spending additional hundreds of millions of dollars in seeking to eliminate all or nearly all overflows of sewage. Rather, significantly greater resources need to be focused on reductions from nonpoint pollution sources. While additional efforts toward this end are underway in response to the State’s nonpoint pollution abatement program, it is becoming clear that that program will not be near enough to meet the in stream water quality standards required to make the waters truly fishable and swimmable. The Commission’s forthcoming water quality plan update will need to address these important findings.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Evenson announced that a Milwaukee County Board Supervisor from West Allis, John Weishan, has introduced a resolution that would create a Milwaukee County Study Committee to make recommendations as to whether or not Milwaukee County should continue to support the work of the Regional Planning Commission. The resolution has been referred to two Milwaukee County committees for consideration. Initial discussions with several County Board Supervisors indicate that a number of issues are at play in this matter, including severely constrained Milwaukee County finances, the need for Milwaukee County to strengthen its own internal County planning activities, the governance structure of the Regional Planning Commission, and the fact that the Regional Planning Commission does not have a physical presence in Milwaukee County. Mr. Evenson indicated that he would keep the Commissioners informed as this matter moves along.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Stroik, seconded by Mr. Morrison, and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Evenson
Deputy Secretary

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Attachments